

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
14 JUNE 2018**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members I am pleased to see that the number is increasing as time goes on. We certainly cannot afford to miss our days.

Any Petitions? Reports of Standing and select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? I was just about to call Honourable !Auxab. I thought he was going to press the button. Notice of questions? Honourable Jennifer Van Den Heever.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 61:

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker I give Notice that on Thursday, 21st of June 2018, I shall ask the Minister of Mines and Energy Honourable Tom Alweendo the following.

Following the statement you made last week Honourable Minister in the National Assembly that the Namib Desert Diamond NAMDIA is a state owned enterprise in response to questions. The information in the public domain is that the Ministry of Public Enterprises under which all SOEs falls does not have an insight into the affairs of NAMDIA as it resorts fully under your Ministry thus I shall ask:

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON NGHIMTINA**

1. Can you please clarify why NAMDIA is not registered as an SOE under the Ministry of Public Enterprises in terms of schedule 1 of the Public Enterprise Governance Act?
2. Can you explain to this august House under which Act was NAMDIA established
3. One of the objectives of SOEs is to promote transparency. If it is so with NAMDIA why then is the Ministry of Public Enterprises not being informed about salaries or board fees of Directors at NAMDIA?
4. Why is the salary of NAMDIA CEO undisclosed to the public; and lastly
5. Can you explain why NAMDIA's Board members each get paid over N\$90 000 per meeting in comparison to N\$35 000 of what the Namibian Diamond Trading Company NDTC and other Parastatals in the country are getting?

I so submit Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Notice of Motions? Messages from the Head of State? Minister of Labour.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker I give Notice that on Tuesday, 19th June 2018, I shall Move that this Assembly appoint the following nominees as members of

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON SIMATAA**

the Employment Equity Commission endorsed by Cabinet as per decision number 6/22-05-18/012 or a period of three years. Members:

Ms Yosofina Stefanie, Mr NehemiaNgishekwa, Julia Hamata, Jennifer Dan, Daningina Margaret Serguin, Rosina Ngivolevwa, Nicholas Ndineleko, Rosaria Gabriel, Katrina Roshoni, Ampere Kurisus, Jennifer Lectrus Dan, SibenKatuwan, AnalisaNekwaya, Beata NdinelawoArumas, Daniel SiremoTrum, RomasVitsack, TimotiIsaaks, Moses Shikwa, PenephuhikoIvari, UyamaKahangoro, Venessa Otto, WheleminaNdinelawoSheehama, Erick Elwin Paulino, Charles Peter, ChalmiraTjirare, HofiniShikongo and Lizzy Yassen Van Resenburg.

I so Move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. We move on, messages from the Head of State, Ministerial Statements? We are done, oh, yes.

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT IN TERMS OF
RULE (98) OF THE STANDING RULES AND ORDERS**

**IPADS FOR MEMBERS OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE SECRETARIAT**

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY: Honourable Speaker I am wondering why the Honourable Members are clapping in advance. I so not know what they have seen on their menu.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON SIMATAA**

HON SPEAKER: I think it is a clapping in anticipation.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY: I have realized that. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members will recall that during the time when we were discussing the budget I made a very, very bold statement that I was getting worried with each passing day that maybe the promise that I gave on that day will not fulfilled but here we are today and indeed before you are the instruments that I promised. They are being distributed do not worry. Patience is a virtue so continue to be patient so finally each and every Member of this National Assembly also each and every Member of the National Council would be provided with that item. You will be signing that indeed you have received the item.

I have had discussions with the Honourable Speaker and Deputy Speaker and the Members of the Secretariat so that we can put a program in place that will assist those of us who are still challenged for a lack of a better word in terms of navigating these instruments so that all of us and not only the smarters of this world can have the necessary comfort to navigate the instruments. For the digital natives you know it is going to be a pleasure for us who are strangers to the digital world, we may feel a little bit challenged but do not worry. We will get there. We have also agreed with the Speaker that we will systematically win off the analogue system that we have in our Chamber but will do that in a logical manner without upsetting the operations of the proceedings in the Chamber but as we heard yesterday and previous day, there are also dangers in terms of ICT.

I encourage all of us to be aware of these dangers particularly the need for us to observe the security protocols as and when you are utilizing this instrument. In the event of cyber-attacks institutions like Parliament are prime targets so once you are connected to the internet, your exposure expands so let us be very, very careful. You heard here in terms of the Ministerial Statement that was issued yesterday by the Honourable Deputy Minister of International Relations and Corporation.

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HON SIMATAA**

People are stealing people's identity so be very careful in terms of the type of information that you share. It is only this week that we were exposed to the huge leak in terms of personal information at one of the state owned enterprises. So please let us be cautious as and when we use those instruments but hopefully going forward our work will be made much lighter but remember I also said there are terms and conditions that apply.

If overtime you realize that you have the instrument that you continue to operate in analogue mode, I will shy away to engage the Honourable Speaker and Deputy Speaker so that we can initiate the necessary action to conclude the process of disowning you because these instruments are not ceremonial gadgets. They are meant to ensure that you fully utilize them. There is also a sim card provided already. It is 1 gig in terms of the capacity huge those who understand the ICT language, the sky is the limit. Good luck with your utilization. Hopefully by next week Honourable Speaker let us hit the ground running so that we can start our migration process so that

at the end of the year, by the end of the year we will eliminate some of these mountains and heaps of papers that some of us cannot even negotiate in terms of jumping over so let the utilization begin Honourable Shixwameni.

Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Minister. Thank you very much. I think Honourable Members you would agree with me what you have received is what it is described in a particular language associated with technologies, working tools. They are there to equip you, to assist you to do your work. We wish to place our thanks and appreciation on record to the Minister and the Ministry and our Government for facilitating this. This is the beginning of getting the National Assembly Members on the super highway.

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**QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS
ON MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

In other words to basically impress the E-Parliament concept and to translate that concept into practical application and this is what we want to do but we are going to do these things step by step. We are not going to rush you but we want to also organize training sessions for those Members who may need such and the idea is basically to start with order paper, basic documents that we get everyday so that you can follow on your Ipad and as a way of introducing you to the super highway that we are talking about. So good luck.

I still remember when we started using computers, I remember as a Vice Chancellor I had to join a group of youngsters in a workshop format to get going into it to increase my computer literacy. Do not shy away because there is a great yield to be said in favour of subjecting it into learning and mastering the technology. Without that we cannot make progress. We need it and we are lucky to have the equipment the working tools that have been presented to Members. Protect them please. Look after them.

Thank you, Deputy Prime Minister.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I also want to add my voice by thanking the Minister. I just want to ask from the Parliament because we have a Parliament Wifi. Are we all provided with the password or it is just one password because if there is one password, we need to know or if individual Members of Parliament they have their password, we need to be provide with our password.

HON SPEAKER: The answer is it is a quick one. It is just one. It is like going into a major conference where normally to delegate. We will give it to you now. I am going to ask my team here to provide us. You would be connected as soon as you have it. What we are going to do we will ask our IT team to forward that password to all of you now so they are actually

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY
HON !AUXAB**

doing that now. I think it is better to send it to your mobile telephone and you pick it up from there because we have your numbers. Is that fine? Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Let us move on. The notice of a Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister.

HON SPEAKER: I have been given a gentle hint that today is question time and maybe we should do justice to that by starting with that and if we exhaust all the questions, we will then be able to pick up the items on the order paper. Can I proceed with your support and understanding?

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

HON SPEAKER: Question number 41 is the one from Honourable !Auxab. Do you put the question?

HON !AUXAB: I put the question.

HON SPEAKER:The question is directed to the Minister of Urban and Rural Development, the Deputy Minister.

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY
HON !AUXAB
HON KLAZEN**

QUESTION 41

HON SPEAKER: The question is directed to the Minister of Urban and Rural Development, the Deputy Minister.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Shacks continue to define the housing system in urban areas as the 2016 Namibia Inter-Censal Demographics Survey Report, show that 40% of Urban Housing Units are shacks.

While I agree that informal (un-planned and un-proclaimed) settlements where some of our fellow countrymen and women live in make-shift corrugated structures or shacks are a visible feature in our urban areas, I do not agree that such feature is what defines the housing system in our urban areas. There are other positive aspects to our urban housing other than shacks. Having said that let me now address the specific questions posed

- 1. Why numbers of shacks in urban areas had increased since 2011, when they only formed less than 20% of total urban housing units?**

The increase in informal settlements and shacks in urban areas can be attributed to a number of causal factors. These are:

- Rural-urban and urban to urban migration as people migrate from rural areas and less developed urban areas seeking or in the hope of finding better social and economic opportunities and services such as (education, health, employment, etc.) in urban areas. Such influxes places Local Authorities under severe strain and often renders them financially and technically unable to provide the requisite serviced land, sanitation, housing, and other essential services;

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- Inability for the majority of the needy low income earners to benefit to benefit from existing land and housing provision programmes due to the following:
- Lack of employment and thus an income due to constrained economic growth and limited job opportunities in the economy;
- Limited or lack of credit and financial support for this (low) income group from commercial financial institutions due to its perceived high risk;
- The high cost of land planning and servicing as well as housing development and consequent high price thereof often beyond the affordability of majority of the needy
- Greed (multiple acquisitions) and speculative activities by some of those who are financially in a position to acquire and develop these immobile assets.

In order for us to effectively address the lack of proper housing as well as access to and ownership of serviced land, we need a multiple of interventions at the level of local authority but also at other levels of our society and economy. In a situation where there is poverty and unemployment, even if serviced land and housing is available the poor and unemployed will not be able to acquire such.

The other side of the coin is that, while it is recognised that the inputs (surveying, engineering designs, planning and development) that goes into land servicing and housing construction are costly and have to be recovered, the pricing of these goods is in most cases too unreasonably high and out of reach of most of the needy even those who are employed and have housing subsidies

In response to the above challenges, the Government has employed and continue to devise measures to correct the situation and/or to bring some order. These measures are at different levels and in different forms:

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- Reform of the legal system and introduction of new legal measures such as the Flexible Land Tenure Act, 2012 (Ministry of Land Reform) which is aimed at easing the planning, servicing and ownership of land in informal settlements;
- Regional and Urban Planning Act, 2018, which streamlines and decentralises certain decision-making processes away from the Centre to the local government level with a view to speeding up the approval and delivery of land
- Grant funding to community-based group saving housing organisations such as the Shack Dwellers' Federation of Namibia whose mandate is to enable members to acquire and service land and to build affordable houses;
- Authorisation to local authorities and regional councils who have funds in their Build Together Programme Revolving Accounts to re-activate their Funds and to disburse loans. The target of these Funds is the ultra-low and low income earners; and
- Approval of public-private partnerships in land servicing and housing developments with conditions that seek to ensure shared benefits between the private developers (reasonable profit margin) and the local authorities (affordably priced serviced land and housing units); just to mention a few

Our overall strategy needs to deal with both the pull as well as push factors. The push factors are largely the hardship and limited access to basic amenities and opportunities for socioeconomic development that our fellow women and men who reside in rural areas experience in comparison to their

counterparts in urban areas. In this connection, we need to scale up our rural development interventions with a view to create comparable decent living conditions in rural areas and thus reduce rural-urban push migration.

Let me now move on to the next question.

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HON !AUXAB
HON KLAZEN**

2. Why Hardap, IKhomas, Kavango East, and Erongo have the highest number of shacks of the total housing units respectively?

(a) Is the demand going up? Or did housing become too expensive? What is the real cause of this?

I have already addressed the causal factors and the required interventions in general in my response to the previous question

The Khomas Region as the home to the country's capital city, Windhoek and Erongo Region as the home to the country's main port and industrial town of Walvis bay as well as the tourist town of Swakopmund are natural destinations for people seeking for opportunities and a better life. According to the 2015/2016 Namibia Household Income and Expenditure Survey, Khomas Region is the most populated Region in the country. By implication, the high population in these major urban areas is largely due to the influx of people from rural and least developed urban areas and the growth in informal settlements and shacks. The high population equally represents a high demand for housing and related amenities, and the general economic principles of high demand and low supply equals high prices in respect of housing apply here.

There are also obviously market failures in play, that is income gap and the fact that serviced land and properties being developed are largely affordable only to the middle to upper income earners and priced out of reach of the low income earners.

This concludes my response and I thank the Hon Member who posed the question.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you Honourable Speaker also let me join others

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in thanking Honourable Minister of ICT for the gadgets and I think I cannot use it now but I could have used it now if it was now linked but I from the older generation I like these hardcopies but we learn Comrade. We will

migrate with the technology. Honourable Speaker let me go straight to the answer. I want to thank the Honourable Member for the question and my response is as follows. While I agree that informal, unplanned and unproclaimed settlements where some of our fellow countrymen and women live in makeshift corrugated structures or shacks are visible future in our urban areas.

I do not agree that such future is what defines the housing system in our urban areas. There are other positive aspects to our urban housing other than shacks. Having said that, let me now address this specific question posed and the question is why numbers of shacks in urban areas increase since 2011 when they only formed less than 20% of total urban housing units. The increase in informal settlements and shacks in urban areas can be attributed to a number of cause or factors. These are rural urban and urban to urban migration as people migrate from rural areas and less developed urban areas seeking or in the hope of finding better social and economic opportunities and services such as education, health, employment etc, in urban areas.

Such influxes places local authorities under severe strain and often renders them financially and technically unable to provide the requisite serviced land, sanitation, housing and other essential services, inability for the majority of the needy, low income earners to benefit from existing land and housing provision programs due to the following. Lack of employment and thus an income due to constrain economic growth and limited job opportunities in the economy, limited or lack of credit and financial support for this low income group from commercial financial institutions due to its perceived high risk.

The high cost of land planning and servicing as well as housing

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development and consequent high prices thereof often beyond the affordability of majority of the needy, greed, multiple acquisitions and speculative activities by some of those who are financially in a position to acquire and develop these immobile assets. In order for us to effectively address the lack of proper housing as well as access to and ownership of serviced land, we need the multiple of interventions at a level of local authority but also in other levels of our society and economy.

In a situation where there is poverty and unemployment even if serviced land and housing is available the poor and unemployed will not be able to acquire such. The other side of the coin is that while it is recognized that the inputs that is now survey, engineering, designs, planning and development that goes into land servicing and housing construction are costly and have to be recovered. The pricing of these goods is in most cases too unreasonably high and out of reach of most of the needy even those who are employed and have housing subsidies.

In response to the above challenges the Government has employed and continue to device measures to correct the situation and to bring some order. These measures are at different levels and in different forms. Reform of the legal system and introduction of the new legal matters such as the flexible Land Tenure Act of 2012 is currently with the Ministry of Land Reform which is aimed at easing the planning servicing and ownership of land in informal settlements. Regional and Urban Planning Act 2018 which streamlines and decentralize certain decision making processes away from the centre to the local Government level with a view to speeding up the approval and delivering of land. Grant funding to community base group serving housing organizations such as the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia whose mandate is to enable members to acquire and service land and to build affordable houses. Authorization to local authorities and Regional Councils who have funds in the build together program revolving accounts to reactivate their funds and to disburse loans. The target of these funds is the ultra-low and low income earners.

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Approval of Public Private Partnerships in land servicing and housing developments with conditions that seek to ensure shack benefits between the private developers and the local authorities just to mention a few. Our overall strategy need to deal with both the pull as well as the push factors. The push factors are largely the hardship and limited access to basic amenities and opportunities for socio-economic development that our fellow women and men who reside in rural areas experience in comparison to the counterparts in urban areas.

In this connection we need to scale up our rural development interventions with a view to create comparable decent living conditions in rural areas and thus reduce rural urban push migration. Let me now move on the next question and this question is why Hardap, Khomas, Kavango East and Erongo has the highest number of shacks of the local housing units respectively. Is the demand going up or did housing become too expensive? What is the real cause of this?

I have already addressed the cause of factors and the required interventions in general in my response to the previous question. The Khomas region is a home to the country's capital city. Windhoek and Erongo region is a home to the country's main port and industrial town of Walvis Bay as well as the tourist town of Swakopmund are naturally destinations for people seeking for opportunities and a better life. According to the 2015-2016 Namibian household income and survey, Khomas region is the most populated region in the country. By implication the high population in these major urban areas is largely due to the influx of people from rural and least developed urban areas and the growth in informal settlements and shacks.

The high population equally represent high demand for housing and related amenities and a general economic principles of high demand and low supply equals high prices in respect of housing apply here. There are also obviously market failures in play. That is income gap and the fact that serviced land and properties being developed are largely affordable only to the middle, to upper income earners and priced out of reach of the

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low income earners. Comrade Speaker that concludes my response and I thank Honourable once again who posed these questions.

Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable !Auxab.

HON !AUXAB: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Minister. As we all know housing is a problem all over the world and I do not expect from the Ministry to solve it in a very shorter time but I am pleased with the answers you gave me.

Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. The next question number 42 from the Honourable !Auxab. You put the question.

QUESTION 42

HON !AUXAB: I put the question.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you and the question is directed to the Minister of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development, the Deputy Minister.

Thank you very much.

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HON !AUXAB
HON IPUMBU

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION, TRADE
AND SME DEVELOPMENT:** No sound from the microphone.

CDE. Speaker, Honorable members, first let me thank Hon. Apius Auchab for the question relating to two signed Investment Agreement and one Joint Venture Agreement during the Invest in Namibia Conference in November 2016.

1. **May the Hon. Minister share with this August house how far the signed Joint Venture Agreement between South Korean Company MK International and Otavi Town Council to set up a reinforcing steel manufacturing plant**

The company, Otavi Rebar Manufacturing (Pty) Ltd (ORM) was founded in 2012 and commenced with the development of a feasibility study to establish a rebar manufacturing plant in Otavi. ORM intends to build a 148,000 tonnes per annum rebar manufacturing plant. The projected investment in the steel rebar manufacturing plant is estimated at just under N\$3.3 billion of which the project promoters have contributed N\$1 billion.

This project was promoted during the Invest in Namibia International Investment Conference during November 2016 and an MoU was signed with MK International. The MoU between MK International and Otavi Town Council was based on the supply of a second hand plant from South Korea, with a capacity of 380,000 tons per annum. However, Otavi Town Council revisited this option and the agreement with MK International and opted to terminate the MoU. The decision to terminate was considered favourable for the Council which have allowed the Council to restructure the financial model for a new plant as opposed to a second hand one.

On 26 January 2018, Otavi Rebar Manufacturing entered into an MoU with a new partner, NORIC Steel, a Switzerland based company. This new

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HON IPUMBU**

agreement is based on the supply of the new plant with a 400 000 ton per annum capacity. The shareholding ratio will be 51% NORIC: 49% Otavi Rebar Manufacturing.

Namibia is currently engaged in twin drives to construct affordable housing and infrastructure. In order to reduce its dependence on imported construction material, the project is a response to government request for increased manufacturing of building supplies, including cement, and other products to meet the rapidly rising demand. By developing local manufacturing of building supplies, the country will buffer itself against unexpected gaps in imported supplies. At present there is no rebar manufacturing facility in Namibia and all rebar used in the country has to be imported.

In 2014 the market for rebar in Namibia was estimated at 155,000 tonnes and the demand is projected to grow more than 9% per annum in line with the projected growth of infrastructure and construction projects.

2. May the Hon. Minister also share with the public and the honourable Members of this August House how many out of 700 semi-skilled and out of 800 skilled jobs that has been agreed has already been created?

The information at my Ministry's disposal reflect that the project will initially create 140 new employment and will gradually increase over time. In addition to 140 jobs they will also ensure that staff training and capacity building is enhanced to meet international standards. Due to the cancellation of the contract with a South Korean Company, the anticipated employment could not be generated. However, noting the new partners' drive to reach the financial closure to this project by end of August 2018 and the groundbreaking ceremony during September 2018. The completion of construction will be completed by September 2020 from which permanent employment is expected.

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3. May the Hon. Minister appraise the public and Members of this August House on the signed agreement between the Namibia Investment Centre and the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey?

The MoU signed between the Namibia Investment Centre and Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey (DEIK) during the International

Investor's Conference in November 2016, is not a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) but rather a Memorandum of Understanding between the two Investment Promotion Agencies to collaborate in the promotion of trade and investment between the two countries.

There have been collaboration between Namibia Investment Centre and Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey in the facilitation of Investors exploring Investment Opportunities in Namibia. It is worth informing the honourable Members of this August House that DEIK is planning to lead a business delegation to Namibia this year. The visit will also coincide with a Joint Business Council meeting between Namibia and DEIK to finalise the composition of Board Council members from Namibia and Turkey.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable !Auxab.

HON !AUXAB: Thank you Honourable Deputy Minister. Let me admit that I am surprised how the Ministry is following these agreements and know all the changes. That is what we want. If something has to be agreed on, then it should be monitored so that it can be implemented. Thank you very much for that.

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HON DIENDA
HON NGHIPONDOKA**

Let me use this opportunity to thank also the Minister of Information for what we receive today here but find a way please Honourable Minister so that some of us can upgrade our knowledge of technology so that we cannot be misquoted by the new technology that is coming in.

Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. We move to the next question is from Honourable Dienda. I see she is not in the House. Do you put the question on her behalf directed to the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture? The Deputy Minister is here. You have the floor.

QUESTION 43

HON MEMBER: Puts the question.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. Let me join the other Colleagues to thank our Minister of ICT for the good gesture of lifting us up from the dust of hardcopies. This is the last one I am reading Honourable Minister. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members I rise to respond to the questions posed by Honourable Elma Dienda. Allow me Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members to appreciate the questions posed and issues highlighted. According to Honourable Dienda Baheye Primary School in Omaruru made headlines last year in the media as different parents withdrew their children from school due to the behavior of the newly appointed Principal of the same school.

Currently the iniquities appointment of this Principal is at the court of

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arbitration. This is what the allegations are. This is an interesting analysis Honourable Speaker. However, corrections ought to be made. Firstly parents from Baheye did not withdraw their children from the school due to the behavior of the newly appointed Principal but due to the fact that there are preferred candidates who did not go through the interview process was not appointed as a Principal. Since then the situation at Baheye Primary School has been amicably resolved and school operations are going on smoothly.

Secondly, the appointment was not iniquities as referred to by Honourable Member because the Public Service Commission and the office of the Prime Minister found the appointment to be procedural after the aggrieved preferred candidate or some parents appealed against the appointment of the current Principal. Having said that Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members allow me to address the questions as posed and as follows.

The first one was about alleging that the Ministry of Education, Erongo regional offices appointed an Acting Head of Department a former teacher while the current Head of Department is still on duty and the question was how is this justifiable. Honourable Member during last year 2017 teaching and learning at Baheye Primary School was disrupted due to hostile parents withdrawing their children from the school. This resulted in learners losing out on a lot of work.

In addition to this situation the school Board also decided to abandon their roles and functions at the time when the school management and teachers need their support and guidance most. Various interventions were undertaken to resolve the situation but the school Board refused to cooperate. As a result the Directorate was left with no other option but to request the Permanent Secretary that the Board be dissolved as they have become an obstacle to the wellbeing of the school and the request was granted. Their refusal to perform their duties resulted in the smooth running and administration and management being adversely affected a situation that could not be tolerated.

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HON DIENDA
HON NGHIPONDOKA**

In light of the above the Erongo regional management realized that the school management needed to be strengthened as from this year to compensate for the loss ground from the previous year and therefore took the decision to appoint the second Head of Department in an acting capacity for 2018 only which is temporary. This was a cautious move to strengthen the management and the school. The school only had one Head of Department at the junior phase and there was a need for Head of Department at senior primary phase.

In the adverse situation the newly appointed Principal find herself it was only in the best interest of the learners who have lost out on school work for more than a month in 2017 and with a dysfunctional school Board that management be strengthened. The Acting Head of Department was therefore not appointed to replace the permanently appointed Head of Department as is alleged but as an additional management member temporarily. Honourable Dienda further asked if the school only had 418. How does it qualify for two Heads of Department?

I concur with the above highlighted point. Indeed Baheye Primary School with an enrolment of 424 learners does not qualify for two Heads of Department but the regional office management decided to utilize a vacant Head of Department post from another school through compensatory reduction to appoint the Acting Head of Department at Baheye Primary School temporarily until the situation at the school normalized.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, Honourable Dienda further asked why the apparent post Head of Department was never advertised and how such a managerial position is exempted from being advertised. I would like to highlight that it is and has remained standard practice that acting positions are not advertised. It is done on recommendation of the school Board but in this case of a dysfunctional school Board, the regional management were left with no alternative but to use its initiative and discretion in filling the said Head of Department post.

Lastly the Honourable Member indicated that upon the current

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appointment of the Head of Department, other teachers have been sidelined and not considered even when they have much higher qualifications than the appointed Head of Department. Criteria used to appoint the Acting Head of Department was based on qualifications but the following were also considered when making recommendations for the appointment.

Number one, good track record. Secondly, commitment and satisfactory service delivery as a teacher. In other words it was not merely based on highest qualifications. In conclusion Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members it is of concern that there are questions raised at this high level when there were decisions taken in the best interest of the learners and the school but when hundreds of learners were negatively affected by the actions of parents, school Boards and individual community members no questions which we are aware of were raised.

The regional office management simply decided to take decision to address a very serious situation in the best interest of the learners. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members I would like to assure this August House and the public that the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture will always ensure that it works in the interest of the Namibian child and the nation can be rest assured that matters of education in this country are in good hands. Our primary mandate is to provide quality education and we shall not deliberately put that at risk.

I thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. We move on to question number 44 from the Honourable !Auxab. Do you put the question?

QUESTION 44

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HON !AUXAB
HON BOOIS**

HON !AUXAB: Puts the question.

HON SPEAKER: The question is directed to the Minister of Land Reform, the Deputy Minister is here.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker allow to ask the indulgence of the House and in particular to Honourable !Auxab that unfortunately this question to be postponed until next week the 21st due to reasons known to us.

HON SPEAKER: So you.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: And then secondly please I want to thank my dear Honourable Simataa for the gadgets that we received today and that is a clear indication a sign that we are moving forward for the new Parliament because we need space.

HON SPEAKER: For the new Parliament I like that. Thank you. The question will have to stand over. The next question 45 from Honourable !Auxab. You put the question.

QUESTION 45

HON !AUXAB: I put the question Honourable Speaker.

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HON MWANINGANGE**

HON SPEAKER: And the question is directed to the Minister of Safety and Security and both the Minister and the Deputy Minister are not in the House so the question stands over. We will do better next time.

Question number 46 is from the Honourable Jennifer Van Den Heever.

QUESTION 46

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: I put the question Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: The question is directed to the Minister of Defence. The Deputy Minister is here. Honourable Member you have the floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members I rise to answer the following questions posed by Honourable Jennifer Van Den Heever of PDM. The Honourable Member sighted an oral question on Thursday 15th of March 2018 in the Republican newspaper dated the same day which according to her it is alleged that the Ministry of Defence purchased a farm which is adjacent to farm Oropoko for N\$24 Million. The Honourable Member also stated that it is also alleged that finance Treasury never gave a permission for the purchase of this farm according to the Minister of Finance.

The specific question of Honourable Member were then as follows. One, can the Minister please explain to the House why it did not divulge any information on the sale or purchase of this farm when he updated the national stipulation on the Oropoko deal. Second question may the Minister also inform us what the purposes are or is for this property and that one how is it possible that the Minister does not have the knowhow of such deals. I would like to answer the questions together since there is no

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HON MWANINGANGE**

or there is only one issue to be dealt with here and then the matter in question is after all not a very issue.

To the first question there was no information to divulge because the Ministry of Defence did not purchase farm Otjizemba because it does not have money at this moment to purchase farm Otjizemba. However, I want to make it clear that the Ministry of Defence as a legal entity has the same rights and obligations as any other legal entities to purchase any kind of properties or assets that is needed in the interest of the Defence of our beloved country Namibia provided or legal procedures for the buying of such properties are followed from budgeting to the actual transaction of such deal or deals.

I believe now the second question it falls off because there is no being any purchase of farm Otjizemba and the Ministry has not immediate plan of purchasing farm Otjizemba. Therefore, at this point in time the Ministry has no purpose in mind for farm Otjizemba. Now for the third question the Minister seems he does not have the knowledge of such a deal because there is simply no deal to talk about. Lastly, let me just clarify something that Honourable Member alluded to in the introduction of her questions and that is the statement that also alleged that finance Treasury never gave permission for the purchase of this farm according to the Minister of Finance.

I am not sure whether the Minister of Finance would give out such information because under normal circumstances a Ministry does not need Treasury permission to purchase a property unless the money used in such a deal was not budgeted for. If the money is budgeted for and all tenders procedures are followed, why would Treasury permission be required? It is also important to reiterate that the Ministry of Defence acquires properties and assets in line with the medium term and strategic plans which have the approval of the National Planning Commission and are part of national development plan for Namibia.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members once again I would like to

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underline that the Ministry of Defence should not be expected to explain the purposes and uses of every property or asset it acquires. There are governing and national policies that are privy to Defence information and are given such information according to established procedures. I thank you Honourable Member for posing questions in order to get clarity on a very important issue of the security of our nation. Honourable Speaker

I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Member.

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I am quite confused with the response of the Minister so I would like to have it the written. I will ask a copy in order to follow up. The allegations I made in my statement I quoted it directly from the newspaper as I quoted and I never said that the Minister of Finance questioned it even or denied it in any paper so I am not sure but that is what the newspaper stated.

The fact that the Deputy Minister is saying that the Ministry does not have any jurisdiction or it does not have to account is quite also very confusing. I think the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Defence is statutory body and I would like to follow up with that Committee Chairperson whether that information was divulged to the Committee as such since the Deputy Minister is stating that there are certain bodies who are having privy to this information.

I thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Let us move on. Question number 47

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HON VAN DEN HEEVER
HON KLAZEN**

from the Honourable Jennifer Van Den Heever. Do you put the question?

QUESTION 47

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: I put the question Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: And the question is directed to the Deputy Minister of Urban and Rural Development. You have the floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Once again thanks to Honourable Van Den Heever for the question. I wish to provide the following response. Can the Minister explain to us how a change in the accounting policy in terms of depreciating assets finance by Government grant used by the management of Council as an excuse for the missing millions. I have contacted the Oshana Regional Council for response to the question posed or issued that have been raised in this regard and I have established the following.

The query has to do with the provision that has been made in the financial statements of the Council in respect of the depreciation of property, plant and equipment. I am informed that during the office of the Auditor General or the assigned auditor observed the following that there was a difference of N\$32 940 429 between the assets register N\$67 974 000 and the financial statements N\$34 069 365. A further difference of N\$32 948 770 was observed between the assets register N\$18 550 429 000 and the depreciation in the financial statements of N\$51 499 146. The auditor has recommended the following.

It is recommended that the Council ensure that correct amounts are being reflected in the financial statements. Now the response from the Council.

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HON KLAZEN**

The Regional Council has admitted that there was a difference between the depreciation in the annual financial statements and that in the fixed asset register the difference has been caused by the Council having changed its accounting policy in respect of the depreciation of assets financed by Government grants. The Council did a calculation to depreciate the said assets but the Council forgot to run their depreciation in the fixed asset register model and the amount was posted in the general ledger by passing a journal notwithstanding the difference between the depreciation in the annual financial statements and that in the fixed asset register.

The amount that is being disclosed in the annual financial statements is correct. The Council has subsequently taken measures to correct the difference and the books are balancing now. The other issue that has been raised in the audit has to do with the cash flow property, plant and equipment. Here the auditor has concluded the following. Observation by the auditor, the Council could not explain an amount of N\$27 899 0631 000 in the cash flow statement under property, plant and equipment. The recommendation was it is recommended that the Council provide an explanation for the amount of N\$26 899 631 reflected in the cash flow statement.

Now the response from the Regional Council. I have also requested the Oshana Regional Council for response on the question posed and the explanation that I have received is as follows. The amount of N\$27 899 631 was erroneously indicated in the cash flow as property, plant and equipment while in fact that amount is supposed to be the summary of different of accounts of which PPE is one. The breakdown of the cash flow statement is given below. Increase in trade payable N\$3 516 000, provision for leave days N\$2 556 825, provision for doubtful debts N\$459 899, increase in receivables N\$2 803 655, adjustment as a result of prior expenses paid during 2015-2016 Financial Year N\$1 988 737, decrease in inventory N\$42 725, property, plant and equipment N\$22 650 687 which gives me at the end a total of N\$27 899 631.

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HON KLAZEN**

Now from the explanation provided by the Council, the Council is able to explain and has explained that the issue was wrong posting. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members I have satisfied with the work that is being done by the office of the Auditor General which includes a recommendation of the corrective measures that the Regional Council should implement to improve financial management and accountability. The inclusion that has been made by the office of the Auditor General took into account the explanation that has been provided by the Regional Council as I have pointed out earlier in my response.

From the explanation that haven provided by the Regional Council, I have no reason to believe that as implied by the Honourable Member that there are missing millions. The Ministry of Urban and Rural Development has been supporting and working with the office of the Auditor General on matters related to financial management in the Ministry as well as at Regional Council and local authorities. This join oversight will continue.

Second question, can the Minister embarked upon any investigation to local authorities and Regional Councils to determine that all clauses specified for local Governments are implemented and proper accountable records are in place?

The Ministry of Urban and Rural Development in keeping with the provisions of the State Finance Act of 1991, the Regional Council's Act of 1992 and the Local Authorities Act of 1992 has been following the performance of Regional Councils and local authorities in terms of budget execution and accountability.

The above is done in many ways and this includes approvals of budget per each Financial Year, monitoring of actual budget executions against the budget that was submitted and approved, mandatory requirements for submission of bank account statements and accountability reports periodically and especially when Regional Councils and local authorities are submitting request for release of funds for capital projects, periodic visits to project site for evaluation of the progress in the implementation of

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approved capital projects that are being funded from the development budget.

Any request for virement of funds by a local authority or Regional Council has to be submitted to and approved by the Minister. In many instances the Ministry has commissioned and carried out special investigations at Regional Councils and local authorities either on request by a Council or on suspicion of mismanagement. In short, the Ministry has been and will continue to carry out routine and special investigations due to the financial management by Regional Councils and local authorities and this will continue. I must however point out that conducting such investigations is a very costly and time consuming exercise and as such investigations have to be targeted and carried out where and when they are required.

Now the last question the Honourable Member asked is can the Minister update the nation on exercises executed on a regular basis within the Ministry?

Now in addition to the tabling of the audit financial statements by the office of the Auditor General I will also have no difficulties or objections to share with this August House findings and recommendations of special investigations that my Ministry will carry out. I wish to thank the Honourable Member who posed the questions and the rest of the House for your kind attention.

Thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Jennifer Van Den Heever.

HON VAN DEN HEEVDER: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I would

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like to thank Honourable Klazen for the response. The information was taken from a report tabled in Parliament the audited financial report and the verification or the justifying information given by the Deputy Minister right now is not contained in that report which we received in Parliament so I do not know whether the Auditor General verified afterwards the forgotten part.

I am quite worried that the officials can just forget to verify or to correct N\$27 Million. If we can get that verified audited report, it might help us but the one tabled in Parliament and the qualified audit opinion was giving this information to us and that is the reason why I asked.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. We leave it at that. Question number 48 from the Honourable Dienda. Do you put the question?

QUESTION 48

HON DIENDA: Puts the question.

HON SPEAKER: And the question is directed to the Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration. Honourable Minister you have the floor.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:
Thank you Honourable Speaker. The question read as follows, I want to thank the Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration for issuing birth certificates at hospitals. Noticing that families have to attend so many issues when death occur, will the Ministry consider to issue death

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certificates at hospitals too to save time and resources that families spent on trying to acquire death certificates? The response is as follows. First I thank the Honourable Member for posing the question. The Honourable who has asked to respond is now busy with the other Honourable Member. Can I now proceed? Thank you.

The Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration indeed already issuing birth certificates at selected hospitals in order to reduce the admission burden of relatives during this difficult time. Unfortunately we cannot extend the program to all hospitals since some of our offices are located within the maternity wards where the process of bring life to earth takes place and the traffic of the public must understandably be limited due of course to our health.

I mean you know how children you come from all other places, you come to the maternity ward and we do not have facility there to sanitize so we are limiting that. However, I am pleased to inform you that the Ministry together with the office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Health and Social Services, Ministry of Safety and Security and the Namibia Statistics Agency have developed an E-Death notification system.

Honourable Smit can you say what I have just said? I was just saying we have developed an E-Death notification system. One of the objectives of introducing this system is to reduce the turnaround time of deaths certificates. In this process we are also considering the option of opening offices at the state mortuaries for easy of processing. The E-Death notification system is being tested currently.

We are busy doing something with the help of the gadgets we have received I think it would be more accelerated and we intend to start the piloting to pilot. It is E-Death notification. That one is different but yes, I am just saying because the notification even if you, you have to be notified. It can come to your gadget. The piloting is starting now. We are piloting this process piloting the test very soon in the two State hospitals here in Windhoek. That is Katutura and Central Hospital come June-July-

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HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

August. I hope I have done justice to the question and thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable we proceed. Thank you very much. The question number 49 from Honourable Kavekatora. Do you put the question?

QUESTION 49

HON KAVEKKOTORA: Puts the question.

HON SPEAKER: And the question is directed to the Minister of International Relations and Corporation and the Deputy Prime Minister is here. You have the floor.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION: Thank you Honourable Speaker, thank you Honourable Kavekatora for the questions so I take it that we are all familiar with the questions. They are two and I will go direct to the answers.

Question number one response, the repatriation of Namibian human remains from the Federal Republic of Germany is and will remain an ongoing process as long as remains continue to be discovered?

Indeed during the sixth round of negotiation by the technical Committee on genocide apology and reparation in Berlin in September 2017, the delegation was informed by their Germany counterparts how the Germany Government wants to arrange this particular repatriation. As part of the preparation, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany EKD took part

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in that discussions.

The delegation was also taken to see the proposed French Doom Cathedral where the Germany Government is proposing for the ceremony and the work to take place before the repatriation of human remains to Frankfurt Airport. This church was identified due to the space available for the last rights. I am informed that as in the past the Charite in Berlin is making sure that the human remains be repatriated are of Namibian origin.

Question two the respond, with regard to informing the traditional authorities during the meetings of the Chief's forum with Honourable Nangolo Mumba Vice President in April 2018, those traditional authorities were informed of the plans to organize another repatriation of human remains and they have agreed to those arrangements.

The full list of the delegation of those to be part of the repatriation of human remains this time will be made available once all the arrangements have been done by the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture which is the custodian of the culture and heritage in Namibia.

I thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Kavekatora.

HON KAVEKOTORA: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. Let me also take this opportunity to thank the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister. I am none of those people who have a tendency of just coming up with a follow up question but this time around I think I do not have a follow up question. I think the responses are quite to the point and I am just waiting perhaps for how the situation is developing and perhaps on a basis of what is coming up and obviously I might have another question in

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HON !NARUSEB

this particular regard but at this point in time, I really appreciate the response that I have received.

Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much on that positive note. I also want to inform the House that we have given question time a very good run and now I am reverting back to the order paper so that we have dealt with this on 50-50 basis. A notice of a Motion is one of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. Does the Honourable Minister move that the Bill be now introduced.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:
I move so Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds the Motion, is there any objection, then it is agreed to. Will the Honourable Minister please table the Bill? The Secretary will now read the Bill the first time.

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HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry move that the Bill be now read a second time?

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:
I move.

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HON SPEAKER: Any objection, who seconds, yes, agreed to. Honourable Minister you have the floor.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members our Government through the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry as a longstanding motivation to develop the national seed industry, this momentum is reflected in the effort to develop policies and laws governing the seed industry in the country in order to ensure favourable climate for the sector to identify. Article 95(1) of the Namibian Constitution provide for the protection of biological diversity of Namibia this forms the basis for our commitment to pursue economic endeavors with due regard and care for our echo systems.

The Namibian Seed Policy of 2013 provides for a comprehensive guide for the promotion of a vibrant and health is fit industry. It provides for a framework necessary to protect our biodiversity on which our livelihoods are dependent on through agriculture. It is undeniable that crop production is a key component of the agriculture sector. Seed is the basis of all our cropping endeavors. Therefore, the quality of our crop products the gilt and stability of our production is highly dependent of this key input. The Seed and Seed Variety Bill provides overall regulation of the seed industry that covers seed production, processing, certification, marketing and seed trade. That is import and export thereby ensuring timely availability and accessibility to adequate quality seed sector.

The Seed and Seed Variety Bill will also provide for an institutional arrangement for testing and validating the quality of seeds which are either domestically produced or imported before they are marketed locally. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members what are the silent features of the proposed Bill? This Bill is comprised of the nine main features that I with your indulgence will explain in some detail. I want to believe that copies would be availed of the explanatory notes that we believe will go a

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long way in enhancing the level of understanding of the Bill to the Members of this August House.

The Bill provides for an appointment of a registrar of seed and seed variety who will be responsible for registration of seed and seed varieties, keeping and maintaining the register. The registration of producers and processors will ensure that seed producers and processor meet all the prescribed requirements relating to infrastructure, equipment and technical ability and knowledge and provides for proper monitoring and inspection. The registration of seed dealers will ensure that only high quality and certified seed is distributed and all to farmers and that such seed meet all the requirements as prescribed by the Act.

Registration of horticulture nursery will ensure that horticulture nursery meet all the prescribed requirements relating to infrastructure, equipment and technical ability and knowledge. Now with regard to control over imports and exports of plants or seeds. This provision will ensure that all seed imported and or exported meet the prescribed requirements of importing country. These provisions will compliment other laws on biosafety and sanitary regulations in order to ensure consumer protection and safeguards sustainability of our production base through appropriate consideration of biotechnologically and plant health risks. The Bill once enacted will also provide for the establishment of a Council to be known as the Namibia Seed Council.

The Council will comprise of representatives of the Ministry, commercial farmers, communal farmers, seed producers and seed dealers and will serve as a high level policy making body to provide policy guidelines over the seed industry. The seed variety Committee will be tasked it also would provide for an establishment of a seed variety Committee. Now this Committee will be tasked with the responsibility of overseeing the process regarding releasing of new varieties. For a variety to be released it must meet the following requirements.

That is must be new, must be distinct from other uniform and stable over the years. The Bill will also provide for the establishment of the national

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seed variety's register. The national seed variety register once established will contain and specify all kinds and varieties of seed that maybe sold in Namibia. The register will contain names of varieties of seed that have been released and recognized in terms of the provision of this Act. Now a Bill eventually coming enacted. Certification services you need will provide the services regarding seed control and quality assurance from production to market and will act as a centre for national and international supply of information on seed production, testing processing and distribution in Namibia.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members due to the speedy and intensification of the pace of globalization, countries without strong seed registration will find it extremely difficult to regulate the import of seed and other related plating materials from other countries. Setting up regulatory framework will ensure minimum standard of genetic purity and seed quality and protection thereof. An Act meant and implementation of the Seed and Seed Variety Bill will enhance multiply positive spillover effect on both the seed industry and variety development.

In addition the enactment of this Bill will yield the following benefits. It will provide assurance of quality seed and subsequent improved seed. It will act in a compensatory manner to farmers. The farmer may claim compensation against the producer in the event of unsatisfactory seed performance, prevention of entry of unregistered seed varieties from other countries, prosecution of sales of unregistered seed, agreement with authorities from other countries to facilitate more acquisition or exchange of registered varieties and also for access to seed testing services on a reciprocal basis.

I will also increase investment in seed industry. It will also contribute to employment creation and increase production and productivity. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members it is therefore my appeal that we apply our good minds to this piece of legislation and find it in our consideration to speedily endorse the passing thereof so that we can start the process of organized seed and seed varieties regulatory framework in our country and I want to thank you for having been able to indulge me in

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asking you to pass the Bill without too much ado.

Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Any further discussion, yes, Honourable Muharukua.

HON MUHARUKUA: Honourable Speaker I think this is a very important Bill. It will definitely take us quite far but I want to adhere to the request of the Honourable Minister to allow the Members to apply their good minds those that do and ask for the postponement of this Bill to next week Thursday.

HON SPEAKER: Next week Thursday.

HON MUHARUKUA: Yes, but I would have no objection if there are Honourables to take the floor.

HON SPEAKER: Well, the floor is open but if there are no takers, oh, yes, Honourable Simataa.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. Let me start by assuring Honourable Muharukua that indeed all of us apply our minds and I took the advantage of having received the Bill yesterday and

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took time overnight to make a cursory reading of the Bill but I have to admit that because of the challenges in terms of time, I do not want to claim that I thoroughly, thoroughly read the Bill. I am also taking the floor Honourable Speaker given the fact of my absence next week.

HON MUHARUKUA: Yes, I do not want to interrupt the Member when he gets into his substantive speech. I understand from the back that I said those that do. I meant those that will. That is to say those with sufficient interest on this to do so to apply their minds and contribute so I would withdraw the word do. I meant will.

HON SPEAKER: Alright, thank you a quick correction is noted.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY: Thank you very much Honourable Muharukua. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members I am taking the floor to contribute to the discussions on this Bill and in doing so let me thank the Honourable Minister for having tabled the Bill. The Bill in my view is welcome for once it becomes an Act, it will definitely restore order and create certainty particularly during very critical stages for all those who are involved in the farming business and that stage is the very critical stage of preparing for the onset of the planting season were timing in terms of planting more so in an environment where rainfall has become erratic and very much unpredictable holds the key to either one as a farmer having a good or a very bad harvest.

As we are all aware perpetual poor yield are a serious drawback to our efforts as a country to ensure food security. The Bill will also protect many unsuspecting farmers from the unscrupulous practices of those who given the high demand sell uncertified seeds a situation that contributes to

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poor generation subsequently reduce yields. Many farmers out of desperation buy uncertified seeds from dealers including the multitudes who take chances to make quick money. This Bill therefore will bring an end to the annual stampede and may I add the annual desperation for farmers to till their land.

Most importantly the Bill will provide the missing legal framework that will enable rural farmers in particular to preserve local seed varieties. Genetics that we risk losing or may already have lost and because of the lost genetics we are annually faced by poor harvest because we have not preserved seeds for local cultivators that are best suited to the local environment. Lastly before I come to one particular inquiry that I wish to make Honourable Minister is that the Bill will undoubtedly spare local farmers and agricultural cooperatives to venture into the lucrative domain of seed production.

I hope and trust that farmers will take advantage of this opportunity because as a country, Namibia can no longer continue to rely on its neighbours to source or to address the requirements for seeds. The time is therefore now for us to seize the opportunity to strive for self-sufficient.

I also believe that this Bill will spare research Honourable Minister, research that will assist us as a country as farmers to develop local seed varieties that are best suited to the local environment. We need to build on the progress that we have made so far in developing for example the local seed variety for mahangu or pale millet in English. We need to build on that. Let me then come to specific issues and it is only one that I wanted to find out Honourable Minister and that is on section 8 on page 8 what a coincidence of the Bill dealing with the seed dealers to be registered.

Unless it is provided elsewhere and perhaps I need to acknowledge that I may have missed it in my cursory reading of the Bill, I wanted to establish Honourable Minister whether the register for the seed dealers will be electronically available all over the country per region so as to enable our farmers to simply go to their instruments that I am holding in my hands they do not need to leave their villages provided there is connectivity.

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They can go either to the relevant website, get the information and determine who in the region where they find themselves are the registered seed dealers so that they know in advance. At the same time too into today's farming technology is also very important by the way.

Farmers no longer need to scramble in terms of planting. They can simply use their instruments again to look at the weather focus and depending on the focus and whether the focus is also dependable if all other things are equal, they can then prepare themselves effectively in terms of indulging in the planting activities. That is what I specifically wanted to inquire Comrade Minister but all in all, the tabling of this Bill is welcome and I hope this House will effectively debate this Bill subsequently have it passed so that we have the necessary legal framework in place that will guide the activities in this very, very critical sector but otherwise, I fully and unreservedly support the Bill.

Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Next on my list is someone whom we congratulated and have wished him well on his birthday and that is the Honourable Calle Schletwein. Honourable Minister we in your absence the Members expressed their best wishes to you wishing the happy more returns. You have the floor. It was unconditional.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker and thank you very much to all the Members that did wish me well. I received a number also on the social media so thank you very much. I think it is good if we do things of each other and pass on these wishes. I appreciated it very much and thank you very much. Honourable Speaker I in principle also support the Bill. I do however want to get some clarity about it not in the spirit of not supporting it but in light of its narrowness and I will explain my point. I start with the definition of a

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seed and Comrade Speaker the seed is defined to include any type of living embryo or capable cattle or regeneration and giving rise to a plant which is true to such type and includes with alternatives any seedling chrome cutting bubble layer macort root, runner, cycone set, speed, stern, stock, stump sucker or tuber.

It is very wide. Now the Act then tries to limit the import export selling buying and propagating of these seeds and subject all the import, all the export and all the dealings with those seeds subject to the Registrar's approval or a registration of a dealer. Now the question is if a housewife buys an avocado pear that is according to the definition a seed is the intention of the Bill or have I misread it that this type of trade is also subject to the regulation. I do not think it is the intention of the Bill but an avocado pear is a seed and if it is dealt with to import export or sold and bought without that dealer being registered, then it is an offence.

Now is the retailer that sells vegetables and fruit then therefore is that a dealer or not. I think you get the question. It a harmless question but it has implications. That is the first type of question and it goes on in simpler vain where it defines a horticultural nursery as a specific base where plants are multiplied with a specific purpose to do horticulture. That is planting fruit trees and so on but we have other nurseries. If I go to Ferreira Nursery and I buy an orange tree, must that nursery for gums also be registered as a horticultural nursery and therefore a normal nursery will then be subject to all the requirements that the Act says. I believe if I have misread it, it is an unintended consequence that may actually hamper the business of these other institutions.

The last point I want to make is on the establishment of the registered office, the council and all the Committees. Now first of all is the intention to create another state owned enterprise that would have a rather limited scope of operation that is only to deal with seeds. I am asking you because I am aware that there is a much broader legislation that concerns all (indistinct) aspects that is dealing with living organisms whether it is a seed or an adult or whatever to limit the risk of importing diseases or harmful insects or pests or invader plants or so. There is a broader set of

Att: Meriam

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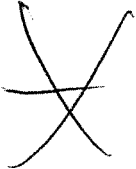
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issues that have to be regulated and that are regulated after a specific Act that deals with (indistinct) regulations.

This is a very brief narrow scope that is only dealing with seeds and I just have a question whether the intention is then to create this rather elaborate council with these Committees with its Secretariat as a standalone body that may have some duplications which becomes Ministry's functions and the (indistinct) regulatory bodies that are there.

Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, yes, Honourable Nekundi.



HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: Thank you very much Comrade Speaker. Let me first and foremost submit my appreciation to the Comrade Minister of Agriculture for tabling such a very important Bill that in essence would be able to contribute to the quality of our various produce that will eventually also add values in terms of our economy and also enhance or enable a number of role players especially those in the rural areas to meaningfully contribute to the quality produce which is a rare commodity in the current status. However, that being said my appreciation, I have a number of issues to raise with understanding my appreciation to the principle of the Bill.

Comrade Speaker my contribution I want to read together with the statement by Comrade Minister where on page 2 he stated that once this Bill is enacted so that is the principle, once this Bill is enacted now that being put in perspective it is important then to understand that to what extent is the Ministry staff of personnel ready in the real meanings to put this Bill into motion without negatively affecting the members of our communities who are currently trading or trading with seeds.

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If you go into the open market you will find a number of our communities selling seeds being mahangu, sorghum and many others. Now these seeds are possibly not certified seeds but once this Bill is being enacted, they will commit an offence which in essence is trying to uplift but are we ready first and foremost to assist them because if this Bill then passed on the 30th of June that means from that day onwards we will expect possibly even the police whoever to go now as we have been seeing them possibly even throwing this basket or buckets of mahangu and sorghum over and telling these people to close the go back home.

This process can have a serious implication to the ordinary persons in the streets out there. Now when you look at section 7(3) the registrar must register a produce or seed processing unit or renew. The specifications thereof it says in terms of infrastructure, equipment, technical liability and knowledge. What are those equipment? What are those infrastructures and the technical liabilities? Now the reality is and the truth is this persons that are selling this they have no equipment. They have simply a mahangu field or a maize field. After the harvest they realize that they have surplus and now they are trading using this proceed to pay and to buy their basic commodities.

They are paying for the taxi fares of their children, hospital fees. Now just to abruptly end this kind of trading for what they are doing, it will seriously have a serious implication. Are we ready? First I will suggest that before we just say that upon enactment of this, I will suggest that the Ministry must first register everybody who is currently trading to avail them the technical knowledge.

Secondly what are these equipment? Will the Ministry Provide fund or equipment because these people have no money that means they have no equipment and they will not be able to afford these equipment? That is my expectation. Are we going to buy them equipment, train them to have the technical capacities in order to ensure then that the good result what we have will come out without offending anybody who is currently doing that. That implies equally to section 8 which also says that no person may sell seeds unless he or she is registered. That again applies to my concern.

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Subsequently it also applies to section 9(3) that we should do with the horticulture nursery to be registered. Again, especially when I go to Omuthiya there, Oshakati area and Ongwediva area you find people along the street selling ten plants there. These are kind of nurseries.

Now these people have no means so my concern Comrade Minister is the premise that once it has been enacted nobody and you require equipment, you require infrastructure and you require the technical capacities. First and foremost I do not want to undermine anybody. I have due respect to that but I do not know to what extent is technical knowledge being construed as. We have saw that we fund even elderly persons men or women at the age of 60 the person is selling. We will expect them to have technical knowledge. At that age will they have and can that knowledge be impacted on them or we are going to shut them off?

I think that my concern that when we implement or which you are discussing and with also the good intention, I think it is a good intention because it is really going to contribute but if you do not take it carefully with that understanding of what I have just elaborated, it is going to affect a number of our communities.

Having that, Comrade Minister I really hope and it is my trust that you are going to consider this favourably as you are going implement that. Thank you very much Comrade Minister and I support the Bill.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, yes, Honourable Hinda.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Thank you Honourable Speaker. With the indulgence of the House I would appreciate if the discussions would be postponed to next week Wednesday.

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HON SPEAKER: It has been proposed already.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: The proposal is for Thursday and Thursday I am on leave so I would appreciate if I would be allowed to make my contribution on Wednesday.

HON SPEAKER: Fine let us go for Wednesday. We get it.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Wednesday and Thursday what is this now? Colleagues do not listen to what I am saying. The postponement was for Thursday. I would be on leave on Thursday and therefore I am on official trip so therefore I am asking for Wednesday.

HON SPEAKER: The chair has granted you the request.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: We will proceed with your request and we will continue to Thursday no problem so decided. Wednesday yes no we agree to that so decided Honourable Member. The Secretary will read the first order of the day.

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**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE - ON CONDITIONS
UNDER WHICH ALIQUID IS BREWED AND SOLD
FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION IN OUR SHANTY
TOWNSHIP AND WHICH IS POISONING OUR PEOPLE**

HON SPEAKER: When this Assembly adjourned yesterday the 13th June 2018 the question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Murorua that the Motion be adopted. Honourable Muharukua adjourned the debate and I now offer him the floor.

HON MUHARUKUA: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker first of all I want to thank Honourable Murorua for bringing this Motion because this Motion really present this House an opportunity to discuss various things specifically pertaining to the effects for that is the angle where I am going to come from the effect of this liquor that is sold and the emphasis I want to put on sold. The Motion is talking about the commercial aspect of this brew. Now yes, the risk is there or the temptation is there to insert the word there traditional brew and the women will start thinking that the Motion is saying traditional brew must be banned or is bad. You would be inclined to become defensive because then it has become an attack on one, domestic products, cultural products and two, on tradition and culture but I think our society has moved away from where I understand is ombike and all these things are now only domestic products.

These things are sold. They are commercial. Where are they sold? Who is the ordinary consumer of these things so I do not think the Motion for one speak about the products that are produced at home in the most hygienic at home for domestic use and I suppose the most hygienic conditions and in conditions where a parent or a wife or a father would assume that his own wicked family is consuming it. I think the Motion is speaking largely to

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the bulk production of these products and then that are sold to the public. Where are these things sold? They are sold in our open markets. They are sold in the townships. They are not sold in Academic, Pioneerspark, KlineKourpe. They are sold Single Quarters and north-west of our city. If you go to other areas, they are sold in the informal settlements but who is consuming this. Who are the consumers of this product before we get to how this products are made? It is your school not all of them but unfortunately this is the sad reality that we must all look at. They are individuals who one, do not have the money to buy a N\$600, N\$700 wine bottle or N\$70 wine bottle who would rather take that N\$50 and buy 20lt and drink this product for two reasons.

One, maybe because I am hungry. Two, I want to get drunk this person would think. Perhaps our of will to get drunk or but perhaps also under addiction it is the unfortunate scenario that we have so many young people in our villages, in our informal settlements who sleep, wake up early in the morning to go to the tombo house to push a wheelbarrow of water in order to get a glass or a 5lt worth of tombo. These are the things that are happening but the reality is also what the Motion is talking about that we do not know that indeed the way in which all these products I am talking about the commercial production of it. I am not talking about what the Vice President of the ruling party yes the Minister of International Relations.

I am not allergic to Swapo. I am not. I can mention that word, yes. I am not talking about that setting. We are not talking about the production in the home setting that the Honourable Member so eloquently and so in fact the way she was describing it, it seems that one would want to drink that particular drink because it seems like some sort of fruiting flavor drink or maybe it is but we are talking about things that are produced in this that no one really knows what is happening.

We all know the rumour that are happening around and I am saying rumours because I do not know how these things are produced but people are saying that some people take underwear. Yes, these are the rumours,

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take underwear, put it under the barrow apparently to ensure that if it is a lady to ensure that men come and buy these things. If it is a man producing I suppose women, I am speculating. I am not saying for definite that women, you see, there are so many things and rumours around this production that it warrants this House to have a serious discussion on it that it warrants this honourable House to say look this has become a product in Namibia a commodity with potential problems and I want to support the Honourable Tommy Nambahu who said we are talking here about the health and the moment these things are drunk, there are potential health risk to individuals to the populace.

Therefore it is only correct for us to be able to say look, this House must determine the types of traditional brew that we have. I know there is something called karahat. We call it that. I do not know what is called alright it is that word that one. I heard of ombike. There is katjipembe I suppose all these things that are mentioned maybe this House must perhaps determine what these brews are. Then we must determine the authentic way of producing this thing and say if you want to make whatever drink it is, this is how you make it and those that are selling it that it is properly labelled because yes, you could go and put in nuts. X person would be alleging to nuts. He drinks it. He dies. That person does not know what you put in that drink whatever ingredients are, he dies. That burden sits not only on the family but it also sits on the State. It is incumbent on this House to protect the populace. Therefore, I would succumbed or ascribe to the views that says that we must regulate this market because it is a market, the selling thereof, the labelling thereof, the production thereof. It is an authentic call.

Finally Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members we have something we call okandjembo in my community. Now someone was saying, my uncle was saying it is the same thing as ombike but I also ascertain from someone saying that it is not that it is not the same drink but I want to speak about okandjembo specifically.

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HON SPEAKER: On a point of order.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I am sorry to intervene but I just want to ask you a question. I am thinking you are doing well, alright. Honourable Speaker the intention is I hear from Honourable Member is to regulate and make sure that recipes and things like that are the same and not harmful. Now the question I have is if you look at for instance how different varieties of cheeses were developed. It is precisely the opposite. You leave people free to develop different food stuffs be innovative, make them more tastier and then commercialize what they have achieved in the home kitchen.

Now if you follow that thought, would you not agree that over regulation would be a risk to actually stifle innovation and take economic opportunity out of the hands of our people if it is generalized? I think this specific Motion is about harmful and unhealthy that is a different topic but if I hear the notion to dictate to households the way you make your traditional food, you actually kill traditional knowledge and the possibility to translate that traditional knowledge into commercial and economic opportunity.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Muharukua you can continue.

HON MUHARUKUA: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Minister thank you for your question. There is also one reality and it is that the sellers of these products are living off these sales taking kids to school from these sales. This is then lovely so I would never support a call for a ban but as to your question where are we in the development of this production, to what extent should we be allowed to experiment?

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Should it be a situation where I actually take 30ml of acid or whatever product or jik, put it in because it makes me use less of an X product that is more expensive but it achieves the eventual results of getting the consumer drunk faster and therefore attracts more buyers?

To what extent do we go in experimenting? I actually respectfully think that these traditional brews as the Honourable Minister was explaining we have or the producers thereof have actually extensively and overextended period of time had experimented, found out what ways this thing should be produced and that conventional and traditional way of doing things in my view should be followed to ensure that these products are not harmful.

I think one must also distinguish between over regulating and regulating and that will lead me now into the next point and the point that I want to talk about which is okandjembo. Okandjembo is a product I think maybe is a brother product to ombike maybe but obviously with alternations experimenting but there is unfortunately one reality Honourable Members, Honourable Speaker. It is that once a person has entered the tunnel of drinking this particular brew, there is no way back, addiction. In fact I want to uselessness because the person does nothing else and it is such a short period from the time that the person start drinking this drink and the time that they die.

If they start drinking now within five years obviously there is no research but I am hypothetically I am assuming. I am speaking by assumption of people that I have known and see. They start drinking beers. Beers become too expensive because they cannot afford. They get into okandjembo, five years down the line grave. Most of these death that I have seen of family members that are addicted to okandjembo what do they do. They drink the previous night, the next morning wake up dead. I can probably testify as to five individuals who drank this. They do not wake up dead but they drink the previous night.

The next morning when we all wake up they do not wake so all of us assume it is because of this particular drink but no one has actually known

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whether this is the actual cause. I would tend to pray for at least that this Motion be afforded or the House be afforded to interrogate what this Motion is proposing. What is actually happening? How are these things been brewed? What should we do to ensure that these things remain as good as they are in domestic settings in a commercial setting and for us not to over-regulate but to put regulations in place that ensures that the public is protected as well as the persons of those that are producing it.

Thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Kavekatora.

HON KAVEKOTORA: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Yesterday when we were talking about this particular Motion and I listened to the process of brewing some of these traditional drinks, I really thought that the ombike and okandjembo is the same thing just listening from the expert on a process of how it is being done because the whole steaming process of ombike is similar to that of okandjembo. Now my Honourable Member from Opuwo is saying that it is two different drinks but I agree with those who are saying that one of the problems that we are facing why changes is being effected to some of these traditional drinks is because they have become commercial commodities. The sellers now want to make maximum profit out of it with the minimum input cost and I can also testify to the fact that if ombike for instance is something similar to okandjembo, then it can kill. People can easily become addicted to it and it can kill and the killing is perhaps not based on the foreign object that being put in there. It is based on the fact that nobody really knows the alcohol content of that particular brew. People really do not know because the process is being done but no investigation has actually been made to determine the alcohol content of a brew like that.

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Now the Motion speaks about foreign objects and I was when I read the Motion I simply said it is not possible. How can it be that one want to brew a drink with an old piece of cloth? How do you liquefy that? How do you turn it from a solid item to a liquid item but it is a process that one is using? Are you burning it or how do you do it but then another thought came to my mind and that is the issue of some of our traditional believes that if I do a or somebody is informing to say if you want people to come and get stuck at your place, do a, b, c, d, put an old shoes in your whole brewing process and therefore your sales will go up.

Maybe that is one of the reason but I think the issue of the process and I think it is the possibility of that happening is at the beginning of the process of brewing okandjembo for instance because okandjembo is being brewed in big drums first and then they have to wait for a period of time before you go to the steaming process and that is where some of these substances can be put in and that is why I actually changed my mind and I support the Motion because these are serious allegations and these are thing that need to be investigated for us to really determine what is our people's exposure out there in terms of consuming these types of drinks.

Are they exposed to certain danger and if the investigation obviously reveal that the people our people are actually exposed to this, then something need to be done. We need to do something to save our people from that. I do not want to be guilty of the policy of composition and I think that was also not the intention of the mover of the Motion to say everybody is actually putting in foreign objects into some of these brews but if it so happen that the thing that the Colleague is talking about are actually happening even if it is just 20%, is happening 20% of the cases, I think we as lawmakers have the obligation to investigate that and to make sure that at the end we put a stop to that.

In the same vein as what we have spoken about when we were talking about the tobacco industry. We all agree that tobacco industry if you do not regulate it and if you do not curb some of the illegal cigarettes that are being smuggled into the country that is exposing the nation to a much

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higher risk comparatively speaking. I think it is the same line of argument that one would really want to see this Motion moving forward and perhaps refine so that we focus on a problem situation and not basically try to kill the Motion by saying that we have been drinking for quite a long time, it is a traditional way of doing things. I think we need to curb that particular segment of the sellers that are trying to enhance the profit margins by doing wrong things wrong and by doing the wrong thing and I think from that perspective.

I support the Motion and I think that is the objective of the Motion to look at those areas where the variance is more negative and not necessarily try to curb traditional drinks as we knew it from the time that we have been drinking them. If okandjembo and ombike is something similar, then if you consume it in a bigger volume it has a tendency of killing you. You do not wake up dead but you die.

Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: As simply as that, thank you, Honourable Dr Kawana.

HON ATTORNEY GENERAL: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker I rise to take part in this very important Motion. First and foremost to commend my dear brother Honourable Murorua for tabling this Motion. I support the Motion maybe subject to a slight amendment because the Motion as it stands suggest to give an impression that in the past these traditional brews were done according to what our Vice President was talking about yesterday but today things are done differently which may not be accurate because some of the traditional methods of brewing is still being practiced today but I suppose what the Honourable Member was concentrating was the new method which is poisonous and therefore that is the area we have to address.

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Indeed the State has a duty to protect its citizens and if people are brewing poison, people are poisoning other fellow Namibians they end up being sick. The burden again comes to the State. When these people become ill is the State which takes responsibility. Some of them if they depart particularly senior citizens it is the State which takes responsibility. Those who leave orphans behind it is the State which takes responsibility and therefore the State has a vested interest to know what is really going on in terms of the method of brewing these traditional drinks if I may put it that way.

Now Comrade Speaker my position is this, it was much better if at the end of the day this Motion is referred to a relevant Committee to go to our people out there to ascertain the truth because now there are these contradictions. Are underpants involved in the brewing? Are boots involved in the brewing but if that Committee goes out I am sure they will get the truth and once the truth is established and it turns out that indeed some of the methods which are contained in the Motion are indeed true, then those would be really the responsibility now of the Safety and Security, of the Ministry of Industrialization which is administering the Liquor Act in terms of education, the Ministry of Health and Social Services to warn our people, to warn our citizen regarding the danger so if my brother maybe concurs with me with this slight amendment, I am sure I have no reason to oppose the Motion.

I thank you Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Jan Van Wyk.

HON VAN WYK: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I rise to support the Motion and I also want to thank the mover of the Motion. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members I think we need to admit that we do have a

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problem. You can go to some parts of the country and you will hear the same story. When I was told some time ago that people are throwing shoes and whatever into the drinks, I said no it cannot be. That is not possible but it seems that these things are happening and these harmful essence or whatever is killing our people.

It was said yesterday by Honourable Kapofi that this is illegal just report it to the police but Honourable Members if you go to the police with this problem, they will just ask you are you also drinking this thing and they will just laugh at you and nothing is going to happen. To report it to the police is not going to solve a problem. We need to find some other solutions.

I just want to give you an example of the drink that is brewed somewhere in the south those years it was the vitbi. I do not know what the English name is the white beer. It was usually brewed during summer time when you have the honey bees busy working and you use water, yellow sugar and yeast and the honey, some raisins if you want to get some kick out of it and if you want to add more kick, you use some of the young bees from that place. That was those years. Now if you look at currently if you go to some of the houses now, you will find the white beer they still brew it without the honey bees.

What they do is I understand is as was mentioned here they are using the kavakat. All we know that that is a poison to kill pigs or animals and livestock so that poison has now replaces the young bee in the white beer to give some kick and that poison is killing our people. You can even people who used to drink it if you come near close to them, you can smell it on the skin of those people. It is quite dangerous so with those few words Honourable Speaker, I support the Motion and

I thank you.

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HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Well, we have basically I exhausted my list. All what is left for me to call the Honourable Murorua. Can you hear me? I was suggesting that I now call on the Honourable Murorua to reply, yes, please.

**HON MINISTER OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND
EMPLOYMENT CREATION:** Thank you Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. We are talking about various issues that we are only discussing it and then we leave it there. What I am saying is that even you call the police to go and arrest somebody now who is brewing the stuff which is not allowed whatsoever, you do not have any test instrument to prove that this is what and this is what. Even you go to the court of law you have nothing but for us as a Parliament, we might propose something for us to be able to do something to protect our people and to be able to say something correctly not to only hearsay maybe, maybe.

Take kavakat instead then you put in a test, then it can come and show yes this is what happens because if you call our police now to go and arrest the people, are they going now to take issues from and then now show all this is what he heard. Is that what we are going to show in a court of law?

As a Government, responsible Government let us think bigger than what we have seen today. We need to protect the lives of our people but let us budget and let us train people to be able to sniff out all these issues what happened. We go to Katutura today, you find ombike there as you are saying is probably the one being used, what can you test to tell to say this is a or this is b, this is ombike, this is extra ordinary because of a, b, c and even our own production now is local. We do not have a great even but I was in Tanzania. They have their even oshimbuku they have a level which one is lower, the other one and the other one and also the geankonja which is also the level of this one and that one and that one. For us we are talking dangerous as it is but what should we do.

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HON TWEYA

HON SPEAKER: We are coming to that.

**HON MINISTER OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND
EMPLOYMENT CREATION:** We are coming down there, then it would be better if we are going to have something to prove and to prevent and to educate out people even those who are brewing to know that what they are doing is wrong. How to brew the correct one is a, b, c, then the whole thing it is not only to arrest people which is always good, educate people. Let people be educated. Those who are doing it and those who are consuming, this is the only thing which I have.

Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I think I did not want to jump the gun. There were some references to the idea of referring the Motion to Committee but I did not want to make that assumption. I wanted the mover the Honourable Murorua to reply. Honourable Tweya you want to take the floor, yes, please.

**HON MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALIZATION, TRADE AND SME
DEVELOPMENT:** Honourable Speaker I decided to take the floor on the basis of what Honourable Nghintina was saying that we do not have the instrument to test. We do have an institution to do the necessary testing which is harmful or which can be harmful but we need to take it to them an institution called Namibia Standard Institution NSI. They can take whatever that substance and can take it to a laboratory for testing so we do have institution and I can understand that this institution has been in existence but they have been concentrating on few food stuffs which are discussed with them such as the fish and some other food stuffs but the

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institution is in existence.

It is only if we utilize those institution that we would know how we can further strengthen it but there is such an institution. I just needed to give that information so that the nation is not left and say we the customers or the clients are left at everybody's mercy that they are not protected. It is not correct.

I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I really want to stir the conversation to a point where the Honourable Murorua you are putting the chair in a very awkward position. The clock Honourable Murorua can basically it is important to reply but we can continue next week because of the hour. I just want to give you the opportunity what you prefer.

HON MURORUA: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I would like to first and foremost thank all the Honourable Members for the input that they have given. I do not want to respond individually now on the various inputs but I must first and foremost state that I now just like yourself I was also not rising in isolation. I know very well how offending it is if for example in tradition you do not accept the offer of an ombike or whatever drink that there is. I know I have been living and working there but what I would like to state here at this point is that seeing that there have been a lot of misunderstandings that I would like the indulgence of the House that I give my response next week Tuesday in full and I am glad that at the end of the day we are in agreement that this Motion had to be referred to a Committee.

I thank you.

14 June 2018

**ADJOURNMENT
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. We are together. We have come to the end of the session. The House stands adjourn until next week the usual time at the usual place.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:44 UNTIL 19.06.2018 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
19 JUNE 2018**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

HON SPEAKER: Welcome everybody, back refreshed and ready to go. Do not tell me where to. Good news as we begin the week.

Honourable Members, I would like to inform you that the Inland Revenue Department of our Ministry of Finance, will visit Parliament on Thursday, the 21st June 2018, precisely from 08:00 to 17:00. The purpose is to conduct a tax payer's education day with Members of Parliament, their Members of Parliament. To empower them, sensitise them, enlighten them on matters pertaining to the whole idea of taxpaying, and they would like to do that for you as Members of Parliament along with staff on all tax matters and enquiries.

So instead of you to spend time to go to the Ministry Mohammed is coming to the mountain (*Laughter*), to being busy people occupied with matters pertaining to law-making, our staff from the Ministry of Finance will be here on that day, to take up issues that would obviously be important to all of us. The team will be in the Parliament Restaurant and Members are encouraged to engage the team on that given day. So that is the information. (*Interjection*) I did not get you.

HON MEMBER: When?

19 June 2018

**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

HON SPEAKER: They will be here from 08:00 until 17:00 on the 21st of June. That is Thursday. I think it is a wonderful proposal that we warmly welcome, and will help all of us to access them and to benefit from the information they are going to give us. So will leave it at that.

Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Yes Honourable Minister of Finance.

TABLING OF REPORTS

TABLING – REPORT OF AGRIBANK

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Annual Report of Agri-Bank for the Financial Year ended 2017.

TABLING – REPORT OF NAMFISA

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Annual Report of the Namibia Financial Institution Supervisory Authority Board (NAMFISA) for the Financial Year ended 2017.

I submit Honourable Speaker.
19 June 2018

TABLING OF REPORTS
HON NGHIPONDOKA / HON ALWEENDO

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Next is the Honourable Deputy Minister of Education, Arts and Culture.

TABLING – ANNUAL REPORT OF NAMCOL

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Annual Report of Namibia College of Open Learning for the year 2016/2017

TABLING – ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF NAMCOL

Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Annual Financial statements of NAMCOL for the year ended 31st March 2017.

I so Move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Next, Honourable Tom Alweendo.

TABLING – ANNUAL REPORT OF NAMCOR

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Honourable Speaker,

19 June 2018

**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON DR NDJOZE - OJO**

I lay upon the Table, the Annual Report of NAMCOR for the year 2016/2017.

I so Move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Next is the Honourable Dr Becky Ndjoze-Ojo.

TABLING – ANNUAL REPORT OF NTA

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INNOVATION: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Annual Report by the Namibia Training Authority (NTA) for the year 2016/2017.

I so move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Okay Notice of Questions. The Honourable Mike Kavekatora.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 62:

19 June 2018

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON KAVEKOTORA**

HON KAVEKOTORA: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 28th of June 2018, I shall ask the Minister of Health and Social Services Honourable Bernard Haufiku the following questions regarding the Namibia Institute of Pathology (NIP), and the suspension of NIP CEO.

According to newspaper reports, the suspension of the CEO was necessitated by several findings in the company's internal Audits Reports which were presented to the Board of Directors in October 2017. The Board Chairperson's letter to the same CEO seeking explanation, was only dated 17th of May 2018, hence the following questions:

1. Why did the Board Chairperson take so long to act on the findings of the order of the internal Auditor's Report?
2. What is the cumulative loss incurred by NIP, as a result of the delay in the action of enacting upon the internal Audit's Reports.
3. What mitigating measures have been put in place to ensure that all public health sectors' pathology testing and deceased monitoring services are offered unhindered to fight, while the fight between the CEO and the Board is on?

It is also reported that the Ministry of Health owes NIP more than N\$700,000,000, and the Ministry is disputing the amount claiming that they are overcharging for their services.

4. How was this matter of overcharging handled between the Ministry and NIP before it landed in a public domain?
5. Is there any human life lost as a result of the apparent fighting within NIP and between NIP and the Ministry? If so please quantify?

I so Move.

19 June 2018

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON !AUXAB**

QUESTION 63:

HON !AUXAB: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 28th June 2018, I shall ask the Minister of Information and Communication Technology Honourable Stanley Simataa the following questions:

Namibia has surrendered the title of the best ranked African country, although Namibia is constitution guarantees free speech, and protects journalists. The lack of a freedom of information law continues to obstruct their work.

1. When is your Ministry ready to adopt a promised law?
2. May the Honourable Minister apprise this august House how true it is that those who criticise the authorities are often the targets of Government threats?
3. May the Honourable Minister also apprise this august House why the public order and security legislation is often used to restrict the freedom to information?
4. How does the drops in Press freedom ranking affect the country and what new plans has your Ministry effected to save the country from dropping further?

QUESTION 64:

On the same day Honourable Speaker, I shall ask the Minister of Safety and Security Honourable Charles Namoloh the following questions:

In April 2017, Namibia was over burdened with 319 unclaimed bodies at the State and Police mortuary, some which dated back to 2009.

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON DIENDA**

1. What positive results has the cooperation between the Windhoek Municipality, the Police and the Health Ministry shown on emptying the overburdened mortuaries?
2. How much total of unclaimed bodies from the State and Police Mortuary have been cremated?
3. May the Honourable Minister apprise this august House how far the Ministry has made progress with the provision of another mortuary within the Police Forensic Science building that was under construction?
4. What long term strategy has the Ministry put in place to alleviate the problem in the future?

I so Move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Let us move on. Notice of Motions? The Honourable Dienda please.

NOTICE OF A MOTION

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, I hereby give Notice that on Thursday, the 21st of June 2018, I shall move that this House Debates the service conditions of truck drivers in Namibia.

I so Move.

19 June 2018

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON TWEYA**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Messages from the Head of State. Ministerial Statement, the Honourable Tweya please.

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT IN TERMS OF
RULE (98) OF THE STANDING RULES AND ORDERS**

**UPDATE ON THE 107TH SESSION OF THE
AFRICAN CARRIBEAN AND PACIFIC COUNCIL
OF MINISTERS AND JOINT 43RD SESSION OF
THE ACP/EU COUNCIL OF MEMBERS IN TOGO**

HON MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION, TRADE AND SME DEVELOPMENT: Honourable Speaker Sir, I am rising to share with this august House, the meeting that I have attended the 107th Session of the African Caribbean and Pacific Council of Ministers and the joint 43rd Session of the ACP/EU Council of Minister meeting in Togo.

Honourable Speaker, at the African, Caribbean, Pacific or ACP Group, which is an organisation to which Namibia is a member. The ACP is an organisation created by the George Town Agreement of 1975 is currently under review, and is composed of ACP countries. It is founded or it was founded on principles of PAN Africanism and the consolidation of unity and solidarity amongst ACP States and their peoples.

The ACP is composed of 48 countries from Sub Saharan Africa, 16 from Caribbean and 15 from Pacific, all signatories to the COTONOU agreement also known as the ACP/EU Partnership Agreement. Annexure

to the agreement set the maximum amount of resources available for financial development assistance under the ACP/EU partnership for a

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON TWEYA**

given number of years. The current COTONOU Agreement will expire in the year 2020.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Council of Ministers is ACP's main decision making body and is responsible for implementing the guidelines laid down by the Summit. The Council meets biannually, as well as when necessary. Namibia is represented by the Minister of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development on the ACP Council.

The group has various Ministerial Committees, and various Sub Committees, such as the Trade and Commodities and Development Finance. Namibia is currently chairing the Sub Committee on Development Finance at Ambassadorial and Ministerial level. As co-Chairperson of the Ministerial Committee on Development Finance and Cooperation (DFC), I attended ACP Council Meetings from 27 May - 1st of June 2018 in Lomé, Togo. The meetings took place in a cordial manner with a record turn up of Ministers from both the ACP and the EU. An important matter on the agenda of the DFC is, "The situation of ACP countries listed by the EU as non-cooperative tax jurisdictions for tax purposes".

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members,

As you all know Namibia is on that list. The listing was done in a unilateral manner which is in contravention of the ACP/EU partnership agreement, which clearly states that there should be consultations first therefore any measures are taken that affect the ACP States. It therefore goes without saying that such listing could result in a negative effect of the image and economy of the country. The EU therefore was again reminded in the strongest terms about their error in handling the matter and they did take note of that.

The EU notwithstanding informed ACP Members at the meeting in Lomé, even though the process required under Article 12 of the COTONOU was not followed by them. Contacts by way of official letters requesting

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON TWEYA**

engagements and several follow up efforts were done by them to all affected countries.

In that regard it is only those countries that have ignored the request to engage who were listed while others that had responded and indicated willingness to engage with the EU were not put on the initial list. In efforts to have a proper dialogue and to discuss the issue in depth the ACP/EU Joint Committee has therefore agreed to set up a contact group consisting of representatives from both sides. That dialogue is ongoing.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I am therefore pleased to inform the House that ACP Council has adopted the ACP negotiating mandate for the post COTONOU Partnership Agreement with the EU at the meeting in Lomé, Togo. The adoption paves the way for the sustainable future of the ACP Group, based on the principles of strength, unity and solidarity. For Namibia such alliance is of strategic importance especially in terms of potential benefits that could accrue under this group for countries like Namibia classified as middle income countries. Since the ACP group has a high number of countries, it is recognised that they still need cushioning in terms of development assistance.

In addition the ACP Group advocates equal partnership in development efforts for their countries, a departure from the traditional development aid, to a more sustainable cooperation in different areas which is critical for economic development. The official launch of the negotiations for the commencement of negotiations for the post COTONOU Agreement with the EU will take place today, the 19th of June 2018 in Brussels, Belgium, where the ACP Secretariat is based.

The engagements with the European Union have therefore positive directions moving away from unilateralism to more of a partnership approach which is a matter that we have always advocated. There is a

more focused consideration of the special needs of middle income countries, and the adjustment of the European external funds to fund more projects of developmental nature in ACP Countries is indeed a positive move.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON TWEYA**

In conclusion Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members,

I wish to inform the House that I held bilateral talks on the margins of the ACP Council meetings with Spain among other countries. Spain has expressed its intention to focus more attention on the plight of middle income countries, an initiative that was started yes ago with the first conference in Madrid. Spain will, in collaboration with the embassy in Brussels commence with a comprehensive engagement on cooperation to revive the work related to how to overcome the challenges faced by middle income countries to achieve internationally agreed development goals.

Finally Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members allow me to thank His Excellency, our Ambassador, Dr Kaire Mbuende and his staff from the Embassy who have provided me with all necessary support for the meeting in Lomé, Togo, and who will continue to support us for the processes at ACP level in Brussels and more so to resolve the issue of non-cooperative on tax matters where Namibia is unfortunately also listed.

I thank you very much for your time. *(Applause)*

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Actually that is a very important presentation you made with regards to the role of ACP vis a vis EU, the partnership, and I am particularly grateful to hear that the matter this issue pertaining to tax haven for the rest of Namibia has been addressed in the manner you have outlined, I think that is good news.

Having served as an Ambassador there, I recall, this was an issue basically of big countries, developed countries basically trying to throw their weight around. Sometimes people forget that we are a sovereign State and we

have to stand up for ourselves and I will leave it at that. We have got a very capable team, backed up by you as the head of the Ministry to deal with that issue.

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**QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS
ON MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON KAVEKOTORA**

Post COTONOU is another important agenda item and I am grateful that our team is also equally involved in making sure that the interests of our group ACP are taken care of.

Thank you for that statement. Yes Honourable Kavekatora.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS ON MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON KAVEKOTORA: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I would also like to thank the Honourable Minister for a very informative Report. I just want to perhaps get some clarity on the relationship between ACP and EU.

It looks like the EU is a much more coherent grouping to have a lot of things in common, that is why they have the European Union, but I just need to understand the relationship within the ACP Grouping whether we really have certain commonality within the group and whether we really have platforms in which we share common issues and common agendas, because I have picked up some information that in some instances you find that the ACP Grouping is divided sometimes when it comes to issues that are to be discussed at the ACP/EU Platform.

Now do we have, apart from the normal schedule of the ACP/EU meetings, do we have other platforms where we as African and Caribbean countries really come together to address a common platform and to address issues in a common way and if not when are we going to look into something like that because it weakens our stand then it comes to

discussions and negotiations with the EU if we do not have some sort of synergistic way of handling our problems and issues that we want to table to the ACP/EU platform?

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**RESPONSE TO MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON TWEYA**

Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Minister a quick comment.

RESPONSE TO MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION, TRADE AND SME DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker, thank you very much Honourable Kavekatora.

I want to assure the Honourable Member that within the ACP Group, we are very much united from the 27th - 30th of May 2018, it was a meeting of only the ACP Group first. Our senior officials, and then the Ministers from these countries, and we are at the moment a total of seventy nine (79) Members in the ACP. We needed to first find ourselves before we met our counterpart the EU, from the 31st - 1st of June 2018. So we expressed that is why I underlined that first principle that bind us together and that is PAN Africanism. So we found each other as a united group and we want to remain united, and as a united group, we met the EU the last two days which is the 31st May and the 2nd of June 2018. We are united.

I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much and for the benefit of the Honourable Kavekatora we actually have two concrete structures. Our ACP Ambassadors, are operating through a system known as the Committee of the ACP Ambassadors representatives.

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**NOTICE OF A MOTION
HON NGHIMTINA**

So they meet continuously under a rotating system where every country has an opportunity to chair those Committees of Ambassadors. I just wanted to reinforce that. Thank you. We are done.

HON SPEAKER: The Notice of a Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation. Does the Honourable Minister Move the Motion?

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION: Yes I move the Motion, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Yes thank you. Who seconds the Motion? Any objection? Agreed to. Yes Honourable Minister you have the Floor.

NOTICE OF A MOTION

**APPOINTMENT AND RE-APPOINTMENT OF
EMPLOYMENT EQUITY COMMISSION MEMBERS**

**HON MINISTER OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND
EMPLOYMENT CREATION:** Thank you Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Members of National Assembly. I have taken the Floor to
move for the approval of the appointment of Members of the 6th
19 June 2018 **APPOINTMENT AND REAPPOINTMENT OF
EMPLOYMENT EQUITY COMMISSION MEMBERS**
HON NGHIMTINA

Employment Equity Commission. The Employment Equity Commission has an oversight function of the implementation of affirmative action in the workplace in accordance with the *Affirmative Action Employment Act*, Act, 1998 (No. 29 of 1998). That seeks to ensure that persons in designated groups, women, the previously racially disadvantaged and persons with disabilities are equitably represented at all levels of employment. Overall the purpose of the Act is to achieve equality of opportunities in employment, and to eliminate employment barriers against persons in designated groups so that no person should be denied employment opportunities for reasons unrelated to ability to perform.

Furthermore, the Act seeks to ensure progress towards a more diverse and representative workforce that is reflective on the demographic of Namibia at all occupational levels. In March this year 2018, I had the honour to table the Annual Report of the Employment Equity Commission in this august House, and I am happy with the work done by the Commission to exercise oversight of the implementation of the affirmative action in employment. The terms of office of the members of the 5th Employment Equity Commission ended on the 30th of April 2018 and new members of the Commission will have to be appointed.

Section 6 (1) of the *Affirmative Action Employment Act*, 1998 (No. 29 of 1998), thereafter the Act provides that the Commission shall comprise the following members appointed by the Minister with the approval of the National Assembly. A Commissioner who shall be the Chairperson, Mr Wilbard Uusiku was reappointed for five years by the National Assembly in 2014 effective from 1st of April 2014.

1. Four persons who shall represent the interests of the State. Two persons selected by the Minister from persons nominated by the

registered Trade Unions in accordance with the provision of Sub Section 2;

2. Two persons selected by the Minister from persons nominated by a registered employers organisation in accordance with the provisions of 19 June 2018

**APPOINTMENT AND REAPPOINTMENT OF
EMPLOYMENT EQUITY COMMISSION MEMBERS
HON NGHIMTINA**

Sub Section 2;

3. Two persons who in the opinion of the Minister, represents the interests of the designated group referred to in Section 18 (2)(a) and who are suitably qualified having regard to the function of the Commission;
4. Two persons of whom one shall be a woman, who in the opinion of the Minister represents the interests of the designated group referred to in Section 18 (1)(b) and who are suitably qualified having regard to the functions of the Commission; and
5. Two persons who, in the opinion of the Minister, represents the interests of the designated group referred to in Section 18 (1) (c) and who are suitably qualified having regards to the function of the Commission.

Then Section 7(2) of the Act provides that subject to Sub Section 3 a member of the Commission referred to in Section 6 (1), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g) shall hold office for a period of three years but shall, at the expiring of such period of Office be eligible for reappointment as member of the Commission. I have decided after consulting with Cabinet, to approach the National Assembly to approve the appointment of the following as Members of the 6th Employment Equity Commission for the period of 1st of June 2018 up to 30 June 2021. The names are here for the State,

1. Ms Josephine Sifani and alternative member Ms Julia Hamhata,
2. Nehemia Nghishekwa, alternative member Ms Jennifer Dunn,

3. Ms Inga Ndaningina, alternative member is Ms Margaret Sezuni,
4. Ms Rosina Mubonenwa and alternative member is Nicholas Mbingeneeko,

19 June 2018

**APPOINTMENT AND REAPPOINTMENT OF
EMPLOYMENT EQUITY COMMISSION MEMBERS
HON NGHIMTINA**

Women:

5. Ms Rosalia Gabriel, alternative member is Ms Katrina Liswani,
6. Ms Amber Coerecius and alternative member is Ms Jennifer Lendrude Dunn.

Persons with disabilities:

7. Mr Sieben Katjiuanjo, alternative member is Ms Anna-Liisa Nekwaya,
8. Ms Beata Ndinela Armas, alternative member is Mr Daniel Siremo Trum.

Employers Organisations:

9. Mr Hofni Shikongo, alternative member is Ms Liezl Jansen van Rensburg,
10. Ms P Ramona Wittsack, alternative member is Mr Timothy Izaks.

Trade Union:

11. Mr Moses Shiikwa, alternative member is Ms Penhupifo Ivali,
12. Mr Ujama Kaahangoro, alternative member is Ms Caro Vanessa Otto.

Previously disadvantaged:

13. Ms Wilhelmina Sheehama, alternative member is Erich Erwin Paulino,
14. Mr Charles L. Pieter, alternative member is Ms Charmaine Tjirare.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable members,

I have perused the CVs of the persons nominated in terms of Section 6(1) of the relevant Act, and have every reason to believe that they are

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**APPOINTMENT AND REAPPOINTMENT OF
EMPLOYMENT EQUITY COMMISSION MEMBERS
HON PROF KASINGO**

sufficiently qualified to execute the mandate of the Employment Equity Commission. The CVs of the persons nominated are available for Honourable Members' scrutiny. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members I have the honour to move for the approval of the appointment of the above mentioned persons for three years as members of the 6th Employment Equity Commission for your consideration.

I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Speaker for the Floor. In supporting the Members before us of the Employment Equity Commission, I just want to congratulate the Minister, in particular concerning gender parity. For example the ordinary members 8 of the 14 are women. The alternative members 10 of the 14 are women. This is a good job and I congratulate you.

The only question I would like to ask is, for example, a number of them are both member and the alternative. Concerning the alternative members, how are they going to acquire the experience? Are they going to be allowed to sit in that meeting for maybe six months so that they can acquaint themselves with the job, or how is it going to be done?

For the purpose of Hansard, the first the blue paper I should think the Table Officers you must complete the surname of Madam Josephine.

Here it just says Josephine without a surname. With this I support the appointment.

Thank you.

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**APPOINTMENT AND REAPPOINTMENT OF
EMPLOYMENT EQUITY COMMISSION MEMBERS
HON VAN DEN HEEVER / HON KAVEKOTORA**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The Honourable Jennifer Van Den Heever.

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I am also supporting the appointment and reappointment of the nominees. Just an administrative observation that, Ms Jennifer Dunn is double. I am not sure whether number 6, another Jennifer named Lentrudy Dunn is, but I quickly browsed through the CVs and I could not find two CVs for two separate Jennifers. Then there is one CV which is not attached to the pack and it is the number 9 member, Ms Ramona Wittsack?

HON SPEAKER: Good, I will continue with the intervention. Honourable Kavekatora?

HON KAVEKOTORA: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I also somehow support (*Laughter*), the appointment and reappointment of members. However, when I perused through the CVs and looked at the employment Equity Commission, I wanted to match the competency of some of the colleagues to the job demand but I could not. Unfortunately I did not go through the whole CVs, but we have situations like in some instances you have somebody who started off as a freedom fighter, and then just joined SWAPO of Namibia, and then from there no other qualifications, and move into Deputy Director to a Director, I do not understand that, I seriously do not.

I do not understand whether there were certain pages missing in the CV or whether this is now the practise of jobs for Comrades? I just need to understand. I picked up one, there might be more. But honestly there must be some competency to meet the job demand, but from that

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**APPOINTMENT AND REAPPOINTMENT OF
EMPLOYMENT EQUITY COMMISSION MEMBERS
HON NGHIMTINA**

perspective I could not see any, and the Honourable Minister is saying that he is quite satisfied with the list and I really seriously do not understand how one can be satisfied simply by somebody just coming from being a freedom fighter and then become a director. I do not understand that, maybe the Honourable Minister can explain that.

Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. In the absence of further contributions, I will call on the Honourable Minister to reply and to deal with those issues. The question of experience, sharing the experience, exposure, the reference to two names given us two but perhaps is one person, and then lastly the question raised by the Honourable Kavekatora. Honourable Minister you have the Floor.

**HON MINISTER OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND
EMPLOYMENT CREATION:** Thank you Honourable Speaker. Thank you very much for the support and congratulating the appointments of the 6th Employment Equity Commissioners.

The issue of experience to the alternative members, most of the time they are also allowed to sit in, it is not that they are only coming when the other members are not in so that they can get or impart experience to others.

Honourable Jennifer, thank you very much for your support but now the number you are saying number 6 Jennifer Dunn, is your *(Interjection)*, acquainted to you? Number 6? *(Interjection)*

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: Number 2 and number 6.

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**APPOINTMENT AND REAPPOINTMENT OF
EMPLOYMENT EQUITY COMMISSION MEMBERS
HON NGHIMTINA**

**HON MINISTER OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND
EMPLOYMENT CREATION**: Number 6?

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: Number 2 and number 6

HON SPEAKER: Number 2 and number 6.

**HON MINISTER OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND
EMPLOYMENT CREATION**: Which one is that?

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: It is only number 2 and number 6.

**HON MINISTER OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND
EMMPLOYMENT CREATION**: Okay let me find out what is what,
but the names I do not know why they put it as Lentrudy Dunn and the
other one came only as Dunn but I will find out.

The CV of number 9, I do not know maybe it is a mistake by my officials probably once they are duplicating. I think it is the only one and ***Honourable Kavekatora*** you somehow support NHE (*Laughter*) okay. Competency honestly speaking, is something which we can also Debate whatsoever, because, I can tell you what we did. Some of us when we went abroad we had some qualifications, but people learned a lot in the struggle. Next to you on your right hand, the experience he got is more than anybody else with the degrees and everything.

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**APPOINTMENT AND REAPPOINTMENT OF
EMPLOYMENT EQUITY COMMISSION MEMBERS
HON MHARUKUA**

Yes it is not a very big problem. But also to come up to say as a director. Director we are not, that one is a public service you are asking, it is not asking the Commission. We are not looking at somebody as a director or anything. Thank you very much for your support.

Thank you

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Given the fact that those typos and whatever are missing will be harmonised, and the names will be checked accordingly, given the fact that that is almost given I now, yes, sorry? (*Interjection*)

HON MUHARUKUA: Honourable Speaker, (*Indistinct*) also typo, this here?

HON SPEAKER: Is that a page?

HON MUHARUKUA: Yes

HON VENAANI: It is a cover page.

HON MUHARUKUA: It is a cover page. I do not want to know whether it is a typo or whether actually it is supposed to be *(Laughter)*.

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**LIQUID BREWED AND SOLD IN OUR SHANTY
TOWNSHIPS AND POISONOUS TO PEOPLE
HON MURORUA**

HON SPEAKER: I think let us consider that to be a typo *(Laughter)*. I now put the question that the Motion be adopted, are there any objections *(Interjections)* *(Laughter)*? If there are no objections then it is agreed to. Agreed to.

Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: The secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE – ON CONDITIONS
UNDER WHICH A LIQUID IS BREWED AND
SOLD FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION IN OUR SHANTY
TOWNSHIPS AND WHICH IS POISONING OUR PEOPLE**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate – On Conditions under Which a Liquid Is Brewed and Sold For Human Consumption in Our Shanty Townships and Which Is Poisoning Our People

HON SPEAKER: When this Assembly adjourned on Thursday, the 14th of June 2018, the question before the assembly was a Motion by the

Honourable Murorua that the Motion be adopted. The Honourable Murorua adjourned the Debate for his reply, and I now finally offer him the Floor.

HON MURORUA: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I would like to first and foremost express my appreciation to all the Members who
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have given their inputs before I go down to specifically thank them on the specific questions, but I must also state at this point in time that indeed there is a need that I had to look into it but I will come to it now.

The first Honourable Member to give his input on it was *Honourable Kapofi*, and I will combine his input with that of *Honourable Simataa*. Where he said that if this Motion would be referred whether they will be able to find it and where they are going to start, and where Honourable Simataa stated that he agrees with Honourable Kapofi, that the public discussion will defeat the purpose of the Motion itself and we would rather give the issue to the Police for investigation.

What I would like to state at this point in time is that, it is my humble belief that a public discussion would really bring about a process where we can sensitise the communities on this specific issue and that it can ignite a kind of community policing aspect within the society itself if we address it properly.

The aspect of involving the police is not what the Motion is looking for it is something that can come in at a very late state after everything has been handed.

Secondly, *Honourable Schlettwein*, I thank you also very much that the alcoholic brews excisable goods, and they have to pay excise duties and should have brewing licences and have to be registered for it so that we have to make sure that they are hygienic. I think that is not the objective

of this Motion at this point in time, and if it is the case then it is also in the opinion something that can come at the very latest stage.

Honourable Kandjoze, thank you very much indeed it was the first Honourable member who also supported boldly this Motion, and also amplified how lethal it can be so thank you very much.

Honourable Witbooi, you have mentioned that these home brews are very dangerous and that it is causing a dangerous state of health amongst the
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society as well as gender based violence. I think it is true but it is not only these home brews that are causing that. Any other substance can also cause that so I think we need to look at the Motion in its real perspective.

Honourable Natangwe, partly disagrees, and the statement that you made is that since all alcoholic drinks started as home brews, and that it should be condemned and the case be given to the Police. Yes all alcoholic brews started as a home brews that is true, but also I think at this point in time there is, should I say a serious misunderstanding due to lack of other words of what the Motion seeks to address.

Honourable Nekundi, stated that he is very uncomfortable that this discussion has to come about in this House, and that we have to use this House as a body of transmitting rumours. I think I understand the point of departure of Honourable Nekundi, but at this point in time also I must say I will come to it at the end of my replies and correct everything, because I feel there is a serious misunderstanding and it is not that necessarily I am against all traditional brews that are there. I have already stated last Thursday that I know and understand I have tasted a lot of traditional brews myself, and if you are offered a traditional brew I know also in tradition how offending it is if you do not accept it to the person that is giving it to you at his/her homestead.

Honourable Nambahu, also stated that we need to protect the health of our people and gage the experience of milk, where whether you are drinking it is always increasing in volume so those are exactly the specific

issues that needs to be addressed by Parliament, and I believe that it is the same kind of thing that I want to address through this Motion so thank you very much for the support also.

Honourable Deputy Speaker Prof Kasingo, stated that it is a public health issue and it needs to be researched and at times there is also experience where some rotten things are underneath the brew, so I think it is in the same line as Honourable Nambahu.

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Honourable Deputy Prime Minister Nandi- Ndaitwah, gave us the experience of when the *Liquor Bill* was discussed and that there was a misunderstanding at that time also from many of the Members, and gave us an explanation on how the ombike is being made, and as I have said with Honourable Nekundi I fully understand the possible misunderstanding that might have been there, and I have also watched over the Television how the people were feeling but it is not the direction that I wanted to go as I have said, I really respect and appreciate the way that our people are doing these things.

Honourable Sacky Shanghala, mentioning that this Motion is a little bit problematic, and the concoction brewers should be reported although the intention is very good. I understand what he means and I appreciate the fact that he is of the understanding that the intention of the Motion is very good.

Honourable Dr Becky Ndjoze-Ojo, also mentioned that we should not compare these traditional brews with the western liquors that are there, and I think it is a very good starting point that we should not compare the two things because the other thing already went through a process whether it is this or that we are specifically intending to address did not go through the same process.

Honourable Muharukua, thank you again also here for the support that you are giving and you also gave the example of the *okandjembo* as much as Honourable Kandjoze has given and the dangers of it. I really

appreciate that, and I think we need to really look very much deeper than the issues that we want to raise here into how the impact of these brews are on our communities.

The same from *Honourable Kavekatora*, who was also giving an explanation that the process of making the *okandjembo* which is dangerous is basically the same as that of the *ombike*, and that is also the issue that I wanted to bring about and he also gave us the example of the

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And said that it is the same as the tobacco industry where there is tobacco imported legally while there are some other tobacco that are coming in on an illegal way.

Honourable Dr Kawana, supported the Motion subject to , and stated that people are poisoning others and the burden is upon the State because the sick people have to be attended to by the State, the orphans have to be attended to by the State so he agrees to the fact that it has to be referred to a Committee.

Then *Honourable Jan Van Wyk*, also admitted that we do have a problem and he gave his example of what he stated wild brew which was mixed with honey and honey bees themselves.

Honourable Nghimtina, stated that the issue was very serious but that it has to be left there because nothing has been tested and the National Assembly has to propose something to protect our people.

Honourable Tweya, stated that we do have an instrument which can verify and test the standard of this brew and that is the Namibia Standards Institution. Honourable Members I am in full agreement but what I would like to state at this point in time is that on the 7th of June 2018, I motivated the Motion titled Liquid Brew and sold for human consumption and today I would like to make an Amendment to the Motion to read as follows.

It is indeed true that the practise of brewing traditional liquids has been a respectful practise in our communities for years, therefore allow me not to generalise the brewing of traditional alcohol or homemade brews as harmful. This was and is still not harmful since naturally edible fruits are being used for brewing it. However, we must recognise that there are instances where harmful substances and materials are used while brewing these traditional brews to enhance the potency of the brew and we must deal with the offenders of this malpractice.

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I therefore humbly request this august House with this Amendment to please allow this Motion to be referred to the relevant Committee for further consultations and inputs from the broader communities and that the hygienic human consumption of this drink also be analysed through laboratory test and recommendations be made based on such test.

I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Yes please. (*Interjection*) I think the Amendment is very clear, the proposal is very clear but I will take one or two brief interventions. The Honourable Dr Becky Ndjoze-Ojo.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION TRAINING AND INNOVATION: Honourable Speaker, thank you. On a point of correction, I do not want that to go down the Hansard. I did not, actually I was just trying to redirect the House not to compare the different kinds of brews, it is not that one is made better than the other. So the intention was actually to recap and fore ground your submission so it was not a comparison. I said the intention of your Motion was not that people should compare the two. I did not actually say one is made better than the

other. So it is just on a point of correction so that it goes down on the Hansard as stated.

HON SPEAKER: Noted, thank you very much. I would now request the House, can we, yes Honourable Kavekatora.

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HON KAVEKOTORA: On a point of order. Honourable Speaker, I just picked up additional information that the instrument and this is very critical. The instrument that is testing the alcohol level in your system does not detect *ombike*, *okandjembo* and some of those stuffs, it does not (*Interjection*).

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: It is alcohol, it does.

HON KAVEKOTORA: No but it does not. Apparently yes there is no something called ethanol or something, so in other words you can be as drunk as you can be but at the roadblock you come and you just go. I mean this is something very serious. (*Interjection*) Yes there is no ethanol. So that piece of information is just giving more value to what Honourable Murorua is saying that there is a serious need for us to interrogate this matter to a point where we now understand. What do we do somebody comes there he is drunk, totally intoxicated but cannot be tested and can just go and start causing havoc all over the show.

HON SPEAKER: Can I then put the question, that the Motion be referred to the relevant Committee as Amended. Do we agree with that? So agreed.

Thank you.

The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND READING - SEED AND
SEED VARIETIES BILL [B. 1 – 2018]**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – *Seed and Seed Varieties Bill* [B. 1 – 2018]

HON SPEAKER: When the Assembly adjourned on Thursday, the 14th of June 2018, the question before the Assembly was a Motion of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, that the Bill be read a second time. The Honourable Deputy Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration adjourned the Debate, and I now offer the Floor to the Deputy Minister.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to support the Bill on Namibian Seed and Seed Varieties. You will agree with me that this Bill is long overdue. In the light of our national efforts to eradicate poverty of which food security is an essential component, the production of food is being affected by climate change and climate variability and it is therefore important to develop robust seed varieties

that are suitable to our changing environment. In short we have to produce climate smart seeds to fit into climate smart agriculture.

Honourable Speaker, our dry climate conditions offer the most suitable environment for seed production, and there is no reason why Namibia cannot become a major seed exporting country, an important seed exporting country, thus it may offer another dimension to possible new niche business opportunities of investments which is an industry on its own, with huge market opportunities as well as potential contradictions. Contradictions I say Honourable Speaker, as there are gaps for potential

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for exclusion of traditional seed production by local communities, or rather potential constraints as the market reality may out smart some small but significant market players of today.

I am essentially hinging that the involvement of our national research institutions like the Neudamm Agricultural Campus, as well as Regional Research Institutions to come on board to compliment the research work done by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. The Agricultural Union, the relevant Statutory Board and Cooperatives that could assist with consultations and training, there is a need to raise awareness for the new realities, opportunities as well as challenges that may arise as a result of this policy provision. If they are already on board let me congratulate the Ministry for proactive approach. Namibia has gained reputation as an organic food producer, and has earned a notable part of its market share due to the absence of genetically modified products.

Honourable Speaker, it is common cause that the shelf life of our local produced vegetables has proven to be longer than the imported vegetables from the Western Cape. We need to preserve that at all costs.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the seed industry development may require a new dimension of skills training, vocational training at institutional level. I see the gap for agricultural vocational training to support food security efforts which will essentially form the linkage between research and the workforce, to impart practical applications of the scientific knowledge regarding agricultural production

including seed production germination versus precipitation, *(Interjections)* because I was trying to insist that it is not only rain but there are other methods like the dew for example that contributes to germination of seeds.

Honourable Speaker, we need to be prepared for the new wave. We live in a global village, and since seed legislation is not a new phenomenon we have to research and learn from the mistakes of others. Through my desktop research, I came across some few findings elsewhere and I quote:

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“The displacement of peasant seeds is a process that has been gaining ground and speed around the world over the past decades. In the 20th Century when plant breeding and seed production became activities separated from farming itself, peasant varieties were gradually replaced by industrial varieties. In Europe and North America, this happened over several decades, spurred by new technologies such as the development of hybrids”.

We should not be found wanting in the 21st Century, as we should learn from the experiences of others, and prevent the disappearance of traditional seeds that have served the country well for generations.

The seed laws have seen the reflection of an increasing power of the food and agricultural industry. Around the 70s new types of crop varieties were developed and distributed by State run companies. Small seed houses and Government research institutions, which is still currently the situation with us. Since then we have witnessed a massive process of large companies taking over smaller once, the programmes giving way to private sectors and today just about ten companies have 55% of the global seed market, and the lobbying power of these giants such as the Monsanto, the *(Indistinct) (Interjection)*

HON MEMBER: Ha? *(Indistinct)*.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:

Is very strong. As a result, they have managed to impose restrictive measures giving them monopoly control (*Laughter*) (*Interjections*). Trade and Trade investment agreements are often used as weapons of choice to impose seed laws where they did not exist before, and to make existing laws more favourable to traditional corporations. The end goal is clear to prevent farmers from saving seeds so that they

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buy corporate seeds on the markets instead, and in that process they pressure Governments to pull out of plant breeding and seed production.

In Africa the farmers' seeds represent about 80% to 90% of what is planted each test season. Therefore, from the prospective of an Agri business market player, Africa presents a potential huge market to create a recapture. Even in Europe where industrial seeds already dominate farming, corporations continue lobbying for stronger enforcements of existing regulations, in order to eliminate pockets of resistance and to restrict farmers ability to reuse industrial seeds. When these laws are enforced, although that does not happen in all cases the results are said to be very repressive. Farmers seeds have been confiscated and destroyed elsewhere, claims for farmers being targeted under civilians, and some facing criminal charges or/and jail sentences. It is possible as in our draft Bill to also refer to the criminal aspects.

Honourable Speaker, I do support the Bill as it transpires to be a necessary tool and seems to be the right thing to do, but I think that we need to ensure that we apply our minds, learn from other countries including India, especially from their cotton industry and the devastating consequences the rural cotton producers face. We may have some lessons to learn. We need not to do, or we need not to make the same mistakes as others have made. We should learn from them instead.

Honourable Speaker, I would call upon my colleagues to research the matter. I mean I referred to the Indian case, so if you go on Google it will

tell you what the Indian cotton producers are facing, some even commit suicide because of this. *(Interjection)*

HON MEMBER: Because of seeds?

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Yes because of seeds, because what happens is that there are some specific seeds that you have to buy for you to produce, and then there are some, you are told you have to buy specific fertilizers. They will go into borrowing money to buy seeds because they cannot use their provisional seeds. In fact, there are cases of people who have committed suicide because they could not keep up with their debts they ended up just working so that is the background, and I hope colleagues will do that.

I am sure that very soon we will have to comply with one or the other international conventions or treaty. Please if possible, we need not only to recognise but also guarantee the rights of communal farmers to safely use or reuse, exchange and sell their traditional seeds among themselves to say the least and to preserve the traditional formula of their produce.

Honourable Speaker, I am confident that we can manage the challenges for the enactment of this Bill and I support the Bill.

Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Murorua.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: But the people must stop with their *(Indistinct)*

HON MURORUA: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I am in full support of this Bill, but I would like to alert on a specific issue when it comes to seeds. The Namibian farmers have experienced that mostly through our grazing, our landscapes are losing the well rooted grass and

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only annual grass is coming up, and then the farmers are going out mostly along the roads to collect seeds that they are throwing so that the other stable or good grass should grow on their farms.

Now it is my understanding that with this law we want to also regulate this process, which I do not see as a wrong doing to the farmers but the fact of the matter is, within the Ministry itself there is no attention been given to grass seeds mostly, and we are mostly as farmers relying on Agra, which is importing grass seeds from South Africa and they are producing grass that is being grown in a very totally different weather and soil conditions than the Namibian conditions and that in itself, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, creates a situation when you are trying to grow those grass seeds here on the Namibian soil under the Namibian weather. Therefore, my humble request is that the Ministry to also please concentrate on the production of the local Namibian grass seeds because we do lack that very much as farmers here in Namibia.

The activities that the farmers are currently doing is to collect the good grass seeds along the roadsides because there is no grazing normally you will find better grass than what is on your farm, and that collection process might be seen as contravening this Act if it becomes an Act, which I do not say that it will be wrong but again I stress the point that the Ministry should really concentrate on it so that they have to produce good grass seeds for Namibian weather and conditions for the farmers here in Namibia. With that I support the Bill and request that it also be given the attention.

I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Kavekatora.

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HON KAVEKOTORA: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I also support the Bill in principle, but I have observed with a degree of concern that the introduction of most of these Bills comes with a cost attached to it.

1. Every time a Bill is introduced in this august House, there is a structure that must administer that Bill. I do not know who and when a cost benefit analysis has been conducted to just cost the Bill, to find out how much will that cost us to do, to implement the Bill in its fullest. There is a mushrooming of SOEs and Councils and so on through the introduction of some of these Bills, and I think it is about time for us to start costing these Bills to find out because with this one for instance, the cost (*Indistinct*) the establishment of the Namibia Seed Council, consisting of a number of people, some from the Ministries and others that need to be remunerated for the services that they are going to render to this, that is one.
2. I still want to understand how this Bill is going to impact the traditional way of planting and so on, and to what degree has that information actually been sourced from the traditional way of sourcing seeds and so on, because for instance I know in some instances you find that members of a household will plant and then harvest, and after harvesting they will keep some of the seeds for the next rainy season. That has been the tradition all along especially when it comes to mealies and some other stuff. If this Bill becomes an Act, to what degree are these people who are engaged in some of these plantations

or cultivations, to what degree have they been informed to now become more in compliance with the new Act? To what degree would that new establishment really sort of add to the cost of those traditional people who have been practicing this practice for a long time?

3. I am just thinking about the compliance control issue, how would you go to Otjahorovara and try to perhaps enforce this Act, so that the people in Otjhorovara do not use or acquire or buy seeds that are not registered in the right of what that is Bill is calling for? Is it really practical for one to basically just have that control measure in place to

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really sort of make this more effective, because sometimes you find that the Act might be there but the implement variability of the Act can become questionable because of that vastness of that area where it needs to be controlled, and the lack of resources to basically control that Act in order for everybody to be in compliance with this. I think I am just more concerned about some of those practical issues. Perhaps if the Minister can just tell us how the Bill will be controlled and what is the cost of the Bill once it becomes an Act?

Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Utoni Nujoma.

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Honourable Speaker, I rise to support the Bill, and I think I agree with the other Honourable Members that this Bill is timely, and I think it is timely and long overdue because of the reasons advanced by the Honourable Members here, and I tend to agree with Comrade Murorua that most of the seeds that we are getting, they are from other countries, South Africa, and the climatic conditions as he said could be different from us, and perhaps that is one of the reasons why we do not get good crops at the end of the planting season.

The other issue is, Comrade Speaker, I tried to plant Mahangu at my farm, and the crop was growing very well, but then another animal came to attack my field and these were birds. The birds were so terrible that my people were trying to do all kinds of tactics, it is impossible, impossible. So these are some of the things I hear that in some other countries they have “*okashana*” a type of mahangu that attack the birds. When the birds try to eat, in their eyes they are spiked as they say.

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So those types of things because if you look at our situation, we are predominantly subsistence farming, the whole of the northern Namibia, Zambezi and Kavango, people there survive from subsistence farming and subsistence farming is also dependant on the weather conditions.

If the rain does not come, then the people starve. I think we also now need to as I said this Bill is timely, we need to look for seeds that suits our own conditions because Namibia is a dry arid country you cannot run away from the fact. Ten years maybe of good rainy season, the other time no rain and sparsely scattered it is a challenge, and therefore I think in the other Regions where we have good rains and predictable rains we can start going into really massive agriculture production where we can make sure that we secure food security in areas such as Zambezi, Kavango and along the Orange river, but I fully support this idea that we must look at the seeds that suit our own conditions and research R & D, it will cost money as Honourable Mike Kavekatora is saying it is true but you cannot run away from the fact you have to do some research.

Those are my comments Comrade Speaker, but if there is nobody I see General Namoloh, I wanted to postpone the Debate for further research for tomorrow (*Laughter*) but if General is there I would like to postpone the Debate after General.

Thank you Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Namoloh.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much Comrade Speaker. Well I tend to possibly not fully agree to the Bill unless much is researched. You know in areas where we come from *(Interjection)* Odibo, you know when there is drought like two years ago, there was drought in the Region, and there were rains in Angola and the

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mahangu production was very well in Angola, and the people began to sell their mahangu in Oshikango, and we survived on that mahangu. *(Interjection)* “*Mwina uriri*” (keep quiet). Now even the mahangu seeds which are sold in those areas, some are from those areas.

Some of course are those people in “*Omatala*” (open markets), they sell these seeds at cheap prices, and those which are meant to be for those as I said those who will be registered to sell them will be costly again and then poor people will not be able to afford to buy them you see *(Interjections)*.

HON MEMBER: So you are not poor?

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: I am also poor. I live on subsistence.

HON SPEAKER: Is that a Point of Order Honourable Muharukua?

HON MUHARUKUA: I do not want the Minister of Safety and Security to be misunderstood. Did the Minister just say that seeds are coming from Angola imported into Namibia and sold, and therefore Namibians are surviving from that? The impression that I get is that he as a Minister of Safety and Security is saying that, an illegal importation of seeds should be allowed to continue or is it, are we talking about a legal importation of these things because if the former is true, it is definitely coming from the wrong person because we expect the Minister to be the one stifling this practice? We cannot be importing illegal things from Angola into Namibia without paying the taxes to Honourable Minister of Finance?

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HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I am sure the General (*Intervention*).

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: That is not what I said.

HON SPEAKER: The Honourable Member will be able to put the record straight.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Yes, if this is well researched and we look to the reality of the situation in that area. Whatever, or however this mahangu comes to Oshikango, I am not the (*Interjection*).

HON MUHARUKUA: But you are the Minister of Safety and Security (*Indistinct*)

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: No that is something else for them to see how they come in. *(Interjection)* Okay I am talking about the reality. If you go there, you will see it is not something to hide. *(Interjection)* No, go to Oshikango, if they research they can go and research, look at it how it is being, and it is not only mahangu, it is also other products there.

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HON MUHARUKUA: Then there is no hope.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Ha?

HON MUHARUKUA: There is no hope.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: You all know. You all know it that this is happening. *(Laughter)* What I am saying also in reality, off course in reality, like what I was saying when there was drought some of the mahangu people were buying were from Angola, and also what is happening now in “Omatala” (Open market) for instance in Oshakati and elsewhere the local people are selling their seeds also to the other people and these are cheaper, anybody can afford to buy them. but if you have registered or some other people have registered then these seeds are going to be expensive also unless something is researched very well so that everybody will be able to afford to buy seeds.

Not all seeds we buy here are from South Africa, some are from the local people themselves that produce and make their seeds and we buy from

them. Wherever you go they have seeds there all over, and we buy from there. If you now commercialise it more and register it then there will be seed sellers, then I see also a problem there that there are people who will come in now established and then these seeds will be very expensive and we cannot afford to buy them unless a very good research is done to establish actually what is going on. We should not produce Bills meant for farming areas we must look also (*Interjection*).

HON NAUYOMA: On a Point of Order.

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HON SPEAKER: On a Point of Order.

HON NAUYOMA: Honourable Speaker, I want to find out if Honourable Namoloh is aware of these seeds that the Ministry sells cheaper to the communities whether they are also mixed up with others like Honourable Nujoma was talking about *Okashana* type of thing, because there are *Okashana* 1, 2 and 3 or something like that, I do not know whether they are now well researched, they are seeds or just seeds that we can take from like even those in "*Omatala*" (Open markets) and then they mix them up there that is the information I want to know.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: No those are researched the *Okashana* No. 1 and 2, they also sell them number 1 and 2. (*Interjections*) I think those, the Government established these seeds and they sell them to the local people, who also in turn sell to the other people, but not all the *Okashana* are being sold there by the local people there is also what they call Egyptian corn which they produce themselves and then they sell also the local people there. They are also selling them. like for instance "*omakunde*" (beans), they also sell beans and what is it "*iilyavala*"? (*Interjection*)

HON MEMEBER: Sorghum.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Sorghum also. They sell there and they produce themselves, and sell them on the market, not necessarily from those prepared from the Government. They also sell groundnuts there, as for seeds and so forth. So I think much is to be done

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in order for them to establish what the local people sell to each other as seeds and so forth, and before those which will be established.

I think we are not against that but at least a thorough research can be done for us to establish well so that we do not disadvantage the local people in those remote areas. I think with that I will support the Bill, if the research is done.

Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The Honourable Utoni Nujoma requested for a postponement if there are no further contributions.

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Yes.

HON SPEAKER: Can we continue with the discussions tomorrow?

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Yes please.

HON SPEAKER: Is that okay. In the absence of anyone wanting to take the Floor it is so decided. Thank you very much, it is so decided.

We move on. The secretary will read the Third Order of the Day.

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**IMPACT OF URBANISATION
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HON VAN WYK**

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE - ON THE
ISSUE OF URBANISATION AND ITS
IMPACT ON OUR TOWNS AND CITIES**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate - on the Issue of Urbanisation and Its Impact on Our Towns and Cities

HON SPEAKER: When the Assembly adjourned on Thursday, the 7th of June 2018, the question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Asser Mbai that the Motion be adopted. The Honourable Van Wyk adjourned the Debate and I now offer him the Floor.

HON VAN WYK: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I rise to contribute to the Debate on a Motion tabled by Honourable Mbai.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members,

The Motion seeks to find solution to the issues of urban migration. Urbanisation is the migration of people from rural to urban areas for various reasons, such as job opportunities, better means of livelihood, education etcetera. If we want to boost our economic situations in our villages we need to go to the towns, to the cities that is the belief of our people and therefore, the migration or the rate of urbanisation is just growing.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members,

No single individual can prevent urbanisation. Government should therefore make laws and come up with incentives to address the problem

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of urban migration as unemployment is a major cause of urbanization in Namibia. Different levels of Government should work together and do everything possible to create more employment opportunities in villages for example, to open factories or industries in rural areas to make sure that education, and our schools and colleges, are also taken to rural areas to make sure that children from rural areas remain there and get the required education.

Also Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members,

If we look at the price of foodstuff in rural areas, we will see that there is quite a difference in the prices of food in rural areas than prices of food in urban areas. For example very recently we visited the Zambezi Region, and we wanted to buy something to eat, and you go into a store there and want to buy let us say for example the Special of the Day, and I noted that the Special of the Day in the shop there, the same shop that is in Windhoek there is a price difference of about N\$7,00, so we really need to look at that and see how we can bring down the prices of foodstuff in rural areas to make sure that our people stay there and remain there.

Also when it comes to daily wages in rural areas, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it should be equal to the salaries paid in cities.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members,

We need to ask the question, is it possible to successfully address the issue of urban migration? Let us take the following example. In order to stop rural to urban migration, Parliament and relevant stakeholders need to take all steps to provide the necessary facilities. Since agriculture is depended on many factors beyond our control such as climate, rainfall, there will be other modes of economic activities or economic development of villages. As a dependence of agricultural sector decline, more people will engage in none agricultural activities. Eventually the area will be classified as a settlement, a village, a town at a later stage.

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Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members,

Migration is one of the reasons of urbanisation and our societies we need to ask the question, “Does the rural poor benefit from urban migration?” our working population is in informal settlements, and the majority of it comprises of unskilled migrant unemployed people. The unfortunate answer is no urban migration does not benefit the rural poor as it makes them part of the statistics of unemployment and poverty.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members,

Urban migration also increases the risk of several social evils such as crime, gender based violence, drugs, alcohol abuse and of course the mushrooming of illegal shebeens, while service delivery at towns and cities are challenged. Expensive urban land is out of the reach of the poor and low income groups, which results in them being victimised, discriminated against, and I am sad to say that Local Authorities have failed over the past years to address the issue of affordable urban land to the poor and low income groups, and I do not foresee any changes in the near future as political will is clearly lacking in this regard.

I also need to mention that the treatment that people receive from people in high positions is questionable. As residents always need to hear that if

you do not qualify you do not have land, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, this is actually a time bomb that can be expected to go off any time, resulting in land use getting out of control, diseases breaking out, and infrastructure eventually giving in once and for all. I am of the opinion that our Government needs to give more attention to these settlements that are developing in our beloved country. Sure enough, economic activities are on the increase in these areas and so is the daunting clustering of the masses around these centres as sewerage is flowing along streets and every settlement in Namibia.

The growth in these urban centres is too much for Local Councils to be able to manage.

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Infrastructure demands are high and in most cases the rules of roles Municipal services like water, sewerage lines are not all known not to even mention the presence of master plans.

To conclude Honourable Speaker, in support of the recommendations made by the mover of the Motion let me add a few more recommendations in our efforts to scale down on urbanisation.

1. We should promote agriculture as a profession. If we promote agriculture as a profession we should be able to bring down urban migration.
2. Basic facilities like hospitals, colleges should be taken to rural areas, and we also need well connected roads to and from cities and towns.
3. Provide facilities like internet, because these days our young people need to use these facilities to communicate. If we do not have it in rural areas, they will always complain saying no we need to go to a town where we have all these facilities.
4. Promote small scale industries in rural areas so that employment can be created in the regions.

5. To introduce subsidies for rural housing schemes, and
6. Intensify civic education at rural levels, could also curb the mushrooming of shacks in urban areas.

With these few words I support the Motion.

I thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Dr Ankama.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME

MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, thank you very much for the opportunity. I want just to highlight a few points on the Motion on the table. From rural to urban. If one looks very well, you would understand that the livelihood, the better, you know, one would not necessarily want to go to the urban centres for the sake of going there. I would say that there are specific motives that people have and feel when they go to the urban centres they are likely to live better, which is not really true.

Let me refer to myself. When I grew up, I grew up between two worlds. The rural and the urban, but when I went to the urban sometimes when I was young I recall. Yes you feel you are in a different world, it is like the world of bread and honey but as you grow you realise that no something is amiss here this is not true. So I would say:

1. I would say is education, lack, of proper education. If we the people do not get proper education where they stay in the rural so to say they are likely to move to the urban centres because they think they hope for a better livelihood. They hope that is where the better life is. So education, if we perfect education and we base this education on skills, it does not matter whether you have got grade 1 or 2 or 3, but if we train these people with practical skills they will do better there because many of the rural are agriculturalists, or they practise animal

husbandry or some sort of other skills, but if we perfect these skills and create centres there, the urban migration may start diminishing because when people go to the urban they do not know what they are expecting there to see.

They only get surprises when they get there that oh, I do not have any house here, and I cannot afford accommodation. *(Laughter)* Eventually they realize oh, I have to start up the “*okambashu*” (shack). Now when you start the *okambashu* then you realise damn hell I wish I could go back and they have got no means to go back believe me or not. Basically the issue apart from, I do not know it is a multi-sectoral thing, unemployment of course, because when you are not educated

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you will not have proper employment opportunity, so you think if I go to the city then I can get employment even if I work in someone's house, only to discover when you get there that there is nothing like that. You cannot even work in someone's house because someone cannot afford also. Ministry of Labour, yes you cannot afford, there is what we call the nannies or housework or whatever you call them. So it is a combination of unemployment created by lack of proper education perhaps and then eventually poverty, because when you are poor you say, “Oh yes I see these guys coming wearing suits and nice clothing and nice cars let me go there, I want to see where they are getting this from”. When they come to Windhoek, when they come to Oshakati, Okahandja wherever they discover oh, not even something to eat, nobody will care.

These people are greeting each other Hi, Hi and they do not talk to one another in a proper manner. Even if you want to ask him/her for something nobody will listen to you, so that is where the problem starts. Now if we give them proper education, not only education to read and write but also to understand how life works, real life works how it works I would think we will curb or we will sort of restrain people to come from the rural where it is much better supposedly to the urban where they are going to get more problems.

Something that I wanted to look at and also to talk about, is with regards to those who are in the rural. Many of them as I said they produce. They have got something of their own. They can create food if you want, drinks they can do, anything they can do, but with the young generation they are unable even to grow a tree, leave alone other stuff like looking after animals they do not. Now with this lack of skills, you know this is culture. When you do not have culture you will not be able to move on, because you think every time people tell you then you think these people are abusing me. When we were growing up children did not feel abused when they said go and till the land like any other person. Go and cultivate. You go to school early in the morning. Before you go to school you cultivate.

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When you come from school you cultivate and you do not eat before you work. Nowadays you say it is abuse and that is where we have got a problem.

Our West, the world where we are we want to change our way of life changing into the western style of living and that is where the problem comes from. Do not abuse children they cannot work from school. In fact what we are doing is we are doing a disservice to our young generation. So we should not feel *(Intervention)*.

HON SPEAKER: On a Point of Order?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER: Comrade Elder, Comrade Nujoma.

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Just a question?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER: Yes sir.

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Honourable Ankama I see currently Honourable Sacky Shanghala was on the video clip the other day complaining, saying the young people are just angry all the time they are just angry and blaming others (*Interjection*).

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HON MEMBER They are not angry they are just poor (*Laughter*).

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: They are just angry, and they are blaming others for their failures. Is that the lack of culture that you are talking about that if, like when you grew up you go in the morning to the fields, and from the fields you go to school? When you come back before you eat you go to the fields? I think nowadays they are angry forming political parties, I do not know (*Laughter*).

HN SPEAKER: Honourable Dr Ankama, continue.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER: Comrade Nujoma I think they might be angry for something else but yes young people should be trained to understand. You know they say train the young one before he grows (*Intervention*).

HON SPEAKER: Is it on a Point of Order?

HON MUHARUKUA: Yes.

HON SPEAKER: On that very topic?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME
MINISTER:** Okay go ahead please.

HON SPEAKER: Okay

HON MUHARUKUA: it is a Point of Information as well.

HON SPEAKER: Okay

HON MUHARUKUA: A point of information from a very angry young man. You see anger is as a result of poverty. Poverty just has a way of making people angry and when people are angry they then go and form political parties to change the discourse. Honourable Ankama, I just wanted to inform the House of that.

HON SPEAKER: Dr Ankama please continue I have got a long list here. I do not want to be bogged down. Please continue.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER: Okay all what we are saying is being angry, you know you can be angry, but forming a political party is not a solution also not necessarily. All that we are saying is we need to do (*Interjection*).

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER: Yes but what we are trying to say is there is a need for us to tackle the basic problem, the basic challenges. The basic challenges there in the rural would be, to improve the livelihood of the people in the rural areas. We have got regional authorities; we have got the constituencies there which are closer to the people, the constituency at the constituency level. If we create roads connecting one constituency to another as the colleague was saying, creating clinics and hospitals there, better schools equipped with the necessary tools, and create the livelihoods for example Televisions available there, telephones are available there you know everybody has got a handset there, so if we create that kind of comfort for the young ones they are likely to be wanting to stay where they stay because they have got no reason why they should come to the cities.

At the same time we should also be worried because if you are creating much more of this impressive situation where you say employment opportunities, you want people to go to school so that they could have degrees. When they come to the cities for degrees they graduate, they want to stay in the city, because that is where they are likely to get the kind of work with the kind of degrees that they have. But if you empower them with practical skills okay, now add value to the products and they realise that oh millet or mahangu, if I produce mahangu there is a market.

If there is a market I am likely to produce more, beans. I will produce more beans.

Animals like cattle, donkeys and all what have you, if there is market they are likely to stay there and produce more, but if you graduate them here human resources, where are they going to do the human resources kind of job only in the cities perhaps? But if they become real farmers they will really produce for the country, and the country is likely to develop more because it is not necessarily everybody who has got a degree can, you know it is not degrees that develop countries per se, blue collar should do. So I would probably try to encourage that we develop the rural areas more so that people prefer to stay there because there they can do much better.

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Even with industrialisation if we start with giving, adding value to our local products small scale industries would emerge on the other side. You cannot start industries necessarily in the cities, it is there. So I would support, I would like to support this Motion basically because, if we change some of these things we are likely to move a step ahead in encouraging particularly the young generation to develop their rural areas and want to stay there other than coming here and stay in the *kambashus* where they are going to suffer.

Thank you

HON SPEAKER: Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Klazen.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you Honourable Speaker for the opportunity. I thought I would be some of the last on this topic specifically, but let me move with it.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the topic of urbanisation is such an important topic, and it is a topic that is being discussed and mitigation strategies is being looked into all over the world especially at the United Nations level and etcetera, like at platforms as UN Habitat, because just recently last year 22 October 2016, the Habitat 3 took place in Ecuador in South America, whereby the new Urban Agenda was adopted and this is how they are looking into urbanisation.

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Honourable Speaker, I do agree that Namibia like the rest of Africa and the world in general, will continue to experience rapid urban migration whereas in 1990, 43% of the world is population lived in urban areas. By 2015, the population has risen to 54%, and although large and mega cities stand out as the more visible face of urbanisation on account of their influence and economic importance, they are not the fastest growing, nor are they host to the majority of the world's urban population. Fastest growing are medium and small cities with less than 1,000,000 inhabitants which account for 59% of the world's urban population.

It is in fact estimated that by the year 2030, more than 60% of the Namibian population will live in urban areas, and it is projected that a third of our population will be residing in the Khomas and Erongo Regions in the said year. This growth therefore poses significant challenges to both social and environmental wellbeing and it creates a rising demand for key public services including amongst others housing, sanitation, clean drinkable water, energy, transportation networks, public health and education. Therefore, concerted efforts are needed from all stakeholders to address the challenges that come with urbanisation.

The Ministry also acknowledges that it is a fact that all Namibian citizens should be treated equally, and there should be a balance between rural and urban communities, and everyone should have a choice whether to live in urban, rural, small towns, village, or city in Namibia, and basic services should be available to all our citizens. Unfortunately there has been many common challenges facing our small towns in rural or remote areas. For many years there has been inadequate support and the prolonged pattern of declining economies in various towns as well as declining town centres and increasing reasonable gaps in the quality of life hence the high rate of urbanisation.

Therefore, in order to mitigate the high rural urban migration which is largely as a result of the absence of basic services in rural areas in comparison to urban areas, the Government has devised and is implementing measures aimed at reducing or bridging the inequality gap

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between rural and urban areas in Namibia. Along the policy instruments programmes that has been adopted in this regards are the following:

- 2012 National Rural Development Policy and Strategy whose focus is to improve living conditions of rural communities. At the same time is the creation of the conditions to address poverty, food security, unemployment and under development of rural areas. Programmes being implemented among others are as follows.
 - Rural sanitation;
 - Micro finance for income generating, activities and employment creation;
 - Support resources for poor farmers;
 - Rural development centres aimed at promoting the wellbeing of rural people, capacity building and extension services as well as researching and development of affordable appropriate household

and production equipment and products that can be used for income generating activities.

- Similarly since looking after the economic health of our small towns and rural areas is critical, the Minister came up with the programme of regeneration of small towns and declining economies that regeneration programmes. Under the local economic development agency, where local communities are actively mobilised and intimately involved in developing strategies for revitalising their towns and villages in order to alleviate further declining of such areas and ease the problem of rapid urbanisation. Due to the lack of opportunity in those areas the declining of such areas in turn brought about negative socio economic issues such as unemployment, poverty and housing shortages.

The programme aims at supporting Municipalities, towns and villages, to adopt a holistic approach towards generating and regenerating the

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localities to prevent them from social and economic decay by providing the Local Authorities with a systematic approach to planning, implementation and evaluation or generating or regenerating of towns within the context of the economic potential.

- As regards to the housing and land specific interventions which are mainly prominent in the urban areas the following measures amongst others have been put in place to address the housing situation in rural areas.
1. Budgetary allocation to Regional Councils (Development Budget) to scale up land and infrastructure development,
 2. Addressing modalities on 'Rural housing and Sanitation' through the Mass Housing Development Programme,
 3. Reactivation of the Build Together Programme, to enable specific Regional Councils to provide housing in settlement areas,

4. Support to Shack Dwellers Federation, monetary as well as provision of land to them.

In addition it should be noted that decentralisation with the aim of devolution of power and the responsibility from Central to Regional and Local Government is still very high on the agenda of the Government of the Republic of Namibia.

Honourable Speaker, the mover of the Motion has asked that it should be referred to a Parliamentary Standing Committee. I am of another version, by saying that and it is just my idea that furthermore perhaps, a National Conference on the Impact of Rural Urban Migration will assist in crafting a multi stakeholder response, to mitigating all and known anticipated inputs, impacts on urbanisation because urbanisation is cross cutting and I believe strongly that more inputs from different sectors can maybe give us a better understanding also.

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Lastly Honourable Speaker, I just want to mention something. There was mentioning of political will lacking to make land cheaper. I want to disagree on the statement that was made, and Honourable Member is not in the House because on Thursday when I answered the questions of, I think it was of Honourable Van Den Heever, no, the Honourable the one about shacks it was Honourable !Auxab.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable !Auxab yes.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Honourable !Auxab and in there I have really elaborated very clearly on expenses, on serviced land, housing availability and so on and I believe strongly that these efforts from the Ministry side to make affordable and cheap housing available that is definitely a will power from Government and from all of us.

I thank you Honourable Members for this intervention and thank you Honourable Speaker. *(Applause)*

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Murorua.

HON MURORUA: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members.

I would like to first and foremost thank the Honourable mover of this Motion and start with the question as to what percentage of urban dwellers are in fact or truly paying rates and taxes to carry a town, compared to the
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entire population of a given town. That is probably the first and most important question this Motion needs to address.

Secondly, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is true Government is having a policy where public servants are being paid a bush allowance when they are working in rural areas. Now the big question one would ask is, is it only the public servants that are experiencing inconveniences if he or she is the only one to be paid bush allowance. That public servant might even be a person who has been born and brought up in that rural place, but simply because he/she is a public servant automatically qualifies for a bush allowance. That in itself brings the question whether we are acting correctly as a Government towards the rest of the rural people.

I know it is very difficult to act on this because it leads to a situation where one would say give this person also a grant and something of that nature, definitely the Honourable Minister of Finance would not agree with that. I think it is also a difficult thing to do because it is very costly but we need, in my opinion to rethink of what we as Government can

provide as an incentive to rural people so that they would not leave their rural dwellings or settlements for urban areas.

At the end of the day if we are not mindful of this then it will also become a burden to the Government itself because, the schools that we build as Government, the hospitals and the clinics that we are building simply because there is a process of urbanisation, the schools are becoming more empty as the years are going and they are just standing there at the end of the day. So we need to come up with a plan to keep those people there where they are living. Now that in itself requires that we need to review the rural electrification policy and with that I do not mean conventional electricity, solar electricity needs also to be reviewed because nowadays people are mostly looking for electricity and it is a need that people are seeking it. It is no longer a luxury to have electricity.

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We need to review Honourable Minister the Build Together Programmes to suit rural communities that are living in undeclared settlements, and I am stating it deliberately because we want as from this Habitat Conference that people have to live in proper houses, but because of our policy we cannot build those houses at undeclared settlements for our own people but if it would be possible then definitely the rural communities can build proper houses for themselves in those rural undeclared settlements.

We need also to review the Government support services and specifically the extension services when it comes to farming, to advise the farmers as to how best they can produce their crops, how best they can produce their animals that would be really marketable. Our extension services does not provide these services to the rural communities anymore, and the farmers whenever they are trying to do something do not know where to go. At the end of the day our farmers are likely to farm only for numbers which do not provide marketable products at the end of the day, and then they have to go back unhappy from the market or unhappy from the auctions where they were intending to sell their produces. That in itself discourages the framers that they have to decide to rather go to a town and

live there. But then the impact also is that in the towns we are having unplanned development of structures, we are having a lot of pollution of environment in many ways and the pollution of the underground aquifers as well as the increase of crime nationwide.

What is also happening in the rural areas is development seems to have been left into the hands of conservancies. Conservancies are so to say that de-facto traditional leaders. They are the ones taking the decisions and that in itself discourages many of the people and then they decide that now if that is the case then what is the purpose of me trying to make a living here in this area because, the idea is that the bigger the conservancies are having an area and that they allow the game to roam around the less the farmers have enough room for their farming activities and that in itself brings directly or indirectly a conflict between the conservancy leadership and their own membership who are the farmers. So I think these things needs to be looked at so that we can really find a very amicable solution.

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At the end I would like to conclude with the Regional Councils. It is true that by law the Regional Councils are there to plan the development of the Regions but Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to remind the Honourable Member of Urban and Rural Development that it has been specifically spelt out that when Regional Councils are requesting for heavy equipment to develop rural roads, then they are told that it is not their function. Even on their structures they do not have operators who can operate and make proper roads in the rural areas. So I think there is a need that we have to look at these things so that we can really provide good rural development for our people in the rural areas.

With that I would like to support this Motion and that it be referred to a relevant Committee to look into the impacts of the urbanisation and rural development in the entire Namibia so that we can come up with a way of how we can also sensitise our people to live in the rural areas and develop a living for themselves there which would be meaningful for themselves as well as for the entire nation.

I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Schlettwein.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you Honourable Speaker and thank you for the mover for a very interesting Motion I believe. Honourable Speaker, let me just share lightly Honourable Derek Klazen did, Deputy Minister of Urban and Rural Development, some statistics so that we get an understanding of what the trends are.

In Namibia in 2006, we had an urban population of 36%, in 2016 that grew to 48%. Our rural growth or population is 0.38%. Our population growth in urban areas is 4.26%, more than ten times what the rural

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population is growing. Worldwide the split between rural and urban is the following.

Highly developed countries 81% of the population are living in urban areas. In highly income countries it is 65%, and in low middle income countries it is 49%. The predictions are that the world globally will have an urban population of 70% by 2050 and what is interesting is that because of the fact that industrialised nations are already 81% urbanised, 90% of that urbanisation that is happening from now to 2050 will be in Africa and Asia. Now Comrade Speaker, if that trend is what we have to look at, the question, the principle question that we have to ask is, is urbanisation a problem, that we must fight, or is it an opportunity that we must embrace? I believe it is the latter.

From these trends I think we should be, I am convinced that the trend of urbanisation is very difficult to stop, so I believe therefore that the Debate should not be focused on the impact on towns it should actually be embraced on what are the opportunities that these trends offer, and what are the issues that we have to take into consideration when we believe that

these trends will realise also in Namibia. There are a number of things that I think we have to look at. If you realise that our ambition in Vision 2030, is in fact to become an industrialised nation which we all believe and say, then implicitly we say, our ambition has to be an urbanised population by 2030. We want to be having 81% of our population in urban cities because that is the statistics what we have shown, industrialised nations 81% of the population is urban, and the reason for that is I believe that there is a shift in division of labour, manufacturing and service provision is happening mostly at urban settings, whereas the production of raw materials is in the rural areas.

The growth of the economy if we go by Vision 2030 must come from an improved productive capacity if we want to be industrialised, we want to manufacture more, we want to produce finished goods and trade with them and we want to trade in services. So it looks as if the ambition in 2030 would be, to have a situation where urban populations need to be

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embraced, that is where the economic growth will come from, that is where the job opportunities will be, that is where the wealth will be created. That is of course not to say that we have to neglect the rural population but I am just looking soberly what the statistics are telling us and what our ambitions is which we have embraced in Vision 2030, everyone is saying we want to be industrialised.

Now the next argument is of course on the inputs side what does that need to be done, and yes I agree, the bulk infrastructure must be provided so that these urban populations are sustained. We must bring water to urban centres, we must bring electricity there, and we must bring transport there so that we can bring products, food from markets to consumption. I do believe that we by and large have done that. On the economic opportunity side we have a growth at home strategy, we have an industrialisation policy that tells us what we have to do if we want to be industrialised and as I said industrialisation happens in urban settings by and large.

We do have a logistic hub concept which tells us how infrastructure on the transport side should look like, rail, road, airports, sea ports, so electricity

we have both electricity policy for rural electrification so do we have one for bulk electricity for cities through developing our transmission network and our generation power. So I think there are many elements that are somehow developed, that speak more to urbanisation rather than to perpetuating a situation of a de-facto 50/50 division of rural and urban populations, and I think we should therefore when we Debate this topic and I am coming back to the conclusion, not so much concentrate on identifying what impacts urbanisation would have, but take the next step. Yes look what impacts urbanisation will have but look what opportunities we are getting out of it, because I seriously believe that urbanisation is a matter that we have to embrace. I do not think we can run away from it, I do not think we can stop it, it will come. Let us adapt to that rather than fend it and try to fend it.

Thank you.

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HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. You say it cannot be stopped it will come just like the rain. When the rain is with us you cannot stop the rain. Well I have got a long list but we should keep an eye on the clock. I will go as far as I can. The Honourable Mike Kavekatora.

HON KAVEKOTORA: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker, I will be very short. I also rise to support the Motion that was tabled by Honourable Mbai. It is a very interesting Motion and comes up with a number of hypotheses that needs to be interrogated. But I just want to focus on one issue and it is in the form of a question to say what is causing people to come to urban centres? I think the answer is basically that the majority of people are coming for economic (*Interjection*). We talk about poor people and you are not authorised to say anything.

The issue of people are coming to urban centres mainly for economic reasons, mainly, there might be some other reasons also. Now if that statement is true Honourable Speaker, the migration to urban centres is

because of economic reasons, the questions that follow is that what will we do about that?

Either to accommodate them for the reasons why they come here, or to diversify our economy so that we reduce because at the end of the day the facts of the matter remains that, the migration to urban centres especially at least for the experience that we have now lead to other unwanted situations, situations such as that the Local Authorities or the Municipalities for that matter will find it very difficult to render services to these people that is why we find the mushrooming of shanty towns all over the show, and some of our people are living in conditions where they do not have water, they do not have sanitation and they do not have proper housing.

So the question is, if that is a fact what do we do about it? What does Government do about it?

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I believe that on that front of economic reasons why people are coming to urban centres we need to diversify our economy, purposefully.

Take an example for instance Namibia in the 14 regions has got different competitive advantages. All 14 Regions have got different competitive advantages. Erongo for instance is good in the fishing industry, //Karas is good in the production of diamonds, Hardap is good in the production of sheep and some other meat products, Kunene is good in production of sodality and cattle farming and granite and so on and so forth. So now the moment we start interrogating each and every Region you will find economic activities that can be developed to the maximum to the benefit of the local people. What do we do? We extract diamonds from //Karas, and then all the value addition processes are not taking place in //Karas. We bring them here in Windhoek, and we employ policemen I have seen a lot of policemen and women behind Kaizer Street who are protecting these diamonds that are being brought from //Karas. What benefit does the diamond industry or how does it accrue to where it comes from? What benefit accrues to //Karas for instance?

I think by diversifying we will also succeed in keeping some of the people who mainly come to urban centres for economic reasons to keep them there in their respective regions. Why do we not put up a value addition plant in //Karas where diamonds are being generated? Why do we put up for instance in Kunene? Kunene among the northern regions has got the number of cattle that are more marketable comparatively speaking.

When I am saying marketable I mean the herd of cattle per individual or per household. In some of the northern areas you find that the whole household is only having 30 to 60 cattle whereas and I am not talking about exclusively, and I am saying in some instances so I am qualifying my statement not to be guilty of the fallacy of a composition. But you find that the abattoir that is supposed to slaughter all these animals are in Oshakati and Ondangwa and some of these places. It is a misplacement to beginning with because, the moment you put the abattoir where the

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sources are you create employment locally and you make sure that the people there are benefitting from that. (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Is that a Point of Order?

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Not on a Point of Order but I have a small question.

HON KAVEKOTORA: You may.

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: When you are saying in areas like Kunene for example people have more cattle but you say misplacement or whatever, but the reality is that in those areas we would like to see the animals, only to see them until the drought comes and then they die all of them. They will never sell they do not want to sell it is kept as a pride, as a pride of the family that you see hundreds of them moving. Even to buy sugar and bread is a problem while you have so many cattle?

HON SPEAKER: That is the question?

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: That is the question.

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HON MEMBER: No that is an insult.

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: No it is not an insult. It is the reality.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kavekatora, you have a minute.

HON KAVEKOTORA: First of all the Honourable Member as usual (*Interjection*).

HON SPEAKER: No let us have order.

HON KAVEKOTORA: Just focus on Honourable Member to keep quiet now. *(Interjection) (Intervention)*

HON KAVEKOTORA: The Honourable Member has, *(Interjections)*.

HON SPEAKER: No, please let us have order. Can you continue?

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HON SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister

HON KAVEKOTORA: Let me respond to the question, the Honourable Minister *(Intervention)*.

HON SPEAKER: Please, please.

HON KAVEKOTORA: Honourable Nujoma, you asked a question so I want to respond to your question.

HON SPEAKER: Please I just want the Honourable Kavekatora to respond to that, please. Please let us have some order. Order please. *(Interjection)* I now that please do not remind me I know. Yes Please *(Interjection)* No, please.

HON KAVEKOTORA: The Honourable Minister of Land Reform, and I must make this statement qualifying what I am saying as usual. The Honourable Minister of Land Reform as usual is totally mistaken. He has got his facts wrong. He just stood up to stir emotions and nothing more as usual.

HON SPEAKER: Okay can *(Intervention)*.

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**ADJOURNMENT
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

HON KAVEKOTORA: Honourable Speaker, when the Honourable Member stands up next time do not look on this side, try to control him because in many instances he is a loose cannon. *(Intervention)*.

HON SPEAKER: No, no okay let me say, can I, Honourable Kavekatora, can we adjourn the House and you continue, because you need time and you can come back even to respond fully to the interjection from the Honourable Utoni Nujoma. So, can we have order? *(Interjections)* I am not going to adjourn the House until there is total silence. *(Interjections)* No, no, we have concluded for the Honourable Kavekatora. *(Interjection)* Okay so the House stands adjourned until tomorrow the usual time.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:48 UNTIL 2018.07.20 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
20 JUNE 2018**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS IN TERMS OF RULE
20(A) OF THE STANDING RULES AND ORDERS**

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members welcome back, few, how would I describe what I am going to say. I am going to share few things with you this morning (*Interjection*) this afternoon. It shows you my head is spinning. Few things you know as a country, as a people, over many years we have interacted and connected and networked with so many people around the globe, and some of those people were so close to us. As a people, as a country they assisted us in a number of ways so when you hear them passing on, you cannot help but to acknowledge their departure. One such an old friend of Namibia was Professor Adedeji a Professor of Economics an old friend of Namibia

HON MEMBER: Adebayo?

HON SPEAKER: Adebayo yes. An Economists first class mind. At one point he served as a Head of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, and he passed on last month, and I know that our own Head of State another old friend will be thinking a great deal about the family and all those who are close to the late brother and of course, very much

associated with the work of the UN Institute for Namibia. He was the Chairperson of the UN Institute for Namibia Council.

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Next to him he just passed on a day before yesterday, Ambassador Modise of South Africa another old timer, very much close to this country and he was one of the people who worked at the UN Institute for Namibia. He also left us a day before yesterday, so I just, is one of those things that we cannot ignore but just to recall and to share. Let their souls rest in eternal peace.

HON SPEAKER: Coming back closer to home, you are reading in the paper this morning on issues relating to health. It is a pity that the Minister is not here, the Deputy Minister is not here but still, collectively we are all in it together. We are all concerned about the state of health. Yesterday I had an opportunity to talk about the way how we in Parliament relate to some of these critical issues that are receiving support from our development partners and I was talking to the Namibia country representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Ms Dennia Gale very active person in Namibia on health and reproductive issues.

In our meeting among other things we shared the initiative that they have taken *vis a vis* the Ministry of Health and Social Services, to promote the concept of integrated primary health care provision, and I was particularly interested in the statistics that they are giving under the theme 'one stop shop, one provider one client' and they indicated to me that they have initially rolled out this model at Epako Clinic in Gobabis. I happened to visit that particular clinic, and what is happening there is very exciting. Exciting in the sense that a patient is assigned to one nurse who performs all primary health care checks and facilitation on the patient, and only refers that patient for higher medical evaluation and care if it is deemed necessary.

These primary health care needs range from ordinary illnesses to HIV related illnesses among others, and when you, looking as in today is

Namibian newspaper as a country, we have managed to drop the annual HIV deaths from 10 000 to 4 000 between 1991 to 2016. It is an
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indication the fact that some of these initiatives that we are talking about that we see on a daily basis, are having an impact on the improvement in terms of our health services and the care and it is for that reason that we can only say to our colleagues in the Ministry of Health and Social Services well done. Keep up the good work and we should also say thank you to our development partners being the United Nations or other development partners including the United States that is very much in the forefront of the HIV Aids simply to urge them to continue to do more.

The benefit for this is all about the question of well trained personnel, men and women who are able to work extra mile to do what they known best as they care for their fellow human beings. The Gobabis experience is something that does stand out and one hopes that it would be rolled out to other towns, other villages so that we can increase that level of care and needs to be done in the most competent way.

This is a noble cause and therefore let us all support it and encourage and support the efforts of the Ministry of Health and Social Services and our development partners who are assisting us in all possible manners to ensure that the model is rolled out fully in all our various health facilities. This will greatly enhance and consolidate the provision of primary and health care in our beautiful country.

I just wanted to make that observation in the light of the good news that we are reading in the local media.

HON SPEAKER: Lastly, Honourable Members. Recently we presented a Report from the Ombudsperson entitled '*a nation divided why do racism and other forms of discrimination still persist after 27 years of Namibia is independence*'.

Our view in this House and I hope I am speaking for all of you when I say this is a Report that deserves our particular attention. To interrogate that Report and to see what recommendations we can come up with for further

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TABLING OF REPORTS

HON HANSE-HIMARWA

appropriate action, and I am looking forward to having the necessary copies. If you do not have your own copies, it would be distributed so that we can prepare ourselves to look into this important report so that we can do justice to the work of the Ombudsman and his team.

I rest my case.

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Reports of Standing and Select Committees, oh, yes, Honourable Minister of Education, Arts and Culture. Could you assist her there?

TABLING OF REPORTS

TABLING - ANNUAL REPORT OF NAMCOL

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE:
Honourable Speaker I lay upon the Table, the Annual Report of NAMCOL for 2016/2017.

HON SPEAKER: We are coming.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE: oh, not yet Reports.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON ANDJAMBA**

HON SPEAKER: No we are coming. I know the lines of communication. The Report you were just about to table was already tabled so you are well covered.

HON SPEAKER: Reports of Standing and Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Oh, yes, Honourable Martin Andjaba you have the Floor.

**TABLING - ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker I lay upon the Table, the Annual Report of the Office of the President for the year 2016/2017.

I so Move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you table the Report. We move on. Notice of questions? Honourable Dienda.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON DIENDA**

QUESTION 65:

HON DIENDA: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker I give Notice that on Thursday, the 28th of June 2018, I shall ask the Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare the following.

1. Do you have a database for street kids? If yes, how many are they and how are they distributed within the regions?
2. What programs do you have in place for street kids? If no, what are your intentions with street kids? (*Laughter*)

I so Move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you.

QUESTION 66:

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker I also give Notice that on Thursday, the 28th of June 2018, I shall ask the Ministry of Health and Social Services the following:

1. How many rehabilitation centres do we have in Namibia, and where are they?
2. How many patients are at each of these centres?

I so Move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you.

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
RT HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

QUESTION 67:

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker I also give Notice that on Thursday, the 28th of June 2018, I shall ask the Minister of Safety and Security the following: *(Laughter)*

1. Inmates who are serving long sentences, what educational and upliftment programs do you have in place for them except that they further their studies on their own?

I so Move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Let us move on. Notice of Motions? Prime Minister.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

RT HON DR PRIME MINISTER: I give Notice that tomorrow, the 21st of June 2018, I shall Move that this Assembly in terms of Article 114(2) of the Namibian Constitution, recommends that the Honourable Levy Shiimi Katoma be a Member of the Security Commission to replace Mr Paulus Kapiya who is no longer a Member of the National Assembly. In terms of the same Article the National Assembly is required to recommend this nomination to His Excellency the President for appointment.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Messages from the Head of State?
Ministerial Statements?

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**RELEVANCE OF THE CONTINUOUS
USE OF EVMS IN ELECTIONS
HON KAVEKOTORA**

HON KAVEKOTORA: Hon Speaker?

HON SPEAKER: So we are done. I think we are done. A Notice of a Motion is the one of Honourable Kavekatora. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion?

HON KAVEKOTORA: I do Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds the Motion, any objection, agreed to.
Honourable Member you have the Floor.

**RELEVANCY OF THE CONTINUOUS
USE OF EVMS IN ELECTIONS**

HON KAVEKOTORA: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Members.

Voters in democratic societies go to elections to freely choose their leaders and representatives. Some of the most important ingredients of democratic elections are transparency, credibility and fairness.

Namibia introduced EVMs under the pretext that it would be an efficient, faster and reliable voting method in the conduct of free, fair and credible and transparent elections. Preceding the actual introduction of EVMs was

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the Law Reform process carried out by the Law Reform Development Commission (ELDC) of the Ministry of Justice.

During the consultations with stakeholders, the Law Reform Development Commission, received in October 2011, proposed reforms from ten (10) political parties of which the Rally for Democracy and Progress was one of them. Some of these proposals were implemented while others were not. With regard to the EVMs, the collective position was that the EVMs were still an untested technology, but the political parties took note of the fact that the EVMs have already been purchased by the Electoral Commission of Namibia(ECN).

It was therefore proposed that the EVMs be introduced at the then upcoming by-elections in parallel or simultaneous to the use of traditional ballot papers as a way of creating confidence and gaining experience to prove or disprove the effectiveness and efficiency of EVMs. However, this parallel running of the two systems never materialised.

ELECTORAL LAW AMENDMENTS

Honourable Speaker,

Ultimately the EVMs were formally introduced as one of the voting methods through the Amended *Electoral Act*, 2014 (No. 5 of 2014). For this purpose of the Debate, I will make reference to some relevant sections of the new *Electoral Act*.

Section 99 of the *Electoral Act*, 2014 (No. 5 of 2014)is referring to voting by secret ballots and read as follows:

1. Voting in any election in terms of this Act is by secret ballot.
2. Every ballot paper, including the ballot paper used in respect of the voting machine, are in a form of prescribed and must contain among

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3. others the name. *(Interjection)(Interjection)*

HON SPEAKER: Okay

HON KAVEKOTORA: The Prime Minister is on it again.

HON SPEAKER: Let us continue to listen, *(Interjection) (Laughter)*yes.

HON KAVEKOTORA: May I proceed?

HON SPEAKER: Yes, please. Honourable Shixwameni you are on a Point of Order.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I think the Prime Minister is actually misleading the people, to tell people the lie that I only come here once a month.*(Laughter)*

HON MEMBER: It is a lie

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HON SHIXWAMENI: Yes, she was pointing at me, yes. *(Interjections)* All that I am saying is that *(Interjection)* no, I will never come back. You can have your wishful thinking, I will never come back but let me do my point of order. *(Interjection)* I think everybody was basically aware of it. I have never only come once to Parliament. I think it will be a lie, *(Interjection)* but why are they panicking. I am trying to make a point. Why is everybody? *(Interjections) (Intervention)*

HON SPEAKER: Please let us have some order. *(Interjections)* No, no, really, no, please, please. I will suggest really we are deviating from the subject matter *(Interjections)* but if you want to make a quick comment, make it brief to the point.

HON SHIXWAMENI: My point is that because the Prime Minister looking at me and pointing at me. *(Laughter)* I know because we were talking.

HON SPEAKER: Okay

HON SHIXWAMENI: All that I am saying is that it would be erroneous to assume and to suggest that I only come to Parliament once a month. The times that I have not come to Parliament there Motion was tabled in this House. *(Intervention)*

HON SPEAKER: Formally.

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HON SHIXWAMENI: Formally that I was not feeling well and that is basically the issue that I wanted to make. *(Laughter)*

HON SPEAKER: That should be enough. We leave it at that, Honourable Kavekatora.

HON KAVEKOTORA: I do not know what that was. *(Intervention)*

HON SPEAKER: Please no, no, we cannot continue like this. We cannot do that. We know our rules. The Honourable Member is on the Floor. Please continue.

HON KAVEKOTORA: Honourable Speaker, the matter at hand is very critical. I think it deserves the attention of every Parliamentarian.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, “*Eheno*” (yes) during Debates on the Bill in this august House in October 2014, RDP representatives asked the then Minister of Regional and Local Government and Housing and Rural Development, several pertinent questions relating to the anxiety of opposition parties who doubted the efficiency and reliability of EVMs to conduct free, fair, credible and transparent elections in Namibia. The well-grounded mistrust of EVMs emanated from the fact that the Amend Act, Act 5, of 2014, was to be

implemented **partially i.e. Using EVMs without the requisite Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail as per section 97 (3 &4).**

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In this regard, questions were raised in view of the then and still existing scientific proof since April 2010 that the Indian EVMs acquired by the ECN and **vulnerable to fraud**; as discovered and explained in finest detail, including video demonstrations by a research team of three renounced security analysts, who carried out two successful attacks on the real EVMs and identified several other potential vulnerabilities. The same Indian EVMs were repeatedly subject to court interventions, when:

- In **July 2011, a Supreme Court of India**, asked the Indian Electoral Commission to consider and respond to the request that the EVM **should be modified by providing a simultaneous printout of the voters' ballot on paper.**
- In **January 2012, the New Delhi High Court** ruled that the EVMs **are not "tamper proof"** and added that the Electoral Commission of India should hold wider consultation with the Executive political parties and other stakeholders.
- In **October 2013, the Supreme Court of India** again where the EVMs originated from, directed the Electoral Commission of India to introduce **Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail system** for the next general election in India, in order to ensure free, fair and credible elections.
- The Electoral Commission of India informed the Supreme Court that the EVMs with the **Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail were successfully and satisfactorily used at 21 polling stations in Nagaland during the Assembly election in February 2013, and**

- The New Delhi constituency utilised EVMs with **Voter Verifiable Paper Trails in its constituency election of the 4th of December 2013**, enabling voters to verify if their votes were recorded correctly and being held a successful and a positive experience.

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Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members,

During these debates in Parliament, the then Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, never disputed the fact that, with the current EVM there is no way whatsoever of verifying the ballot in case of an election challenge in a court of law. We all know that our courts are courts of evidence, and in the absence of a paper trail, there is no way any aggrieved party can challenge an election as we did before. Moreover, the Minister never disputed that the only way to ensure trust and confidence of the electoral in the EVMs is by adding a voter verifiable paper audit trail which will enable the voters to see a paper printout of the electronic ballot displaying name and or the symbol of the chosen party or candidate of her or his choice before dropping in a ballot box as provided for in a law.

It appeared then, and even now, that the Government of the day, is indifferent to the fact that EVMs are banned in: The Netherlands way back in 2006, due to the secrecy risk of electronic eavesdropping; it was also banned in the Republic of Ireland, 2009, due to the lack of transparency and trust; it was banned in Germany, 2009, through the Supreme Court that declared that EVMs are unreliable and unconstitutional due to the lack of transparency to a common voter which is very much apparent in our country. It was also banned in the United States, in California and other States ban the EVMs without paper trail, and United Kingdom and France decided not to implement EVMs for more or less similar reason.

Honourable Speaker,

The new *Electoral Act*, was passed without convincing answers as to how the EVMs contribute to the enhancement of freedom, fairness, credibility, verifiability and transparency of elections.

Even though the Amended Act has incorporated, the VVPAT, its implementation commenced in October 2014, with the exception of section 97 (Clause 3-4) and section 99 (Clause 1-2), this is very

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worrisome. More so because, despite the fanfare that accompanied the introduction of EVMs, The RDP and other political parties can now testify that contrary to the stated objective of EVMs, these machines are unreliable, untrustworthy and insecure and they have in actual fact slow down the voting, the counting process and the release of election results in Namibia. *(Interjections)* “eheno” (yes) where were you? Voters are unable to verify how their voters are allocated.

That is why in some instances they are called gambling machines. *(Interjections)* Besides a gambling machine we all know that the owner of a gambling machine is always the winner. It is so programmed that the owner is always the winner. *(Interjections)* *(Intervention)*

HON SPEAKER: No, please.

HON KAVEKOTORA: Honourable Speaker,

Besides the afore-stated shortcomings, ECN has relied on foreign technicians to deal with technical hiccups. This unfortunate scenario exposes Namibian elections to possible manual and or electronic manipulation by foreigners. Hence, the EVM remains under suspicion over the alleged tamper-ability, and the security problems during elections despite all assurances from ECN.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable General, Honourable Members,

I am convinced that the EVMs were introduced to hastily as a sure method by the ruling party to continue rigging elections(*Interjections*) without risking embarrassing themselves in a court of law as it happened in 2009 during a court challenge. It is inconceivable

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HON MEMBER: Even before that.

HON KAVEKOTORA: And even before that, thank you. It is inconceivable that ECN and its backers in this matter have chosen to behave as if the new *Electoral Act* has not made provision for another method of voting as per section 99 of the *Electoral Act*.

Since 2015, Honourable Members, the RDP has engaged various Offices, institutions and the Parliament to seek redress in this matter and that applies to other political parties as well.

a) State President

In August 2015, the RDP sought audience with the Head of State, His Excellency the President Hage Geingob, to discuss the concerns about the EVMs. The President assigned the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Prime Minister, to discuss our concerns.

b) Prime Minister

On the 14th of October 2015, an RDP delegation met with the Right Honourable Prime Minister and her delegation that included the then Attorney General Mr Sacky Shanghala, to discuss the EVMs concerns, mostly the use of these machines without paper trail. This meeting was also attended by ECN standing on the same side as the Office of the Prime Minister.

The ECN representatives assured the meeting that the acquisition of Voters Verifiable Paper Audit Trail was one of the ECN's priorities under MTEF 2016-2019, and will only take nine (9) months to complete. ECN further promised that the 2015 Regional and Local Authority elections were to be the last elections to use EVMs without VVPAT.

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c) ECN

Ever since this consultation with the Prime Minister, ECN has not demonstrated the seriousness to deliver to its promises. To add salt to injury they have lately come up with flimsy excuses, that there are irreconcilable errors in the introduction of paper trail, flimsy excuses.

d) Parliament

Honourable Speaker the failure by ECN to deliver on its promises has left the RDP with no other option but to bring the EVM issue back to this august House. On September 21st 2017, by way of a number of questions directed to the Right Honourable Prime Minister. Unfortunately, the responses given on EVMs were not convincing.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members,

Let me conclude by stating the following:

First and foremost the ruling party and everything that the ruling party does matters, because it is the ruling party. The reluctance of the ruling party to use EVMs during the last Congress held in November last year, is a clear demonstration that even some SWAPO members are questioning the reliability and the credibility of the EVMs. *(Interjection)* I do not know you can name them if you want to. The ruling party cannot and should not expect other stakeholders to trust the system if they are casting doubt on the very same system.

In view of the above Honourable Speaker, I make the following recommendations:

1. The ECN to revert back to the traditional voting methods of ballot papers, manual ballot papers so that at least we can take them to the court of law;

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2. Engaging all stakeholders on how to effectively and efficiently conduct free, fair, credible and transparent elections in Namibia, because the public out there would want to have an input in that;
3. Interrogate some credible democracies that are reluctant to use Electronic Voting Machines, to get some clarity as to why they are reluctant to use EVM, and
4. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, Honourable General, I recommend that this matter be referred to a relevant Parliamentary Committee for further investigation and report back to this august House. With these comments,

I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The Honourable Minister of Justice.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you Honourable Speaker. There is a saying I do not know if it is a religious one but it is a popular saying, that 'the truth will set you free' and as far as I know there is a truth but not half-truth. We should be conscious that when we talk about elections, elections go to the core and the heart of the democracy in this country, and when you want to achieve an objective, it should not be at all

means and at every end. So laden in what the Honourable Member said are truths, half-truths, where you latch onto something, you take it out of context and you sensationalise.

The Honourable Member I put it to the world, did not know of that Indian case of (*Indistinct*) until I brought it to their attention. Quite frankly, they did not know about it (*Interjection*) no they did not. I am putting to you

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that the collective of the opposition including the ruling party, did not know about that case until I brought it to the attention when I was at Law Reform. I even gave him a copy.

No, the problem is, people are told and when you know half something you become the expert, then you go and confuse other people.

Now he quoted in that judgement a section. I have got the judgement in front of me. I want to quote you another part of it. (*Interjection*) It is important Honourable Speaker, (*Interjection*) no not the whole judgement Honourable Speaker. (*Interjection*) Listen, please listen also because, when you spoke you were speaking to the people. I want the people also to hear the other side of the story (*Interjection*) and I am reading from page 7 of the Judgement, paragraph 13. (*Interjection*)

HON MEMBER: Which chapter?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: What do you mean which chapter? I am telling you the Judgement page 7, paragraph 13, "*akwetu*" (my people) comprehension.

The Judgment is the Subramanian Judgment in the Supreme Court of India, which you had no clue of. The EVMS used in India are unique and unlike the ones used in the elections in USA and other countries. There I

exposed the half-truth, that he said that in the US they were condemned whatever. Let me repeat the EVMs used in India are unique and unlike the ones used in the elections in the USA and other countries which are personal computer based. A personal computer has its own definition, okay. The EVMs are not personal computers. That is a big thing one needs to understand and unfortunately you are not tech savvy, you do not understand but you carry yourself out to be one who understands, you can

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confuse people. *(Interjections)*

EVMs deployed by the Electoral Commission of India had been lauded not only in India but also abroad. EVMs control unit retains in the memory each vote recorded elector wise. The information stored in the memory of the control unit can be retrieved by using a device called the decoder, which when attached to the control of the EVM can print out the statement of voting data showing the order in which each voter has voted and to whom he has voted. Therefore it cannot remit anything unless you attach the decoder to it. Therefore the interference from outside is neither here nor there. This is what, let me repeat again. The information stored in the memory of the control unit “*pwikina murumendu wandje*” (listen my fellow gentleman) can be retrieved by using a device called the decoder, which when attached to the control can print out the statement etcetera.

In so far as the transparency of the election process as well as the right of a voter to know whether his vote has actually been recorded for the candidate for whom it was cast is concerned it is submitted that as soon as the vote is recorded by a voter by pressing the candidates button on the ballot unit, a light glows against the name and a symbol of the candidate which the voter can see for him or herself. This is a visual electronic assurance to the voter that the candidate for whom he has cast his vote has actually got that vote. Thereafter the light goes off to protect the secrecy of the voting.

I now proceed to go to where the court ruled and I will not repeat what he read and the court then said yes, we believe that adding extra measure of the VVPAT is good and it will enhance the transparency but it does not

say that without it, it will not be transparent. Then they go and rule and say in light of the above discussion, and taking notice of the pragmatic and reasonable approach of the ECI and considering the fact that in general elections all over India the ECI has to handle one million polling both.

We permit the ECI to introduce the same in gradual stages or geographical wise in the ensuing general elections. The area state or actual booths are to 20 June 2018

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be decided by the ECI and the ECI is free to implement the same in a phased manner. We appreciate the efforts and good gesture made by the ECI in introducing the same.

Now the company barracks has to produce for India primarily, they are an Indian company that is subject to Indian jurisdiction, and it is for one million if we can count one million, and then they have to also at the same time design a proto type for our elections. The design of the proto type has been made. It has been fixed back and forth of the ECN.

HON MUHARUKUA: Point of order.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Listen first to the information.
(*Interjection*)

HON MUHARUKUA: Honourable Minister of Justice you have just talked about half-truth and truth. You are talking half-truth. You have not gone further to quote that Judgement as to what the reservations of that Judgement as to the use of the EVM without a paper trail. Do not tell us half things. Tell us the true story.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: But I just said I will not repeat what he read. Are we listening? I will not repeat what he read and I went further from what he read so that you can understand that you have to read things in the context. You will not find a more honest individual particularly towards the opposition because I have to tell you the truth. (*Indistinct*)

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1. Now the issue of vulnerability to interference, I have addressed that it is not a PC. It has a chip and it only corresponds to a decoder.
2. The issue of unconstitutionality. If the Honourable Member and his party have issues of constitutionality, this is not the fora to bring it. There is what you call in the electoral law the High Court, the Electoral Court, either in its own normal dispensation or as an electoral court or the Supreme Court as an electoral court of first instance, and you go there for them with their (*Indistinct*) to interpret the constitutionality of issues. The issue of bringing about to talk about constitutionality here is neither here nor there.
3. It is a gambling machine. You see these are the insinuations. When people have nowhere to lay blame for their unpopularity, the lack of popular democratic support even though they change names, and now they want to say it is the machine. It is not the machine.
4. Rigging of elections. Honourable Speaker, none of the members of the opposition sitting here, their cohorts outside, or former parties that were here which will never return here, have never brought to this House or anywhere else on this planet or even anywhere else even the moon, any Judgement saying that you rigged an election.

The Judgment he is referring to, refers to the fact that there were ballots that fell off the truck and because the court found that there maybe a need to instill confidence that particular constituency should be re-counted (*Interjections*). That is what happened and it was recounted and it was done.

Now I do not understand where they find the actual ruling of rigging and maybe they must define rigging for me because, I cannot understand in the context of, they just say rigging. You know statements which are easy to make, difficult to rebuff and this is how I characterised some of the opposition and popular statements being made by members of society. Sometimes we are reckless and when we do so we are not

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tarnishing the image of the ruling party or the ECN, we are tarnishing the image of the country and we have no evidence. I do not know you want to take over a country and rule it but you want to beat it first so it is on its knees. I really do not understand. Then the designs. *(Interjection)*

HON SPEAKER: On a Point of Order. Yes, Honourable Shixwameni.

HON SHIXWAMENI: I listened to my articulated young brother Sakeus. He is really articulating a position *(Intervention)*

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Yes Ignatius.

HON SHIXWAMENI: But I want to actually as Minister of Justice, and probably the Attorney General here can of course help us. The Minister of Justice is prepared to Amend the Namibian Constitution, to provide for parties that are represented in Parliament due to the cost of litigating in Namibian courts which are so high, that parties in the Namibian Parliament like in our sister Parliament in South Africa can litigate in Court at the cost of the State at the cost of Parliament provided that they have a case that they are able to actually win that particular case.

Is the Minister of Justice and Attorney General amenable to make that amendment in the constitution which is so crucial so that we can be able to litigate in a court of law which is so expensive?

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HON SPEAKER: You know the difficulty I am having this is an argument obviously. (*Interjections*) Can I guide us? I am simply saying I do not want to dilute the argument but really these are things that can be taken up through the forum of Whips, and once they are taken up at that level and discussed, not under the emotions, because once you put them together that argument loses out so I do not want to pre-judge what the Minister of Justice is going to say but I feel this is not related.

I hope it can be taken up separately to do justice to the argument and not to have to get the Minister to react emotionally. Honourable do you care to quickly attend to this and move on your own argument.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Speaker you are quite right. I would like he is raising a very important issue. I think that is a topical issue, but I would like to say there are actually three avenues for redress on that issue already now and if there is a need maybe to take up the suggestion, then we can look at it.

1. To say that parties are actually funded through the democratic system for proportional representation so they get money so you can use that money.
2. If it is not enough, then there is also (*Interjection*) no listen to the second one, then there is also Legal Aid if you can qualify.

3. *(Interjection)* I am saying an individual can stand up as *locus standi* and say look, I am a citizen, I am a voter etcetera and then maybe it can be looked at, but the third one is to say as a litigant you may prey to the court for that relief that since it is a public interest matter the court should see it fit perhaps not to award costs against the parties and that if need be that it directs that since it is the public interest that the State. *(Interjections)* All I am saying is that you have those avenues Honourable Shixwameni.

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I wanted to conclude Honourable Speaker, in saying that the issue of paper trail is not easy to say if we wanted it to be done via the machine. I have tried the paper trail which I designed myself is not done machine wise, *(Interjections)* look, as a drafter when I was drafting the *Electoral Act*, I had to immerse myself in trying to understand how this would actually work, so I had to immerse myself and I tried to see how does it work. How do you make this person come in and then there is a piece of paper here whatever? If you *(Intervention)*

HON SPEAKER: Is that a Point of Order.

HON MUHARUKUA: From the Honourable Member who professes to be the most honest obviously, *(Indistinct)* that is fine, you have not given us your analysis of the other view in that Judgment. You have only given us, no, he has only gone as far as to say that the EVMs operate this way and therefore the conclusion could be this but the doubts as to the perception. *(Intervention)*

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I am coming

HON MUHARUKUA: You were about to finish please get to that, be honest.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Alright. The Honourable Member will know that that person who drafted that law which includes that

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VVPAT is on the Floor. Therefore you have my view. I will tell you that nobody is against the verifiable paper trail. Nobody is against it because it enhances credibility of an election. The absence thereof does not negate from the credibility that is what I am trying to say because *(Indistinct)* I am saying it enhances. Do you understand the difference?

We were saying that look you are driving a vehicle and you have a seat belt. It does not have air bags. If you put air bags in, it enhances the safety but it does not mean to say that because it does not have air bags and you have seat belts it is not safe, so I am trying to give you. *(Interjection)*

HON SPEAKER: Let us not get into a dialogue. Have your say and conclude because I want us to continue.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Speaker, what I was trying to explain is this. When I was drafting that law, I had to consider and I had workshops, and I brought the Attorney General now, the Minister then of Urban and Rural and Honourable Minister of Justice Uutoni Nujoma and others and we had a couple of workshops to try and explain how the impact would be and processes. We went back and forth, so on the paper trail it has to be a tailor-made prototype that then has to be looked at that fits our electoral process because you would agree with me, the elections are not uniform elsewhere. For example our tax vote is

unique to Namibia. It is not uniform elsewhere. It has to be done. That has been done.

The process of perfecting the prototype is actually in an ongoing and the ECN has made trips there, they have made trips here. Devices have been worked on and they are continuing to do that. The difficulty we have is that if you interpret the Judgement to mean just “*somer*” “*nje*” (just because), it is wrong and that is why I come to the issue to say and I have
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read that part for you to say that, the court understands the gradual or geographical implementation because they understand the reality of one, producing one million units to fit and back-up to fit for the Indian elections and India is but a country with which population? How many times will we fit in that population? So you have to understand that.

Then secondly, then to design for us and other clients. So it is not an issue that that is not, and if you want as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee you can go and check their records and their Budget and see how much money is being spend on these issues. So the issue I am trying to say is Comrade Speaker is that we should be cautious, elections are sensitive. It maketh or breaketh the country, and when you insight fears unduly with the language that is being used, I think we cause more harm than good if the intention was really good. That is all I wanted to say.

Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Doctor Albert Kawana.

HON ATTORNEY GENERAL: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I rise to add my voice to the Motion as tabled by Honourable Kavekatora. We in the SWAPO party we have a fundamental principle,

and that principle is that a party is more important than individuals. I want to start from that angle, whether Kawana is elected it is immaterial.

The most important thing is the party, SWAPO party, which won overwhelming elections, every elections since independence and every member of the party satisfied as long as the party is successful, individuals do not matter. I want to start from that angle. Comrade Speaker I want to

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also in as much as I want to contribute I want also to protest regarding this Motion a copyright.

You may recall Comrade Speaker, I raised this issue during the budget debate of ECN and now I see RDP are copying me also although the motivation is different from what I raised. You may recall Comrade Speaker I said then and Comrade Speaker promised that ECN was going to be invited to come and brief this House, because us in the ruling party, SWAPO party, we believe in free, fair, transparent and credible elections since independence.

Court case after court case including the one I was involved, in my capacity as Attorney General in 2009, contrary to what the Honourable Member is saying both the High Court and the Supreme Court ruled that those elections were free, fair, transparent and credible. In actual fact I am still going to pursue the RDP. They owe us some money because they lost the court case with cost. I am going to pursue to recover the money because you lost both at the High Court with cost and Supreme Court with cost.

Comrade Speaker the SWAPO party and its leadership has nothing to fear. Whatever type of election you propose, as long as those elections are free, fair and transparent, we will beat you jealous down like what hands down. That one we can rest assure you and my suspicion (*Intervention*).

HON SPEAKER: Is that a Point of Order?

HON MUHARUKUA: Honourable Kawana I want to make a battle on the Floor of this Parliament. If SWAPO wins the election after twelve (12) years, I will give you two cows.*(Interjections)*

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HON ATTORNEY GENERAL: Honourable Speaker, we have elections next year. Instead of two, I propose for my young brother to give me only one. *(Laughter)* As I said Comrade Speaker, as long as elections whatever method, as long as those elections are free, fair, transparent and credible, the SWAPO is ready. We have nothing to hide. On that one we have nothing to hide because I see now, some political parties in order to survive they try to change names here and there. *(Laughter) (Intervention)*

HON SPEAKER: Another point of order. Honourable Sioka please.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask Honourable a question. Comrade Speaker may I ask Honourable Minister a question?

HON SPEAKER: A small question, yes, please.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Yes, Doctor thank you very much. That was my indication

when I wanted to rise to talk on the fines, because we have been accused from left to right the crocodile tears, were are thieves especially from RDP is just too much and they seem as if, *(Interjection)* Honourable Shixwameni you do not have a woman in your party just *(Laughter)* and I won Honourable Shixwameni in Ncuncuni. It is me who went to Ncuncuni constituency. I was the only one together with the Secretary. We were two ladies and defeated APP right away, *(Laughter)* so brother it is better you cool down. I am on a Point of Order. Comrade Speaker I

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wanted to ask Dr Kawana to give us a timeframe when are you going to pursue the Judgement that they have to pay us before this election, and the date should be given before 2020 timeframe. Can we have it?

Thank you.

HON ATTORNEY GENERAL: Thank you very much Honourable Sioka. Now I have a dilemma as Attorney General, because some of the parties have changed names. Now I do not know whether to claim from the old name or from the new name. I do not know, but Comrade Speaker this issue is very important. You recall what I said. Issues of elections sometimes they tear nations apart. They tear stable countries apart and therefore it is not really a joke. That is why it is important for us to sit under one roof all of us as Namibians, and come up with a system that is satisfactory to each and everybody, so that whoever wins that party will win and will have the confidence of this nation. That is my bottom line and therefore my plea to the Honourable Speaker, although we have heard now the ruling party being burst and so forth, the ECN is completely independent as per the demand of the minority parties.

That is why even the Budget in this Parliament is tabled by the Honourable Speaker here because of the independence of the ECN. Elections is my leader so do not go there. Otherwise, I will bash you. Do not go there.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Shixwameni. Your Microphone.

HON SHIXWAMENI: I think the Honourable Attorney General is talking a lot of 150% sense. I think he is even in support actually of the
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Motion. Would we be able to say probably instead of continuing the Debate as Attorney General, that you support that the Motion goes to Committee and that we sit together as all political parties both represented in Parliament and those ones that are not represented in Parliament, so that we sit around the table together with the Electoral Commission to make sure that we find an amicable solution to the EVM machines but also the whole electoral process in Namibia.

Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Dr Kawana.

HON ATTORNEY GENERAL: Honourable Speaker that is why I propose during the Budget Debate of ECN. Indeed Honourable Shixwameni is correct up to a certain point. I want just to amend what he is proposing. There is a political party forum all political including those who are not represented in Parliament. I think that forum to me is the best, where all political parties are represented under the auspices of ECN, to come together and sort out this issue if there is any concerns to address those concerns. To me I would be very satisfied because, when we go into elections next year I want my party now to make sure that if anything maybe there would be only one member of the opposition in the House. Others would be wiped out.

Already there is in-fighting, there are some cases in court, so we will see how it will go. *(Interjections)* Comrade Speaker it is most unfortunate for the RDP now to insinuate that the ruling party is rigging elections even the forthcoming elections next year, and yet on the contrary the truth is that they got hold of a Report, that Report which was authored by IPPR where that Report is very clear.

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The ruling party is still enjoying majority support of our people including the youth and they know, and PDM whatever the name there is only 12% according to that Report. 12% support for whatever name I cannot even remember the name but the rest, I am sure they are depressed Comrade Speaker. That is why they are coming up with this Motion because they know that the writing is on the wall next year. They are so scared of 2019, they do not want even to hear 2019 election, because they know they would be wiped out.

Now Comrade Speaker just to allude what my Colleague the Honourable Minister of Justice has said. On the contrary the EVMs of India they are not computer linked. I think that must be made very clear. They cannot be hacked unlike those which were used or which are used in other countries. That one must be very clear, and the Supreme Court of India said for now there is nothing wrong with the current system which has no paper trail. There is nothing wrong and this is where it is very important and it was emphasised by Honourable Minister of Justice here, but in order to enhance further transparency and whatever, it would be a necessity for paper trail to be added so let us not misinterpret what the Supreme Court of India said.

This one is just an additional what we call safeguard, an additional confidence measures to the political parties, and for me I have nothing to oppose. I cannot oppose what we call paper trail. After all it is part of our *Electoral Act* which we were what we call drafting at the coast, with the Honourable Minister of Justice in his capacity then as the Chairperson of the Law Reform, the General there Comrade Utoni you were there?

Yes, in Swakopmund, no in Walvis Bay. We had some days drafting that law, we incorporated even what we call the SADC principles, whereby election results must be recorded even in each polling station. Everything is there. So we are ready.

In conclusion Comrade Speaker the SWAPO party is ready come 2019, when we are going to hold free, fair, credible, transparent elections to wipe them out.

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Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Next is Honourable Kasuto please.

HON KANDUMBU: It is Kandumbu.

HON SPEAKER: Kandumbu yes, what happened to your microphone?

HON KANDUMBU: It is not working.

HON SPEAKER: Alright, thank you. You have the Floor my dear.

HON KANDUMBU: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Let me also add my voice on the Motion which is on the Floor. Firstly I will boldly argue in support of continuous use of Electronic Voting Machines, in all

Namibian Presidential, National, Regional and Local Authorities' election. It must also be noted that one must not invite others for discussion and Debate as an excuse to hide the reality of the fear of losing again the forthcoming elections.

Secondly, I shall highlight the advantages of using the EVM compared to reverting back to the outdated, outshined, outperformed, unfashionable, old fashioned, aniconic ballot paper based on manual system.

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Today we are no longer living in the 20th century based on paper based mentality but we are living in the 21st century characterised by technology.

Such technologies determine accuracy, enhancing literacy, innovative thinking and most importantly can be freely employed to promote a secure free, fair, credible and peaceful election. I shall not shy away, but discuss the issue of voter verifiable paper audit trail which is VVPAT or in short paper trail. Let me already alert this august House, that we must kill this propaganda machine (*Interjection*)

HON MEMBER: From where?

HON KANDUMBU: Which is employed by our opponents that without such paper trail, Namibian election will not be free, fair and transparent. That is not true. As Honourable Members, we all under oath to promote the Namibian constitution. For example Article 94(b) states that

'all Namibian elections be directed, supervised, monitored and managed control by Electoral Commission of Namibia under the fundamental principle of peacefulness, transparency impartiality, we all have to adhere to such constitutional provision'.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members let me elaborate on this tricky aspect. I will base my contribution on historical facts and reality not on rumours. Let me therefore recall where in Namibia elections were secured as free, fair, credible and peaceful election. During the 2014 Presidential and National Assembly the following 16 political parties we know who are those political parties including the RDP and the then DTA, that took in the said election on the principles of equality, no favouritism and impartiality.

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The outcome was that the SWAPO party of Namibia won the 2014 National Assembly election with an overwhelming majority. It obtained 77 out of 96 seats in the National Assembly. The DTA or the then DTA of Namibia was the distant second position. It gained up only 4.8% thus translating to 5 seats.

The Rally for Democracy, unfortunately they lost their status as official opposition party. Honourable Members these elections were made use of EVM and not a single party out of 16, not even a single party that partook in the said election made any objection or approached any Namibian court. It translates as follows. All Namibian political parties accepted all 16 Namibian parties who partook in the 2014 election *(Interjection)* accepted the outcome of the 2014 Presidential and National Assembly election. The historical evidence is with us. We are sitting in this august House, all of us here present in this august House including the RDP and Honourable Muharukua, we all accepted the results and therefore my beloved Honourable Members you are here representing your political parties so we have to thank the EVM.

My question is, so why must we suddenly put blame on the machine that was employed and operated by us, because you send your representatives during the election? *(Interjection)* Do not disturb me. We should not put blame on the machine which was employed and operated. *(Intervention)*

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Muharukua on a Point of Order.

HON MUHARUKUA: Honourable Speaker I think is a fallacy. It is actually an abomination for a Member to prepare her speech and in the written speech to include other Members. What did I do? Why were you thinking of me when you were writing your speech? *(Laughter)* I did not table the Motion but you are reading Muharukua. You have to make it a
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point to write in your speech Muharukua is looking.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member you may continue.

HON KANDUMBU: It is a sign of love. It is not part of my speech for your information. *(Intervention)*

HON SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable is that a point of order.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask a small question?

HON KANDUMBU: Yes, you may.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Comrade I know you understand what happens in the rural areas when we are tilling our mahangu fields and we use implements called hoes. h-o-e, “*etemo*”.
(Interjection)

HON MEMBER: “*Ihaamba*”

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HON SPEAKER: “*Ihaamba*” Now sometimes (Interjection) “*Muhuma*”. When you are coming from one family, you are in the mahangu field and you are with “*etemo*” (hoe), sometimes some people the “*etemo*” is going kwa, kwa, is very fast and sometimes for us who come from the town is very slow. Do you go and blame the machine that it is not going fast to get me “*etemo*” or do you blame yourself?

HON KANDUMBU: Thank you very much Honourable Sacky Shanghala. I have to blame myself. I will never blame the “*etemo*” or the machine. Therefore as a matter of fact, the Namibian 2014 Presidential and national elections were a historical fact, not only for Namibia but also for the entire African continent Honourable Kavekatora. For the first time an African country conducted national elections using Electronic Voting Machine or EVM. It was also the first in Africa to incorporate paperless balloting into the voting process.

Furthermore Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members the elections were observed by several foreign and domestic observers’ missions including the representatives of the DTA and the RDP. All the observers including the first who came out of saying it was transparent and fair, it was the representatives of the RDP.

All the observers' missions held a peaceful, violence and intimidation free atmosphere within the election were conducted. They also described the election as free, credible and transparent. So my simple, honest, reasonable and patriotic plea is let us not undo the stardom, eminent, reputation, prominence that has been accorded to the land of the brave namely the Republic of Namibia. History speaks for itself, and by means of using EVM, we put our nation on the world map as one of the best democratic countries in Africa, and without overtaking among the best worldwide.

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Let me now emphasise on the advantages, using the EVM compare reversing back to the manual ballot system. Let us know that the use of EVM in their current format, it is 100% legal. In terms of *Electoral Act* 2014 (No. 5 of 2014), section 97(2) the following is stated and I quote.

"Despite anything to the contrary contained in this Act or any other law, the Commission may adopt voting by way of voting machines in the manner as maybe prescribed including the manner of registering and recording of votes by way of voting machine. The procedure relating to voting to be followed at polling stations where voting machines are used. The procedure as to counting of votes recorded by way of voting machines and the safe custody of voting machine."

So as those who are entrusted by the Namibian nation with legislative duties, we are acting in line with our legislative mandate. There is nothing wrong. The Electoral Commission they are doing a hundred percent correct job. At the same time let me briefly highlight the following aspects on the EVM that clearly dictates advantages in comparison with manual paper system.

Dear Comrades or Honourable Members do we really want to waste N\$60 Million, which we purchased this machine if we are proposing of us going back or reverting back to the manual system? Is that what we want to do, wasting the Namibian resources? The answer is obvious, is a big no.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, to go back to the manual ballot paper and ballot box based system to achieve what we want to achieve if we want to go back to the ballot paper, the result will remain the same. SWAPO might even obtain 90%. This option is costly, and as it demonstrated in previous Namibian elections, results may lead to contested election outcomes. Most importantly, since the use of the EVM no election outcome has been challenged.

Spoiled and invalid ballots will be reintroduced, if we are proposing of going back to the manual. Spoiled and invalid ballots will be reintroduced.

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The danger of spoiled and invalid ballots do not lead to peace, but solely to disunity, animosity and endless court challenges like what the RDP did but they lost. Counting and announcement of results will be long and cumbersome as it has happened in the past. It takes days and days to count, and due to human fatigue, many errors are encountered.

Lastly, let us not invite trouble but let us embrace peace, unity and free and fair election by using on continuous basis EVMs. Otherwise, we will make our election cheap, undemocratic and chaos. *(Intervention)*

HON SPEAKER: A Point of Order. Are you done?

HON KANDUMBU: Not yet.

HON SPEAKER: Oh, yes. Have the mic on. Are you prepared for a small question from your Honourable Member?

HON SHIXWAMENI: In Otokota we do not have microphones just like in Odibo. *(Laughter)* I just wanted to ask to my Honourable sister she is talking about this time difference between manual counting of manual ballot voting and electronic voting. Why did it take four days more than a week almost to announce votes that are countered electronically, the same time that it almost has taken for the past 25 years during the former elections that we had that always it has taken five to seven days, so what is the difference in terms of real counting the votes if the EVMs can produce results instantly?

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HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member you may continue.

HON KANDUMBU: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. Four days is not long. *(Interjections)* I am talking about dates and days. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members allow me to enter into my final point.

First it must be strongly noted that in Namibia we are not opposed the ruling party SWAPO, we are not opposed to the introduction of the use of Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail or VVPAT. As a matter of fact such use of paper trail is allowable in terms of the *Electoral Act*, 2014 (No. 5 of 2014). It is stated in the *Electoral Act* under Section 97(3) and (4) that the use of paper trail is allowable for every vote cast by a voter, and may in any vote cast is verified by a count of the paper trail. In the event that the results of the voting machine and the result of the paper trail do not accord, the paper trail results are accepted as election outcome for the polling station or voting thread concerned. Thus the use and application of the voter verifiable paper audit trail or the VVPAT is justifiable and lawful.

However, in terms of Government Gazette number 5593 of 17th October 2014, under Section 209(1) of the *Electoral Act*, 2014 (No. 5 of 2014)

Honourable Minister of the Urban and Rural Development, has to determine when Section 97(3)(4) comes into operation. To date the Honourable Minister has not yet such a date and when it is suitable we will act accordingly.

Finally, we are standing just a few months before Namibian elections in 2019. *(Interjections)* I said election in 2019. My recommendation are as follows. 2019 we are going to meet you at the polling station. Continue using the EVM in the current form and *Electoral Act* still allows that process. At the same time we are extending an invitation publicly for

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testing the EVM to confirm that they cannot be manipulated or tempered with. *(Intervention)*

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order. *(Interjection)*

HON KANDUMBU: I am also an elder, there is no elder here.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you Comrade Speaker just a small piece of information. I actually want to congratulate the Comrade over there. I think she is doing exceptionally well. Unusually well.

Thank you very much. *(Laughter)*

HON SPEAKER: I am sure you noted the compliment. *(Interjections)*

HON KANDUMBU: At the same time extend an invitation publicly for testing the EVM to confirm that they cannot be manipulated or tempered with thereby put measurements in place to strengthen transparency by allowing all political party representatives as it has been doing before observers and media during the preparation process before election.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members in conclusion I am in support continuous using the EVM with or without the paper trail.

I thank you. *(Applause)*

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HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Next is Honourable Uutoni Nujoma. *(Interjection)* Sorry Point of Order to whom? On a Point of Order, alright. Yes, just wait for the light.

HON MUHARUKUA: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members for me this is a matter of principle, I would have preferred to do it otherwise but I nonetheless I do it this way because *(Indistinct)* now the Honourable Members that is due to take the Floor yesterday in justifying why abattoirs should not be built in Kunene north. *(Intervention)*

HON SPEAKER: No, no.

HON MUHARUKUA: Honourable, no it has to do with the derogatory comment that I want withdrawn, and I am justifying why I am saying what I am saying and the Speaker has ruled that I can bring forth the Point of Order. Let me say the Point of Order. Let the Speaker rule on it,

HON SPEAKER: Yes.

HON MUHARUKUA: yes, thank you.

HON MUHARUKUA: He said the following words that the reason why the abattoirs are not build in those places is that because those people
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being the people of Kunene north the Himbas refuse to sell the cattle. Even when they are hungry, they do not even buy sugar. Now Honourable Speaker it was a direct response to an utterance by Honourable Mike Kavekatora, suggesting that abattoirs should be built in those communities. He said those communities are stingy, they do not sell cattle even when they are hungry. That is the interpretation even when they are hungry, they do not buy sugar or anything to eat.

Now Honourable Speaker to me one, that is a very, very tribal remark to generalise all Himbas, all people from Kunene north to be stingy. I am one of those people. Honourable Speaker I want the Honourable Member to withdraw those words as un-Parliamentary. If they are not withdrawn, then it basically means that Members of this august House are at liberty and we have carte blanche to go or to hail out tribal remarks and or reckless remarks against any member of the Namibian public with impunity. So I seek and I implore the Honourable Member to withdraw those words against the Himbas, failing which I shall never ever be asked to withdraw any words.

HON SPEAKER: Now this is an issue I want to rule on this one right away. Please listen to me carefully. We will revisit the Record for those words if they are expressed in a manner you suggest. Then I will refer the

matter to the Honourable Member to withdraw. I will check the Record for now I want to leave it so that we can handle it in the correct manner. Honourable Uutoni Nujoma you have the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Thank you Comrade Speaker for the Floor. These are desperate attempts to divert us from the order of the business of today, desperate attempts. They will never help you in any way. So let me continue with my contribution to the Motion by Honourable Kavekatora, and my contribution is as follows.

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I just want to reassure the Honourable Members that for the past if I am not mistaken for the past eight years at the African Union where our Heads of States meets, Heads of States and Government meet the electronic voting machines are already in operation. Our Heads of States when they vote for the Chairperson of the African Union Commission or when they vote for officials of the African Union our continental body, they use electronic voting machines and not a single country has objected to the outcome of those elections.

So my comment is that we in Namibia, are the first to introduce the electronic voting machines apart from the African Union which is a very, very progressive step. Namibians let us appreciate what is good, not always because of short-sightedness that we tend to condemn everything that is for the good of our country, at the African Union right now.

So what we did because when the African Heads of States and Government agree it means that becomes our law. What Namibia has done is only to domesticate that. So we should be proud people.

I am total agreement with Honourable, the Minister of Justice and the Attorney General if there are maybe some shortcomings because these devices cannot be hacked by anybody and that is a fact. It is a fact. What we need to take into account, maybe before I go to that, the election is a contestation of political parties, and it is like let me take you now to the

current issues now. The World Cup we are now watching the World Cup big teams, Brazil you can call them Uruguay, Paraguay, Senegal, Morocco, Egypt and all the others. They fans in a contestation.

When you lose the game you do not go and destroy the ball. *(Laughter)* Comrade Shixwameni in any contestation when you lose are you going to cut the ball or smash your TV or hang yourself or jump from a big building? It is not done that way. It is not. You do not destroy the device that enhances your satisfaction. If you are dissatisfied, you do not go and cut the ball. I am lecturing Honourable Members on the correct things you see.

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Sometimes you know, and I am just speaking out of context. You like to take things out of context and try to justify your moral bankruptcy. *(Laughter)* So Comrade Speaker election is just a contestation. Leave the Electronic Voting Machines alone. If we need to in order to enhance efficiency as it was stated here, to enhance transparency, credibility and everything, then we can say how do we improve on this so Comrade Speaker let me end up there, before I anger some people and that is my contribution.

Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker for the opportunity. I rise to contribute to the Debate on the Motion tabled by Honourable Mike Kavekatora, concerning the use of Electronic Voting Machines in our elections.

I want to start by saying before I delve into my contribution that the use of electronic machines was never imposed by SWAPO on Namibia.

SWAPO is a political party that is equal to any other political party and it exercise its mandate given to it through the election to administer the governance of this country through State institutions by having majority two thirds membership in Parliament, by having the mandate to constitute the Executive which is the Cabinet, but the proposal to use the Electronic Voting Machines came through an independent autonomous political state institution that is established under the laws that were passed in this Parliament was proposed to political stakeholders through a platform that was alluded to by some of the speakers and under which consultations there was a consensus that the machines can be used, and if for any reason we have a change of mind and we no longer wish to continue to use these

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machines, we can simply just invoke the process of consultations, and decide in a consultative manner that we no longer wish to continue with the use of these machines without coming up with all kinds of unsubstantiated allegations, that seeks to only tarnish our governance system for no reason . I think that is the most important.

So this Honourable Member could simply just have come with a one line motivation and say that based on the experience of the use of these EVMs, we would no longer wish that we continue to use these EVMs and we should engage in a consultation towards the discontinuation of the use of the machines.

I would have no problem to agree to that one and in fact, I do not in principle disagree with a request to re-examine the continued use of the machines but I have strong objection to the allegations that are made against the State, against the ECN, which is a statutory body established under the laws that we as a Parliament are Members of, and the laws which we have sworn to uphold and protect, and we now as Members of Parliament take the platform of Parliament to actually bash this institution in order to gain political mileage so Comrade Speaker, if there is any statement that needs to be withdrawn I think it is that statement that attacks the ECN.

We can say anything to point out the shortcomings of the machines without having to attack the ECN you know. I think that is highly inappropriate, because when we start to attack public officials who are not politicians, who are simply employed by the State to carry out functions that we have assigned to them, and we attack them because we are not happy with the outcome of the processes that are carried out you know that they administer, I think we are compromising the systems of the State.

I wanted to do that to make that statement before I proceed because I do not want people to go and say SWAPO is insisting on the use because they benefit, they are rigging through the equipment, no. We are not saying that we should continue with the use of these machines if they are no

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longer wanted. We are only saying we never instituted these machines. The use of the machines were not imposed. They were agreed upon and if we no longer want to continue to use them, we can simply just say no stop, without accusing SWAPO or the ECN or anyone else. That is fact. *(Interjection)* I have many other points to make and I will continue to make them.

Secondly, the use of the machine was introduced not as a pretext as it is being alleged by the Honourable Member in his statement. It was not a pretext that it would be efficient. It was a genuine and practical effort to enhance the administration of our electoral process.

I would also say that the allegations that the recommendation from the political parties were not implemented by the ECN and all the other things that were said about the ECN that are not complimentary is also not correct, because as I have indicated the use of these EVMs were agree.

I remember that the first procurement of the machine, was a procurement of a limited number that were used for demonstration purposes, and I remember political parties and Members of Parliament being called to observe the demonstration of the use of the machines, and it was only after political parties had agreed that they agree to the use of these machines

that the Commission then proceeded to acquire additional equipment in order that they can be utilised in the electoral processes at different levels.

Now the Honourable Member also went on to say that the ECN undertook to use verifiable paper audit trail but has failed to do that and did not show any seriousness towards achieving that. The Honourable Member indicated actually that this was also said at a meeting held at the Office of the Prime Minister, which meeting did indeed take place and was also attended by the ECN, but what the Honourable Member conveniently omitted from his statement is the fact that the ECN indicated that they do not have the capacity to develop this capability to produce the verifiable paper audit trail, that that capability would be utilised when it is available,

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and it is other countries that are developing this capability so you can only accuse the ECN of not being genuine in implementing this system.

If this system is indeed available and they have not acquired the system but you cannot insist that they should use a system that is not available especially when you yourself know even without being told by the ECN that this country does not have the capacity to develop that capability. So I think really continued citation of this is an attempt really to mislead the public into believing that there is something untoward in this prevailing situation where we do not have this capability on our EVMs.

I think the preceding speakers have already indicated that the assertion made by the Honourable Member that these EVMs are banned in these countries that are sighted here is not correct, because in fact the equipment that are being used in those countries are different from the EVMs which are unique and tailor-made for use in that country initially although we now show interest also to make use of them here.

Then the Honourable Member went on to claim that SWAPO has been rigging elections, and they want now the use of the EVMs to be discontinued so that they can win the election, but he apart from the fact of course that that statement is without any truth not backed with any

evidence, the Honourable Member conveniently failed to point out the fact that SWAPO has been winning elections since independence before the introduction of the EVM machines. SWAPO won the election even when they were supervised by the United Nations, even when we were just coming out of the exile you know and practically the oppressors were still hovering around and these oppressors were in association with some of the participants in the electoral process. We still defeated them hands down.

We had a clear mandate to form a Government. It was never a coalition in spite of all the attempts to make sure including April 1st to derail the elections, we still emerge victorious and we won these elections because we have won the trust and confidence of the Namibian people and the

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Namibian people continue to vote for SWAPO as my sister there said the machines are not voting. The machines can never give political parties votes neither can the courts. You can ban the machines, you can go to court as many times as you want, the court would never give you an electoral victory.

The only person or only thing that can give you an electoral victory are the voters, and the voters has demonstrated for the past years since independence that it is SWAPO they want and you can see that the shift in the seats in Parliament have only been on that side amongst the opposition party. This time it is RDP who is official opposition. The next time is DTA which becomes PDM you know, so now if the RDP has lost the official opposition status, it is not because of EVM. It is because PDM took the votes.

So they should just work hard to snatch them back since they know that they cannot snatch anything from this side because you know, our followers are quite confident in SWAPO and SWAPO is doing everything to meet their expectations. I heard also a proposal that came from that side. I think somebody was trying to suggest why we do not just proceed with the engagement on whether or not we should proceed with the EVMS.

You know it would have actually be nice if there was a consultation before this Motion was tabled because we could simply have agreed during those consultations that we go to the platform that was referred to earlier. We consult amongst political parties, we go to a Committee, we discuss the issue and we decide there, but I take note of the fact that some Colleagues not all some Colleagues on the opposition benches are saying their responsibility is only to have their say and they can say anything, and apparently we can have our way.

We continue to assure you that we are not here to have our way, we are here to serve the best interest of our country and if you have your say in a

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manner that convinces us that it would be in the national interest of Namibia for us to accommodate you we will accommodate you.

So please do not just come here and say things that have no truth to them and also that seek to only insight the public opinion and tarnish the good image of Namibia internationally saying things which are not true hoping to gain political mileage out of it because you will not. So with these, I would like to advise that the Honourable Member really if he wishes that this matter be given the consideration that it deserve, agrees to just reroute this issue to the appropriate platform so that it is discussed there instead of pushing this motivation which is full of inaccuracies and accusations that are detrimental to the national interests.

I submit Comrade Speaker.*(Applause)*

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Lucia Witbooi.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD

WELFARE: Thank you Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. Let me first say that I am in support for the use of the EVM during our elections in Namibia. As Members of this august House we have to bravely face and address the merit of the Motion on the table.

In order to do justice to the Motion, I shall highlight the following aspects so that we have a comprehensive view before making uninformed decisions or even debating on issues without the necessary knowledge thus let me present the following aspects on the EVMs within the context of the Republic of Namibia and I will start with the history of the EVMs.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members the idea of the EVMs was born in 2004, and immediately the Members of this august House then,
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was consulted from the start. As far back as 2006, the EVM was presented to the National Assembly to all political parties, NGOs and all other civil organisations including our churches and religious communities. Again in 2007, demonstrations on the EVM were conducted to all stakeholders and the Cabinet. Again on the 12th of February 2008, the EVMs were demonstrated to the Cabinet and consequently approved.

After such approval, as some of the Honourable Members of this august House will recall, all political parties and their representatives together with the Electoral Commission of Namibia were sent to India to witness the processes and production as well as practical demonstration from the service provider in India.

After the visit to India ECN started with publications, radio and television information so that EVMS will not remain strangers. After such promotional exposure it is absolutely important to note that in 2009, the *Electoral Act* Section 79(b) has been accepted and made fully legal in order to path the way for the use of the EVMs during the Namibian elections.

Honourable Speaker, it was decided that the EVMs shall be used for the first time in the history of Namibia during the 2014 Presidential and National Assembly elections.

To recall some aspects let me state the following.

The Namibian 2014 Presidential and National Assembly elections, gained praise from many quarters including our international observer missions, Government and the general Namibian public. The congratulatory message of the independent Electoral Commission of Botswana properly captures the general impression on the way these elections were conducted and delivered,

“it is with great pleasure and a high sense of pride that the independent Electoral Commission of Botswana write to congratulate you ECN for a
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job well done, following professional conduct and delivery of the 2014 Presidential and legislative elections. Your taking of the bold step to adopt and adapt electronic electoral solutions to your electoral process, has filled us with excitement as one of our own in the Region and became the envy of the African continent”.

Together with the Commissioners, the management, the Secretariat and the entire staff component of the Electoral Commission of Namibia we as Namibians and Parliamentarians took pride in having discharged our constitutional mandate of delivering the 2014 Presidential and National Assembly elections. We are also proud to be known worldwide as the first country on the African continent to use the EVNs, so let us not undo such famous achievements.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me also to take you through the total number of EVMS and the financial cost involved. Currently the Electoral Commission of Namibia is using the electoral voting machines in the Namibian election. The machines are customised to the Namibian electoral system so that they represent the uniqueness of Namibia and is not at all a copy of Indian EVMs.

Let me also say something about the EVMs. One ballot unit and one control unit equals one EVM, thus on an average we have about seven thousand four hundred and four (7404) electronic voting machines.

The first EVMs in 2008, 2009 Budget cost us about N\$20 Million and the 2013/2014 Budget the EVMs cost us about N\$40 Million. One can estimate that the value of EVMs in our possession is about 60 million. That is absolutely a huge investment in our electoral process. In other words we have invested from our limited resources and from the taxpayer is money such a huge amount and such a huge financial investment ought to be protected. One cannot merely waste 60 million but must fully utilise it in the years to come, not only for this generation but for our next generation.

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Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to remind ourselves and our minds by stating the following. The EVMs is a standalone machine powered by a battery and consist of two components. The control unit. *(Intervention)*

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order, yes.

HON MUHARUKUA: Honourable Speaker I sense some plagiarism here between the two Honourable Members. The Honourable Deputy Minister speaking and Honourable Kandumbu who copied from who. *(Laughter)*

HON SPEAKER: You may continue.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD

WELFARE: Thank you. I take note of your comment, but we can use our resources that we have. We can do our research and come back to this august House and inform the august House on research information.

About the EVM the control unit which is the control section of the EVM and is operated only by the polling officials. Then there is also the ballot unit which is the voter interface. This is the section that the voter will find in the booth on which he or she will cast the vote. Honourable Speaker if Honourable Muharukua is done, then I will proceed.

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HON SPEAKER: Can we allow her.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD

WELFARE: The EVM is designed to follow the four main characteristics of any elections which are, setting up of a list to select from the ballot. Secondly, the voting, third counting and then lastly declaration of results. A voter can cast (*Interjections*).

HON SPEAKER: Yes, please.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD

WELFARE: Thank you. A voter can cast his or her vote by pressing the green button that corresponds to the candidate or party of his or her choice. Then press the red button at the bottom of the ballot unit to

register or cast the vote very easy and simple, and allow me also to state something about how safe and reliable the system is. Our Motion without properly reflecting on reliability of the EVMs aspect that such machines are not relevant to Namibian elections to counter such incorrect and none reflective believe let me briefly state.

The EVMs acquired by Namibia is customized in a manner that complies with all the Namibian legal requirements of the *Electoral Act*, 2014 (No. 5 of 2014). The EVMs are safe and reliable to use as it is a standalone machine consisting of two interconnected components. It cannot be assessed via any other means as it does not transmit any signal or connect to any type of network.

No one not even the manufacturer can change or temper with the system after manufacturing. Furthermore, during the preparation of the EVMS for 20 June 2018

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any election and this part is very important, political parties' representatives will be present also before polling, a pre-polling test is conducted to demonstrate that there are no irregularities. This is absolutely important.

All political parties are allowed to view in and out of the EVMs before they are deployed and used. In short political parties are the very first observers on the reliability of such machines and I want to urge the political parties make sure to use your true members. Do not grab there a person a day or two before the elections to go and represent you and sometimes you even grab a ruling party member.

Today it is absolutely necessary to use technology that are people centred and user friendly. It must be used by all voting Namibians. Therefore, the EVMs is designed easy and simple to use. For example our senior citizens have demonstrated during the 2014 and 2015 elections their competent to use such machines. It only need a voter to press the button and or his or her choice. In short it is easy like a, b, c.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members let me also share with you the advantages of this system compared to our manual voting system. In the past the ECN faced challenges which included long queues at polling stations(*Interjections*)

HON SPEAKER: Let us have some order.

HON WITBOOI: which resulted in long hours for polling staff and late announcement of results. The time spent inside the polling station by an individual to follow the complete the actual voting process is a factor mainly contributing to low turnouts at polling stations. Declaration of

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results take too long because the manual counting of ballot papers could result in errors and time consuming.

The transportation of ballot boxes with uncounted ballot papers have been a mistrust breeder, inconvenient and also time consuming. Claims of unlawful activities and malpractices often levelled against election officials during the time between voting and announcement of results is a concern of keeping the principles of a free and fair election. In contrast the EVMs improve the Namibian electoral process by ensuring efficiency and effective service delivery, and encouraging full participation fashioned by electorate and stakeholders. Most importantly it eliminates speculation of possible rigging and is temper proof. EVMs prove to be a good investment to secure free, fair and credible and peaceful elections.

Honourable Speaker I will leave the part for the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) because my Colleague has already briefly mentioned it. I will go to my final word.

Comrade Speaker finally, the use of the EVMs in the Namibian election has produced what we all expect from our elections. Such elections were free, fair, credible, peaceful and transparent. All political parties accepted the outcome. Let us continue and build upon such firm foundations while we are travelling the road of the Namibian democracy. With this Honourable Speaker for me there is no use really for this Motion to be referred to a Committee, to do what? Everything is so clear. Even here in the Chamber. We are supposed to use the EVMs. With this, I support *(Interjections)* I stand by my point. My point is let us continue the use of EVMs in the Namibian elections.

I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Can I clarify something? I think the next is Honourable Muharukua but you were disrupted by taking the Floor.

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That is why there was a jump but please proceed.

HON MUHARUKUA: Shall I proceed or?

HON SPEAKER: Yes.

HON MUHARUKUA: Thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: It is your turn actually.

HON MUHARUKUA: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker indeed. *(Interjection) (Intervention)*

HON SPEAKER: Sorry, yes.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Speaker Rule 110 is the closest I can come to on repetition. Is it possible Honourable Speaker that the Hansard may be looked into if we may find out if this matter is not being repeated because *(Intervention)*

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HON SPEAKER: The discussion?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Yes because I think there was a Motion before or a discussion before on the very issue, and I would like to inquire if it is true or not through the Hansard the founder President of the party of the Member if he was not the one who actually recommended the EVMs to come here in the first place. May his soul rest in peace.

Thank you

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, but we will do that as a question of absolute necessity, but permit us to have a bit of time to look into that and tomorrow we can actually deal with it.

Thank you. Put it on record, Honourable Muharukua.

HON MUHARUKUA: Honourable Speaker just allow me to also respond to that on the rule quoted. Yes, it is quite correct repetition, but by the mere fact that we are discussing it, the Motion was moved, the question was asked for objection, we all have agreed and the Speaker in whose discretion it is to allow it or not to allow it, has tacitly allowed the Debate so I do not think whether or not the Motion was discussed before. It is irrelevant at this point in time because we have tacitly ruled that it should be discussed. Let me move on to the substantive. *(Intervention)*

HON SPEAKER: What we are saying we will look into the rules, we will look into the matter and we will pronounce ourselves tomorrow not now.

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HON MUHARUKUA: I wanted to add that part for that consideration. Honourable Speaker now coming to the substantive issue yes, indeed a credible election is one which is free, which is fair and which is transparent. I want to speak to the last aspect of that. There is and I do not want to delve into the allegation of fact, fiction whatever it is of rigging to say no, the ruling party rigged PDM, DTA back then rigged, whosoever rigged. I do not want to delve into that but I want to address the aspect of transparency. It is and I will not delve long into the EVM because I believe Honourable Kandumbu has mentioned that it would enhance transparency I am paraphrasing. I am not quoting. It would enhance transparency if the paper trail was there.

Same with the Minister of Justice, same with the Attorney General, I did not listen to the, yes I did not follow very well the Prime Minister, but I believe there is consensus around the fact that EVMs need a paper trail, that for the voter to see that indeed the vote that I have entered into that machine is my vote that will eventually be counted at the end of the day is, I can physically see it which is what the paper trail is, but there is one

aspect on transparency that really, really irks me. I have raised this issue with the ECN and that is the verification centre.

We have what we call the verification centre. Yes, votes are pasted at the respective polling stations indeed, but when the votes are being broadcasted nationally they are not being broadcasted from the respective polling stations. They are being broadcasted centrally. Now there is this one reality that from the moment the EVM is dispatched, to the moment when voting happens, to the moment when the results at the polling booths or station are announced. Parties or (*Indistinct*) at least have an opportunity to view or to inspect the electoral process, but this verification centre no party is represented in this verification centre, and it is my respectful submission Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, that I do not go to Okongo or Okalongo or Umbungu to go and look at those votes individually. I do so (*Interjection*) "*Kuramaarikana*" (wait please) we listen to what is being broadcasted nationally, and this is being broadcasted from the verification centre.

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Why is it? What harm is there for polling parties to be present? I did not mention SWAPO. No one mentioned SWAPO. I am talking about the electoral process. What harm will it do for political parties to be present, inspect what comes into the verification centre and what eventually goes out of the verification centre?

I will give you one example. The election results for Opuwo Urban. I speak of things I know. I will not speculate I was there. The election results for Opuwo Urban to date, was never ever broadcasted over the radio. The ECN it was never broadcasted over the radio. First it was said PDM or did it change by that time or not, yes, DTA has lost by 5 votes in that constituency, and then no, no, it is 36. In between SWAPO celebrated, won, never broadcasted. It was never broadcasted anywhere, but these results that is eventually used, yes, please get me the record of that. I will prove you wrong. These results NBC records things. If there is a recording someone can bring it and I will withdraw that statement if it is inaccurate, but I am hundred percent certain, but it was assumed that SWAPO won but it was never broadcasted.

So it is my respectful view and request that the electoral process be inspected from the moment it starts until the moment of broadcasting. This verification centre parties must be present all of us, from the ruling party to the last party NDC if that is the last party. So that we remove the perception, it plays to the point of transparency because if we are not there we do not view this as a verification centre but the cooking pot.(Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Is that a Point of Order?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you Speaker. Thank you Honourable Member. It is a short Point of Order. He was doing well. He
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is still doing well. I just hope that he may veer back to the text of the law of the *Electoral Act* which makes provision for every political party to have electoral agents at every polling station, and the question then would be, if you do not fill electoral agents, can you really sit in Opuwo as he talks about Opuwo and complain about something that happened in Goachanas, when you were not there but other parties who were there are not complaining, or one party is complaining, you want to join them but you do not know what was happening.

So I am saying maybe the Honourable Member should not lose sight in his argument that the *Electoral Act* allows you to have your agent there. The only problem is obviously is in biblical terms, David is fighting Goliath and he does not bring his, what is this thing, then we will beat them.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Muharukua, please continue.

HON MUHARUKUA: I think Honourable member I think when I was doing well you were chewing gum. I did say what you said. I did say that. Look Honourable Shanghala, there is a lot of things that can be said about the Electoral process. There is a lot of things that can be said about the American system, and in fact I am one person in my premise believe who is pragmatic and I have before said it in this House. There is one aspect. The reality of the matter is if you look at the rallies of SWAPO, you look at the rallies of PDM and all our parties respectively, it should be somehow reflective of the results at the end of the day. These are realities that we are not shying away from.

We are not shying away from it, but does that say there is an absence of rigging. Does that say there is rigging? Does that say there is rigging but to this extent? *(Interjection)* No, we are talking about removing the possibility of speculation, making the election not only fair as you put it,

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free, fair and transparent, but actually making it seem to be what you profess it to be. That is what we are talking about. Now I am not talking about the station. I am talking about the verification centre. The centre that did the following.

That told the people to leave the auditorium of the ECN room saying that the votes would be broadcasted or would be announced in 30 minutes. We all left *(Interjection)* *(Indistinct)* Sackey "Mwina" (keep quiet), saying that the election results would be announced in 30 minutes.

After 30 minutes and the room was cleaned you swept. It was checked for any undue things, the President, the Vice President, people are coming only for the Professors, polling officers to come and say to come and say no, no, actually we are not ready in 30 minutes, we still have hundred and forty odd polling stations to inspect, after you were ready to announce in 30 minutes. Then we had to wait for two days. So if we are not there where these things are being verified, we will not think it is a verification

centre. We will think it is a cooking pot of the election, so you must remove that. That must be removed. *(Interjections)*

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: *(Indistinct)* we are talking about the verification centres

HON SPEAKER: On a Point of Order. I would like us to keep an eye on the clock really please.

**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION:** On the
Point of Information. I intended not to make this Point of Order because I
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wanted to take the Floor, but I see the clock will not allow me so point of information. *(Interjection)* Yes, Point of Information.

First we all know that the Electoral Commission of Namibia is not under the SWAPO party, neither the Government and that is why even here in Parliament the Budget is presented by the Parliament and also whenever it is time for election, Electoral Commission calls all the political parties and agree on what is going to be followed and if there is anything lacking that you have found, it cannot be corrected here.

When we are going now to meet the Electoral Commission you can pinpoint that and they can improve. It is not under any political party, SWAPO the ruling party, neither on the Government.

So therefore the statements you are making here, is just political but not to perfect a situation because we have to talk to the Electoral Commission and they do listen to political parties. So even these verification centres,

is it the Government or SWAPO party, if you are now alleging that people are not allowed? Is it the Government of the political party that go away? So if at that point Electoral Commission felt that the way they want to do it and now it is under Parliament and Parliament says we want it to be done like this for transparency, we can address them and they can do that, just as they came to us with this machine.

Members of Parliament went to India with the Electoral Commission, and they came here and conducted a workshop for us there and hence, and all parties agreed so those technical things they do not belong here my dear Honourable. There is saying which says there are times when you say with whom am I going to die? "*Okusanalye*." Please let us talk to the Electoral Commission, and they will understand, and they can comply because they are directed by political parties. That is a Point of Information.

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HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I really want us to move. Honourable Muharukua if you think you have a long intervention let me know because then I will take (*Intervention*).

HON MUHARUKUA: No, I will try and finish before.

HON SPEAKER: I have got a few announcements to make. That is why I am saying that.

HON MUHARUKUA: I do not want to come back tomorrow, so let me just wrap up. She reminds so much of my own mother, I do not want to

differ with her so I will just leave it there, but I think just in brief, I have indicated that I have said this to the Electoral Commission, and Parliament is where we should fix these things because the EVMs came through us. The Electoral Commission did not decide for us. We did. I will move away from the verification centre.

One brief point I can rumble on do not worry. That I can do very much effectively also. The other point is when you are voting, and I have said this before when you are voting your voters' number is written down in the chronological sequence as the people are coming to the booth.

So the first person to vote your number is written down, and these records are there so my number is three triple what, what Vipukuje Muharukua. Wherever I voted it will be recorded, and if I was the third person I will be recorded as such. Now it is also trite that at the end of every end of the electoral process the EVM prints out the results. Yes, that is what should happen and *(Interjection)* maybe you can allay my fears if there are, prints out these results. So hypothetically if you take the results of Otjivarongo, 20 June 2018

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whatever polling booth, you put these two things together, the result is a list of how people voted.

Hypothetically speaking from an outsider perspective you should be able to exactly see that the voter number 1 at this booth was the Right Honourable Prime Minister. She voted this. *(Interjection)* of course for you it is not to hide. We do not know. You might have voted for RDP. *(Laughter)*

Honourable Prime Minister you last internal election in the party taught us that people cannot be trusted. *(Laughter)* I am just saying so really. Hypothetically the reality of the issue is hypothetically on paper and if I wanted and if I had the ability to do so, I should be able to verify who voted for what party at which station. Maybe someone else will put me correct.

HON SPEAKER: Really, Honourable Minister of Justice can you clarify that? The microphone just wait.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Information. I would like to thank the Honourable for bringing up a very important and critical point which is to the heart of every election. The issue of voters' secrecy. The issue of voters' secrecy is so syncrosum in our system that it is an offence if you look to Section 177 of the *Electoral Act*. If you have three people who voted at a polling station, and you know they are recorded by name, unfortunately it is not the name that is recorded. It is the number, so there is a machine when you come to the polling station, through which your card number is inserted and it shows your face. Then it presses that you are allowed now to go and vote.

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When you vote unless it is somebody who is an observer or a staff sitting there they will know that yes, of the three people that came Muharukua, Shanghala and Kawana came, it can only be Kawana and Shanghala who voted for SWAPO because we know they are SWAPO. That could happen but, when they print the results from a voting booth or a machine, what it does and you may have for example let us take where you have one machine, and let us take where you have two machines and more.

When the machine that counts is put in, it extracts data and it says for party A, this vote for party B that vote total how many votes. That is what it does. It does not say one plus one for who, who, it does not do that. It has no chronological sequence. We had to parameterise and this is what I saying when the prototype is developed, you then have to parameterise it so that you can obtain voters secrecy. That is what we are still trying to do with the issue of the verifiable paper trail.

It will never come with voter number who, who, this party, never because that will breach the syncrocity of the principle of voters' secrecy. A paper trail will only establish votes to a party or not, and that paper trail must be equal to what the actualisor, that machine that you put in says that this party got how much. Then you must therefore find those ballots in there that speaks the same. So that is what I am saying to say that there is a system already but it can just be made better, but do not worry.

I want the nation to hear it very clear. The issue of who you voted for either in an election or a referendum no one shall disclose and if they do so and you will see what the punishment is. Your vote is your secret.

Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, just your voice so that we can close and you continue tomorrow please.

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HON MUHARUKUA: Speaker I actually do not want to continue tomorrow. *(Laughter)* The point is this, I sort of want to hear what the Attorney General was saying.

HON SPEAKER: But we cannot do it now because of the time.

HON MUHARUKUA: No, no, I will approach him separately but be that as it may, my question perhaps in conclusion due to the time is this, given the fact that we all agree on the principle that we need transparency to be seen to be transparent, why so much opposition from the ruling party on this particular Motion. Surely it is something that should be discussed for the implementation of this Motion. *(Interjection)*

HON SPEAKER: Yes, can you wait for the microphone?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: He should not try to say what he is saying because it is not accurate because he is actually trying to say we are questioning the integrity of the system. We are not questioning the integrity of the system. You are saying that it will enhance the transparency. You said it will enhance the integrity. You know the way the system is viewed by the public, there is a difference between what is and what is it seen to be.

What we want is to achieve a situation where people believe that this system is truly. That does not mean that that system is not. No, you are saying that we all agree that the system it needs to be that, but what we are saying is what we agreed on is, the EVMs do not have to continue.

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Honourable Muharukua, what we are saying is no, *(Interjection)* I am not saying the same thing. What we are saying is whatever your reasons are we are saying we are in agreement that we cannot continue with the machine if we all do not feel comfortable. Therefore let us go and talk about it, and if we agree there that we should not continue with it, then we agree to discontinue, but we cannot agree with the argument that we are using, to call for the discontinuation of the machines. That is important.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much Prime Minister. I actually time is up, and I have two more hands. Can we continue tomorrow? Can I have your voice? *(Interjection)* You may do so now?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT: Could I ask the indulgence Honourable Speaker to postpone the Debate to Tuesday, next week?

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. We will continue with you tomorrow but I think, *(Interjection)* no, tomorrow, we are continuing tomorrow because there are many who would like to continue so in that case, *(Interjection)* you want to continue tomorrow, Tuesday?

HON NAUYOMA: Yes

HON SPEAKER: Fine, then she is right until Tuesday. Thank you very Much. I just want to say something about, there was a reference made by 20 June 2018

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the Honourable Doctor Kawana, to the fact that the ECN stands ready to give a proper debriefing and to have a proper discussion on all these issues relating to the role of the Electoral Commission of Namibia.

I just wanted to put on record the fact that we are supposed to invite them to have a discussion, and a number of references was made to the fact that where there is room for improvement, all of us should stand ready to work together for the purpose of doing precisely that, and I feel in the discussion, we are making references to this, but we are not actually drawing all these issues to some kind of a conclusion where we can actually agree to because that will lead to amending the Motion to be in line with the kind of spirit that I believe is emerging here but I hope the mover will stand ready to accommodate that. I am not going to say anymore. I will leave it to a discussion on Tuesday, and the rest will be taken care of.

That said and done a gentle reminder for tomorrow. To remind Members of the House that the Inland Revenue Department of the Ministry of Finance, will visit Parliament tomorrow the 21st of June 2018, from 8am until 5pm, for the purpose to conduct a taxpayer is education day with Members of Parliament and staff.

This is a wonderful opportunity for those of us who have issues to have our staff from the Ministry of Finance being here to be available to consult and to enlighten us on tax matters. So I hope we will take the opportunity to avail ourselves and make sure that we deal with some of these tax related matters and inquiries.

It is better doing it here than you finding your way to their Offices, and I think this is a wonderful opportunity, and I would like to thank the Ministry of Finance for doing that. Yes, Honourable Minister of Finance, not finance, but Justice.

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HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: You do not want me as Minister of Finance, I do not have anything in that portfolio *(Laughter)(Interjections)* Comrade Speaker, no. I am not a revolutionary.

HON SPEAKER: Just talk.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Will we have in light of your announcement, will wetherefore have a session tomorrow or are we saying?

HON SPEAKER: We will have a session but they will be in the courtyard simply to be available as deemed necessary by individual Members of
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Parliament. They are providing a service. That said and done the time is up. We adjourn the House and meet tomorrow as usual the usual time.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:50 UNTIL 2018.06.21 AT 14:30
