

28 June 2016

**MUSHROOMING OF CHURCHES AND
SELF-PROCLAIMED PROPHETS
AND PASTORS IN NAMIBIA
HON HOEBES**

of the church. In other words, the Assembly and conduct of churches are left to the institutions themselves.

While there is sound wisdom in this approach as a responsible Government, we cannot be deaf to the cries of the people. The question then remains how do we protect the vulnerable citizens from their parents' abuse and exploitation without compromising the role of the church and while upholding the constitutional provision and the notion of circular state. What measures or mechanism should be in place to create the necessary balance required in our society.

The Council of Churches in Namibia is the umbrella body representing many churches in Namibia. However, not all churches are members of CCN. The association of charismatic and Pentecostal churches of Namibian to which some churches are members enjoys an associate membership while these bodies are in place, not all churches are members. Indeed, it is not a requirement to be registered with any of these bodies. How then do we promote self-regulation without the interference of the state?

It is my view that the time has come that it be made compulsory for all churches to be registered with recognised church bodies as representatives' bodies of the church. In addition to registration with church bodies, it is my recommendation that all churches should be registered with the Ministry of Industrialisation Trade and SME Development in terms of the Company Act Section 21 companies. This will necessitate the establishment of the legal entity with the required structures from moulding accountability and transparency principle.

In conclusion, in view of the role of the church the notion of separation of state and the church and the outcry of society I recommend before any

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**ADJOURNMENT
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

resolution on this matter is made that consultations be held between the state and the church

in order to ascertain the view of the church on this matter. I support the Motion and thank you for the indulgence.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. We leave it at that. Thank you. We will continue tomorrow. The House stands adjourn until tomorrow the usual time.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:56 UNTIL 2016.06.29 AT 14:30
