

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
06 OCTOBER 2016**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

**ANNOUNCEMENT IN TERMS OF RULE
20(B) OF THE STANDING RULES AND ORDERS**

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I have two announcements to make before the House this afternoon.

Firstly, on a sad note I wish to announce to the House the passing on of our dear Colleague Honourable Hidipo Hamutenya. The late Hidipo Hamutenya was born on the 17th June 1939 at Ondimbo in the Ohangwena region. He attended primary school at Angela before attending the Augustineum Government College in Okahandja from 1959 to 1961.

I particularly recall this period because we joined Augustineum Government College more or less at the same time. During the liberation struggle, Hamutenya continued his academic studies this time in Journalism at the Sofia University in Bulgaria and later on he went on to study in the United States where he obtained a BA in political science and history from Lincoln University in the United States of America.

In 1973, he moved on from the United States to Canada where he graduated from Miguel University in Montero Canada for MA Degree. I knew Honourable Hamutenya as a dedicated Comrade, a veteran politician who contributed immensely to the freedom and independence of Namibia. Indeed, we shared many years in exile along with many other compatriots. He held a number of Ministerial portfolios after Namibia attain its independence.

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HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

As we all know, Honourable Hamutenya formed the Rally for Democracy and Progress RDP party as his founding President and continued to make significant contribution to the political landscape of our country as the leading opposition politician. However, he returned to the SWAPO party on the 28th of August 2015. Our sincere heartfelt condolences collectively from this House go to his wife Nangula Hamutenya, children and the rest of the family the Hamutenya family and extended members.

May I request Honourable Members of this House to observe a minute of silence in the honour of the late Honourable Hidipo Hamuteya?

MINUTE OF SILENCE OBSERVED

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. May his soul rest in eternal peace. Honourable Members my second announcement is a very brief one and I would like to bring to the attention of Honourable Members of this House that on Monday the 10th of October 2016 at 11am the National Planning Commission will do a presentation in the Chamber right here for all Members and that is a presentation dedicated to the NDP5.

As you all know the exercise of planning is vital for the development of our country and you are all requested kindly to attend this important presentation to offer you the opportunity to partake and to share your views as we are progressing on this important journey or planning.

That said and done, I move on to the usual agenda item. Any Petitions? Are there Reports of Standing and Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Sorry, the computer is being very slow. Honourable Dienda, please.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON DIENDA / HON ITHETE**

**TABLING: CONSIDERATION OF REPORT ON
FAMILIARIZATION VISIT TO CAPITAL
PROJECTS IN OPUWO AND KUNENE**

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the table for consideration next week Wednesday the 12th of October, the report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resources and Community Development on the familiarisation visit to capital projects in Opuwo and Kunene region from 30th May to the 3rd of June 2016.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Ithete, please.

TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members I lay upon the table report of the Auditor General on the account of:

1. the Town Council of Oranjemund for the Financial Year ended 30th June 2016;
2. Town Council of Nkurenkuru for the Financial Year ended 30th June 2015;
3. Regional Council of Karas region for the Financial Year ended 31st

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HON DIENDA**

March 2014 and 2015, and;

4. The Village Council of Witvlei for the Financial Year ended 30th June 2013 and 2014.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I think we have covered the Reports of Standing and Select Committees. We covered other Reports and Papers. We are now on notices of questions. Honourable Dienda please.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday the 13th of October I shall ask the Minister of International Relations and Corporation the following:

In light of recent development, which Government specifically addressed the needs of children of the liberation struggle with special programmes. Without comparing the two, I also want to bring the attention of this House this Assembly the challenges faced by the UNTA kids.

During the transition to independence and to oversee the election process, the UN soldiers under UNTA to Namibia whilst they were here, some of these soldiers have children with Namibian women and after independence, they returned to their home countries.

This left these women behind as single mothers and the children without fathers. We all know how challenging it is to be a single mother. Honourable Speaker I want to know the following: During the peace keeping process who takes responsibility for the actions of these soldiers?

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HON VAN DEN HEEVER**

Is there anybody or institution that can be held accountable for the actions of the UNTA soldier? Secondly, where can the parents of these children or the children themselves go for assistance?

Firstly, are there currently any existing programmes in place that specifically cater for the UNTA kids. We also have one there in Zimbabwe.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Next is Honourable Jennifer Van Den Heever.

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I hereby give notice that on Thursday the 13th of October I shall ask the Minister of Urban and Rural Development Honourable Shaningwa the following.

Following suspension due to alleged misconduct and to allow investigation to proceed without this interference the CEO of the Rehoboth Town Council has now been reinstated on instruction of the Swapo regional Committee.

What authority does a regional Committee of any party has to withdraw the suspension of none political office barrier in a Town Council? Do these powers not lie with the specific Town Council under the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development? If so, how is it that a senior political party was permitted to take such action?

Additionally, on the 6th of September this year the residents of Rehoboth submitted a petition to your office sighting various irregularities in the affairs of the Rehoboth Town Council one of which was the conduct of

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HON VAN DEN HEEVER**

the CEO. Has your office received the petition and if so, why has there been no response till date. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you.

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: Honourable Speaker, on the same day, I hereby give notice that I shall ask the Minister of Information and Communication Technology Honourable Tweya the following.

Since allegations of fraud and thefts were made against certain staff members the Nampost office in Khois has been closed for around two months now.

As a result, pensioners who usually receive the pension from the Post Office in Khois are now being forced to travel a long distance at their own expense in order to collect the pension in Keetmanshoop.

Accordingly, I ask why were the Nampost office in Khois close and for how much longer will they remain closed? What is the current status of the investigation into the alleged fraud that took place and what precisely is it that was stolen? I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Next is Honourable Venaani.

ORAL QUESTION

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**ORAL QUESTIONS
HON VENAANI**

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I crave for your indulgence to ask an oral question under Rule 91 of the Standing Rules and Orders to the Minister in the office of the Presidency.

Honourable Speaker, being human permit me for a minute just to say that we also convey our deepest condolences on the passing of one of our illustrious son who is founding father of the Republic being a member of the first constituent Assembly and if one looks at you, you are just now only probably five members. They are becoming very distinct founding fathers of our constitution and may his soul really rest in eternal peace.

Honourable Minister Kapofi in the office of the Presidency I take great note that the tone of Government and especially the office of the Presidency speaks about prudent management of resources.

There was a trip to America. People had to live in, we are told that the President was living in a plate something very commendable but the question that I want to ask is the following:

We are aware that it is a natural practice globally and at home and when a President makes a major statement be it of economic, social or political nature and if it is a matter of urgency and crisis he would call upon the media institutions of the Republic to err his statement or the information but we are seeing a tendency developing in the office of the President that every time that the President want to have a press conference, it is covered live on NBC.

NBC would be called to State House to cover it live. Now, why are we spending N\$100 000 just to tell us that a trip was successful. Why cannot the office of the President holds a normal press conference to be covered in the news? Why should it be a live coverage costing over \$100 000 every time and what is the urgency of calling live coverage on any matter that the President want to say in this country? Is that not a way that we are showing that we are not even saving the resources of our Republic?

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**RESPONSE TO ORAL QUESTION
HON KAPOFI**

HON SPEAKER: That is the question and directed to the Honourable Kapofi. You have the floor.

RESPONSE TO ORAL QUESTION

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you Comrade Speaker. Honourable Venaani thank you for the question.

I do not think that that is a practice that every time the President issues a statement is live but maybe you have observed one or two instances and I thought the President being the first citizen of our country and the mouthpiece of the nation it is very important that he is heard by his people.

It the Honourable Member feels that that is inappropriate, I believe you are not saying so but if you are saying so, I of course disagree that I think it is done for a good cause. If we have to count money that is the expenses, I do not know whether it is my Colleague who has the Minister responsible for Communication from the Government that he has shared with you this information, that that is the cost or it is common knowledge I do not know. That has to be confirmed by the Minister responsible and I truly think that our President is doing a good job informing the public. It is not intended to upset you or any other Member on the other side. It is really intended to inform. The other thing is you know when it is told the way it is, it is not distorted.

We have also seen distortions around people deciding to take what they think is important which is sometimes very upsetting that you thought you are conveying a message but that message is distorted and it is litigated and to us we think that if we have a medium rule, which we communicate with the citizens, we should not be prevented from making use of that medium but the question of cost if it is a cost and is a cost that is not

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**ON RULE 91
HON SIOKA**

budgeted for, I will appeal to the Honourable Member Honourable Venaani to direct that question to Honourable Colleague Honourable Tweya to confirm whether that is indeed wastage but in my view it is not. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I think we should leave it at that.

We move on, any Notice of Motions? Sorry, sorry. Yes, Honourable Sioka.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I am sorry to come in very late, but I was still waiting for the Colleague to answer the questions.

If Comrade Venaani is sighting Rule 91 is contradicting to what is stipulated in the rules. Rule 91 Comrade Speaker this is the latest book. I think I can be helped. Rule 91 read, I think this has become a trend, which I do not want to proceed anymore. Rule 91(a) read, 'after answers to the questions or notice, the Speaker shall allow for urgent questions to Ministers'. Then (b) 'urgent questions shall be asked one, asked without notice, two, short and to the point and three, answered immediately. We should follow (a).

Let us go to 4(c) subject to the discretion of the Speaker supplementary questions may be asked to get an answer. A following answer can follow if the Speaker wants according to his, exactly yes.

Honourable Speaker, I would like that we follow the rules as stipulated. Otherwise, if we allow (a) says is what we were doing after questions, oral questions would be asked Comrade Speaker. Thank you very much. Read rule 91(a).

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**CONSIDERATION OF REPORT ON
FACT-FINDING VISIT TO THE
DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL PROJECTS**

HON SPEAKER: Can I help? Thank you very much. Honestly, the question was asked in view of the fact that it referred to a current particular topical issues, I permitted because I thought alright, let us hear what the question is all about.

The question was put to the Honourable. The Minister responded and then I conclude that Honourable Venaani actually left the issue there. I felt it was no point to then bring in another Minister because that then becomes a different ball game there so can we leave it at that.

I think I do not want to get into the controversy but I think the question was put correctly and I responded by allowing the question to be put and I think we should leave it at that. Can we continue? Thank you very much.

Any Notices of Motion? Messages from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? Good.

I think we are done, but can I instead go to the usual questions – can we dispose one particular matter and then we go back to questions our daily routine? Would that be permissible? Thank you very much.

The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**CONSIDERATION OF REPORT ON FACT-FINDING
VISIT TO THE DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL PROJECTS
OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

SECRETARY: *Consideration of Report on the Fact-Finding Visit on Development Capital Projects of the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development.*

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**CONSIDERATION OF REPORT ON
FACT-FINDING VISIT TO THE
DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL PROJECTS
HON NUYOMA-AMUPEWA**

HON SPEAKER: Does Honourable Karupu Move that the report be considered? Honourable Member, you have the floor please.

HON NUYOMA-AMUPEWA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker I Move without notice that the consideration of this report on the fact-finding visit on development capital projects of the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development or to the regions be withdrawn until further notice. I so Move, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Is there any objection? Can we accept to that request? So decided. Thank you.

Being Thursday, question time, we will now revert back to the agenda as we have it before you and we will start with the first question, question number 61 is that of Honourable Venaani directed to the Ministry of Mines and Energy. The Minister is not yet in the House. The Deputy Minister is here. She is equally not in the House. Can we put that aside hoping they will soon join us?

We move on to question number 65. That is the question from Honourable Dienda directed to the Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation. The Minister is not in the House nor is the Deputy Minister in the House. Well, you know this does not look good. Absolutely, I would like to make a comment at this point. We called two Ministers not available, Deputy Minister not available and questions are put down provided for in good time to enable us to prepare for that day.

If Members are not in the House, there must be good reasons why they are not in the House. It should not become part of the culture because then it is absolutely pointless and there must be the office of the Chief Whip must

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HON TWEYA**

have information to the fact that due to unavoidable commitment, Members are not going to be in the House because otherwise, we are sending a wrong message.

Question number 70 from the Honourable !Auxab directed to the Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration. Honourable !Auxab is not here but his Colleague is here. You put the question. Thank you. The Minister is not available. Honourable Minister of Safety and Security would like to volunteer.

Question Number 71 from Honourable //Gowases directed to the Minister of Information and Communication and Technology. Honourable //Gowases she is not here so I will not put that question because the Members is not here, yes, please. I am sorry you have the information, yes.

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable //Gowases and she asked that the question should stand over until next week because she want to be present to get the answer.

HON SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Minister please.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY: Honourable Speaker, I appreciate that I was ready with the answer last week. The Mover of the question was not in the House. I am ready today. The Mover of the question is not in the House, and next week I have national obligations to provide network to a marginalised community of Slape for the first time in 26 years that they will be connected to have access to radio and TV. So I will not be in the House next week Thursday and the Deputy Minister is on an international

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HON JOOSTE**

assignment for the whole of the month. He is in Paris to represent Namibia so I would not be in the House next week Thursday. I just want to make it clear and on record. I thank you Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much for your readiness, and we take note of the fact that you were ready yesterday and you are ready today but next week you are not going to be available. We will deal with that when the times comes.

Question No. 72 – the question from Honourable Smit. Do you put the question? Thank you. The Honourable Minister is here. You have the floor.

QUESTION NO. 72:

HON MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I am here and ready to answer.

Honourable Smit asked about in Namibia the following questions. Question number one and the question deal with in Air Namibia's purchase of the new booking system recently.

Question number one the question is: What was the rationale behind the decision to buy and migrate to the new booking system that has already been discarded by its previous owners, namely Turkish Airlines?

Honourable Speaker, as a starting comment, it is important to state that this system Air Namibia acquired is not supplied by Turkish Airlines but was sold sources from an aviation industry information technology company called HITECH. This company is based in Istanbul, Turkey but supplies its solutions to Airlines worldwide. Turkish Airlines never used nor did they abandon this company's reservations in ticketing system.

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HON JOOSTE**

Turkish Airlines however uses part of this company's solutions in particular the frequent flyer program management system sport consult in Turkey's Airline during the evaluation state of the new system purchased process to get feedback on its functionality which feedback was positive from Turkish Airlines.

Response to question one: The rationale for having decided to change reservation system is important to explain. Prior to the new system in Namibia used the reservation system supplied by SITA. This was acquired in 1999. It is an old system, which lacks a lot of functionalities and flexibilities needed to operate in today's highly competitive markets. The system is old to a point whereby even SITA themselves they stopped investing in improving the functionalities of the system. SITA developed a system, which they are busy rolling out which system still has to prove itself as a solution within the industry.

Air Namibia could not let itself remain with an out-dated system, which even the supplier if moving away from hence having gone in the market to get a new solution.

Question number two: Is the new system able to efficiently and effectively manage and administer the capacity of flights that are operated by Air Namibia? Is the system not perhaps registered to the smaller airlines and private charter planes?

It is a fact to say that a system is predominantly used by low coast carriers even though it has functionalities, which cater for legacy and full service airlines like in Namibia. Functionalities adopted and used by low cost airlines (high efficiency levels, flexibility cost effectiveness) is what Air Namibia needs in order to streamline its operations to become more cost effective and efficiency as well as flexible.

HITECH is credited Iyata supplier of strategic products and have airlines customers on five continents with over 14 international aviation customers. One of the biggest clients whom Air Namibia visited during the due diligence phase of the procurement process is Pegasus Airlines

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based in Turkey. Pegasus is one of the world most profitable airlines with over 20 million passengers carried per year and that compared to Air Namibia was half a million passengers per year. Their fleet comprised 45 airplanes. Air Namibia has a total of only 10. The flight network consist of up to 76 destinations which are 45 cross borders in 30 countries and 31 destinations. Air Namibia has 8 cross border flights in six countries and six domestics destinations. Pegasus has been using HITECH system for the past ten years.

Question number three: What is the cost of purchasing this whole system and is the Ministry aware of the problems that are currently being experienced with the system as the great inconvenience to passengers? What measures if any have been taken to address these problems?

The new system was acquired following an open tender process and the evaluation of options looked and pointed to this as the most suitable solution in respect of functionality and cost. The new system will cost Air Namibia about N\$15 Million over a contract period of five years compared to competing systems, which were in the region of N\$49 Million with the same period.

Air Namibia started using the new system on the 27th of July 2016 and they are on the system now for just over two months like with any major system change, the airline is experiencing teething problems which the project implementation team together with the project team and the supplier are working on to ensure there are results within a reasonable period. The teething problems experienced fall into the number of categories as follow.

First one: The data migration this relates to bookings made in the old system for which passengers had to travel during the period when the new system is implemented. They achieved a success rate of 98% meaning that about 2% of the data does not migrate correctly in view to various technical reasons, they are forced to resolve these manually, and it does unfortunately negatively affect passengers during check-in session at

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airports for those bookings, which did not migrate correctly.

Secondly, the interface system used by other airlines, from the 52 airlines E-Ticketing agreements Air Namibia had with other airlines was using SITA for start they prioritise 20 airlines. These have been implemented and as a move into the future, they will be implemented further.

Some of the airlines could not be linked with on the system from the start as a result of those airlines having decided not to interline with Air Namibia because they themselves are changing their systems or they do not see a business case for interlining with air Namibia. Interline agreements have ever been secured with 20 airlines including major partners such as Lufthansa, South African Airways, Kenya Airways and British Airways.

The system with travel with travel agency booking system interface, interfaces with major travel agency bookings are in place even though in some cases, they still experience system-to-system communication challenges as a result of vat and cyber security restrictions in some of the cases. They are all recorded. They have a project plan with resources allocate to rectify these matters.

The human factors there are a number of controls which were absent from the previous system which have been built into the new system. When these restrictions or controls are at work preventing staff without authority to transact in the find scenario, staff see this as a system problem. Staff retraining is ongoing and they believe this would be something of the past in the next couple of weeks.

Then customised Air Namibia requirements, the system comes as a standard product with standard functionality. The core in standard functionalities has been implemented. Air Namibia specific requirements given how unique and special operating and marketing environment, which are being customised and would be brought in as add-ons. A number of these have already been incorporated and Air Namibia believes that in the next two months they will have been rolled out completely.

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Question number four: Given that Air Namibia would be facing more stringent competition with their impending launch of KLM and Qatar Airways flight from Windhoek to various destinations across the world, what measures if any has Namibia put in place to ensure that it can compete with these new airlines and not continue to rely on Government bailouts. Now competition is not new to Air Namibia. All along they have been competing with the likes of South African Airways, British Airways, Condo, Angolan Airlines to mention a few.

Indeed with the entry of KLN, Qatar and Ethiopian Airlines by the way arriving today on their first inaugural flight, the level of competition has increased and given that these are major and well resource airlines compared to the size and level of Air Namibia, it poses a challenge. They have five years strategic plan in place with the initiatives and actions to be executed or listed. These initiatives included strategies on how we should operate in order to mitigate against loss of market share to competitors and how to gain marketing from these competitive.

Among the areas of concrete or making sure they upscale their products and stagnant of customer service that they aim to differentiate the product in such a way that the brand promise are carrying the spread of Namibia comes to light.

They are already at work to ensure that they improve their efficiency levels across the operations landscape develop new routes, reduce the number of interfaces in order to fast track decision making.

Cost consignment is one of the key focus areas at the moment and while its property market segmentation with a related marketing response plan. Other areas of focus include optimising the revenue management processes. I thank you Comrade Speaker

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Smit.

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
HON SMIT**

HON SMIT: Honourable Speaker, I would like to thank the Minister for his answers. I think he said what actually, he sort of confirms what my complaints were that it is a little bit uncomfortable for the passengers that is being booked on Air Namibia.

I have on two occasions the bad experience of arriving at the airport, had to wait for three hours to get a seat on the plane. The plane was delayed. The flight was delayed for three hours. When I arrived in Johannesburg, I was totally late for my meetings. I could not attend it in Pretoria. I had to stay at the airport hotel and at the Oliver Tambo Airport to fly the next morning back total waste.

Two weeks later it was the same happening when I was flying to Cape Town also missed my appointment because the flight was delayed for two hours and I was not the only one. Everybody was complaining some people even did not fly because they had to get connecting flights at Oliver Tambo airport and they could not make it. They decided not to fly so it is really embarrassment for us and I think like the saying goes once beaten twice shy. You will not easily fly again if this situation continues and I am glad that the Minister said that things are in improving.

They are working hard to sort out all these problems so that I really hope it will be sorted out in due course so at least that we can be comparative to these other two or three airlines that is now going to take the market if we are not careful. Thank you, Honourable Minister.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Next question number 74 from Honourable Auchab directed to the Minister of Land Reform. Do you put the question please? Unfortunately, the Ministry is not in the House right now and the Deputy Minister is not in the House either. That question stands over.

Question number 75 from Honourable Auchab. You put the question on behalf of your Colleague directed to the Minister of Agriculture, Water

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and Forestry. Unfortunately, the Minister is not here, but the Deputy Minister is here. You have the floor.

QUESTION 75:

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you very much for the opportunity to respond to questions as posed by Honourable Auchab of UDF.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, at the onset I would like to thank Honourable !Auxab for these valuable question and on that note, I shall respond as follows.

On question number one: As you are aware Honourable Members the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry has been coordinating the development of the Namibia Food Safety policy by virtue of the Ministry leading role in food production. This process is however a joint effort of five Ministries which have key roles on food safety. The Namibia food safety policy addresses the issue of overlapping mandate on food safety by various Ministries and the aspect of food safeties that are currently not regulated.

The policy facilitate coordination of Government business on this important matter and clearly articulated the roles of various stakeholders in ensuring food safety in Namibia. The Ministry of Health and Social Services is responsible for consumer food safety in line with the public and Environmental Health Act of 2015. The Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development on the other hand is responsible for the safety or processed food in line with the Standard Act of 2005.

The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources is responsible for fisheries food safety in line with the Marine Resources Act of 2000 and the Ministry of Urbana and Rural Development is responsible for licensing food business operators through a delegated mandate under

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Public and Environmental Health Act of 2015.

On the other hand the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry is responsible for safe production of food of animal and plant origin including in their primary processed forms in line with the global food agricultural practices. The drafting of the policy has been preceded by exhausting consultations with all the five line Ministries key stakeholder group including farmers, traders, fishermen, food businesses, operators and consumers as back as 2007.

The drafting of the policy also benefited from technical input from the food and agricultural organisation FAO of the United Nations and other international technical experts. The final draft of the Namibia Food Safety Policy was approved by Cabinet on the 15th of July 2014. On the 10th of February 2015 a joint meeting of the five Permanent Secretaries of the line Ministries discuss this implementation and approved a draft Food Safety Bill in line with the policy which would be introduced to Parliament by the Minister of Health and Social Services.

This police document therefore represents a true example of coordination between Ministries in the development of a mechanism to ensure food safety in Namibia, which is an important item on the national agenda. As a result, the Namibia Food Safety Policy was officially launched on the 15th of June 2015.

I want to move to the second question and as indicated earlier, the Ministry of Health and Social Services is coordinating the drafting of the Bill and the Minister responsible for public health will table the Food Safety Bill in Parliament. It is envisaged that the Ministry of Health and Social Services will coordinate the implementation of the Act once time into law. Therefore, the Minister of Health and Social Services will provide feedback on the status of the said Act at an appropriate time.

Question number three: Following the launching of the policy on the 15th of June 2015 copies were distributed to the public and to the key institutions in the public and private sectors. I should state here

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HON SHIWEDA**

Honourable Members that there was not a dedicated public awareness program designed by the Ministry to familiarise the policy in the public sphere. However, the policy was used as a reference document during the technical meetings and workshops at which issues of bio safety and food safety were discussed by the relevant stakeholders.

This policy was also availed to the public at agricultural shows and trade fairs throughout the country. I am mindful that the technical content of the policy might not be understood by the general public. Therefore, the dedicated public awareness program will have to be designed and executed jointly by the technical officials from the five key Ministries in order to explain the content and context of the policy to all Namibians.

At this juncture, allow me to express my gratification that the public has responded positively to the implementation of the policy thus far. I am therefore urging the Honourable Members in this House to promote the implementation of this very important policy as well as compliance to the regulations that will emanate from the Food Safety Act one time into law. Such contribution will go a long way in ensuring food safety for all consumers in the Republic of Namibia and provide sufficient food safety guarantees on all food products traded nationally or exported to other countries.

As an agency of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, the Agro Marketing and Trade Agency AGMTA carries out inspections on horticulture processing facilities to ensure compliance to the hazard analysis critical control points which is a systematic preventative approach to food safety from biological chemical and physical hazard in production.

With that, I thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, comfortable. Thank you very much. We move on to question number 77 that of the Honourable Muharukua directed to the Minister of Presidential Affairs. The

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
HON KAPOFI**

Honourable Member is not here but I take it you put the question. Minister you have the floor.

QUESTION 77:

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much Comrade Speaker, Honourable Muharukua put a question put a notice on the 23rd of September intending to ask me about the alleged none transparent and manner on the appointment of the members of the Electoral Commission and his call for the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry to look into the matter. Comrade Speaker, my response is as follows.

As a point of departure I wish to emphasise that Namibia is a registered a country governed on the basis of the rule of law. I refer to Article 11 of the Namibian Constitution. Processes such as the appointment of members of the Electoral Commission of Namibia an institution that is at the heart of our democracy also conducted in terms of procedures laid out in law.

In this case, the Electoral Act 2014, Act 5 of 2014 subsection 3 of section 6 of the Electoral Act, Act 5 of 2014 articulates that what need to be done to initiate the appointment of members of the Electoral Commission of Namibia, it states that at least four months prior to the date on which the terms of office of members of the Commission expire the Chief Electoral Officer must inform the Secretary of the National Assembly to invite by notice in the gazette and in at least two Daily Newspapers circulating throughout Namibia any person who complies with the qualifications of and criteria for appointment as a member of the Commission to apply in writing for appointment as a member of the Commission.

The process of scrutinising the application forms and interviewing the qualifying candidates are provided for in section 5, 6 and 7 of the Electoral Act of 2014.

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Honourable Speaker, in the wisdom of our lawmakers having contemplated the possibility of things not going as planned, they included a fail safe or redundancy provision in the law should the appointment of Commissioner is not materialised according to the provision of section 5, 6 and 7 of the Electoral Act, Act 5 of 2014.

In this connection section 6(23) of the Electoral Act provides that, 'if the Secretary of the National Assembly for any reason fails to comply with section 3 or 5(b) selection Committee for any reason fails to comply with section 16 or (c) for any reason any of the meetings convened in terms of section 5 or 10 does not take place or is not finalised, the President may on the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Privileges of the National Assembly appoint the members of the Commission as contemplated in section 6(1).

This provision underlines the dynamism and robustness of our laws. I wish to point out that a notice was placed in the gazette and local newspapers as required by the Electoral Act 2014. The deadline for application was 30th April 2016.

It transpired that the meetings of the selection Committee could not be finalised as contemplated in the Electoral Act. Therefore section 6(23) of the Act was triggered. In terms of this provision and on the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Privileges of the National Assembly the President appointed members of the Commission as contemplated in section 6(1) of the Act. This appointment was publicly announced in proclamation number 7, which was published in the Government Gazette number 6125 dated 15th September 2016 also as you have learned the Commissioners were sworn into office by the Deputy Chief Justice earlier this week on Tuesday 4th October.

I wish to reiterate that the appointment and swearing in of the Commissioners were conducted in terms of our laws as it stands. Therefore, it is clear that no questions about legality or constitutionality of any approach should arise.

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It also follows that since the process was conducted in terms of law as we now have it, there is no need for a Presidential Commission of Inquiry. I take this opportunity to congratulate the Electoral Commissioners on their assumption of this critical national duty. I wish them strength and wisdom in spearheading the audios of planning and facilitating the conduct of democratic free and fair elections that Namibia has become known for since the attainment of our country freedom and independence 26 years ago.

There is no denial that the holding of free and fair elections constitutes one of the most important elements in the maintenance of peace and stability in our country.

I also call upon the Honourable Members of Parliament and indeed the entire nation to support the newly sworn in members of the Electoral Commission to carry out their important national duty. I thank the Honourable Member for the question. I thank the House for listening. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. We move on to the next question from the same member Honourable Muharukua directed to the Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service. Do you put the question, thank you very much? Honourable Minister you have the floor. The microphone is not on. You can remove the card take it and now you put it back and press.

QUESTION 78:

HON MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE: Has MTC definitely withdrawn its support for the Namibia premier league, or does a possibility remain that should the MTC Namibia premier league raise the outstanding capital MTC will come on board?

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The answer is as follows Comrade Speaker. MTC had an agreement with the Namibia Premier League to raise N\$9 Million within a required time in order for them to sponsor N\$15 Million to the NPL as they submitted a budget of N\$24 Million for the current term.

Namibia premier league could not raise the required N\$9 Million on time whereupon MTC further kept their doors open to give them more time and extended a deadline. The current situation is that MTC has ended their relationship with NPL and the N\$15 Million per annum and not N\$9 Million per annum that was the shortfall.

Second question: Has the Ministry done an analysis on the amount of lives and livelihood that would be directly or indirectly affected if the Namibia premier league does not get off the ground this season? Can this be shared with this Assembly?

This means that now the different teams in the regions they are soccer players some of them do get allowances when they play allowances the Referees the coaches etc.

Now, the question is; what will happen? Those people they have also offspring, they have some children, extended family, the baby sitters and all those types of things. They will be affected by this withdrawal. I think that is how I understand it.

With regard to question two, we would like to provide you with a breakdown of the different leagues that are played in different towns and regions by the total of 6 600 players and families that are dependant from the league activities. The 6 600 these are the players countrywide of the registered teams in the regions. Namibia premier league consist of 16 teams in 7 towns. These are Oshakati, Tsumeb, Rundu, Otjiwarongo, Walvis Bay, Windhoek and Gobabis.

Each of the 16 teams are registering 30 players or have registered 30 players each one total of 480 players registered with the Namibian premier league club. These are not 480 players affected.

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Now, the offspring there the extended family if you count northern east stream first division consist of 12 teams in five regions. These are Kavango East, Kavango West, Oshikoto, Ohangwena and Zambezi region. Each of the 12 teams are registering 30 players total of the players is 360.

Northern west stream first division consist of 12 teams in four regions Oshana, Omusati, Otjozondjupa and Kunene. Each of the 13 teams registered 30 players total number of player 360. South stream first division consist of 12 teams in five regions and the regions are Karas, Hardap, Khomas, Omaheke and Erongo. Each of the 12 teams are registering 30 players total number of players 360. Then nationwide second division football league consist of 12 teams in 14 regions Kavango East, Kavango West, Oshikoto, Ohangwena and Zambezi, Otjozondjupa, Omaheke, Omusati, Karas, Hardap, Erongo, Kunene, Oshikoto and Khomas. These are all the 14 regions of the country.

Each of the 12 teams in the 14 regions registered 30 players each total number of players 5 040 so means the whole total players registered with the Namibian Premier League total 6,600. In total, 6,600 players livelihood would be directed affected as they have families that they in turn support and their livelihood will also be affected.

Unfortunately, the Ministry is not in a position to project how indirect dependents would be affected because the question also asked what about those who are indirect. This we do not have a figure. We cannot come to those indirect, maybe you are a baby sitter or a cattle herder or something like that.

Question three: What role, if any, has the Ministry as the ultimate custodian of sport affairs in Namibian taken up in assisting the Namibian Premier League to raise the money required to run a successful league?The answer is as follows:

The Ministry of Sport, Youths and National Service is interdependent from the funding allocation of the Ministry of Finance and was only allocate a limited budget of which N\$38 Million was allocated to the

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Namibian Sport Commission for the 2016-2017 Financial Year to distribute among the five national umbrella sports bodies and 42 sport bodies and additional, also to the Namibian Professional Boxing and Referring Federation.

As a body responsible for passing the laws of this country it means that this august House you are aware that the Namibia state is governed through various constitutional and legal provisions towards setting the scene and bringing about structures in sporting affairs, Parliament passed the Namibia Sport Act of 2003 which set the parameters for anybody who wishes to participate in sporting activities in Namibia.

The mentioned Sport Act establish the Namibia Sport Commission which as per the provision of this Act of 2003 is mandated to coordinate, control, develop and foster sport activities as well as undertake after consultation with the line Minister special projects including marketing and trading and fundraising activities in furtherance of the purpose of the Namibian Sport Commission Act amongst others.

Currently, as per the provision of the mentioned Namibia Sport Commission Act, the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service is relying on the Namibia Sport Commission with regard to sport development in the country. In fact, the Namibia Sport Commission Act, Act number 12 of 2003 section 3(2)(e), (i), (f) and (f) explicitly mandate the Namibia Sport Commission in agreement with the Minister responsible for finance to obtain loans or borrow money in such an amount or for such purposes and under such conditions as maybe approved by the Minister responsible for finance to provide financial assistance to any person, association, organisation or institution whose activities are such as to be in the opinion of the Commission or benefit to sport meaning that the Commission should have just even go approach the Minister of Finance that they want to borrow money or raise funds and fundraising etc.

Therefore, although the Ministry of Youth, Sport and National Service has emphasis for the Namibia Premier League, the Ministry is of the opinion

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that the relevant sport bodies have not fully explore all possible avenues available to them in their quest to raise the needed capital. In addition, the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service has budgeted N\$123,830,000.00 for the Directorate of Sport under which the Namibia Sport Commission fall and of which N\$38 Million was earmarked for the Namibia Sport Commission, N\$3.1 Million for Paralympics and N\$4.5 Million for Namibia national Olympic Committee for participating in the 2016 Rio Olympic Games.

Now the breakdown is as follows as I said the Ministry allocated N\$123,838,000.00 to the Directorate of Sport. Now the Directorate of Sport has now to subdivide the money again. They have to take some of this money to the Namibia Sport Commission, which now has to distribute among the various 48 sporting courts. It means of the N\$123 Million they allocated N\$38,870,000.00 to the Namibia Sport Commission. Then Directorate of Sport remained with N\$84.9 Million and of the N\$84.9 Million, they took N\$3.1 Million to the Paralympics when they partake in Rio Paralympics Games.

They remained with N\$81.8 Million and from N\$81.8 Million they took N\$4.5 Million to the Namibia national Olympic Committee so meaning now the Directorate of Sport as a whole only remained with N\$70 Million. That is the money we budgeted before the cutting of the budget as a whole because of the drought we have in the country. It means that the only way is for the National Sport Committee to go as per section 3(2) to consult the Ministry of Finance so that they want to borrow money or to do anything fundraising, borrow or whatever. I think they should still explore.

That is what we have. There is nothing for the kit for the Ministry anymore. Thank you Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Venaani.

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HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I did not want to intrude but this matter is still so severe and very important to the country. We are complaining that our sportsman are not bringing the necessary results at the Olympics. At the crux of the matter we are talking about our premier league, our soccer premier league cannot function because N\$9 Million.

Perhaps the question that I want to throw back to the Minister as the custodian of sport, what pressure have you exerted on the Sport Commission even to call a national indaba of business communities to come on board to try to help the premier league because we cannot sit with the premier league that cannot function because if that happens, then Namibia cannot be able to produce the sportsman that we intend to produce in this country?

What is the pressure that the Sport Ministry is exerting on the Commission because to leave everything in the hands of the Commission we have received the results that they have not done anything? What is the leadership that the Minister is providing towards making sure that the Sports Commission goes out of their way to go and raise that money and even ask for soccer lovers in this country myself, him to contribute even a thousand dollar to raise the N\$9 Million yourself too, all of us?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member, do you have an answer to that? Do you want to respond?

HON MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE: As I said, the budget of the Ministry cannot allow. We budget N\$123 Million for the Directorate of sport and we budgeted maybe the same amount to the Directorate of Youths and then the Directorate of Youth has also to subdivide to the Namibian National Youth Service and National Youth Council. They got N\$10 Million, N\$12 Million that is all unless maybe we got a premised money.

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Otherwise, we can because the Namibian Sport Commission now when they received the N\$38 870 000, they have to subdivide among the more than 48 sports courts for instance Namibia Sport Commission now the N\$38 Million for themselves only N\$10 Million.

Then Namibia School Sport Union when the schools take part it is from the same source. They have also soccer, netball, athletic. They allocated N\$4 Million. Tertiary institute sport Associations of Namibia the higher schools, University when they have sports. They allocated N\$3 Million of the N\$38 Million. Namibia Women in Sport Association N\$970 000, Namibia Football Association it is now NFA they received N\$6 Million from there and then we gave them N\$8 Million also for the Cosafa.

It means NFA received N\$14 Million, N\$6 Million from the N\$38 Million, which they got from the Namibia Sports Commission and N\$8 Million, which the Ministry budget for them.

Cosafa N\$6 Million again, Ghana trip when they went to Ghana N\$2 Million, National Hockey team N\$500 000 and when they budgeted, they also budgeted over N\$5 Million the hockey team but we only managed to give them N\$500 000. Namibia professional boxing N\$1.2 Million and again Namibia Professional Boxing N\$1.5 Million this is just because they are supposed to cater for themselves the professional boxing.

Namibia Rugby Union they only got N\$1 Million. That is the Namibia Sport Commission, is the one who decide not the Ministry. We just budget and give to them. They decide among themselves not the Ministry. Disability Sport Namibia N\$1.2 Million and the disability is the one that put Namibia on the map the disability sport. They are the ones that bring medals to Namibia more than the people able-bodied people when they go whether to Olympic games or to Africa games or to Commonwealth games. Whenever the Paralympics participate, they bring medals and they just got N\$1.2 Million.

Namibia Paralympics N\$1.5 Million so this is a cake we have and these are only two. We have 48 sports courts countrywide not only soccer and

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we must also uplift those. In the recent Olympic China won the most medal because China participated in every game and we only participated in long jump, marathon and soccer. We cannot concentrate on soccer. Nothing is impossible.

We have to have all the sports courts so that running, swimming, bicycle we must also do that unless maybe but I am exchanging with my brother there. He promised me finance Deputy that apparently this time half of the budget would be cut and allocated to the Ministry of Sports. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I think the sport lovers they are quite a big number of them found in this House. If there is something that we can do on a voluntary basis as Members of Parliament, let there be Members who will go around to mobilise the rest of us, but I think the answer have been adequately presented by the Honourable Minister. May I move on?

Honourable Muharukua, the question is directed to the Minister of Urban and Rural Development. You put the question. Thank you. May I call on the – she is in the House. You have the floor.

QUESTION 79:

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:
Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members of this august House, I rise to respond to questions as posed by Honourable Muharukua with regard the voters and voters cards and registration and all these types of issues.

I will go as follows Honourable Speaker, on the first question the Honourable wanted to know reasons for compiling a manual list of voters'

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names and registration numbers. Why is that reason?

In terms of the Namibian constitution and Electoral Act number 5 of 2014 the Commission is the exclusive authority to direct, supervise, manage and control in the affairs and impartial manner and without fear or favour or prejudice any elections and referendum under the Electoral Act, to ensure that this mandate is carried out in an environment that is open and transparent and to comply with the Electoral Act subsection 14(b) of section 100 and I want to quote this one. 'In the case of voting by way of voting machine, first you enter the voter registration number of the voter in a voting machine book as determined by the Commission.

In short, it is necessary to compile a manual list. By doing this, any fear of tempering with the voting machines by adding votes is dispelled. Since it is easy to compare the number of votes cast at a specific polling station with the actual number of voters on the list, the Electoral Commission is trying by all possible means to provide checks and balances specifically when I am referring to your question, Honourable Member, probing to understand the reasons for compiling a manual list of voter's names and registration numbers.

I should really emphasise, Honourable Member, and Honourable Members in the House that there is no compromise at the polling stations neither there is any VIP treatment at those polling stations. We are all being treated the same way.

The other question from the Honourable Member is there a justifiable legal basis for compiling the said manual list. Yes, there is because it is clearly indicated and prescribed in the Electoral Act. For more clarity, let me again quote section 100(14)(b) of the Electoral Act of number 5 2014 that states clearly a justifiable legal basis for compiling the said manual list. 'In the case of voting by way of a voting machine, enter the voter registration number of the voter in a voting machine book as determined by the Commission'.

The other question from the Honourable Member what safeguards are in

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place there to ensure that there is secrecy of one's vote is not being compromised by way of being able to compare the said manual list against the said electronic voter machine EVM printout both of which are in a chronological voting order. The electronic voter machine EVM printout does not indicate the votes calculated in chronological order. The voting machine contains the number of parties or candidates competing in a specific election and the voters will vote for their candidate or party of choice.

At the close of the poll, the voting machine will calculate the total number of votes cast for the different parties or candidates. In other words, they would be no identification of where the voters vote, who voted candidate number 1 or number 17 or candidate number 120 if need be etc. The printout will merely indicate party A or candidate A received a certain number of votes. Party B or candidate B received a certain number of votes etc. Therefore, Honourable Member your vote shall be ever aligned to the candidate or that party that you have voted for.

Furthermore, to be very specific section 114(1) and (2) of the Electoral Act deals with the issue of safekeeping of election materials, let me quote what is contained in the mentioned subsection of the section 114. 'The Chief Electoral Officer is responsible for the safekeeping of all the electoral materials. No person may open or inspect the contents of the electoral materials except by the order of the electoral court'.

The other question from the Honourable was it is also common cause that during the voting process each voter's card is scanned electronically before one cast his or her vote. May the Minister shed light on whether or not the scanning device stores the information it attains from the voter's card and if so, in what order?

Let me outline the key aspect of this question that is focused on the voter's card verification aspect. Scanning and specific information that is stored on the hand held voters verification devices the VVD, first the hand held voter verification device store the voter identification data not data but details.

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Second, the hand held voter verification device has verification information such as whether the voter was verified at the correct polling station.

Third, the hand held voter verification device has verification information such as whether the verification done was visual or by your network.

Fourth, the hand held voter verification device has verification information such as whether the verification was successful or not.

Fifth, the hand held voter verification device has verification information such as whether the voter tried to vote while on the unrecovered voter registration card list.

Sixth, the hand held voter verification device has verification information such as whether the voter is registered for local authority election or not registered at all.

Seventh, the hand held voter verification device has verification information such as was the type of election it shall be whether Presidential or National Assembly or Regional Council or local authority elections and finally the hand held voter verification device has verification information such as whether the voter tried to verify more than once at the same polling station or not. Such information is stored together with the date and time of the verification of the voter.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Member let me thank you for this opportunity and I think the Honourable Member and the community out there are informed.

Thank you and so I submit.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. We move on to the next question. Question number 81 from Honourable Smit directed to the Minister of

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Higher Education, Training and Innovation and the Minister or the Deputy Minister are not in the House. That question stands over. Is that fine? Yes, Honourable Member.

HON SMIT: This is really a problem. You know, last year and also the previous session, some of my questions lapsed because the Minister responsible to answer it just did not turn up to answer the question. They just stay away. Is that fair?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member, we will ensure that the Minister or the Deputy Minister or whoever is authorised to respond will do that. There is no question about waiting responding to your particular question so I can assure you. Therefore, the question stands over.

Question number 81 from Honourable Dienda directed to the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture from teacher. You put the question. Yes, I call upon the Minister from teacher to teacher. Honourable Minister you have the floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, and my Honourable Minister for according me the chance to respond to these questions from Honourable Dienda.

The answer to the first question which is about the elevation of Grade 10 result to the national school leaving certificate which is considered to be indirectly creating a wrong impression amongst learners that Grade 10 is sufficient to leave school and be able to work.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members the answer is as follows. On

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the onset, I would like to inform the Honourable Members that as in line with the Namibian Constitution Article 20(2) children shall not be allowed to leave school until they have completed their primary education or have attained the age of 16 whichever comes first save in so far as this maybe authorised by Act of Parliament on ground of health or other considerations pertaining to the public interest.

Based on the above constitutional obligation the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture is obliged through the national examination assessment and certification Board to issue a Grade 10 certificate to such candidate as Grade 10 is the exit level of junior secondary education. These certificates allows these learners to enter into vocational colleges, seek employment or proceed to Grade 11 if they meet the promotional requirements as certificate symbolises that such learners have gone through the junior secondary education and have attained basic competency at that particular level.

Question number two: Would it not make it more sense to change Grade 10 examination and results in the same manner as Grade 8, 9 and 11, which are ordinary promotional Grades but not results in school leaving certificate?

The curriculum is designed to ensure that learners acquired skills and knowledge to be independent thinkers and contribute to national development.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members I would like to inform the House that there are two folds of assessment that are applicable within the education system which are the following.

Number one; the summative assessment, which are used to evaluate student learning, skills acquisition and academic achievement at the conclusion of the defined instructional period typically at the end of the project unit course, semester program or school year. This is mode of assessment which the Ministry is applying to Grade 10 and 11 learners as the assessment is embedded with critical analytical thinking skills which

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prepares them beyond the junior secondary and senior secondary education summative assessment is regard as the measure of the performance of the education system in terms of services and quality delivery for a particular country.

Secondly, we have a formative assessment, which include diagnostic testing which is a range of formal and formative assessment procedures conducted by the teachers during the learning process in order to modify teaching and learning activities to improve on attainment depending now on how the children are performing.

These are the forms of assessments, which are applicable to Grade 8 and 9 learners in Namibia. The subject teachers are the sole assessors in order to diagnose the problem areas before the learners are exposed to the summative assessment. Therefore, based on the above information, the Grade 10 national examination cannot be treated or be equated to the Grade 8, 9 and 11 examination and different modes of assessments are being applied and the competences that are being assessed are not the same and are also at different levels.

It should also be noted that Grade 11 is the first year leading to Grade 12 qualification, as this is a two years course. It should also be further noted that the new revised curriculum would be implemented in Grade 8 as from 2017 and these learners would only be writing semi external examination in Grade 9, which will allow them to proceed to Grade 10 and 11. Grade 10 now in the new curriculum for this current curriculum examination will come to an end in 2018, which is implying that in 2019 it would be in Grade 11 and 2020 in Grade 12 for those following high level.

The third question: Would this not result in better results and reduction of school dropout?

Following up on the last question now; Honourable Speaker, I would like to alert the Honourable Members that the school calendar is designed in minutes which allow teachers to complete their syllabus before the start of the examination. The learning content and competences that are within

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Grade 10 and 12 syllabuses are completely far different from each other and also the mode of assessment applied are not related to each other.

These are two different paradigms of learning with different assessment objective. I would also like to bring to attention that both Grade 10 and 12 Certificates are very important. Obtaining a Grade 10 certificate enhance the chance of candidate to opportunities of which Grade 10 certificate opens ways for such an opportunity. The Grade 12 certificate affords the holder the chance and access into further education and training institution or job markets.

However, as indicated earlier, we need to be cognisance of the fact that industry demands have become more competitive and requires people to have the further education to groom their skills in respected fields. The Ministry therefore strongly encourages Grade 12 certificate holders to pursue further studies at institutions of higher learning, vocational training centres. In cases where the candidate is not able to pursue further studies, we encourage them to venture into avenues or fields that afford them the chance to groom their skills and expertise. This way citizens obtain knowledge, skills, values and attitude they need in real life to get employment and live a meaningful life in a democratic society.

The last question, Honourable Speaker, where learners has set down for multiple exams in order to improve their results in some of or all subject, is it possible to combine the results of those previous certificate both Grade 10 and 12 into one certificate. If yes, where can this be done and can this information be shared with the nation.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, Grade 10 and Grade 12 are separate examinations that are not related to each others at all. The syllabus is far apart.

The Grade 10 examinations are written under the hospices of the national examination assessment and certification Board while Grade 12 examinations are written under the hospices of Cambridge international examination as the accreditation institution together with the national

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examination assessment and certification Board of Namibia. However, national examination assessment and certification Board has approved a consolidation certificate for the junior secondary certificate in order to replace the multiple certificates, which are in the position of such learners.

The Ministry is busy with the tendering process and the public will soon be informed of the procedures to be followed in order to obtain such a certificate from the Ministry. Secondly, the Ministry is still in negotiation with the Cambridge international examination to find a means of treating a similar certificate for the multiple holder for the Grade 12 certificate. The public would be informed if this process is successful. I thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Dienda.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, to come with the answer at the end, thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Well done, well done. Honourable Minister, yes, please.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE: ... for the fashion in which she has handled the questions but I want to also assure the House that we will be coming with more information on the curriculum reform that we are about to introduce and implement by 2018.

In fact, we have started already at the junior primary and senior primary phases but it becomes critical when it comes to the secondary phase, as we

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would be bringing information. It will also clarify more of the concerns that have been raised by my sister there that we would be doing away with the Grade 10 exams and Grade 11 will be the Grade where children can get the school leavers certificate and in case they want to go into colleges or whichever tertiary institution.

They would be enabled with the Grade 11 school leavers' certificate to do so but for those learners who want to specialise in special areas like medicine or any other field would be required to do that on the next level which would be referred to as the A level and that will entail about four subjects so that these children would be given chance to focus on the specialised area as of the Grade 12 but 11 would be the school leavers certificate. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Next question is that of Honourable Nico Smit directed to the Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation. The question stands over. Thank you.

Question numb 84 is that of Honourable Van Den Heever directed to the Minister of Environment and Tourism and as far as I can see, the Minister is not in the House. The question stands over. I think he is still on the way from the other place. Is it Durban or Johannesburg?

The question stands over. Question 85 from Honourable Dienda to the Minister of Health and Social Services, the question stands over. I cannot believe that we are at the end. Thank you very much.

I see the Honourable Steve Bezuidenhout and looks as if you want to say something. We have come to the end of our session. We will continue next week Tuesday and of course, Monday is a special day for the Honourable Tom Alweendo requesting all of us to attend that meeting dedicated to NDP5 in gentle reminder. Do not say I did not do my job,

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good. That said and done all what is left is for me to adjourn the House until the Tuesday the usual time. The House stands adjourn.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:45 UNTIL 2016.10.11 AT 14:30
