

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
28 JUNE 2016**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

HON SPEAKER took the Chair and read Prayers and the Affirmation.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members welcome back as you all know may I have your attention please. There is lot of conversation going on. Can I have your attention please? I often do not do that and if I do that, I have a reason for doing that. 14th July will mark the end of the first session and I would like us to pay attention. We have an agenda to implement to see through as smoothly as possible and the reason why I would like to share with you, I do not want us to be caught on the wrong hand of the line.

When we have issues that are before the House, we have to deal with them as efficiently as possible. In the event that we are not able to dispose of everything on our agenda, you know that will mean that those items will lapse and they might have to be reintroduced again at the next session. That is one, number two, we do expect a number of Bills still to come our way and we would be required to deal with that in good time. They are not yet formally presented to the House but I am hoping that those who are responsible will take note of the fact that we have a very tight.

Our time is getting closer to the end of this particular session so I just want everybody responsible to take note. I am doing this in the interest of managing our time as smoothly and as efficiently as possible.

That is said and done. Any Petition? Reports of Standing and Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notices of Questions? Notices of Motions? Yes, Honourable Minister of Finance.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

TABLING: AMENDMENT OF PART 5A OF SCHEDULE

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker I lay upon the table the amendments of part 5(a) of the schedule number 1 of the *Customs and Excise Act* of 1998.

I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, can I ask for a technical. Can I ask a quick intervention of the part of our technicians here because my system is not picking up? Can we do that as quickly as possible before we proceed? I did try to the best of my ability but I am not picking up. Well, in the meantime, Honourable Emmanuel Ngatjizeko you have the floor.

**TABLING: NATURAL POLICY ON MICRO -
SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES**

HON MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION, TRADE AND SME DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I lay upon the Table the Natural Policy on Micro Small And Medium Enterprises in Namibia for endorsement by the House.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Prime Minister.

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**NOTION OF MOTION
RT HON DR KUUNGOGELWA-AMADHILA**

NOTICE OF MOTION

ANTI-CORRUPTION AMENDMENT BILL [B.6 – 2016]

HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that tomorrow, the 29th of June 2016, I shall Move that leave be given to introduce the Bill to amend the *Anti-Corruption Act* of 2003 so as to substitute second expression to provide for the appointment of the Permanent Secretary of the Commission and to provide for incidental matters.

I move so Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, improvising around the system is not picking up so we will soon be resolving this but if I do not notice you just please raise your hand. So far, I think we are clear with the notices of Motions. We move on to messages from the Head of State? Ministerial statements? Thank you.

The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION OF
STRATEGIES OF THE MINISTRY OF
ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Consideration of Strategies of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

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HON SPEAKER: When the debate was adjourned on Thursday the 23rd of June 2016, the question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Environment and Tourism. Honourable Deputy Minister Land Reform adjourned the debate and I now have the pleasure to call upon the Deputy Minister.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker for giving me the floor. Honourable Speaker I must from the onset indicate that I absolutely appreciate as I am sure other members of this House do the approach taken by Honourable Pohamba Shifeta Ministry of Environment and Tourism and his Deputy to bring this important strategy to Parliament for discussion, input, debate and hopefully for eventual support. I think it is not very common that this type of thing happened and I want to reiterate my absolute appreciation for the two Colleagues.

I have read Honourable Speaker through the documentation that is provided by the Ministry and while I share the overall vision that they have espoused in the documentation, there are a couple of issues that stand to be looked at. Firstly, it appears to me that the functions of the NTB the Namibia Tourism Board are intended to be reversed back to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism yet at some stage in the existence of this Ministry there was need found to create the Namibia Tourism Board.

Between then and now, I am not so sure what has happened because it is not indicated as to the exact failures of the NTB that its function must now revert back to the MET. I also refer that part of its function of course, is the regulatory function and the intention of this strategy is to ensure that the sector becomes self-regulatory.

Having consulted a couple of colleagues in the sector of tourism it is not clear for them as it is not for me about the viability and the desirability of the sector to become self-regulatory particularly given our historic

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background in which specifically the sector is dominated by those that are previously advantaged and that having to have this sector self-regulate would place enormous power on such institutions as the hospitality association of Namibia and others where those that are historically disadvantaged will not have much of a say nor a fair share of access in the industry and of making it upwards from the shadow services that they have now from the better and practice services that they have now towards the eventual owners of major lodgers in this country. Secondly, the Ministry appears to me in this strategy to overlook at least one more entity, which is the Namibia Wildlife Resorts in that it appears perhaps not overlooked but under estimate the role that that enterprise has to play and there is a number of things that is said that this enterprise must do because they need to have a business plan. They need to have all of these things that are necessary for corporate governance of this enterprise but what is very difficult to fathom for me as I read are the following things.

Firstly, in relation to NWR that the Ministry intends for NWR to purchase as part of the strategic plan operations of other private sector entities which operations are in distress yet the Ministry appears to expect the same NWR to give away through what is called true PPP some its flagship enterprises. It does not make sense.

On the one hand you want this entity of the state to buy enterprises in difficulties and the funding to take those entities once they are purchased to a better profitable status is not spoken of on the other and you expect this very enterprise to enter into PPPs in its flagship areas and a question therefore is this an appropriate strategy in which you expect this state owned enterprise to be a profitable expanding and thriving state owned enterprise particularly also as is highlighted in the document where incineration is made that funding that is given to NWR has to be reduced.

In other words, it is left on its own to waver the storms but it is expected to purchase other operations in distress. It does not make sense. Secondly Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members I would have thought that an enterprise of the state as massive as NWR employing at

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least a thousand people should have been assisted to settle its historic debts that stands at around N\$199 Million place it on a footing in which it is able to expand itself into a bigger more profitable enterprise and therefore, resolve the involvement of the state and handover then with public private investment certain key areas that you want private sector to be involved.

It seems not to be the case Honourable Speaker. Thirdly, there is talk in this document about the development of new lodgers in such places for instance Waterberg and as such place as the Namib sand sea. In Waterberg NWR has a major operation. Who is going to build these new lodgers? I would have thought that you would have expand on those lodgers in Waterberg. In the Namib sands area which is part of the Norfolk are NWR has at least Sossusvlei, Sesriem and Susbeu lodge three prime areas in that area. There is talk of building a new lodge in that area. Now this concept of building lodges is quite interesting for me Honourable Speaker because with whose money are these new lodges to be developed first.

Secondly, to whom are these lodges going to be given if it is a PPP arrangement? This is the question that I have. Are we going to use state resources to erect infrastructure of a world-class standard and allow private sector to come in for long-term lease but also therefore in that process unleash competition with NWR and what happens then to the mandate that Honourable Leon Jesse has to turn state owned enterprises into profitable entities when in the prime areas that they are supposed to make money, the state is likely to finance other operators to compete on equal if not on better footing because surely the new lodges that would be built are likely to be better in terms of the infrastructure and technology capacities.

I continue Honourable Speaker that there is talk in this document and the other two of the creation of a Namibia Tourism Investment Centre and I am wondering what that talk to specifically if you have the Tourism Board that must do your marketing and your promotion and help you with

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regulations particularly also additional to that, where you have the Namibian Investment Centre hosted in the Ministry of Trade and Industry. How the networking appears not to be done and that we then go and create another institution to be paid for with taxpayers money adding another layer of bureaucracy and therefore, further diminishing the possibility for those that are in the BNB sector and in the shuttle sector never to actually access an upscaled tourism facility.

Quite frankly right now the legislative framework is so cumbersome that for a ordinary person to set up a BNB and to do other things you would need to have local authority approval first, you would need to have the VAT and all other things that you have to do but then you also need in the cases of communal conservancy development and perhaps where you want to see up a lodge or some sort of lodging facility, bread and breakfast in a communal area that you would need additional to that the approval of the traditional authority of that specific area and then the Ministry of Land Reform and then you will have to have an environmental certificate and all other things which makes the registration and subsequent business in the tourism sector very, very difficult for those that want to come into the sector and make a meaningful contribution to the economy.

Honourable Speaker I also attempted to find a thorough diagnosis of the current state of our tourism sector in this country. I have not seen a diagnosis that tells us what are the challenges as they ought to therefore require a strategic intervention. I do not see it. I do not see the diagnosis and therefore the intervention it then being the one that will solve the difficulties. I do not for instance, Honourable Utoni Nujoma knows at the Ministry of Land Reform we are purchasing significantly these days at least at the time that I was there and that I am there two to three lodging facilities quite well developed but two to three of them.

The question I always ask is what is going on that the person who has made a huge infrastructure investment including game investment in an area like Holstein near the Etosha takes a decision to sell that highly developed business to the state. What has gone on in that enterprise and

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what does the Ministry of Environment tell us? What is it that they have diagnosed? What is the diagnosis because one needs to understand in order to unlock the challenges and to answer the questions?

Secondly, Honourable Speaker I also do not find in these documents a genuine drive in as much as it is mentioned but the genuine drive towards structural transformation of this sector. Yes, there is talk of transformational economic and social development and empowerment agency yes, there we go again the creation of a transformational, economic and social development and empowerment agency to replace NACOFTA, NACOFTA that was the Namibia Community Based Tourism Association. Now we are going for an agency to be paid for with state resources additional to the Namibian Tourism Investment Centre that we have spoken about additional to the Namibia Tourism Board.

These agencies appeared to me first that they would not only add a heavy layer of bureaucracy but that they certainly will take some resources from the state which resources could have directly been placed at the disposal of our people. Let me Honourable Speaker illustrate quickly and I am rounding off, Sir. Thank you for your indulgence. A plan has been drafted some sort of a buttressed outlay. The place for instance that we will spend N\$450 Million on an international conference centre, N\$450 Million on a conference centre Honourable Shifeta, I was going to say as a layperson in the tourism sector why do you not give Country Club to build something and expand its capacity but this is what it is.

We are going to spend that much money but for empowerment we are going to spend and the split is not clear perhaps N\$150 Million only so on brick and mortar and many other nice things N\$450 Million. Then Honourable Speaker a PPP arrangement would be made in which will bring in cruise tourism for Walvis Bay and Naminus Lüderitz N\$100 Million for PPP. This strategy overall will cost us N\$801 Million in four years but of course, what is further interesting is that the budget allocation for NTB appears not to be increasing because from 2016 to 2020 we will

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only spend N\$80 Million on marketing and development of new markets which means in four years annually we will spend N\$20 Million.

Now not being sarcastic in four years one year N\$20 Million each sounds reasonable except if you look at the KORA awards that you have spent or dedicated N\$23.5 Million for an event probably for a couple of hours on a Saturday afternoon that event and then some other marketing for perhaps a couple of weeks. Then numbers do not add up as it relate to what you intend Honourable Esau to give to people and what you intend to give for events. It does not add up.

Honourable Speaker then sector profitability and it is DTA things. I am speaking for them then can forget. Sector profitability and supporting investment climate only one million Namibian dollars, now I do not know the crew ship whose PPP would it be. I know already it is likely to be very rich Namibians or foreigners. I do not know this conference centre whether it is going to be Chinese or Indians or whoever is going to construct it but I do not see Namibians even constructing this thing. I quickly continue Honourable Speaker that regarding this important matter of communal conservancies I just see that we are going to imprint and reprint the status quo Honourable Shifeta. Zambezi and Kavango where we have lodges place in communal areas very profitable lodges are owned by previously advantaged people and our people the natives in the absence of a better word are merely employees. Now I am also not going to talk about community conservancies that we allowed as having been very successful because I went to Bogota and when you analyse the income per capita that community members gain from this successful conservancies it is shocking that the benefit is not as significant per capita as we think it is.

In fact, the other day I had people in my office that want to invest in Zambezi but we had to find ways to make way for the elephants because in the prime land they want to invest and put up strong facilities of irrigation, it is said that it the road for the elephants. You cannot go there. You cannot put up a fence there. I move away from that point except to say this that key stakeholders like Ministry of Land Reform that is in

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charge of communal land and that has to give approvals is not highlighted as an important player.

Then need I to refer Honourable Speaker that regional councils are also not highlighted as important players in this strategy but I want to go back to a letter dated 10th September 2007 drafted and signed by Doctor Hifikepunye Lucas Pohamba President of the Republic of Namibia as he then was which state a couple of things and I paraphrase that, that NWR should be used as a vocal vehicle to team up with communities in development of community conservancies.

Second, where community is allowed to team up with private sector no such agreement maybe valid unless the Ministry of Justice has assisted such community in consultation with the Ministry of Environment so that we are able to limit instances where private sector cheats communities. We have has that example now at Gwarib in Kunene at Lupaleburg area where a private sector individual cheated an old man out of his income.

It continues to say that in order to benefit many Namibians as possible Honourable Speaker I am summarising, Environment and Tourism should remove restrictive barriers that prohibits previously disadvantaged Namibians from fully benefiting from the resources including for instance granting auctions only to Namibian registered safari companies and guest farms that have Namibian professional hunters in their employment. The bottom line long story short this strategy does not open up the sector to those that need to come in because of the demographic necessity but also of the economic imperative. It does not strengthen NWR as a central player. In fact, NWR has the right of first refusal when concessions are granted by the Ministry. I am seeing in the documents that a full concession unit would be set up in the Ministry and the right or first refusal of NWR is removed blatantly placing NWR at the messy if any exist of the private sector.

Very, very interesting, now I know Honourable Speaker I know I was not born yesterday. At least I was born the day before yesterday. I know that

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when we had the MCA discussion that some people that were Permanent Secretaries and other people at the Ministry of Environment and Tourism then were moved from that Ministry because they wanted Etosha to be given to some other people. These same people are back and this is what is being done under the guise of a tourism development strategy.

This is what I am seeing. I am seeing a striking resemblance with MCA and with the development strategy. Honourable Shifeta if you want to engage, I look forward to that engagement.

HON SPEAKER: On a point of order Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: ...of the Honourable when he started with and also up to this point where he said they were people who wanted Etosha to be given to other people and I think this has been rumours going on. I do not know where did it emanate from but I want us to be careful when we make such kind of remarks to the public. Firstly, the Comrade I think you and I we are in the field same profession and we know exactly to expose of Etosha.

It requires many things even amendments to come here. Now I do not understand why the Comrade really I did not expect him to make such a remark and to follow rumours. That is not correct. It is incorrect and really we should not follow those rumours. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Let me just guide. I think really I share we cannot talk about rumours. Either there is a fact that had to be put on the table so that we deal with it. We cannot deal with rumours because

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we are basically all over the place but I would like to request you also to conclude because, thank you, continue.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Honourable Speaker, I have enormous respect for Honourable Pohamba Shifeta. He is my senior but I have also completed the area of the profession that he speaks about way ahead of him and I have some experience about things like fair comment. If you make an accusation as long as the comment is fair. Millennium Challenge Account is not a rumour. It is there we can take notice of it.

HON SPEAKER: Point of order please.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: On a point of order on a lighter note, we have a serious shortage of lawyers outside. May I request through you Comrade Speaker that all these vibrant lawyers like Honourable Swartbooi, Honourable Shifeta, Honourable Muharukua be released from Parliament to go and practice law outside.

HON SPEAKER: Actually, I might even invite them for a nice cup of tea. Some of these things can be hammered out over a cup of tea. Honourable member continue, no, no, please because it is becoming a dialogue now. Let us hear him.

HON MUHARUKUA: I have just been chased out of Parliament. I would

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just like to inform that the whole world Parliaments are in fact full of lawyers so this is where we belong.

HON SPEAKER: No, no, there is no intention to ask you to leave. We need you here but from time to time we also need you sometimes to come together over a cup of tea and we can solve so many things, hammer them out. By the time we come here we will have consensus, yes, Honourable Deputy Minister continue please.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Speaker and thank you very much, I really appreciate the comment by Honourable Mutorwa. I think Honourable Katrina sits next to him who will attest to the shortage of Principals and HODs and so therefore, we can all go because I know. I do not know about the legal profession but I know of the Ministry of Education that the retired teacher they are called back.

HON SPEAKER: Continue.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: On a lighter note that was Honourable Speaker, in fact if I may have said something that offends my senior and if for the sake of his comfort I shall withdraw any funny insinuation that he thinks I might have made but I stand my what I said in terms of those people that were moved and I have made Parliamentary immunity unless it is revoked with the court order but that having been said really, the challenge would be then in the finality of it all that once the sector has had the strategy implemented key questions are not yet answered one of which does the sector pay fair and decent wages.

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Does it pay fair and decent wages to the people that work for them and then at the end of the day it stands for all of us really whatever our criticism, whatever our concerns to support the work and the effort of the Ministry but the timing of the strategy for me is probably not the best time particularly because of information available that economic Parastatals are to be shifted to state owned enterprise Ministry and I see a diversion in terms of Government as a whole approach in supporting each other and the enterprise. Honourable Speaker no one person can exhaust a document and say everything. I am sure my views would be shared out of this. I thank you and I find it very difficult to support the strategy but if it is implemented one way or the other, we will then have to support it and I thank the Honourable Colleague really for having brought a strategy document which other Ministries may treat as an in-house document but they brought it here for scrutiny, for debate and discussion. I think I applaud them again and again for that. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Dienda please.

HON DIENDA: Thank you Honourable Speaker, Honourable Speaker, I do not have the document so I want to adjourn the debate until Thursday. I was not here. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Actually, I have exhausted my list and I also take it that the Honourable Minister would like to find time and respond to issues that have been raised to provide clarity where it might be required. We accede to the request to adjourn the debate until Thursday so decided. We move on.

The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE HIGH
INCIDENCE OF SUICIDE IN NAMIBIA WITH THE
AIM TO DEVELOP A NATIONAL RESPONSE PLAN**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on the High Incident of Suicide in Namibia with the Aim to Develop a National Response Plan.

HON SPEAKER: When the debate was adjourned on Wednesday the 22nd June 2016 the question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Nico Smit. Honourable Attorney General adjourned the debate, I now offer him the floor.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Thank you Mr Speaker this time for real, Mr Speaker I wanted to add my voice to this discussion on suicide. Firstly, I just want to remark that it evolve over the years. It is a Latin word, obviously, so back in the time when you committed suicide you were an outcast. You were not buried in the cemetery where everybody was buried. Your body was dragged in the streets. It carried on to certain religious practices particularly the Abrahamic religions that life is such a sanctified gift from God that you could not take it away yourself.

To societies where if you felt you were dishonourable you would commit suicide for example the Japanese society and it still lingers in this country. We all know about how they would slit their stomachs or to societies where it was part of the ritual. If the husband died the wife would have to be burned with the husband but she voluntarily does this because it was institutionalised. To modern days where we have associations that support suicide as an alternative out to lives, well, as an alternative exit obviously, we went to a process where suicide was unlawful and reason

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has come to the point that it does not make sense to hold suicide unlawful because you cannot prosecute the person who is dead.

What remains unlawful is to assist somebody or to give them enough information and advice so that they commit suicide because that is culpable homicide. If you tell somebody you have problems there, just take this, walk and go and it is possible that Martha Olivier may deal with you later but what is even worse is where you sit with the person and you assist them depart this existence. That is euthanasia. Euthanasia is still unlawful in Namibia and if the discussion is about suicide, somebody can then take a decision to say (incomplete).

HON SPEAKER: Yes, on a point of order.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker, I am sorry for intervening your contribution. I just want to ask you a question if I may.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Yes, you may.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I heard you say that in some communities wives voluntarily commit suicide as their husbands passed away and that practice is *de facto* institutionalised. I have two questions where is that community and if it is institutionalised, is it not institutional murder than we said of voluntary taking the life.

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HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: An example of where this happens is in India but because of the Bill of Rights now, some of these practices have been successfully fought with the existence of the United Nations organisation. The communities can accept that this is not a proper thing and in fact, yes, it was institutionalised like many practices that are institutionalised where even here if the husband dies, the wife could be inherited for example and etc, etc.

Some of these things come from a long history. That is why I started with the Latin origin of the word suicide so that we understand that there has been an evolution. The point I was making on euthanasia is if we are looking at the incidents or high incidents of suicide in Namibia and obviously, I am not that equipped to deal with the causes and I fully understand that there may be causes arising from the present maybe in articulate premises arising from the past whatever it is, we have a situation where today our law still says that if I decide that I would like to die because I have a terminal condition, I cannot be helped by a Doctor because there would be breaching the Hippocratic oath and then committing what is then culpable homicide.

Countries near us have also had this problem and some of them have only as recently as 2015 almost dealt with this issue conclusively although some believed that dealt with it conclusively this Advocate who had a terminal condition went to court to fight for his right to determine that he dies on a given date. Sadly for him he died two, three days before the judgement was passed and therefore, the arguments are that no right could have vested so therefore, it was a lately judgment and other are like but the fact that the judgement exist, that position is now the position in that country just south of the Orange. The question is where do we go. Will we in this strategy that would be talked about on how to deal with suicide, I do not know if we just want to prevent it or you want to look at in the modern context and I am not saying we should have the suicide clubs as they are and then you would be surprised if you just Google the suicide clubs that there are various clubs that apparently assist people to want to do this and I am not (interrupted).

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HON SPEAKER: Is that actually these particular clubs are you saying they exist in Namibia.

HON SHANGHALA-ATTORNEY GENERAL: No, no, globally but because of the frontier less internet and world wide web, we find ourselves in a situation where people in Namibia live perhaps even closer to those societies than they live here and we need to think about or talk about how we interact with this phenomena and other phenomena in the context of a globalised world. It might not be a very pleasant thing. There are pleasant films I used to watch as growing up that I did not quite understand for example, if you remember Mash and the theme song suicide is painless. It brings changes and sanity. We did not understand it but when you start understanding it and in that context that was for example, a production that was available in more than one country.

You get to start to understand that these concepts as they change from one society to the other even here, suicide being treated as a crime comes from elsewhere. It was not necessarily institutionalised as a legal concept in our tradition. I cannot recall that you were disinherited because you committed suicide. I do not think that was the case. Then until recently and recently I mean in the early 70s or 60s when a prominent Pastor committed suicide in the north and that was only the first time that I could recall somebody talking about an individual that you can identify with suicide as a phenomena.

Now the question is do we remain in our thinking that it is not something that we need to maybe talk about, have a position and say fine, if we are going to say we do not want to have this measure. These are the reasons that articulate them but to allow ourselves to have a situation where the courts would be determining for us because it is very likely that country south of the Orange somebody went to court. Somebody could go there and then we would have a situation where that public opinion is being pronounced in another fora and hence that is why I support the discussion of this thing so that it can really be taken elsewhere but not only to be

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dealt with for the purposes of looking at what is causing suicide. We can talk about what is causing suicide but also to pronounce ourselves in what we want to do.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Uutoni Nujoma.

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Thank you Comrade Speaker, I just want to thank the Attorney General for enlightening us on the legal aspect of assisted suicide. He is talking about euthanasia. I was not here to benefit from the motivation but I was thinking when he was speaking that with euthanasia in my understanding is assisted suicide or legalised suicide but when he was speaking and he talked about the Pastor who committed suicide. I was told that the Pastor is the closest person to God.

Why should a Pastor commit suicide rather than whisper to God and say I have a problem and God will always tell him because that is what our Pastor claims that they are just a few centimetres from God. Now coming back to our societies, I know suicide is occurring everywhere in every family. What I wanted to know from the Attorney General perhaps he is to tell us what are the causes if we want to get to the bottom of this phenomena.

Let us look at the causes. What causes this? Is it violation of the dignity of the human being, violation of his rights? Maybe humiliation or there could be many of those reasons which causes the person to do that or maybe expectation not met. Attorney General I will appreciate if you could little bit elaborate on the causes particularly in our societies.

HON SPEAKER: I think he was just about to wind up. Would you want to continue to respond?

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HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Just to say Mr Speaker that the significance of this discussion in this House is supported by the fact that 2002 Depole and Flashman did a study from a couple of the UN Agencies statistics that they had available and they concluded that 10 to 20 million attempts of suicide are committed every year. Now if you extrapolate that in a population of 7 billion as at 2013 that is 0.3%. That is quite a lot of people that are attempting to commit suicide. Now in post conflict societies it goes without saying that there is quite a lot of reason why these things happen and the homicides that are sometimes associated with the suicide, will, at the end of that there is homicide and then they want to escape punishment or whatever it is they commit suicide.

It is particularly high in a country like Namibia and Botswana but the backgrounds to the two countries are totally different and the per capita number of homicides and crimes agents for example women associated with suicide in Botswana and Namibia according to the study that I have seen are quite alarming and we need to look at something deeper. It could be the traditional drugs and alcohol. It could be the fact that in our societies, parents are abdicating parenting and it is becoming a state responsibility. Kids are having kids younger. There is no parenting again, economic.

HON SPEAKER: Point of order.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Comrade Speaker I just want to ask Honourable Saki to possibly define or find a way which of course, is a new phenomenon of we are talking of normal suicide in our country but there are those we call suicide bombers. How do you classify this? We talk of terrorism but how do, are they voluntarily or it is also part of the suicide bombers and they are many now? They are also many. How do you classify this?

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HON SPEAKER: The question is there is a link. Is there a link there?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: You see Honourable Speaker the first incident of such a death is recorded with the Japanese pilots during the second world war the Kami Kazi phenomena and that follows obviously, the Honourable Samurai when they would slit their stomachs if they are defeated or found to be dishonourable or death in glory and then some religions have then been interpreted perhaps differently to say you find glory in the afterlife if you commit these atrocities and such fanaticism has come to the fore particularly when it has an ample feeding ground and breeding ground of people who are disillusioned who are easily manipulated by circumstances or who feel a sense of mob action.

We all need to die for the cause. I do not know if we had then still engage in the liberation struggle today, maybe we would have had Kami Kazi because a type of Kami Kazi is a soldier who leaves a camp hundreds of kilometres inside Angola, walks and is known for sure that he might not come back but he is prepared to sacrifice their lives to just perform that command and instruction that he was given by his Commander and if he makes it back, he makes it back. We are lucky to have some of them who are alive with reason to delve into their mind and understand.

Now post conflict we have this situation which possibly contribute to some of the phenomena that happens in society but I am not a social scientist. I can see that there are something that logically contribute to that but where I was going particularly is to say that because this is such a very real problem and you are not really impacted by it until somebody close to you commit suicide and it is even worse when I do not even want to say it is worse when they are younger or worse when they are older. It is just a hurtful thing because sort of everybody is in the dark.

When somebody is in hospital, is ill, and then departs from this life, you get a sense of closure even when there are traumatic car accidents you feel that the clinics did something that you can blame our roads but when you

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have suicide, you leave society perplexed. Now the question I am asking is let us not end there. Why do we not look for that and say what would be our national position on euthanasia if I find to be terminal. How do I or do we wait for a situation where somebody then goes and asserts their rights?

And with these few remarks, I wanted to thank the motivator of this Motion.

HON SPEAKER: Honestly speaking, we have a lot of our plate. The pace at which we are moving but he is done. What is it that you wanted to raise?

HON MUHARUKUA: Honourable Speaker, the question that I wanted to pose to the Attorney General is that seeing that he is the Attorney General of the country and in cognisance of having in mind the constitution of the country, if perhaps would shed a bit more light on perhaps his views pertaining euthanasia that is one and two.

HON SPEAKER: Alright I think we are really stressing this Motion too far. I think even the mover will not be comfortable. Let us confine ourselves to the topic to the actual Motion because euthanasia is initiated by people who are in a terrible state of illness as you know.

HON MUHARUKUA: That I understand.

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HON SPEAKER: But someone who takes his life because of other circumstances cannot be compared to those extreme cases. That is why I did not want to push him to come in so I want to move on.

HON MUHARUKUA: Honourable Speaker perhaps let me address this one point. I see a tendency and I feel particularly victimised I have to admit and to say that whenever I rise to raise a point of order, the Speaker would kind of err on the side of caution before I speak. If I have to speak, I would have to reminded to speak a specific, it is true, a specific time period. I have to mind my minutes. It does not apply to everyone else but specifically what I wanted to state Honourable Speaker

HON SPEAKER: No, no.

HON MUHARUKUA: What I wanted to state Honourable Speaker is the following is that had perhaps the Speaker directed the member who spoke about euthanasia that perhaps that is way off what we are discussing, it would not have necessitated. I suppose what the Speaker is doing should apply to the other side as well.

HON SPEAKER: No because I am actually cautious of time, if you here you would be able to understand why I am saying this. You are the last person to complain. Honestly speaking, I always offer you an opportunity, Honourable Dienda please.

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HON DIENDA: Thank you Honourable Speaker allow me to contribute towards this Motion from Honourable Smit. Honourable Speaker I read the book titled 'obesity and morality of suicide in Namibia' written by Reverend Lieutenant Colonial Bernard F Akunde. I am not a soldier.

HON SPEAKER: Yes, please.

HON DIENDA: The following findings were recorded in books and I quote, 'in Namibia suicide can be regarded as a post independent phenomena as the number of suicide in the country particularly in the fore far regions Oshikoto, Oshana, Ohangwena and Omusati have increased without any debate'. This is what is written here. The Namibian newspaper Honourable Speaker has mentioned recently that various factors which contribute towards suicide the rate in Namibia is HIV Aids because we are still discriminating people who are HIV Aids positive and whenever somebody was told that you are HIV Aids positive you will rather refer to commit suicide so that on your death certificate it must not written HIV Aids.

That stigma is also there. Then unemployment Honourable Speaker is also one of the reasons of suicide especially men who are unemployed. The wives are whooping and they feel that they are a liability towards the family.

HON SPEAKER: On a point of order.

HON NEKUNDI: Honourable Speaker I just want to ask a question to Honourable Dienda.

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HON SPEAKER: And that question?

HON NEKUNDI: The question is, is what Honourable stating are those hypothesis statements or facts?

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Member please continue.

HON DIENDA: Listening is a skill. Some people must learn to listen. Honourable Speaker problems at school and family problem like the teenagers they are the ones at school who are also now the ones committing suicide. Breakdown of relationships you know if you say no to a man the next step, we do not commit suicide. We will accept no is not but the man cannot accept that no is no and the second one also from the Namibia newspaper the witchcraft. This is from the Namibian newspaper. I want to go further Honourable Speaker and I want to rest from the book.

It says and I will quote, 'the majority'. There was investigation done by the Ministry of Health and Social Services that report was never made available to the public but according to that report who was only been seen by a select few the following were revealed, 'the majority of the subject 67% were male who committed suicide . Most of the subject 42% was in the age of 20 to 29 and then the majority of the subject 66% unemployed. Most of the subject 71% were single persons and these people committed suicide through these methods, they hang themselves, firearms and knives.

If we are talking about firearms, maybe there is a problem in our country. People are getting it easily and then it goes further 73% Honourable of the subject was not reported to be mental illness cases according to this document. 17% were soldiers during the liberation struggle, about 23.8%

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of the subject were detained at some point during liberation struggle of Namibia' and I quote from this book. If you are asking me you can borrow it from me so let me continue.

The Minister of Health and Social Services Honourable Speaker, set up a Committee on suicide prevention which consist of the following stakeholders, the Ministry of Health and Social Services four members on that Committee, the Ministry of Safety and Security one, the Ministry of Defence one, the Ministry of Education one, Key Centre one, traditional authorities one, UNAM one, Lifeline Child line Namibia one person, the churches one person, Windhoek Health Unit also one person.

The appointment Honourable Speaker of these members is done on a stakeholders representation and not by the names so if you are being replaced, if I was one of the people representing my organisation, I can be replaced but not the organisation. This Committee Honourable Speaker was launched by the former Minister of Health Honourable Richard Kamwi at UNAM. Workshop has been done on this issue in 2009, 2011, 2012. A national strategic plan on the prevention of suicide in Namibia was launched in 2012, it will come to the end 2016 Honourable, and in this document, I want to quote.

'We want to congratulate the Deputy Minister Honourable Petrina Haingura for her contribution towards this document'. It is there we have it. Honourable Speaker the 10th of September is international suicide prevention day 10th of September every year international suicide prevention day. I am asking myself Honourable Speaker if all these things are there is in place, the plan is there, what is lacking.

Why are people still committing suicide? Why is it increasing on the daily basis? I want to go further. Maybe Honourable Speaker if the Minister I know it is new but if you can update us this honourable House on the progress of this strategic plan. What is going on? Do we have outreach programs? How are you informing the nation? Are these Committees sitting on a regular basis so that they can come up with ways

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of how to educate us, how to talk about this issue that was mentioned in the Namibian newspaper so that people who are having problem can know that there is the office in the Ministry of Health who deals with this issue and we can go there if we have problem? On Friday, Honourable Speaker the 13th of May 2014 a media release was done by the Minister on prevention. Intervention Honourable Shanghala and prevention of suicide in Namibia it was done on the 13th of May. I have the document here. I can also give it to you and also learn the warning signs and what to do because suicide according to this document is one hundred percent preventable.

Honourable Speaker I remember Honourable Ncube said we have all these nice documents and forth when the Committee come back and it will just be there or left in dark at the end of the day nothing happen. This is how it has been currently Honourable Speaker because we have this beautiful document which I have read and I ask myself if this document was implemented thoroughly, we could have sit today and say there is a decrease in suicide and not an increase.

My question is Honourable Speaker to do justice to this Motion, I would really like and I would really ask the Honourable Minister of Health to give us an update so that we can know what is it that is still lacking. What is it that we have been further in? What was the research that they have done? What came out of that research? I rest my case Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Next on my list is Honourable Kapofi. Please, Honourable Katoma. Yes, Honourable Doctor Haufiku.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker, I was just making a contribution of my own when the Honourable Member from that side kindly reminded me

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of our strategy. I appreciate thank you for that but I am aware of it obviously. Perhaps not this long as you are or the Deputy but I am aware of the strategy. As usual the issue we battle with is why does dissemination of information in a wider community and society and implementation including acceptance these are the issues often we battle with but I wanted to just briefly say my feeling on the Motion on the floor Honourable Speaker if you allow me.

I would not want to go in humanity as such because it is very lengthy. It stretches thousands of years so I would want to confine myself to the Namibian context. As we all know suicide has multiplicity of causative factors not just one reason why people commit suicide. These factors range from health relative factor as it is mentioned there and that start with simple thing such as simple stress whether at work or at home, depression which is hardly diagnosed even in hospital or clinical setting and in mental health terms it is said that every human being has or is a mental patient one way or another meaning that our mood all of us tumble from up and down from depression to excitement.

It becomes difficult to pinpoint but it is a reality that there are many, many undiagnosed depressed persons in our society including in this Chamber Honourable Speaker. There are other health related issues that drive a person to depression such as the HIV issue which in our view is now decreasing, cancer that is diagnosed in the later stage where nobody can do nothing except paretic care but the problem is well, Honourable Speaker is the fact that we lack facilities in communities that can take care of the terminally ill especially from the public sector point of view.

We do not have hospices where people with terminal illness such as cancer can be taken care of and we have well maybe one or two. I am just saying broadly speaking the four 'O' regions mentioned by the Honourable Member on the other side has none of the hospices and it does not have set down care either. We have poor relationship in family and counselling services and many other host of health related issues that drive people towards suicide.

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Economic factors, which have been also mentioned such as unemployment or a relationship between the employee and an employer that is unhealthy that would drive an employee most of the time to commit suicide. Social factors ranging from relationship, family fights, love affairs, poverty the list goes on and on, personal matters may stem just from a broken relationship, parents not parenting and therefore children either coming from single parents with no care from the father or the mother or love that is required.

Honourable Speaker I am talking about all these things because they all have a role to play in the personality of an individual in your ability to make decisions, in your ability to withstand stress and shock of life all of these are very important. Many of our people have no role model and some or many have role models who kill. If a guy has killed many people either in the war or some kind of robust is actually a role model to some of the youngster no mentoring where we are natured in our nature. What is the way forward and by the way one of the toxic factors that causes people to commit suicide are alcohol and drug abuse in our society, peer pressure was also mentioned.

Now what is the way forward Honourable Speaker? The way to go about on this is obviously want to implement the national health strategy in preventing suicide but we also perhaps need now a national comprehensive suicide study encompassing many, many other factors or a review of the previous research and I know in the Ministry of Health there are lots of studies and given globally. The World Health Organisation has volumes of documents on suicide so we have to relook at the causes recommending remedies and determinant of suicide in Namibia, device national multi sectoral strategy such as the one we have there, an action plan to prevent suicide because the best way is to prevent.

You cannot diagnose it and treat it like other issues of health. Treatment is in the mortuary where you determine the cause for legal purposes most of the time so prevention is the best gun for suicide but in order to prevent Honourable Speaker, we have to understand most if not all of the determinant of suicide we have to put to attend to issues of

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unemployment, issues of poverty, stress, depression etc., you go on and these are not all issues that only the Ministry of Health can solve.

It requires of all of us putting our resources together, get the latest reliable information scientific information such as we have in the Ministry of Health but this Honourable Speaker brings us to investment in research. We need social scientist to keep updating us on the development and how do we further improve prevention of suicide in Namibia.

I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Katoma please.

HON KATOMA: Thank you Honourable Speaker, I also want to contribute to the Motion on the table. Honourable Speaker, untreated depression plays crucial role in suicide which could manifest in a huge persistence problem that an individual fail to find solution over them and some of which are psychological problems, physical problems and emotional problems. There are a number of factors influencing someone to commit suicide and nearly everybody experiences suicidal thoughts at one point or another throughout their existence.

Everyone deals with thoughts time but some people have been dealt a tough hand when it comes to life circumstances past traumas, mental or physical illnesses, social standing and ability to cope with depression emotions. People are most drive (interrupted).

HON SPEAKER: On a point of order.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
AND CORPORATION:** On a point of order, the Honourable Member asserted that every person in their lives would have contemplated thoughts of suicide case. Is that based on a scientific research?

HON SPEAKER: Is that the question?

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
AND CORPORATION:** Yes or is it just a hypothesis?

HON SPEAKER: Let us ask the Honourable Member to deal with that.

HON KATOMA: Thank you very much. As you have heard that even people who are closer to God may commit suicide what could not happen to anybody. Honourable Speaker common causes of suicide include depression, financial problems, difficulty in relationship, mental illness, drug abuse, chronic fail or terminal illness and sexual abuse as well as unemployment, cyber bullying on line to mention but a few. Physical abuse, people who are victims to physical abuse either growing up or in a relationship can be traumatised. They may harbour feelings of guilt, and shame that stand up inside their minds for years. When someone is abused, it may go unrecognised and unreported for extended period of time.

The person who is being physically abused may view society as the only way in which they can escape the situation. Sexual abuse, any form of sexual abuse can lead a person to feel depressed and suicidal. In case of molestation and rape, this can result in significant psychological trauma

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caused to the victim especially if it is not reported or not well and timely addressed. Bullying this is common in school kids. People experiencing bullying to some degree while growing up and going through school, most people who are bullied end up feeling tremendous depressed, valueless and hopeless to change their situation for better.

Unfortunately, in many cases bullying goes uncompleted unrecognised until the victims could no longer take it anymore and perceive suicide as the only way to escape the pain that they are experiencing. Some kids are bullying others as a way to prove themselves in regard to social hierarchy seniority and kids that got bullied are often viewed as being either physically weak or social weak not come up with amusing response. In the world of technology, there is what they call cyber bullying in which people fell victims to be bullied on line.

This happens on social media site whereby comments on the website are aiming to ruin victims' reputation and make themselves feel ashamed. When a person is bullied on line or her privacy exposed on line they view a ring of reputation as the end of the world and feel destitute to change their situation, which could lead to suicide. Drug abuse, people that are addicted to drugs or abuse drugs and alcohol on consistent basis are more likely to become depressed.

Many people use drugs to escape painful feelings of depression and hopelessness of their current life situation. However, this may provide some short-term relief from the pain that they feel but over a long time drug use tends to alter brain functioning and new transmitter. In the end of these people will feel hopeless to overcome whatever addiction they are facing and they will see society as the only way out from the addiction stress. Unemployment, being unemployed could lead to a feeling is isolation and make the life feel as if it is void of purpose. In most cases, being unemployed not only make people feel as they have no purpose in living but it also lead to depression over lack of an income as well.

Employment provides most people with a sense of purpose and belonging to a specific group. If one is unemployed, he or she find himself socially

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isolated and lacking purpose and structure on his or her day. Loneliness, being socially isolated from society can take a toll on most mental health and person to become depressed and consider suicide as the only option. Financial problems, most people who are struggling financially sometimes sees no end inside their debts and bills. This could not only lead to financial stress that can take major toll on a person's mind, mental health but would also force a person to think of committing suicide as the only way and solution to release him or herself from the burden imposed on them by the huge accumulated debts.

Prevention measures, an in depth research need to be done to find out some more possible factors causes of suicide after which proper recommendation would be developed that would be possible include economic improvement, developing better treatment for mental illness, strengthening social counselling, creating more awareness campaign addressing issues that are causing the suicide in our society.

I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Hinda, please.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND CORPORATION: Thank you Honourable Speaker, I would not dwell around the issue of what causes or what leads to suicide because it was stated as being highlighted earlier but I found it important to raise on the point because suicide does not only take away lives but it changes the lives of the families that experience the suicide because it is a traumatic experience. I want to suggest that in most cases after someone has committed suicide it comes to light that the fact that the person was entitled was indeed known to one or the other person. I am saying that that is my reason to argue that if someone is suicidal somebody is aware of that state of mind and therefore, I wish to think that it is important that

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we raise awareness around the issue of what needs to be done if someone comes to know that somebody is suicidal and what are the signal of someone being suicidal.

Counselling in my opinion is an important intervention in preventing suicide and also it is important that the affected family gets counselling that experienced the suicide in the family. Unreported suicide attempts also contribute to the increase in actual suicide to be committed due to the fact that attempts of suicide is actually regarded as a criminal offence. I also just want to add that possibly a concentration of smoking and alcohol and drug abuse could also be considered as systematic suicide and as a result, generally suicide needs to be informed about what suicide is, what leads to suicide and what the signals are of somebody that is suicidal so that we could rather rescue a person before he commits the suicide. That is my submission.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much short and sweet, to the point. Honourable Tommy Nambahu.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you very much Comrade Speaker for affording me this opportunity to add my voice to this very important Motion. I will just make some or direct some of my points to some few issues and one of them is actually the aspect of drug abuse and drug addiction. I do not know how much we as a society attributes and recognise drugs abuse as a problem. I was reading one I am not going to say of what company or what organisation in which like the moral code was saying that drug addiction or abuse of drugs is discouraged only it does not say only but there is proviso there.

In the event that it prevents the person or the addict to carry out his work efficiently or prevents that person from coming to work, the use in itself is not seen as a problem and that the life style and the existing of this person

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as a role model to others when they use this kind of substance is not shun. It is not discouraged and is not condemned by society. Whether these people playing a role as role models or role modest of our kids we have, as a society not really attached that much attention because we do not use to hear. We are not hearing much of the condemnation from all corners of the use and abuse of drugs. I am sure I was very happy to see that in the legislative calendar of this year the combating of drugs abuse or drug Bill would be finding its way into this Parliament.

I am very happy and I would be very much looking forward to that debate when that Bill is tabled here. The other aspect is the support facilities. Someone said in the north where some of these things are prevalent and suicide that is you cannot even find the presence of alcohol anonymous. These organisations are not known in our villages there or something similar that can actually or people have a recourse too when they are in need of this type of assistance let alone the rehabilitation centres and I think it is time that we talk to really organisations like our breweries that contribute tremendously to the aspect of alcohol abuse to come up and contribute to the bringing up of these tenders so that people can really have a recourse to the rehabilitation in their vicinities where they can actually easily access these kinds of centres.

The other aspect is the moral decay. If you talk to people in their 90s, 80s, it is unheard of for a child in our culture to answer back to a parent or to an old person of that age but the current children they answer back so easily and you find that this person this old person is really is a phenomena. She does not know how to react to this because they are not used to this kind of thing. The aspect of materialism and actually showing off I do not know how many of you and seeing that when you go to pick up your child at school and will go with a Uno.

You told that no Dad just stay there we see you. We are coming but the day you come with a Mercedes say come, come, come near. They want to show off and the bullying and all this kind of thing the kind of society how we admire materials. Other people who do not have or deprived of this, either feel that they are economically deprived and they have no other

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HON SMIT

recourse. The best because I cannot at the matric year end I cannot hire a limousine and my father cannot give me this much so for that he simply think of suicide. The hopelessness and the loneliness I look forward to a debate that really interrogate very much the aspect and the role of drugs and suicide. That day I would be happy so that we really make it as a business of everyone to combat the use and abuse of drugs in the country, and how they relate to this kind of incidents. This is only few remarks I have in the contribution to this very important Bill. I thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Well, that brings us to the end of the debate. It is very clear from everything we heard that the fight against suicide must be seen as an ongoing. Our Ministry of Health and Social Services is on record in terms of the initiative that they have undertaken. It was quite interesting to know that they are obviously doing something about it in terms of awareness and the general campaign against suicide. Honourable Nico Smit is on record having brought forward this Motion to reinforce that campaign. We all seem to be complimenting ourselves but obviously, there is a recognition that we must redouble our efforts even further. Honourable Smit it is your opportunity to reply to the debate.

HON SMIT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I think since I am in the National Assembly this is the most widely discussed Motion this far. I was really impressed with the contributions by the members. I think it shows us that it is really a very serious issue in our society but also more specific in our communities and our families that it touches so many people and we chose that we have great interest to resolve to find a remedy for this issue.

When we were going into a little bit deeper in what is actually being done in Namibia regarding this issue, we find that there is a comment.

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Unfortunately, when I was preparing my Motion I did not come across that information but we picked it up and that is why Honourable Dienda we decided that she must come and inform this August House about what is already being done and I am also grateful for what the Minister of Health has said to us that he is also well aware of this situation and that they are doing a lot but it seems that maybe we should revitalise the Committee because the numbers are escalating the numbers of suicide even last year.

It was nearly 418 only for last year so I think we should put some more effort to it to see whether we can bring down the suicide numbers in our country. I therefore Honourable Speaker would like to reiterate to refer this Motion to the Committee on Gender Equality and Family Affairs to look into this and to maybe speak to this Committee and see how they can do a little bit more and also with our Universities for research into this issue more deeply and to come up with some things that then improve the situation. I thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: The Minister of Health and Social Services.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you Honourable Speaker and Honourable Member there, I think there is no need to refer this to the Parliamentary Committee really. The issues are all well-known and have been well elucidated. There is a champion already the said Committee that was highlighted there from the Ministry of Health. All we need is to interlink with other sectors and support it, enhance community awareness of those things that were mentioned that would help prevent suicide and then we move forwards.

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**SLOW IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECENTRALISATION POLICY**

HON SPEAKER: But then we cannot leave the Motion in the air. We adopt the Motion so are you comfortable to adopt the Motion. Thank you.

I now put the question that the Motion be adopted. Any objection? So agreed.

The Secretary will read the Third Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SLOW
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECENTRALISATION POLICY**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on the Slow Implementation of the Decentralisation Policy.

HON SPEAKER: When the debate was adjourned on Tuesday the 14th June the question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Jahanika. The Honourable Deputy Minister of Urban and Rural Development adjourned the debate and I now call upon the Deputy Minister to have the floor. She is not here. Can this then stand over until, yes? I think let us adjourn anyway regardless.

It would be adjourned until tomorrow to allow the Deputy Minister to have the opportunity and then you can join so decided. Thank you.

The Secretary will read the Fourth Order of the Day.

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**INTRODUCTION OF RATING
AND SUBSIDISATION OF
RATING BY GOVERNMENT
HON MUTORWA**

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE
INTRODUCTION OF RATING AND SUBSIDISATION
OF RATINGS BY GOVERNMENT**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on the Introduction of Rating and Subsidisation of Ratings by Government.

HON SPEAKER: When the debate was adjourned on Wednesday the 15th of June 2016 the question before the Assembly was a Motion of the Honourable Venaani. Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry now has the floor.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. When the Motion was introduced and motivated, I was not in the House. I was outside the House on other official Government duty, in Gaborone, together with my Colleague, the Minister of Mines and Energy.

I would like to thank the Colleague who adjourned the debate on my behalf, and also plead with the Speaker that, in view of the fact that I did not benefit from the motivation of the Speaker but also appreciating the depth of what the Motion is seeking, I would like to request your indulgence that I participate in this debate on an informed basis next week Tuesday.

Thank you.

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**POISONOUS PLANTS THAT CAUSES
DEATH OF LIVESTOCK
HON MUTORWA**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Well, your request is granted partly also the fact that I do not have any list on my system so the discussion would be deferred until next week Tuesday so decided. Thank you.

The Secretary will read the Fifth Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON POISONOUS
PLANTS THAT CAUSE DEATH OF LIVESTOCK**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Poisonous Plants that Causes Death of Livestock.

HON SPEAKER: When the debate was adjourned on Tuesday the 21st June 2016 the question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Venaani. The Honourable Maamberua adjourned the debate and now I would like to offer him the floor. He is obviously not in the House.

Anyway, we will continue the debate and I would like to offer the floor to Honourable John Mutorwa.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you Comrade Speaker, the Motion before us from what I could follow so far is essentially asking for scientific research which scientific research may produce some scientific solution to deal with these poisonous plants. In that particular regard as somebody representing the Ministry responsible for livestock, I do not have a problem because after all science and research are meant to establish ways and means to find

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solution to practical problems facing not only human beings but facing the universe the environment call it what you may.

I know and I am not an expert in this field I read some books here in Namibia. There are some scientists who have attempted to find a solution but not succeeded in that endeavour but science is evolving. Science is dynamic and research is also dynamic. Therefore, I would like to support that in that particular context in regard. I also understand that the mover of the Motion wanted or wants the Motion to be referred to a relevant Standing Committee of Parliament, which relevant Standing Committee also will have the responsibility as a Committee I believe to interact with those that have the knowledge and maybe then get some information that may in the end also maybe assist us when we approach maybe scientists that we have not yet approached.

Comrade Speaker all that I am saying is that if that is the intention of the mover that we need to do some research by approaching relevant people with the absolute expert knowledge in this regard. It is the duty of this House to support such a Motion and then also I am glad that the Motion is seeking the referral. I have no problem with that. Let us do that so that we may come out maybe with something that we did not know yesterday but that we may know tomorrow on the basis of the scientific research then that would be established at least the information that would be generated through the relevant Standing Committee of the Parliament. That would be my contribution and

I thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Well, thank you very much and Honourable Maamberua is not in the House so can we defer further discussion on this item. So decided. Thank you very much.

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**APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE LAND
REFORM ADVISORY COMMISSION
HON NUJOMA**

The first Notice of a Motion, the one of Honourable Minister of Land Reform. Does the Honourable Minister Move the Motion? Who seconds? Any objection? Agreed to. The Honourable Minister has the floor.

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Thank you Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members allow me to move this important Motion which is aimed at motivating the approval by this House for the appointment of two new Members and the re-appointment of two current Members to serve on the Land Reform Advisory Commission for the current three years term of office ending 31st of March 2019. The appointment of these individuals is in terms of Section 4(1)(g) of the Agricultural Commercial Land Reform Act, Act number 6 of 1995 as amended.

In addition to the members nominated for the appointment to the Land Reform Advisory Commission by the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, the Minister of Justice and three staff members from the Ministry of Land Reform, the Commission draws membership from the Agricultural Bank of Namibia associations involved in agricultural affairs as well as four persons of whom at least two shall be females and who are not employed in the Public Service and who are suitably qualified having regard to the function of the Commission.

The law requires that the four persons nominated directly by the Minister of Land Reform be appointed only with the approval of the National Assembly. The Law Reform Advisory Commission is tasked with the responsibility to make recommendation to the Minister of Land Reform and to advise in relation to any powers conferred upon the Minister in terms of Agricultural Commercial Land Reform Act, Act number 6 of 1995 as amended.

The Commission is further empowered to investigate and consider either on its own accord or upon request by the Minister any other matter

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relating to the exercise of the powers of the Minister and the Agricultural Commercial Land Reform Act, Act number 6 of 1995 as amended. Having regard to the functions of the Commissioner I am convinced that Ms Rachel Nathaniel Kock new appointment, Mr John Hamukoto Akwenya new appointment, Ms Martina Kerbert Didsemank, Mohatle Akumas reappointment, Mr Jeff Wangambako reappointment possesses both individually and collectively the skills required to advise the Minister of Land Reform in the exercise of powers conferred upon him and that they can particularly advise on the modalities to ensure a successful land reform program for Namibia.

The nominated persons have among them the agricultural legal financial institutional memory and requisites social skills that can render the then Reform Advisory Commission active in carrying out its mandate. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members I humbly request the House indulgence in disposing of this crucial function and plead that this August House approves and endorses the appointment and reappointment of the two persons respectively to the Land Reform Advisory Commission from the 1st of July 2016 until the 31st of March 2019 so that this appointment is timely affected with a view to rendering the Commission fully functional. The curriculum vitae of these four individuals are submitted to this August House for ease of reference. I thank you Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Any further discussion? I put the question that the Motion... Sorry, sorry. Yes, Honourable Ncube.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE DISABILITY SECTOR:** Thank you Comrade Speaker I just want to find out from the Minister maybe from all this especially the four people for in the spirit of inclusivity and mainstreaming and also industrialisation. I would just like to find out. I do not claim that I may

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know everybody with disability in Namibia but I would just like to find out among these four whether there is somebody with disability since last time there was someone with disability that I know but this time around I do not know these one who are on the list. Perhaps the Minister could just inform us on that one in the spirit of inclusivity.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Nekundi.

HON NEKUNDI: Thank you very much Comrade Speaker, I possibly will just also like to find some information from Comrade Minister. It is unfortunate that we do not have the CVs. I do not have it. It is fine I am just saying I do not have it. It is fine. It does do harm. I do not have it.

HON SPEAKER: Can I ask.

HON NEKUNDI: I never knew to ask is a disease or a problem in this House. Sorry to say we, I say I but now it is now too late to go through while I am on the floor. Possibly Comrade Speaker my interest would be Comrade Minister the persons being appointed I possibly know one. The rest I do not know them. Learn to listen. Learn to listen.

HON SPEAKER: Order, order.

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HON NEKUNDI: I have the floor and I will stand until I have my time. You must learn to listen.

HON SPEAKER: I actually did not hear because of the noise.

HON NEKUNDI: Exactly I think they must be informed to listen before they start. My question would be among these persons the three I do not know, is there possibly a younger person because the one I know is not a young person. Is there a youth among the others? If not, could you possibly in future consider generational midst when we are doing appointment. This is very important for skill transfer timely as we grow our nation moving forward. That is my interest. It is not here. I am just asking in future if it is already included in that, fine, then we move ahead. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. In view of the fact that I do not have further questions, can I call upon the Honourable Minister to reply?

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Thank you Comrade Speaker may I respond by saying that the Ministry of Land Reform is really very sensitive to issues of gender and disability, people with disabilities and as you correctly stated, there was one who was appointed but for continuity we have looked at demographic of the country, the expertise. Most of these people we have appointed now are lawyers because of the complexity of the land reform issues, the challenges at the High Court, land disputes in communal areas really we need people with requisite experiences so that they can.

The young people you are always learning. It is a learning care. You will be there in no time. The problem is the patience. Let us learn to learn you

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know. You acquire the necessary skills, expertise and you will be a good Parliamentarian and you would be a good lawyer but if you just want to be everything, it is not possible. Thank you Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. That said and done I now put the question that the Motion be adopted, any objection, agreed to.

The Second Motion is the one of Honourable Hambyuka, the Assistant Chief Whip. Does the Honourable Member move the Motion? Who seconds? Any objection? Agreed to. The Honourable Hambyuka has the floor.

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HON HAMBYUKA: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members I rise to motivate my Motion on the issue of mushrooming of churches and self-proclaimed prophets, Pastors in Namibia. Christianity in Namibia comprises more than 90% of the population the largest Christian group being the ELCIN, Roman Catholic, Anglican and other who believe in God the trinity, the father, the son and the Holy Spirit and that gives us the Saviour who dies for our sins on the cross.

It is believed that this intervention will provoke a robust debate from the Honourable Colleagues and the community at large and in so doing the results in recommendation of some strategies, interventions that will be instituted to improve the unscrupulous and the conduct of some proclaimed prophets, Pastors and fathers of some churches.

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Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members the world was seriously warned that there would be false prophets who would be travelling from the east to west. Whatever we are witnessing today it is happening that most of these prophets and Pastors are from the east direction of Namibia.

HON SPEAKER: Order, order.

HON HAMBYUKA: In the New Testament, the prophecy is to edify the church by speaking words of edification, exaltation and consolation. These types of prophets are teaching inspired God and is considered one of the spiritual gifts. I refer the Honourable Members when they go home to get their Bible and read 1 Corinthians Chapters 12 verse 7 up to 11. The Bible also include predictive, prophecy, supernatural knowledge shared by those who have the office the prophet inspired by God and spoken at his command naturally consumption or false prophecy is not inspired by God.

Most Christians believe that the office of prophet along with the office of apostles passed away around the end of the first century. However, into today's church several movements teach that God is restoring the so-called new Ministries in the more controversial of those movements of churches many teachers in correctly consider themselves to occupy the office of prophets with the authority ascribed to that office in scripture.

Most of those prophets bring extreme warnings and claim prophetic possess while prophesying vague ambiguous predictions. Their messages often are the Lord told them or told me that you must do something. Otherwise, you will die or you must do something in order for you to become rich to get married.

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We are witnessing a number of ungodly happening in the country. Our people are subjected to evil spirits of which these so-called Pastors are to be claimed as Jesus of Nazareth to be specific the incident in Windhoek a man calling himself Jesus having so many women and more than 15 children some were donated to his followers. Apparently, they came from heaven and he was told by his father God to share these children with other men. The second one is the woman in Wanaheda who was convinced to sell her house because the house has evil spirits and she did so according to the report.

After receiving the money she gave it to the so-called Pastor for blessing and the culprit the Pastor disappeared with the money. In schools our children are collapsing fighting the evil spirit and we are just looking to this to happen until when. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members it is observed that some of those churches especially the new ones are discouraging the community members to express their democratic rights to vote in the national elections sighting they voted already through Jesus.

Not only are those some of these churches Pastors are promoting immorality by practicing adultery. Apparently, if a woman is having an evil spirit or sick, that Pastor must first engage in sexual relationship with that particular woman to cast the evil spirit out of her body or to secure sickness or to cure sickness. They even go beyond telling people who are chronic sick to stop taking their prescribed medication that they can cure pandemic. As a result, many people are losing their lives in this way.

In order for us as lawmakers to continue to advocate for human rights, gender equality and social welfare to embrace the spirit of Harambe Prosperity Plan we should study, scrutinise the contact of some of those churches in our country. What I am seeing is woman and youths are the targets of this exodus. We are witnessing a number of ungodly happening in the country where our people are subject to evil spirit of which these so-called Pastors who are claiming to be Jesus terrorising our women and the youths.

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One may connect to this incident poverty and other things but it is correct just to see it happening and we have it in record. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members after independence Namibian Government has made provision under married law to permit people other than Magistrates to be appointed as marriage officers. This provision was made with the intention to shorten the distance of our people wishing getting married that they could do both state and church requirements as the nearly stage. This was made having in mind the constitution provision under Article 14(1)(2). Surprisingly I am not confused, surprisingly it is discouraged that some of these churches especially the new ones are not using this provision for its intended purpose.

This has resulted in a lot of marriage of convenience. Some of those marriages were even conducted in the absence of documents to identify the groom. Other worrying factor is that some churches are recommending ordinary church members who are not ordained Pastors as marriage officers for their churches, which is a serious concern.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members our unmarried women especially the girls should realise that some of these foreign nationals get married to Namibians with the sole purpose of acquiring domicile status which is a stepping stone to get the Namibian citizenship and once it has been acquired, they divorce their Namibian spouses. Some of them even went back to their country of origin and brought with them their wives for the fact that he is a Namibian citizen now, his wife will also get Namibian citizenship to the account of the Namibian woman who is now a divorcee.

It has observed that some of the employees who are members of those churches are spending most of their hours to pray, worship while on duty which result in poor productivity at work. Some of them are praying so loud. Then their colleague in the next office are disturbed and unable to concentrate on their work. While appreciating work of various Supervisors, I would like to request them to inform their subordinates to refrain from those practices. Namibia is a Christian society and we do not

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need unwanted person from outside the country to come and teach us how to serve God.

We have been serving God even our forefathers and mothers have done the same. I believe that our traditional churches are capable enough to impact Christianity on the Namibian nation. It is against this background that I am appealing to the parents including myself to speak to our children especially the girls to be extra vigilant when it comes to those kind of relationships. Otherwise, they become victims of convenient of marriage.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, after debate this Motion be referred to the relevant Standing Committee to engage the umbrella body of the churches CCN and the community at large to enable this National Assembly to handle this ungodly situation before it goes out of hand. Honourable Speaker with those few words, I rest my case.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Let me acknowledge the presence of members of the public, ladies and gentlemen who are with us over there in the gallery who are here to observe and listen to the debates and particularly on the topic before the House right now. From different churches etc. obviously, because of their particular interest, Pastors, and men and women who are particularly interested in the role of the churches in this country, you are welcome.

Can I call upon Honourable Dienda? You have the floor.

HON DIENDA: Thank you Honourable Speaker, let me start my contribution by quoting from the Constitution Article 21 fundamental freedoms. Freedom to practice any religion and to manifest such

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practices, this is what the Constitution is saying and Namibia our country are guided by this constitution nothing more, nothing less. Honourable Speaker mushrooming of churches is equal to mushrooming of shebeens. They are equal.

Honourable Speaker I cannot stand here and say that we must stop the establishment of churches and then I am the one contributing that more *shebeens* must be established in this country. It is against my belief Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker if I could have tabled this Motion I could have opt to say that we must regulate churches by registering churches.

This is what I could have asked for not for the mushrooming of churches but churches to be registered because currently there is no body which are responsible for the registration of churches and this is where the problems are coming from which the Honourable Members is talking about. If we start with a body to say that all churches must register in this body, then the problems can be solved and the problems of Pastors impregnated, Pastors cheating on whatever these problems would then be (incomplete).

HON SPEAKER: On a point of order.

HON WITBOOI: I just want to find out for clarity sake whether someone from the public is allowed to come and record the discussions in the House just for clarity sake.

HON SPEAKER: No, no, I think nobody is doing that.

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HON WITBOOI: There is somebody.

HON SPEAKER: But then please do not do that. There are rules governing the House. You are there as a guest please do not do that. Do not either clap. Let them get on with the work of law-making process. You are there to observe and if you need any other help, let us know. Thank you please continue.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, people have choices in this country. People have choices in life. We cannot force people to remain in churches in which they are not comfortable. If I do not want to believe in this faith of this church anymore, I cannot be forced to remain there. If I want to get out, I must have that option to go out. If I want to join or to start another church, it must be my right, which is in the constitution.

Honourable Speaker we do not know whether the belief that we are preaching and that we believe in whether my belief is a better belief than yours. I cannot be the judge to say that some churches are more godlier than others. I cannot say because judgment day will tell us.

HON SPEAKER: On a point of order.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. On a point of order.

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HON SPEAKER: Please can we hear each other.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I have listened to the motivation of the Motion not once have I heard that the motivator said that you may not practice religion of your choice not once. Not once have I heard that we are preventing churches to practice the freedom of the religion not once. What he has said is that we must be watchful about false fake churches that are created for the sole purpose of exploiting our people. I think our Honourable Member must take that in mind and not say something that has not been said.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I think that is a very useful comment. You may continue please.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker what is meant by being watchful? What is meant with being watchful? If you are talking that you must be watchful to this prophet if I want to follow that prophet this is my choice.

HON SPEAKER: No, no, no, I do not think so. I honestly speaking Honourable Dienda you are very experienced Parliamentarian. You heard Honourable Hambyuka saying there are individuals who call themselves men of God, Pastors but who have been indulging in things that will make any Pastor really being to wonder are these men of God. This is the point he was making, yes, please you may continue.

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HON DIENDA: Honourable he also said they are more godly than others. That is what that godly worth, that is why I will write it down Honourable. This is what he said more godly than others. Honourable Speaker what I am saying (incomplete).

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Not once did Honourable Hambyuka say that *shebeens* are the right things to worship not once did he say so and then sub Article 2 of that Article 21 if you read that it tells you cannot do that over the rights of others.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you please continue.

HON DIENDA: Honourable, I am not trampling on other people. Honourable let me tell you something. I am just saying what I heard him saying. I made the comparison Elma Dienda that if you are talking about mushroom of churches then we must also talk about the mushroom of *shebeens*. It is my comparison and I have that right to make that comparison.

HON SPEAKER: No, no, because you cannot do that, please one person at a time please. I am saying the Motion before the House is dealing with the particular topic as so precise. Other things let us deal with that when they are brought before the House. That comparison does not arise please.

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HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker honestly speaking, I will have my say what I want to say and if I am wrong, let it be my sin and not somebody else's sin because I would be accountable for my own sins one day. It is not your sins. I would be punished by God if it is wrong. Honourable Speaker the Council of Churches is not a registered body for all churches in Namibia not all churches are allowed according to the constitution of the Council of Churches to be members of the Council of Churches.

That is why I am saying we need a body who can accommodate all these churches. When you register as a church then the Head of that church that Pastor must submit all his documents whether he is from Uganda or from whatever but we need to (incomplete).

HON SPEAKER: Is that a point of order?

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Now the Honourable Member is talking about a body to regulate all churches. No church is just confined to the Christian religion. What about other religions? We have other religions as well that apart from the Christian religion, churches are only for Christians.

HON SPEAKER: You want to answer or you want to comment.

HON DIENDA: I want to answer.

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HON SPEAKER: Yes please.

HON DIENDA: But all Muslims call themselves a church so everybody where there are Muslim or whatever mosque all of them we must not discriminate. If you will talk about God the father the son and the Holy Spirit, that regulation is needed. Honourable Speaker and you can jump up and down like me as a Catholic. The Honourable Member also said we have to scrutinise these churches. Honourable Speaker I do not have a problem with scrutinising of churches but then we have to scrutinise all the churches in the country.

All of them need to be scrutinised so that we cannot see we must not discriminate all of us. Marriage officers Honourable Speaker are being registered with the Ministry of Home Affairs. They are being registered. You cannot conduct any marriage if you are not registered with the Ministry of Home Affairs. That marriage is illegal. Nobody will even take note of that marriage. We have to go through that process to be registered and I know I even asked the questions here in the House.

I asked the Minister that they have now come up with so many issues that it become so difficult for a church to register a marriage officer because of the requirements. I think even if a woman want to marry a foreigner not all churches would be able to do it. You either have to go to the Magistrate Court. Honourable Speaker, I think that woman have choices. If I want to marry, woman has choices. You cannot tell me whom to love and whom not to love. If a woman loves a Chinese foreigner from Japan more than I love Saki Shanghala (interrupted).

HON SPEAKER: Allow her to continue please.

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HON DIENDA: I cannot be told by a law not to love that Chinese before Saki Shanghala is there in Namibia. I do not want Saki Shanghala. I want the Chinese. What I am saying Honourable Member is that this is my contribution I support your Motion Honourable but I really want regulation not the mushrooming of churches. Let us mushroom, we will mushroom. Honourable Speaker and also you are talking about we are so loud. If you are happy you are aloud. If you want to honour God, you will show it with your whole body. The shebeens are open until 12 midnight and 3 o'clock in the morning and you do not complain. Now you complain about churches. I rest my case.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Evelyn !Nawases-Taye.

HON !NAWASE-TAYELE: Thank you Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members firstly I would like to thank Honourable Hambyuka for introducing this very important Motion which I fully support. Since its inception the churches which played a significant role in Namibia in terms of evangelism where mainstream churches known as Catholic Church, Lutheran Church and the Anglican Church. Namibia suffered so much because of the war, which devastated the nation.

Nevertheless, the aforementioned churches contributed immensely to bring about freedom and peace in this country. They used their spiritual weapon to defend and promote peace and love which is essential and meant for all God's people. There is no doubt that the church factor is to some extent a key player in the Namibian economy through provision of social safety nets, provision of education and health services, job creation and property ownership thus they deserve special attention. Churches are

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also major recipients of income from Namibian through means of tithe and offerings major consumer and investor in Namibian economy. However, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members the alarming rate at which false churches are mushrooming under the pretence of religion and freedom of worship is a serious concern and a very disturbing trend not only are these churches taking advantage of the complacent nature of the people and the desperate need for spiritual, emotional and economic relief but many church leaders view the situation as one that create this unity in the different communities and it is a recipe for social degradation. Before independence we only had (interrupted).

HON SPEAKER: Point of order.

HON MUHARUKUA: More for the benefit of myself, and I suppose also the House, I wish to seek clarity. What constitutes a false church? Who is the adjudicator on a fact of falsehood or this church just so that we can be together a little bit?

HON !NAWASE-TAYELE: Thank you. I am coming to that just give me a chance. Before independence, we only had a few churches to cater for the spiritual needs of the people. Most of these churches were started in Europe and could not adequately address the cultural needs of our people. Apart from failure to adapt to our cultures, most of them have rigidly refused to adjust to the changing time. The failure of the mainstream churches to address the needs of the younger generation is part of the reason why many of our people especially the youths seems to be attracted to newer churches.

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Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members the enactment of the constitution certainly guarantee the right to practice any religion but never intended to misuse and abuse of our country, our people to the benefit of those who prophecy that they are religious leaders but with hidden agendas. Although the constitution guarantees freedom of speech and freedom to practice any religion it is now time for Government to take a firm stand to regulate the activities of some of these churches and these self-imposed, self-appointed, anointed and ordained leader to serve the broader interest of our citizenry. Honourable Speaker my Colleague here made reference to incident that happened under this false pretence but however, I want to continue. I do not want to repeat myself although I had it in my speech. It is notable that some of these fake churches appear to target areas predominantly populated by inexperienced and uninformed members of our society.

It is hard to resist the conclusion that targeting such communities is a deliberate strategy to ensure that the churches and their leaders unethical and morally indeed defence able religious and financial practice though unquestioned and that no one hold them to account for fear of internal termination. It is clear Honourable Speaker that some of the new churches have no sense of direction because their primary focus is money. These churches have worrisomely become money centred and this has been widely reflected in their sermon.

There is nothing wrong with evangelism but much reliance on give so that you can receive has left to the robbing of such people to give the little they have to the church. Most people are willing to offer their meagre income for the promise super natural financial prosperity. It is in these circumstances that we must protect our ordinary citizens who are blind to this enriching religious entrepreneurship. Most of these new churches popping up preach the gospel of prosperity, which keep people in cycle of poverty and laziness.

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These Pastors promise people instantly like overnight success through miracle and take out hardworking factor in life. It mostly affect millions of people hoping to escape the jaws of poverty. I believe God is not against riches or the rich. It is good to live in prosperous life but it would be ethical and have a sense of morality and accountability but also respect for human dignity. Other factors that have made these churches so popular is the gospel of faith healing. Outside mainstream Christianity there have risen many charismatic groups including telefunkelist, the faith healers who in a dramatic fashion claim physical healing.

People in wheelchair stand up and walk. The blind see and the deaf hear at their meeting. For this reason, multitudes of people flock to these churches. Everything about our culture and our secret books ages are to know it is God's will that we be healed but in a society where people are faced with economic crisis, HIV and Aids and other terminal illnesses it is dangerous for so-called Pentecostal to mislead people in believing that they can get spiritual protection and healing from these kinds of illnesses. People believe they are instantly healed and do not seek professional medical advice from a Doctor and in doing so, fail to seek timely medical care.

During my research, I came across a very unfortunate case where a woman was encouraged to get up out of her wheelchair and discard her braces at church. The faith healer proclaimed her healed. Unfortunately, her counter of the spine had weakened her bone and the activity caused bone in her spine to collapse. As a result, she died not long after. The faith healer accelerated her death and caused her unnecessary pain.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members while I agree I am not tired. I am so emotional because this is a very serious concern to me. While I agree to the fact that we should not stigmatise all the new churches because of the few that engage in practices and teaching that are none

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HON !NAWASES-TAYELE**

Christian or none (indistinct), the mushrooming of faith churches and leaders compels me to conclude that the message they bring to the people are doing more harm than good and their activities are toxic to the society.

It is evident there is a need for Government to enact a law to control and regulate the registration of churches in Namibia. I recommend that Government establish a body that would regulate church activities and through that body rip the Christian faith of the uncontrolled for action of ungodly and unprofessional factor. While we know that Namibia is a circular state and that the Government allows the freedom of worship and association, this has been in adherence to the constitution.

Any church or clergy that fail to operate or run their activity in accordance of the law should be made to face the law. The association of charismatic and Pentecostal churches in Namibia ICPCN is one of such body. The ACPCN is recognised by Government and is an affiliate member to the Council of Churches in Namibia. I think they will be best to understand how to handle matters that relate to the new churches.

However, it must be noted that even though these two bodies namely CCN and ACPCN exist they do not process the legal mandate to react or control in any manner whatsoever the unlawful activities of some of these churches thus it is imperative for Government to enact a legal framework or legal body in conjunction with the relevant line Ministry and stakeholders to better control the formation of churches.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members in conclusion, it is my hope that after further investigation and engagement with the public through the relevant Committee that the lasting solution would be found to regulate and better control the mushrooming of these churches and in so doing, protect our citizens from falling prey to this evil and I thank you for your attention.

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HON FLEERMUYS**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I call on Honourable Fleermuys.

HON FLEERMUYS: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker, and the Members I am standing up to support Honourable Hambyuka's Motion of course. However, I will differ here and there. The reason why I will differ here and there is the issue of these preachers, which is like all around the country and of course, they are like day and night cobwebs we had alongside us everywhere, which is like those of them who sell marijuana under the cupboard of Pastor or abolishment. They do that all kinds of that. Therefore, of course, I believe there must a regulatory body and I accept that issue of as Honourable Dienda has also said.

There must be a body not like CCN. Why I am saying that is CCN wanted only its own way so nobody can decide on my behalf to stay in the church I do not want whether who like it or not. I will decide on my own. I pray to God. I do not need someone to pray for me. That is the reason I say I did differ here and there. Namibian Constitution Chapter 3 Article 10 decides it is already very much clear of everyone has his basic fundamental human rights. Those people who start churches has also their fundamental human rights to associate with those who want to associate with them. We cannot be forced by anybody, by law below the table of I do not know which Minister. The only law, which is supposed to guide us is the constitution. If we who are sitting

here not respect that law, why would we demand from outsiders to respect that specific law? 99% of us who are sitting here talks about we are Christians but we are underneath devilish. That the tendency of our people here in Parliament. They will terrorise you like devil to paralyze your issue what you were standing up with under the name of Parliamentarians terrorising us here. Honourable Hambyuka I support your Motion.

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HON ITHETE**

I thank you Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Ithete.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Of course, all Members of Parliament in here are not devils. We are genuine Christians. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members I do not understand why we are this House we are the ones who come up with laws and protect them and we have that power to do that and in Namibia currently, there is law and policy that says we must not allow none Namibians to come in our country and do jobs that can be done by our own people but yet we allow people to come from outside our country to come and do this particular job of preaching as if we do not know how to do it ourselves.

Why do we allow that in our country? We have ourselves to blame. It is a matter of the constitution. We have the power to amend it. We cannot continue to allow this to happen. Our people are suffering and we know that. Evidence presented by my Colleague here we are reading about it every day in the newspapers. These churches came to cause more harm than good in our country, we cannot allow that, and we should not allow that. In short, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members that is my contribution to this Motion.

Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Hoebes. I am checking the lights. It is your turn. I just want you to say a word and we will adjourn. You have the floor.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER: Thank you very much. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members can I be allowed to quote the scripture in 2 Timothy 3 from verse 1. The Bible

read 'but know this that in the last days perilous times will come for men would be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderous without self control, brooder, despises of good, traitors, haters, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God having a form of godliness but denying its power and from such people turn away for it this sought are those who creep into household.'

Now you must listen even the Bible is talking about how women are mislead, *'for if this sought are those who creep into households and make captive of gullible women loaded down with sin led away by various lusts'*. The Bible is warning us. This is an ancient book and it is warning us of evil times that are upon us and in this context I want to contribute to this subject which I think is very important having direct impact Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I was actually going to let you start and then we adjourn. May we adjourn and you can continue tomorrow or is it long?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER: No, it is not long. This matter Honourable Speaker has a direct impact upon the lives of Namibian citizens. The concerns and the outcry are not distant from us but truly in our homes and in our society, in our communities this matter can no longer be defined or to be confined to individual discussion but the time has come for the Government as a

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responsible representative of the voice of the people to have this conversation. I therefore thank Honourable Hambyuka for leading us in this discussion.

I would quick to acknowledge Comrade Speaker that this subject matter is not only delicate but it is equally dynamic to be approached with necessary prudence and caution in order to avoid formulating the unintended extremes. Therefore, my intervention are guided by the principle of balance of scale. It is my view that whilst true side of extreme exist it is for the people to adjust the scale to bring about the necessary balance conducive to our existence.

Comrade Speaker my intervention would be limited to the church as per Christina faith and not religion in general. The church its role and its impact upon our society cannot be ignored. The church and its principles have been intricately woven within the fabric of the Namibian society throughout history not only in Namibia but indeed that of the rest of the world.

The church has been a major source of social services such as education, welfare and medical care inspiration for law, art, culture and philosophy and influential player in politics and religion. Festival such as Easter and Christmas are marked as public holidays. The Gregorian calendar has been adopted internationally as a civil calendar and the calendar itself is measured from the date of Jesus Christ birth. The church is influential in the conditioning the mind-set of the people.

HON SPEAKER: Point of order.

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HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: On a point of order Comrade Speaker, I really appreciate the philosophical way my young sister there is addressing the issue but Comrade Speaker we are a law-abiding society. This House has rules that we enshrined in the order in our handbook Rules and Order and we cannot just twist them as we speak unless a move was made that we extend the breaking time. Otherwise, we are contradicting our own laws and rules and that is not a good example.

HON SPEAKER: I fully appreciate but really I took the queue from the Honourable Member that he has a brief comment to make. We could have adjourned that. Can we allow her just to finish now? Can you continue tomorrow? Do you object to that?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER OFFICE: Comrade Speaker I will unfortunately, not be around tomorrow.

HON SPEAKER: Can we just allow her to finish once. We do not do this every day but I think there are exceptional cases like this. Can we just had to finish?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER OFFICE: Thank you Comrade Speaker, it is the responsibility the church is then expected to uphold a higher standard of truth, trust, ethic and morale. If a church is a place where the lives of people are built up, then the church holds sacred trust. If the above observations are correct which I think they

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are in my view, then the issue is not necessarily the number of churches they are but the practices of the people acting in the name of the church.

With a brief background provided above, it is clear that the church is a relevant role player in the society. However, the issue is are the practices done in the name of the church aligned and reflect the role of the church as depicted by history? Honourable Member notwithstanding the above, the experience of society regarding the church has become a matter of concern. The abuse and exploitation of the people by those acting in the name of a church is on a rapid increase. These practices which are contrary to the Christian faith but yet done in the name of the church have triggered an alarm and inviting us all to look at the institution of a church.

Honourable Speaker the assembling of Christians as an expression of their faith is a fundamental freedom guaranteed by our constitution that provide that all persons shall have the right to freedom to practice any religion and to manifest such practices but as is the case in a democracy, the fundamental freedoms are not absolute but are to be exercised within the confinement of the law provided the law imposes only reasonable restriction which are necessary in a democratic society and are required in the interest of public order decency or morality.

Article 1(1) of the constitution is established as a sovereign circular state whereby a state purports to be officially neutral in matters or religion supporting neither religion nor irreligion. The concept of a circular state is imbedded in separation of church and state thus defining the distance in the relationship between religion and nation state where the two entities interact as independent organisations. The degree of separation has been defined within jurisprudence. However, the wisdom of our founding father has dictated that the state does not impose or intervene in the affairs