

## **LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

### **SPEAKER**

Dr T-B Gurirab (Mr)

### **DEPUTY SPEAKER AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE**

Ms D Sioka

### **THE CABINET**

### **MINISTERS**

*(21 March 2005 – Elected in terms of Article 133 of the Constitution)*

Mr N Angula	<i>(Prime Minister)</i>
Dr L Amathila (Ms)	<i>(Deputy Prime Minister)</i>
Dr N Tjiriange (Mr)	<i>(Minister of Veterans Affairs)</i>
Dr A Kawana (Mr)	<i>(Presidential)</i>
Mr P Tsheehama	<i>(Safety and Security)</i>
Mr J Mutorwa	<i>(Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture)</i>
Dr N Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Agriculture, Water and Forestry)</i>
Mr J Kaapanda	<i>(Works, Transport and Communication)</i>
Rev W Konjore (Mr)	<i>(Environment and Tourism)</i>
Ms S Kuugongelwa-Amadhila	<i>(Finance)</i>
Dr A Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Fisheries and Marine Resources)</i>
Mr M Hausiku	<i>(Foreign Affairs)</i>
Dr R Kamwi (Mr)	<i>(Health and Social Services)</i>
Ms R Nghidinwa	<i>(Home Affairs and Immigration)</i>
Mr N Mbumba	<i>(Education)</i>
Mr C Namoloh	<i>(Defence)</i>
Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwah	<i>(Information and Broadcasting)</i>
Ms P Iivula-Ithana	<i>(Justice and Attorney General)</i>
Mr A !Naruseb	<i>(Labour and Social Welfare)</i>
Mr J Ekandjo	<i>(Lands and Resettlement)</i>
Mr E Nghimtina	<i>(Mines and Energy)</i>
Mr J Pandeni	<i>(Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development)</i>
Mr I Ngatjizeko	<i>(Trade and Industry)</i>
Ms M Mungunda	<i>(Gender Equality and Child Welfare)</i>

## **DEPUTY MINISTERS**

*(21 March 2005 – Elected in terms of Article 133 of the Constitution)*

Mr G Shihepo	<i>(Safety and Security)</i>
Mr P Shifeta	<i>(Youth, National Service and Culture)</i>
Mr P Smit	<i>(Agriculture, Water and Forestry)</i>
Mr L Jooste	<i>(Environment and Tourism)</i>
Mr T Tweya	<i>(Finance)</i>
Ms L Lucas	<i>(Foreign Affairs)</i>
Ms P Haingura	<i>(Health and Social Services)</i>
Ms T Mushelenga	<i>(Home Affairs and Immigration)</i>
Dr R Ndjoze-Ojo (Ms)	<i>(Education)</i>
Mr V Simunja	<i>(Defence)</i>
Mr R Dinyando	<i>(Information and Broadcasting)</i>
Mr U Nujoma	<i>(Justice)</i>
Mr P Iilonga	<i>(Labour and Social Welfare)</i>
Mr I Katali	<i>(Lands and Resettlement)</i>
Mr K Kazenambo	<i>(Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development)</i>
Mr B Esau	<i>(Trade and Industry)</i>
Ms Muharukua	<i>(Gender Equality and Child Welfare)</i>

## **SECRETARY**

Mr S N Goabab

## **DEPUTY SECRETARY**

Mr F S Harker

## **LIST OF MEMBERS AND PARTIES WHICH THEY REPRESENT**

### **CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS (COD)**

Ms E Dienda	
R K Gertze	
Mr T Gurirab	<i>(Deputy Whip)</i>
Ms N Schimming-Chase	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>
Mr B Ulenga	<i>(Party Leader)</i>

### **DTA OF NAMIBIA**

Mr J De Waal	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>
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Mr K Kaura *(Party Leader)*  
Mr P Moongo  
Mr M Venaani *(Deputy Whip)*

### **MONITOR ACTION GROUP**

Mr J Viljoen *(Chief Whip)*

### **NATIONAL UNITY DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION OF NAMIBIA (NUDO)**

Mr A Mbai  
Mr K Riruako *(Party Leader)*  
Mr A Tjihuiko *(Chief Whip)*

### **REPUBLICAN PARTY**

Mr H Mudge *(Chief Whip and Party Leader)*

### **SWAPO OF NAMIBIA**

Mr B Amathila *(Government Chief Whip)*  
Dr L Amathila (Ms) *(Deputy Prime Minister)*  
Dr M Amweelo (Mr)  
Mr N Angula *(Prime Minister)*  
Dr S C Ankama (Mr)  
Ms L Basson  
Mr H Boois *(Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House  
Committee)*  
  
Ms H Christian  
Mr Dinyando *(Deputy Minister)*  
Mr J Ekandjo *(Minister)*  
Mr B Esau *(Deputy Minister)*  
Dr H Geingob (Mr)  
Dr T-B Gurirab (Mr) *(Speaker)*  
Ms P Haingura *(Deputy Minister)*  
Mr H Hamutenya  
Mr M Hausiku *(Minister)*  
Mr P Ilonga *(Deputy Minister)*  
Ms P Iivula-Ithana *(Minister)*  
Dr A Iyambo (Mr) *(Minister)*

Dr N Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr L Jooste	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr J Kaapanda	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr Kaiyamo	
Mr R Kamwi	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms L Kasingo	
Mr I Katali	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Dr A Kawana (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr K Kazenambo	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Rev W Konjore (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms S Kuugongelwa – Amadhila	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms L Lucas	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr N Mbumba	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms A Muharukua	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms M Mungunda	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr P Mushelenga	<i>(Assistant Whip)</i>
Ms T Mushelenga	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr J Mutorwa	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr T Nambahu	
Mr J Nambinga	
Mr A !Naruseb	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms E !Nawases-Taeyele	
Mr I Ngatjizeko	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwah	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms R Nghidinwa	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr E Nghimtina	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr U Nujoma	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr J Pandeni	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr P Shifeta	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr G Shihepo	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr V Simunja	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms D Sioka	<i>(Deputy Speaker)</i>
Dr N Tjirange (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr P Tsheehama	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr T Tweya	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr R /Ui/o/oo	

### **UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT (UDF)**

Mr J //Garöeb	<i>(Party Leader)</i>
Mr M Goreseb	
Ms G Tjombe	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>

**APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT IN TERMS OF ARTICLE 32(5)(c) OF  
THE CONSTITUTION**

Mr R Diergaardt

Ms I Hoffmann

Ms A Manombe-Ncube

Mr C Namoloh

*(Minister)*

Dr R Ndjoze-Ojo (Ms)

*(Deputy Minister)*

Mr P Smit

*(Deputy Minister)*

**ASSEMBLY CHAMBER  
WINDHOEK  
07 JUNE 2007**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Took the Chair and read Prayers and the Affirmation.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers?

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**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT, 2006: MINISTRY OF YOUTH,  
NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE**

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Comrade Deputy Speaker, I lay upon the Table the Annual Report of the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture for the Year ended March 2006.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Table the Report, Honourable Minister. Further Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Honourable Dienda.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS**

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**QUESTION 63:**

**HON DIENDA:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 14 June 2007, I shall ask the Minister of Works, Transport and Communication the following questions:

I realised that maintenance on Government assets are not being done on a regular basis, although the Ministry has all the human resources required for this, according to our latest Budget.

07 June 2007

**NOTICES OF QUESTIONS  
HON DIENDA**

1. Can the Minister please explain why minor reparations cannot be done on a regular basis, like the changing of bulbs when they are exhausted? For a Ministry to complete a form and then wait three months for bulbs to be replaced has become a frustration.
  2. In cases where the Ministry makes use of smaller companies through tenders, like the Chinese people, to do the maintenance, is there any guarantee issued for these work done by the suppliers?
  3. School hostels, hospitals and clinics are the ones that suffer a lot due to the backlog of maintenance cases. Who will be responsible for any damages that might occur from accidents arising from the negligence on the side of the Government? School hostels – broken windows, hospitals – darkness on the floors and staircases when one is entering the hospitals and also in the dark rooms in the hospitals. Clinics – water pipes that are leaking and toilets are out of order for weeks or months.
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**QUESTION 64:**

**HON DIENDA:** I give Notice that on 14 of June 2007, I shall ask the Minister of Works, Transport and Communication the following question:

A lot of Namibians have received bills from the NaTis office for outstanding amounts on vehicle registration fees. I would therefore like to ask the Minister the following questions:

1. Is it possible to register a vehicle which is not roadworthy?
  2. If the answer is yes, how can you register it? If no, why can the NaTis office not inform the Nation through the media that they will lay charges against everybody who was an owner of a vehicle a long time ago to come and deregister or scrap their vehicles?
  3. How up to date is the information that NaTis received when they took over? We are sitting with cars which have been sold long before the time of NaTis and everybody is now affected by this action taken by NaTis.
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07 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON VENAANI  
HON T MUSHELENGA**

**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Table the Questions. Further Notices of Questions? Notices of Motions? Ministerial Statements? Thursday is the day initiated by the Opposition and questions to be answered by the Cabinet Ministers. I now put Question 27 of Honourable Venaani to the Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS**

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**QUESTION 27:**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, I rise to reply to Question 27 of 13 March 2007 posed by Honourable Venaani. I must commend the Member for asking this important question. The issue of immigrants is not only a concern to you, Honourable Venaani, but more importantly, it is a concern to the Government in general and that of the Ministry, in particular.

Having said that, I would like to answer the Honourable Member as follows:

1. During the last Financial Year the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration, Directorate of Immigration and Border Control, has deported a total number of 1,394 illegal immigrants back to their countries of origin. This number includes those who were issued with 48 hours notice. During that exercise the Ministry spent approximately N\$350,000.00. This amount includes deportation costs by air, road as well as the S&T for Immigration Officials accompanying the deportees.

To minimise financial resources in this regard, our Ministry is in the process of appointing immigration tribunals in all Regions to authorise the removal of illegal immigrants from Namibia, as stipulated in the Immigration Control Act (Act No 7 of 1993).

Honourable Deputy Speaker, allow me to use this opportunity to request all Regional Authorities who have not submitted names of their prospective Regional Tribunals to please do so as a matter of urgency. This will help Government in general and the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration in particular to facilitate a smooth process in dealing with



issues pertaining to illegal immigrants.

2. There are currently 22 illegal immigrants waiting for deportation countrywide. The following is a breakdown of information per Region.

Region 1 contains Central Region, which includes Khomas, Omaheke and Erongo: Nigerians – 3; Gambians – 2, Angolan – 1, DRC – 1; Burundi – 1, Sudanese – 1, Zambian – 1, a total of ten illegal immigrants has been recorded.

Southern Region which includes Karas and Hardap: Bangladeshis – 2, Tanzanian – 1, DRC – 1, Angolans – 4. That gives us a total of eight illegal immigrants.

The third Region is called North-eastern Region, which includes Otjozondjupa, Oshikoto, Kavango and Caprivi Regions. There are only four Zambian illegal immigrants.

The fourth Region, the North-western Region which includes Oshikoto, Oshana, Ohangwena, Omusati and Kunene. No illegal immigrants waiting for deportation have been reported to the head office.

3. It is difficult to determine the number of illegal immigrants roaming around our country. Some of them might have come in legally and then overstayed without informing or being detected by the authorities and some might have come through unauthorised ports of entry. I must, however, use this opportunity to inform the Honourable Members and the entire Nation that the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration has put up a mechanism in place to detect illegal immigrants and those who overstayed in the country. The system is working effectively and as a result, illegal immigrants and those who overstayed have been detected and the culprits were deported to their countries of origin.

I, therefore, humbly request the Honourable Members and the Nation at large to provide the Ministry with information regarding illegal immigrants, if one has such information.

In the same vein, I would like to use this opportunity, Honourable Deputy Speaker, to urge all Namibians not to harbour illegal immigrants. It is against the

07 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON VENAANI  
HON T MUSHELENGA**

law and if you are found harbouring them, you will face the consequences of the law.

In conclusion, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would like to inform this august House and the entire Nation that the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration, in collaboration with other Line Ministries of security nature are planning to register all foreign cattle herders throughout the country in the near future. It was discovered that among the deported illegal immigrants, there is a number of cattle herders who are performing such functions in Namibia without proper documentation, that is without work permits. The Ministry, therefore, requests all foreign cattle herders and those Namibians that employ them, to make use of this registration process to apply for correct documentation when such time arrives. In the meantime, consultations will be done with Regional leadership for proper coordination. I thank you.

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I want to sincerely thank the Deputy Minister for her elaborative answer, but I want to ask one supplementary question, and that is, if a person has overstayed his welcome in the country, his visa has expired, then the Ministry should have a system to be able to detect that person and according to the answer of the Deputy Minister, she said that she is not aware of how many illegal immigrants are roaming the country. However by virtue of the system you should be able to detect how many people have overstayed their welcome in the country and I do not know how you could answer.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:**

Comrade Deputy Speaker, as I have indicated, the system has been put in place, but by the time we put the system in place, we already had people who have flocked into the country. Some of them have come through unauthorised entries and, therefore, we are not claiming that we have recorded everybody, but at least we have started with the system, it is functioning properly and, therefore, we are catching those illegal immigrants. We have caught some of them and we deported them. Thank you.

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07 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON VILJOEN  
HON DR NDJOZE-OJO**

**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Question 28 is the one of Honourable Venaani to the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**QUESTION 28:**

**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** I would ask for the indulgence of the Honourable Member that this question stands over to next week.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Question 29 is the one of Honourable Kaura to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**QUESTION 29:**

**HON KAURA:** I put the Question.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I ask that the reply be postponed until next week.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Question 30 is the one of Honourable Viljoen to the Minister of Education. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**QUESTION 30:**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Honourable Minister of Education I wish to answer Question 30 as posed by Honourable Jurie Viljoen, on 13 March 2007, who used to be an inspector, as follows, and just to remind you what the question was: "*Can the*

07 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON VILJOEN  
HON DR NDJOZE-OJO**

*Minister inform the House where the archive materials regarding the pre-independence period are being kept, with special reference to documentation of the Turnhalle, Transitional Government, the Legislative Assembly of South West Africa and previous Representative Authorities?”* The answer is as follows:

The archive materials regarding the pre-independence period are generally kept by the National Archives of Namibia. The National Archives keeps altogether 7 000 shelving metres of records, the vast majority of these being from pre-independence Government Departments, covering 1884 to 1990, that is 106 years.

However, not all pre-independence materials from Government Departments and previous representative authorities have yet been transferred to the National Archives.

The Turnhalle records are kept at the National Archives.

The Transitional Government's Executive Committee records are kept at the National Archives. The Debates and the minutes and proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of South West Africa are kept both at the National Archives and the National Library of Namibia. The Debates and administrative records of the previous Representative Authorities are in general kept at the National Archives of Namibia. However, due to the administrative weakness of most of these authorities, the transfer of such records have often been incomplete.

Question No 2: *“Are the documents accessible for research?”*

In principle the documents are accessible for research. Nonetheless, it is pertinent to note that according to the Namibian Archives Act (Act 12 of 1992), records younger than thirty years, that is after 1977, are not generally open to the public as per Section 10(2)(a). However, the Minister may, under Section 10(5), grant access to such records on application.

Considerable portions of records of former Representative Authorities have not yet been sorted and listed and is, therefore, difficult to access them. This is due to the acute shortage of trained archivists at the National Archives, a situation which is being actively pursued as such staff become available.

Question No 3: *“If in the affirmative, where can it be done?”*

07 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON VILJOEN  
HON DR NDJOZE-OJO**

That is the research. Therefore, assuming that the question refers to the accessing of the documents, the documents can be accessed by any member of the public at the reading room of the National Archives of Namibia in No 1, Eugene Marais Street in Windhoek.

Question No 4: *“If not accessible, how does the Government envisage going along with these documents?”*

The National Archives of Namibia is continuing in its efforts to have further records of pre-independence Government Departments as well as records of previous Representative Authorities from the Regions transferred, sorted, listed and processed to be made available for research in line with the Namibian Archives Act, as cited above.

I think for the time-being I could stop there and thank the Honourable Member.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Question 31 is by the same Honourable Viljoen, to the Minister of Education. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**QUESTION 31:**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION:** Thank you for giving me the Floor again to answer Question 31. The question was: *“How many private schools are there?”*

There are 140 private schools at the moment in Namibia.

However, a number of applications have been received and are being processed for next year. The normal procedure is to process the application between May and September of each year to allow such schools to legally register for the following year.

I must add here for the benefit of the House that private schools are grouped in three categories:

07 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON VILJOEN  
HON DR NDJOZE-OJO**

**Category A** are those schools that receive a lump sum equivalent for the payment of teachers at a ratio of one teacher per every 35 learners in primary and one teacher per every 30 learners in secondary phase, what we refer to as a subsidy.

**Category B** are those schools that receive a lump sum as in A, but also receive teaching and learning materials from the Ministry.

**Category C** are those schools that are treated in every respect like any Government school, except that the buildings are privately owned. In other words, if it is a combination of A and B, except for the building that might belong to the church or a private individual, in which case the Ministry pays rent.

The Ministry is currently subsidising a total of 56 schools in the categories mentioned.

*“What are the total number of learners in private schools?”*

There are 40,000 learners in the 140 private schools, based on the 15<sup>th</sup> day statistics of 2007. Out of this total, 27,693 are in the 56 Government subsidised private schools.

*“Which private schools do not receive any subsidy from Government and what are their learner numbers, respectively?”*

There are 86 private schools that do not receive any subsidy from Government. The total learner number ratio in these schools is 12,307. I have attached a list for easy reference by the Honourable Member for all the private schools that are not subsidised by the Government. I thank you very much.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Question 32 is the one by Honourable Ulenga to the Right Honourable Prime Minister. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**QUESTION 32:**

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** This question has “*verval*”, expired. The question was asked a long, long time ago. It was supposed to have been answered on 9 March, so if the information is irrelevant, I apologise to the Honourable Member. The answer is as follows:

I would like to thank Honourable Ulenka for his interest in the plight of ex-combatants. As the Honourable Member is aware, the SWAPO Party Government has since Independence prioritised the plight of ex-combatants in terms of programme development, funding and support.

Government, since Independence, has developed a range of programmes with a view of integrating the ex-combatants in the social and economic life of our country. However, due to a variety of needs and expectations of ex-combatants, some programmes have not been wholly successful. The Government has, amongst others, developed the following:

- The Development Brigade Corporation;
- The Social and Economic Integration Programme for Ex-Combatants (SIPE);
- Housing Programme for Ex-Combatants;
- Creation of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs.

These programmes have been developed to address the evolving needs of the ex-combatants and war orphans. It is not surprising, therefore, to discover that, despite the determined efforts by the Government to integrate the ex-combatants into society, a few may not yet be catered for. However, this state of affairs cannot solely be blamed on Government. Ex-combatants themselves also carry the blame.

Honourable Members may recall that in 1995 a Committee of Deputy Ministers was created to register the ex-combatants. The registration of ex-combatants also took place in 1998 and 1999 and the year 2000. These registrations were done by the Technical Committee on Ex-Combatants.

07 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON ULENGA  
RT HON ANGULA**

By the year 2000, a total of 20,825 ex-combatants and some 1,165 orphans were registered. Out of the total number of 20,825 registered ex-combatants, 17,395 were employed. 2,325 were put on the War Veterans Salvation Fund and 1,125 were unemployed. This figure may include those ex-combatants Honourable Ulenga has discovered at Onekwaya, Ongha, Ondobe, Onekulo and other villages in the Ohangwena Region.

Regarding the alleged aborted demonstration by ex-combatants into Ohangwena town, my Office is not aware of that incident. The Honourable Member may wish to address this question to the relevant Minister responsible for the Police.

Let me assure the Honourable Member that Government, as per the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, protects peaceful demonstrations.

Finally, Government has established the Ministry of Veterans Affairs to successfully address the plight of ex-combatants and war orphans. I thank you.

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**HON ULENGA:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I would like, first of all, to thank the Prime Minister for realising a matter that has been heating very much up here and this is the delay in providing answers to questions which have been long put. Of course, as the current demonstration of the ex-combatants indicates, the matter has not “*verval*”, as you say in Afrikaans. It is very much fresh.

My question is simply, if Government has done so much to relieve the situation of the ex-combatants, why does it look like there has not been any relief at all, seeing what is going on right now?

Can the Prime Minister answer, please?

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would also like to give homework to Honourable Ulenga. (Interjection)

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07 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON ULENGA  
RT HON ANGULA**

**HON ULENGA:** No.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** You gave me homework, I can also give you homework. Share the responsibility. Would you do me a favour today after Parliament to go to those ex-combatants demonstrating there and ask their honest answer, whether anyone of them was employed? Can you go there and ask them, so that you inform yourself? The point I am trying to make is that this issue is very complex, because sometimes you give somebody a job, he is dismissed from the job or leaves the job and he becomes destitute and becomes vulnerable to any propaganda somebody is making about money from the UN and from other places and starts to demonstrate.

The other problem you have is that many of the ex-combatants, because of lack of qualifications, are employed in lower paid jobs and that is really a problem, and they cannot meet their needs with the type of pay they receive.

Equally, when some of them retire, they have only worked for a few years and when it comes to their pension, their pension is so meagre. So the problem is very complex, it is not just as simple as you think. Thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, I give you the last chance now for a supplementary question.

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**HON ULENGA:** Do not give me the last chance. As long as I feel there is a supplementary question I will ask it. That is the reason why we are here.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Yes, I am giving you the last chance, it is what I said. Proceed.

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07 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON ULENGA  
RT HON ANGULA**

**HON ULENGA:** I will not take the last chance, I will ask as many questions as I want. Prime Minister, are you implying, by asking me that I should go and ask for an honest answer from the demonstrating ex-combatants, do you want to imply that they are being dishonest by demonstrating?

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I am not saying that they are dishonest, I want to read what I told you. I told you as follows and do not try to make cheap politics out of this thing: *“Let me assure the Honourable Member that Government, as per the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, protects peaceful demonstrations.”*

I have seen some of them interviewed in one of the newspapers and I discovered that some of them were given a job, but they did not tell the newspaper that they were given a job. I have seen a number of people there who were given jobs, but they could not reveal to the newspaper. (Interjection). You can ask another question, that is not part of your question. You ask that differently. Thank you, Honourable Ulenka, for your patience and for your understanding.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Question 33 is the one of Honourable Moongo to the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**QUESTION 33:**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. The first question by Honourable Moongo is: *“How many forest rangers and forest technicians are currently employed by the Ministry? Is it not high time to create technician posts in Ohangwena?”*

The total number of positions for forest rangers is 45, of which 38 are filled and 7 are vacant. The forest technician category has 21 posts, of which 19 are filled and 2 are vacant.

07 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON MOONGO  
HON SMIT**

The decision to upgrade the Forestry Certificate to Forestry Diploma was necessitated by the phasing out of certificate training by the Ogongo Agriculture College in order to concentrate on the training for Diploma. It was also explained to the staff members that the upgrade course was not attached to any promotions whatsoever, but rather placed the staff members at advantage for either promotion to forestry technician post, as they become vacant, or further training for promotion to forester positions.

The second question: *“How many forest rangers were sent for training to Ogongo Agriculture College during the years 2001 to 2006?”*

Seventeen staff members were sent to upgrade their Forestry Certificates to Forestry Diplomas. The first group went in 2002 and the second group went in 2004. 10 have passed the course.

The third question is: *“Is there a need for more forest rangers and forest technicians to be trained or do we have enough of these people to serve the needs of the people?”*

As it is evident from the figures in question 1, the Directorate still needs to train people at certificate level in order to fill the forest ranger positions with the rightly qualified people. However, in the category of forestry technician, which has the minimum requirement of a diploma, there is a surplus and no further training of staff is required. Ogongo already trains Forestry Diploma for the open market, therefore the supply is adequate.

The fourth question was: *“When will forest rangers be promoted to the post of forest technician after gaining skills for many years?”*

Besides the upgrade candidates who are currently employed in the forest ranger position, there is also a group of Diploma graduates from Ogongo Agricultural College who joined the Directorate in 2004 and were employed as forest rangers. I hereby attach an example of a copy of the explanatory note that the staff signed before accepting these job offers. In the note it was clearly explained that the Directorate of Forestry had no vacancies for forest technicians, which is the starting position for all Diploma holders. It was also explained that the staff members were free to apply to the technician post as they become vacant over the years. Thank you.

07 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON MUDGE  
HON T MUSHELENGA**

**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Question 34 is one by Honourable Tjihuiko to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**QUESTION 34:**

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I want to withdraw the question because it has been overtaken by events.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question has been overtaken by events. Question 35 is one by Honourable Mudge to the Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**QUESTION 35:**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:** Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to give the response to Question No 35 of 13 March 2007, as put by Honourable Mudge to the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration.

In the first place, I would like to thank Honourable Mudge for raising issues related to Nkurenkuru local elections in Kavango Region, though somehow overtaken by events. I hope the Honourable Member is asking these questions with interest to get information, rather than running a campaign in the Chamber. Fortunately he gained one seat.

Honourable Mudge's first question on the voters registration roll for the elections of the Local Authority in Nkurenkuru has nothing to do with our Ministry. I thus would like to advise the Honourable Member to direct his question to the relevant authority.

On the second question, however, that deals with the identity documents, Comrade Deputy Speaker, I am pleased to inform the Honourable Member that the Ministry is aware of Namibian people who do not have identity documents. Taking into consideration obstacles related to the issuance of identity documents

07 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON MUDGE  
HON T MUSHELENGA**

and the distances between main centres, we have Regional offices where people are living. However, the Ministry has embarked upon a number of initiatives in order to support and achieve the Vision 2030 within the framework of our mission, which is to manage the National Population Register, which entails amongst others, registration of births, marriages and deaths, issuance of national identity cards, issuing passports and granting citizenship, amongst others. The Ministry has always been making an evaluation on its performance through annual strategic meetings. In 2005, the Ministry, cognisant of the fact that many vulnerable groups of our people were not issued with birth certificates and identity documents, have undertaken a special project to register these groups, whereby mobile registrations were conducted in October 2005 and ended in March 2006. The same year, around September, October 2006, a mobile team was conducted to register school-going children with more emphasis on those in Grades 10 and 12.

The Ministry has ongoing periodic mobile operations that are taking place once a year countrywide and the purpose is to make sure that we cover persons who might have been left behind during previous mobile registrations.

The following figures reflect the number of death certificates issued and identity cards applied for, during the ongoing project for the registration of identity documents and birth certificates of vulnerable communities, as mentioned before, during the period of October 2005 to March 2006.

Birth certificates issued: 54,863; Identity Cards applied for: 48,163; Identity Cards issued to learners: 27,799.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, early this year the Minister had a consultative meeting with all Regional Governors in Otjiwarongo to discuss the possibility of establishing two sub-regional offices for Home Affairs in each Region with the idea of taking the service closer to the people.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration is committed to ensure that each and every Namibian has an identity card in the next three to five years, provided that we receive the necessary resources as well as goodwill and support from all stakeholders, including the Opposition Party Members sitting here.

However, the Honourable Members should keep in mind that, based on

7 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON MUDGE  
HON T MUSHELENGA**

the census of 1991 and that of 2001, Namibia's birth rate stands at 2.6%. In other words, each year there are young people that reach the age of 16 and need to be provided with identity documents. Thus the programme of issuing national documents is an ongoing process. I thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Minister. Does the Honourable Member have a supplementary question?

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**HON MUDGE:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I was not prepared for that long ministerial statement, but I think the numbers speak for themselves. Thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Question 36 is one by Honourable Moongo to the Minister of Education. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**QUESTION 36:**

**HON MOONGO:** I put the Question.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, may I ask that the Question stands over, because I am not aware of it for some reason. Maybe it was an oversight. We will answer Thursday next week. Thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question stands over to next week, Thursday. Question 37 is the one by Honourable Dienda to the Minister of Finance. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**QUESTION 37:**

**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** *The first question was, “why is it taking so long for pension benefits from GIPF to be paid out after resignation or death of a civil servant, as all the information of the beneficiaries are on the personnel files?”*

The answer to that question is: The turnaround time for resignation and retirement benefits is six weeks once all the relevant documents arrive at GIPF offices. Delays only occur when the files are submitted late to the GIPF office, which is normally the case or if members’ personal details have been altered, for example ID documents, surnames and so forth and both the personnel office and the GIPF were never informed in time.

On death claim payments the Pension Fund Act of 1956 stipulates that *payments should be effected within twelve months’ of the member’s death*. However, it is sometimes difficult to comply with this time limit because of dispute amongst beneficiaries or because some beneficiaries only come forward to claim their benefits much later. These and other instances make it difficult to finalise death claims in the shortest possible period.

In order to expedite the payments of benefits, GIPF has appointed social workers in the Regions and at the head office to assist in solving these cases. Pension associations in the Regions are also actively involved in gathering details to solve pension-related issues easily.

The next question was: *“Is it true that collateral guarantees are deducted from the official pension benefits who participated in the Government Housing Scheme and have resigned from the Public Service after giving consent that the deducted amount should be paid over to financial institutions. It then results in housing instalments falling in arrears, so much so that some officials are at the brink of losing their houses.”*

It is true that collateral guarantees are recovered from the member’s pension if the member resigns or retires and is unable to make arrangements on their own. However, GIPF advises the personnel offices and their clients to consider alternative arrangements. For example, the re-evaluation of their properties, ceding of policies to cover the collateral and so forth, before guarantee deductions are claimed from GIPF.

07 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON DIENDA  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

In cases where the member's house is threatened to be repossessed by the bank, GIPF has an agreement with the bank to consider postponement, that is if they are made aware of it. This is done once the office is informed. In such cases such claims enjoy priority and are paid out in the shortest possible time, even within two to three weeks.

I must also emphasise here that if a member has made an arrangement for GIPF to deduct their instalments and pay them over to the bank, that does not relieve the member of the responsibility to see to it that these deductions are indeed made and that the payments on their loans are actually up to date. I do not think somebody can just sit down and say GIPF is supposed to do that for me, and in two, three months you do not know whether the deductions are made and when there are threats to take over the house, you just complain and GIPF should be blamed for that. I think it should be understood that it is not a core function of GIPF to settle the loan of individual persons with the bank. They are only assisting and it is important to underline that.

*“Who will be responsible for the interest on arrears that accumulate on these accounts due to the late over-payment of the amounts that are deducted from the pension benefits of resigned officials?”*

The answer from GIPF is that the Rules of the Fund make provision for interest payments on all late payments. GIPF therefore pays interest on late payments. But I believe this is when it is established that there was an error on the part of GIPF. I do not want them to think they can just sit with incomplete data files and then they would expect that GIPF should take the responsibility and absorb the costs.

Question No 4: *“Which companies benefited from the DCP and what were the amounts given to them?”*

The following loans were made by the GIPF to public and private companies through the GIPF's Development Capital Portfolio (DCP) as well as direct investments held through the GIPF's Investment Division since the inception of the Portfolio in 1996 and they indicate that these are only the capital disbursements made and these are the amounts that I am going to outline and exclude any interest on loan repayments. The companies are:

Prepared Management Services (Pty) Ltd – N\$1.9 million



07 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON DIENDA  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

Futuni Collections Shareholders Loan – Direct Investment – N\$28 million.

Futuni Collections Loan – Direct Investment – N\$11 million

Swakopmund Station Hotel (Pty) Ltd – N\$15 million

Karas Abattoir and Tannery Processors (Pty) Ltd – N\$119 million

Karas Abattoir and Tannery Processors (Pty) Ltd – Direct Investment – N\$11.8 million.

Karas Abattoir and Tannery Processors (Pty) Ltd – Direct Investment – N\$18.1 million

Ongopolo Mining and Processing Ltd – N\$40 million.

Ongopolo Mining and Processing Ltd – Direct Investment – N\$80 million

Windhoek Country Club and Hotel (Pty) Ltd – N\$30 million

Namibia Grape Company (Pty) Ltd – N\$164 million

Black Square Auto Engineering (Pty) Ltd – N\$6.9 million

Namibia Plastics and Liquid Foods (Pty) Ltd – N\$20 million

!Uri !Khubis Abattoir (Pty) Ltd – N\$5 million

Multiline Investment (Pty) Ltd – N\$20 million

Namibian Chicken Investment (Pty) Ltd – N\$7 million

Namibian Chicken Investment (Pty) Ltd – Direct Investment – N\$1.2 million.

Namibia Pig Farm (Pty) Ltd – N\$26.4 million

Omaheke Tannery & Leather Processing (Pty) Ltd – N\$23 million.

Omina Investments (Pty) Ltd – N\$12 million.

07 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON DIENDA  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

Sepiolite Production (Pty) Ltd – N\$10 million

Tutunge Investment (Pty) Ltd – N\$4.6 million

Karas Ostriches – N\$1.7 million

City Savings & Investment Bank – N\$12 million.

This gives a total of N\$620 378 000.

In addition to the above loans, the DCP also made the following equity investments in private and public companies:

Capricorn Investment Holdings Ltd – N\$639 000

Etosha Fisheries Holding Company (Pty) Ltd – N\$27.5 million

Karas Abattoir and Tannery Processors (Pty) Ltd – N\$29.5 million.

Total: N\$57.6 million in equity investment.

No loans were granted to individuals. All investments are made through registered Limited or (Pty) Limited companies that adhere to the Companies Act.

The following investments had been made via the Unlisted Portfolio of the Namibia Asset Management (Pty) Ltd mandate. Note that these projects are unlisted projects, however they are not part of the DCP, which is a separate mandate managed currently by Sanlam Investment Management Namibia since November 2000 and was previously with Investec Asset Management:

Novanam Preferred Shares Equity – N\$6.5 million

Kudu Property Investment – N\$3.6 million

Von Braun Street Investment – N\$2.7 million

Walvis Bay Investment CC 2001 – N\$2.4 million

Courtyard CC – N\$2.1 million

07 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON DIENDA  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

SWABOU Preference Shares - Equity – N\$21.1 million

National Housing Enterprise – N\$15.7 million

Windhoek Country Club – N\$44.1 million

Windhoek Office Park – N\$65.6 million

Namibia Asset Finance Company (Pty) Ltd – N\$4 million

Namibia Harvest Investment (prior to listing on the Namibian Stock Exchange)  
for the CSIB Futeni Collection transaction – N\$6 million.

This gives a total of N\$175.1 million.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:45**  
**HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:15 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** When we left for refreshments, the Honourable Minister of Finance had the Floor to answer to the last question for the day before we go to the Order Paper.

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. Question 5 was asking what the repayment status of these projects are. The answer:

Below please find the repayment status of these projects:

Preferred Management Services – Repayment status active. This means that the loan is being serviced.

Futeni Collections Shareholders Loan – Direct Investment – Paid in full.

07 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON DIENDA  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

Futuni Collections Loan – Direct Investment – Repaid.

Swakopmund Station Hotel (Pty) Ltd – Responsible exit in progress, which means that the GIPF is actively pursuing the sale of the project through sourcing reputable buyers at market related prices. In all the cases where I will cite this status, offers have been received and are being reviewed for viability.

Karas Abattoir and Tannery Processors (Pty) Ltd – Responsible exit in progress.

Karas Abattoir and Tannery Processors (Pty) Ltd – Direct Investment – Responsible exit in progress.

Ongopolo Mining and Processing Ltd – Converted to shares in Weatherly  
Ongopolo Mining and Processing Ltd – Direct Investment converted to shares in Weatherly;

Windhoek Country Club and Hotel (Pty) Ltd – Responsible exit in progress.

Namibia Grape Company (Pty) Ltd – Sold subject to approval by Government.

Black Square Auto Engineering (Pty) Ltd – Liquidated.

Namibia Plastics and Liquid Foods (Pty) Ltd – Liquidated.

!Uri !Khubis Abattoir (Pty) Ltd – Liquidated.

Multiline Investment (Pty) Ltd – Repaid.

Namibia Chicken Investments (Pty) Ltd – Liquidated.

Namibia Chicken Investments (Pty) Ltd – Direct Investment – Liquidated.

Namibia Pig Farm (Pty) Ltd – Responsible exit in progress.

Omaheke Tannery and Leather Processing (Pty) Ltd – Responsible exit in progress.

Omina Investments (Pty) Ltd – Liquidated.

07 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON DIENDA  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

Sepiolite Production (Pty) Ltd – Responsible exit in progress.

Tutunge Investment (Pty) Ltd – Repaid.

In addition to above loans the DCP also made the following equity investments in private and public companies. Their status is reflected in the schedule below:

Capricorn Investment Holdings Ltd – Active.

Etosha Fisheries Holding Company (Pty) Ltd – Active.

Karas Abattoir and Tannery Processors (Pty) Ltd – Responsible exit in progress.

Herewith the status of the unlisted projects financed through the Namibia Asset Management Ltd Portfolio:

Novanam Preference Shares – Repaid by March 2003.

Kudu Property Investments – Repaid by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2003.

Von Braun Street Investments – Repaid by December 17<sup>th</sup> 2004.

Walvis Bay Investment CC 2001 – Repaid by March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

Courtyard CC – Repaid by June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

SWABOU Preference Shares converted through merger between FNB and SWABOU into FNB preference share.

National Housing Enterprise – Active revolving debenture.

Windhoek Country Club – Repaid.

Windhoek Office Park – Active.

Namibia Asset Finance Company (Pty) Ltd – Liquidated.

Namibia Harvest Investment – prior to listing on Namibia Stock Exchange for the CSIB Futeni Collectors transaction – Repaid.

07 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON DIENDA  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

Question 6: “*Who were the owners of these companies?*” The shareholders’ details are as follows:

Namibia Pig Farm – L. Shipena; S Kankondi; T Tjivikua; M Asser; S Haulofu; J Bezuidenhout; S Mbambus, N Ndafeuapo; W Nangombe; J Endjala; L Kahevita; Walvis Bay Meat Supply and GIPF.

Ongopolo Mining – the current structure: Weatherly International, MUN, other minority shareholders:

NAFCO, P J N Van Heerden, J H Kaufmann.

Futeni Collections: GIPF Corporate Guarantee,

Multiline: Bobboh Family Trust, Kandas Family Trust, Oshana Investment Holdings, B H Lyners, Multiline Workers Trust, Nashua Namibia Holdings.

Namibia Chicken Investment: Onguti (Pty) Ltd, Gan-Gan Enterprise, GIPF.

Namibia Grape Company – E Negonga, D Imbili, E Paulus, L Shipena, T H Mbako, F Kandala, S Gawaseb, J Endjala, M Kakujaha, I Hoffmann, I Ithete, K M Moraliswani, D Shimi, F Ndoroma, GIPF.

Note: GIPF has now acquired a 100% of the shareholding of these companies. Therefore the list of shareholders that I have just given is no longer applicable.

Namibia Plastics & Liquid Foods: S Nghikembua, E Haitengela, A Jazama,, L Tudorov, R Haikali, H Schroeder, I Katjavivi, G Kaunatjike representing E Ratjama, GIPF.

Sepiolite Production – Aminuis Mining Venture, Namibia Mine Workers Investment Holdings, Afhold Holdings South Africa (Pty) Ltd.

Omaheke Tannery and Leather Processing: !Uri !Khubis Abattoir, Omenje (Pty) Ltd, Okuhepa Farmers’ Investment and GIPF.

Windhoek Country Club – current structure: Government of Namibia 100% ownership.

07 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON DIENDA  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

Karas Ostriches and Abattoir, current structure: GIPF, Karas Communal Ostrich Trust.

Tsogang Investments (!Uri !Khubis Abattoir): Shareholders: E Ratjama, K Kandjoze, S Ueitele, P Gauxab, A Simana, G Tjihenuna

Tutunge Investment Company (Pty) Ltd – C V Kauraisa, D N Imbili, I H Tjombonde, J Endjala, K Egumbo, P M Asino, E Awene, A Aoghamub, K M Aihe, T K Makari, Y P A Sanchez, H K Haindobo.

Omina Investments: Namibia Mineworkers Investment Company, Onguvi Investment, United Women Investment Group, Okazapamba Investments, Firm Policy Investments; Omawe Investments, AE/Gams Trust, Dammert & Hinda Incorporated.

Namibia Asset Management Limited unlisted portfolio structure: N Liebich 100% ownership.

Von Braun – N Liebich, 100% ownership.

Court Yard cc – K S J Van Wyngaarden and C Van Wyngaarden.

Kudu Investment – Kalahari Holdings 100% ownership and they have fully paid back.

*“What are the repayment agreements?”* This one is really voluminous, it is about ten pages and I would like to plead that here I be allowed to distribute the document so that the Member would get the information.

I would like to end by saying that because of the complexity of this kind of activities, this investment by a pension fund, while in fact it is not a core function of a pension fund, the core function of a pension fund is to manage the pension benefits of the members, in the case of GIPF of the members of the Public Services, GIPF has decided to repackage this facility, meaning that they are no longer advancing loans or acquiring equity, they would want to channel their investments through specialised agencies and we are hoping that they would be able to do it through the Development Bank, for example, that has specialists in this area. Thank you.

07 June 2007

**FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE BILL  
HON TWEYA**

**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Any supplementary question, Honourable Dienda?

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**HON DIENDA:** No, I just want to thank the Minister for the answers.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

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**RECONSIDERATION : FINANCIAL  
INTELLIGENCE BILL**

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Does the Honourable Deputy Minister of Finance move that the Assembly now reconsiders the Bill?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:** I so Move, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It is moved that the Assembly now goes into Committee and that I leave the Chair. Any objection? Who seconds? I call on the Assistant Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair, Comrade Peya Mushelenga.

**ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:**

**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
The Whole House Committee is called to order. The National Council considered and passed the Bill subject to proposed amendments which will be tabled by the Deputy Minister of Finance in terms of Article 75(6)(a) of the Constitution. I now put Clause 8. Any discussion?



**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, let me first say thank you very much for the enthusiasm with which the National Council has responded to our call to pass this Bill with urgency and that they have raised a few concerns about certain provisions of this Bill.

However, as I will elaborate in due course, I am of the opinion that the majority of the concerns raised by the National Council have already been addressed and resolved by this House during the Debate of the Bill last year. I, however, welcome the issues and concerns raised by the National Council and would like to address them as follows:

The proposed amendments: In order to facilitate a better understanding and a once-off response, I have opted to consolidate the proposed amendments as follows and this is the appointment of the Director in Clause 8. You will see that Clause 8 refers to the delegation and they added appointment. I will deal with the appointment of the Director, so that we have a once-off summary, because amendments 8(1)(2) and (3) relate to the appointment of the Director.

Honourable Members, let me briefly take you through it. As identified and indicated by the National Council, the Bill is silent on the appointment criteria of the Director of the Financial Intelligence Centre. This, however, was not an oversight on the part of the drafters of the Bill, but a deliberate intent. The reason is that the Financial Intelligence Centre will just be an additional function of the Bank of Namibia, not a separate legal entity. Therefore, recruitment procedures for the Centre should be governed by the provisions of the Bank of Namibia Act, as is the case with other functions of the Bank.

Currently the Bank of Namibia administers various Acts, examples of which are the Payments System Management Act, the Banking Institutions Act and the Currencies and Exchanges Act. None of these Acts have specific reference to the appointment of the Director and also do not indicate that the Governor of the Bank should consult with the Minister when appointing the directors of these departments. All appointments of the directors of these various departments within the Bank of Namibia are done under the auspices of the Bank of Namibia Act. This Bill will be no exception to this rule.

07 June 2007

**FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE BILL  
HON TWEYA**

I, therefore, recommend for this House not to amend the Bill with the Section on the appointment of the Director as proposed, but to allow the Bank of Namibia to conduct the recruitment process within the ambit of the Bank of Namibia Act.

Therefore, amendments to Clause 8(1), (2) and (3) should not be considered favourably, as I have just explained in terms of the delegation of powers.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Any further discussion? Any objection? The amendment is rejected. I put Clause 51, any discussion?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable Chairperson, the amendment proposed is a typing error. It is accepted, it is a mere inclusion of “or she”. The amendment is accepted as proposed by the National Council.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Will the Honourable Deputy Minister please table the amendment? Any further discussion? Honourable Venaani.

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I just want to seek clarification and guidance from the House, whether it is legally correct to, when you correct a typo, to treat it as an amendment (Interjection). Is it an omission? It is just a correction. Just guide us.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Yes, it was an omission that was inserted after the Bill has left this House.

07 June 2007

**FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE BILL  
HON TWEYA**

Therefore, it is proper to table that amendment. Any further discussion? Any objection? Agreed to. I put Schedule 1, any discussion?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable Deputy Assistant, Honourable Members, the proposed amendment of Schedule 1: I would like to welcome the suggestion to address the potential conflict of interest arising from the fact that the Bank of Namibia is an accountable institution and supervisory institution, on the one hand, and the Financial Intelligence Centre, on the other. While I agree that these are possible areas of conflict, the possibility that this would present a problem in the day-to-day administration of the law by the Bank of Namibia is really very remote and attempting to address these areas of potential conflict of interest at this juncture, would require considerable amendments and new role assignments which will unnecessarily delay the enactment of the Bill. This, in my view, will destroy the momentum that Namibia has gained over the past months in preparing for the fight against money laundering.

Honourable Assistant Chairperson, Honourable Members, this issue could still be considered in the future amendments of the Bill, especially after the practical application of the Act has been demonstrated. I, therefore, recommend that the proposed amendment not be considered favourably.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Will the Honourable Deputy Minister table the amendment? I now put the amendment. Any objection? Honourable Gurirab.

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**HON GURIRAB:** Honourable Assistant Chairperson, I do agree with the observation of the National Council. In fact, I raised that point here and I would like to read what I said: *"In terms of the Bill we are making the Bank an administrator and a supervisory agency."* When the Bill was under debate here, I said also under Section 4 where the Bank is both an administrator and also listed under Schedule 2, to the extent that the Bank is an administrator of this Act and at the same time also a supervisory body, it would appear that the Bank is entrusted with two roles, that of a judge and jury and in particular in matters of finance you

07 June 2007

**FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE BILL  
HON TWEYA**

do not want to do that, that the Bank is being asked to play two roles. It is either administrator of this Act or it is a supervisory body.

I also tend to disagree with the Deputy Minister that effecting this change would delay the implementation of the Bill, because it is a couple of sections in the Bill which have to be deleted and that we make the Bank one thing, either the administrator of the Bill or the supervisor of this. So, I do agree that there is conflict of interest in that the Bank is being asked to wear two hats in this respect.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES:** Any further discussion? Does the Deputy Minister want to reply?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you very much for your support that this Bill would finally become operational very soon. Thank you very much for your contribution.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Deputy Minister, it was whether you wish to reply to Honourable Gurirab's observation?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:** I believe my response to the first time that the Honourable Member raised is not different. This is why I read *"to separate the delegation of power and the appointment of the Director, as well as the role of the Bank in relation to other Acts."* Therefore, it is really not different from my initial response when we debated the issue here. There is at this point in time, and as I read now, no near conflict of roles. It is not different from what I have explained. I thank him for raising that again.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I put the Amendment. Any objection?

07 June 2007

**COMMITTEE STAGE FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE BILL  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

**HON GURIRAB:** Honourable Chairperson, I am not addressing Clause 8 on the powers of the Governor. I am not addressing that one. I am addressing Schedule 2 and substantively in the body of the Bill it is Section 10. The point that the National Council is making and the issue which I raised here is that we are asking the Bank to be two things and I am saying we should not be doing that. For any financial transaction you do not do that. You have somebody initiating the transaction and you have somebody else approving it.

That separation is always there and we should also do that here. Let the Bank either be the administrator or let it be the supervisory body, but let us not ask it to be two things. It is for that very reason that I agree with the National Council. I have raised the point here.

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chair. I would want to plead with the Honourable Members of the House to allow the Bill to go through in order for us to prepare the ground for implementation and see how the experience would come out to be. On the basis of the experience, we would then continue to strengthen the legal framework.

I also want to emphasise the point that inasmuch as the Centre is established within the Bank of Namibia, the Centre would be separate from the Bank. There is no mixing of functions there. The Bank would be responsible for the administrative duties of this Centre, but when it comes to the functional duties of the Centre, there is an advisory Committee that is to be appointed by the Minister of Finance. Yes, the Governor would also be a member of that Committee, but he is not going to have a veto power and, therefore, there is a balance of some sort, that somebody who is actually not involved with the other functions of the Bank, can have an objective look at the Reports that would come from the Centre and would be able to advise the Minister accordingly, so that if the Bank makes itself guilty of committing any offence within the context of the Act, there is still a possibility that that can be addressed without the Bank actually interfering.

I do not think that it is a good thing to further delay this Bill. For seventeen years, we had the Auditor General's Office that have audited the books of the State, including the expenditure of the Auditor General. That is a practice that we want to review now, but we have had that for 17 years, and we did not have a situation where the office has made itself guilty of conflict of interest.

07 June 2007

**COMMITTEE STAGE FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE BILL  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

Similarly, we have the Treasury in the Ministry of Finance that carries out specific functions that are stipulated in the State Finance Act, but that Treasury is also just a Directorate like any other Directorate. Therefore, it would also be required to get, for example, the approval of Treasury in order for it to carry out certain functions. You cannot have it any other way, because you cannot say, in order for Treasury not to have a conflict of interest, they should not be subject to Treasury authorisation. They would have to, but you just have to put in place a mechanism that would make sure that there are checks and balances somehow, so that somebody does not abuse the powers.

Otherwise delaying the passage of the Bill will have negative impact on the fight against the evil that we are trying to fight through this and also the way we are perceived by the world, that we still do not have this mechanism and we are, therefore, still not in a position to combat this crime. We are not saying that there is no case for us to look at the Bill again, the Bill can be looked at again, but please let us allow it to go through now and let us try to see what experience would teach us and then we will come back and panel beat it, as we have done with many other Bills before it. Thank you.

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**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLSE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Any further discussion? I now put the Amendment. Any objection? Honourable Members, the National Council's communication to us is headed as Schedule 1. In fact it should be Schedule 2. They are referring to both Schedule 1 and Schedule 2. So, there is nothing wrong in terms of Article 75(6)(a) of the Constitution that it is Schedule 2. The amendment of the National Council has been rejected. I shall report the Bill with amendments.

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**ASSEMBLY RESUMED:**

**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Committee has reconsidered Bill 1 of 2006 as set forth in the accompanying copy and agreed to it with Amendments.

07 June 2007

**MOTION-THE ROLE OF INSURANCE COMPANIES  
HON P MUSHELENGA**

**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Having considered the amendments, the Assembly has now finally passed the Bill with amendments and, therefore concluded the business on this item. The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE ROLE OF INSURANCE  
COMPANIES AND WHETHER THEY SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE  
NATION**

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** When this Assembly adjourned yesterday, 6<sup>th</sup> of June 2007, in terms of Rule 90 of the Standing Rules and Orders, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Dienda that the Motion be adopted. Honourable Peya Mushelenga had the Floor and I now call on Honourable Peya Mushelenga to take the Floor.

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**HON P MUSHELENGA:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. When the House adjourned in terms of automatic adjournment yesterday I was saying:

Often the terms insurance and assurance are confused. Insurance refers to the provision of cover for an event that may happen, while assurance is the provision of the cover for an event that is certain to happen. This means in simple terms that when people insure their lives, it is in anticipation that one day they will die. Therefore, the policies that cover their deaths are assured to make payments. Although insurance reduces risk and uncertainty that clients face for a wide range of hazards, reality is that not all risks are insurable, at least from the point of view of the insurance companies.

For example, risks of terrorism, and floods in Mariental are excluded in all policies in Namibia, while insurance companies do not also insure risks due to riots and strikes. The latter in Namibia is separately insured by a Section 21 company created by insurance players called National Special Risk Insurance Association. The challenge is however, that many people do not know of this facility.

07 June 2007

**MOTION-THE ROLE OF INSURANCE COMPANIES**  
**HON P MUSHELENGA**

If a group of strikers start smashing cars outside whilst we are seated here, believe you me, such a risk is not covered by your conventional motor policy if the insurance company proves that such actions were politically motivated. Are Honourable Members aware of this? As politicians we can easily be targets of some of these risks. It is therefore vital that adequate information is available to both buyers and sellers of products, so that sound decisions are made. If one party hides information from the other, this leads to an adverse selection in favour of the party hiding the information. The people must know what risks are not covered by their policies, so that they are not surprised when they have to lodge claims. One can only know through education.

When people do not have perfect information on the prices, quality and other salient features of the products being offered by Companies, they may buy the wrong product or the wrong brand or they might even favour buying from one seller instead of the other sellers. The result is that they buy way too much of some items and not enough of others. This imperfect information phenomenon should be addressed through regular customer education.

Equally, brokers and other agents need thorough training on the products they sell.

The Financial Services Industry under which insurance companies are operating is regulated by the Namibia Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority (NAMFISA). I believe that the role of the regulator should be enhanced so that the public are protected from any actions they may obtain through their dealings with the institutions. The public must be educated by the Regulator so that they can report such activities, and the Regulator should then address the concerns. The Regulator can only effectively carry on their duties if they are equally educated about the activities of the institutions they supervise. It is the Regulator's duty to protect the interests of the policy holders, to regulate, promote and ensure orderly growth of the insurance industry.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, there are some people who take too many insurance policies. Actually, insurance is divided into two main categories, namely the protection policies and investment policies. The latter is where one can make some profits. These are pensions, annuities and investment bonds.

Our people further need to understand that insurance is a profit-oriented entity. It must at least break even for it to survive the competitive environment. The



07 June 2007

**MOTION-THE ROLE OF INSURANCE COMPANIES**  
**HON P MUSHELENGA**

majority of our people believe that they could make money through insurance. This may be the case, but not the essence. Insurance is there to give you comfort when you are faced by an insured loss, in return for a premium consideration. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER:** I am listening with interest and I really like listening to Honourable Mushelenga, because he really does research. Now I have one or two questions. As he just mentioned, people are taking out policies. I have noticed now and in fact I found somebody in a hospital when I was the Minister of Health, going around the dying HIV patients and so forth, taking out policies on their behalf. I asked this lady, *“is this person related to you?”* *“No, but they have nobody, so I am taking out policies.”* I never understood what was going on.

You find that if the families know that you are about to kick the bucket, then they come and insure you. I think that sounds a bit illegal. How can we stamp that trend out? Can we go to the police and report these sorts of things, because I think it is actually criminal. That is one question.

The second question is that we politicians are not covered for riot activities, if someone comes and breaks into my house or burn down my house. Yet in my cover she said, *“you need so much to rebuild this house of yours.”* I asked, *“but what will happen to my house, maybe just the roof or something.”* She said, *“no it can burn down.”* If because of a riot somebody comes and burns down my house, no cover. If an electric fault somewhere burns down my house, is there cover or no cover? They also do not want to take natural things like lightning and all these things, but we are paying these premiums, hoping that you can rebuild your house one day when the house burns down.

Insurance companies must tell us that we can only pay this if your house is burnt down this way or the other way, but if it burns down by this and that, we are not going to pay the cover, so that you remove that cover because it costs a lot of money.

07 June 2007

**MOTION-THE ROLE OF INSURANCE COMPANIES**  
**HON P MUSHELENGA**

**HON P MUSHELENGA:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, on the second question, there is a company, NASRIA, that covers acts of terrorism. I will still come to the first question during my speech.

I was saying over-insurance is not economical. Hence, financial education is a necessary skill that insurers must impart on their potential policy holders. It is morally justifiable and significant that before the insurance company issues a policy, that it determines the insurance requirements of the customer, so that a customer obtains the service he or she most requires.

We must also understand that insurance is a risk management mechanism, through which the policy holders transfer some or all of their risks to the insurance company. Therefore, it is important that insurance companies take serious the issue of public education on the aspect of risk management, so that losses are also reduced.

Equally, through this education, our people must be educated on the incentives of having an insurance policy and new policies that are developed must be availed to our people through information. The emphasis of highlighting insurance benefits first does not contribute to individual risk management. These are things like, *“if you die, you will receive so and so amount, if you roll your car, you will get a new one.”* An approach like this one leads to trapping many people into insurance, when they do not require and worse, is that they may not even be adequately covered by the policy they took because of misinformation. It is moral hazard to act in that approach.

With the pace of globalisation and world interconnectedness, new risks for which insurance is required also arise. Some of these risks are even intangible and hard to measure, and many would even prove difficult to insure. The frequency and severity of natural disasters and some man-made catastrophes makes insurance a basic commodity in economic and financial circles, not only to individuals but also to businesses and especially to our SMEs. Most often our SMEs are not aware of business insurance products. They need to know. We have seen the growth of insurance penetration. The industry needs to be innovative and responsive to its clients, other than shunning them when they are needed most. However above all, education.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, there is an element of immorality among some policy holders. Some people hunt for information as to

07 June 2007

**MOTION-THE ROLE OF INSURANCE COMPANIES**  
**HON P MUSHELENGA**

who among their relatives or acquaintances are sick and likely to die in the not too distant future. They then take funeral covers for the sick ones, in bad faith, and when the eventualities materialise, they will not even contribute anything to the funeral expenses of the people they have supposedly covered. I would, therefore, humbly submit to the Honourable Minister of Finance that a law should be enacted, making provision for the following:

1. A certain percentage of funeral cover benefits payable to policy holders, should be paid directly to service providers, to cater for the coffin, food and drinks and even the tombstone of the deceased. Since one person may have been covered by many policy holders, such percentage could be as low as 10%, for example. What I mean by this is that when someone takes insurance cover on someone and that person dies, if you have covered a person for N\$10 000, you get N\$9 000 and N\$1 000 should be paid directly to the service providers, either for food, drinks, tombstone or coffin.
2. Policy holders who wish to take funeral insurance for other people should first obtain consent from the people to be covered, except maybe in the case of one's own spouse, children and parents. But for other people one should obtain consent, because what is happening now, is that you can go around, ask for someone's birth details and go directly to the insurance company and cover the person, without the person even knowing you have covered him or her.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, let me now speak on the issue of customer service in the insurance industries. It pains me to see how bereaved family members stand in long queues when they claim funeral benefits for their beloved ones. The atmosphere is not conducive to grief-stricken persons. Insurance companies should have customer desks dedicated for this purpose, where real caring and empathy is meted towards grieving members of our Nation. Further, it is my suggestion that payment for funeral benefits should be expedited. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,**  
**HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Comrade Deputy Speaker, may I ask the Comrade a tiny question? You have referred to a certain percentage to be covered in the law that will be paid directly to the service providers and

07 June 2007

**MOTION-THE ROLE OF INSURANCE COMPANIES  
HON P MUSHELENGA**

possibly you mean the service providers whose organisations are known. However there are also incidents where these service providers are the very same people who have insured this particular person. Are you suggesting that the money should still go to the very same person in the case where we do not have service providers who are known and operate under known companies or institutions? What would you suggest would be the solution in that case?

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**HON P MUSHELENGA:** The idea is that when a policy is taken, it should be put to good use. I know there are service providers who insure people. For example, you take a policy that if a person dies, you get a coffin, you do not get money. That is straightforward, they will give you a coffin, they will not take it elsewhere. But the problem is with the cash payments, that people who have covered others, get N\$5,000.00 or N\$10,000.00 and they put it in their pockets, because no one will ask them or force them to pay. The company will perhaps say, you have covered the deceased for N\$5,000.00, at least this N\$500.00 we will keep, you go and buy drinks or you go and buy a coffin or you go and deposit a tombstone, we give you N\$4,500.00, which you can still go and use, but at least to make sure that a certain percentage has been put to good use. That is what I am trying to say.

Sometimes people are forced to postpone funerals because of the delay in benefit payments, resulting in other extra costs due to prolonged vigils. Financial institutions like banks should be brought in the fold to exempt funeral benefit transactions from high bank charges.

It is important to mention at this stage that when people take insurance policies, they assume in good faith that they will be employed for an unbroken period until retirement. At times people need to take leave from their work to undertake studies in order to be able to make meaningful contributions to their country's development. It is, therefore, arguable that insurance companies should consider granting premium moratoriums to persons on study leave, for example, under the following conditions: Clients on study leave without pay, who has been with an insurance company for a certain period, can during that time be granted a moratorium and resume payment and perhaps make up for their arrears within an agreed period of time once he or she is back from studies. Should the need arise to claim during the period of moratorium, at least one could say benefits equal to half or even one-third of benefits payable under normal circumstances could become payable during that time.

07 June 2007

**MOTION-THE ROLE OF INSURANCE COMPANIES**  
**HON MUDGE**

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, with these few words, I support the Motion and I thank you.

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**HON MUDGE:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I just want to make a short contribution.

I have a serious problem with insurance and not necessarily with what Honourable Mushelenga has said just now, I believe that is true, but also with what the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister said.

I think one of the biggest problems that we have in the country today is the fact that people are absolutely ignorant about insurance, and it is not necessarily the fault of the people who want to be insured. I can tell you, I would think that I am fairly well educated and knowledgeable about these things and every time that I hear these things, I get so annoyed simply because and I want to give you one example.

You can go to insurance companies to get death benefits and any other benefits, whether it is for your houses, your motor vehicles. You can also take out policies to have money in five years, ten years or fifteen years when your children want to go to university. It is some sort of a savings plan, if you want to call it that. Then the agent will come to you and say that they can work out what the cost is today, they take inflation into consideration and if it is N\$20 000 this year, then in ten years they calculate it would be that much and then they say to you, that for you to be in a position that you will have money for your children to go to University, you need to take out a policy today and then you have to pay this amount per month. That is almost like an annuity where you take out a policy, make certain contributions per month, that when you become 55 or 60 years old, then you will receive a lump sum of money.

Now let me tell you this today, I challenge any insurance company to show me factually that this is the case. It is not happening and I want to warn the Members of this House, it is not happening – not today, it was not the situation in the past, it is not happening. When you become 55 years old or when your child wants to go to University and you want to withdraw your money, you will find that you barely get back what you invested. Forget about interest that you should have earned and all that.

07 June 2007

**MOTION-THE ROLE OF INSURANCE COMPANIES**  
**HON MUDGE**

I see every time when we mention that, the Honourable Minister of Finance is wondering whether this is another job for her, but I honestly feel that people should look into this matter, that the Government should look into this matter. I have no insurance policies today because I just do not trust the people. I tell you, I do not trust them, because I cannot understand that if I have invested a certain amount of money willingly to make sure that I will have a certain investment and that I will get a certain amount of money back after a number of years, and when we get to that date, you find that you get 75% of the money that you have invested. It is just immoral and I think NAMFISA or somebody should investigate this, because I am not speculating in what I am saying now, these are facts and I can prove it. These are facts. They are ripping our people off by promises.

Look in our society who are the guys who are making money? The insurance agents. They run around, writing policies for this and that, whether it is long-term life policies or whatever. I think the Minister and NAMFISA should appoint people to look into this, because I found that something is seriously wrong. Thank you very much.

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, if there is no one else to contribute today, I would like to propose that the discussion on the Motion be adjourned until Thursday next week for me to make a contribution.

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**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I know the Minister is going to say something, but I want her to include what I am going to say here in her study.

An example: A friend of some acquaintance of mine committed suicide. This person was paying his insurance every month, but because she committed suicide they couldn't take out the insurance. They do not insure for suicide. However this person has paid in. Why should they be morally bound to say that because you committed suicide, you cannot take out your benefit? What about the money the person was paying in?

The other issue is, the people who are dying as a result of AIDS have been cheated and I spoke on this issue several times when I was the Minister of Health.

07 June 2007

**MOTION-THE ROLE OF INSURANCE COMPANIES**  
**HON DR AMATHILA**

The brokers went over the place in our Regions where you have a lot of HIV/AIDS and they asked people to fill in forms to pay insurance, but there somewhere in-between the people did not read and when those people died, they did not want to pay out insurance benefits because they said the person died of AIDS. They sometimes go to the doctors and they find out exactly what is the contributing factor for this death and of course, the doctors write something there to say AIDS was a contributing factor that this person succumbed to Malaria.

I do not know whether these things are still going on, and I think it is very immoral to do that. This House should see what we could do to prevent these sorts of things. It is not up to the Minister of Finance to come and create laws, but all we need to do is to study all these things that are happening and come up with some kind of legislation as the House.

With regard to the things mentioned by Honourable Mudge, I am thinking of removing my house cover, because that house will be burnt as a result of lighting, which they do not cover, an electricity fault which they do not cover or riots. What else will burn that house? You know how much we pay per month. Your insurance cover goes up to N\$2,000, N\$3,000 per month. What are we paying for?

Thank you very much for bringing this item and this discussion is very enriching. We need to go back to our insurance companies and say, "*bring my paper*" and you sit with your broker and say take this one off because it does not help me. We have been cheated for too long. We need to study these things. Thank you very much.

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**HON KAIYAMO:** I think I must, honestly speaking, congratulate Honourable Mudge for speaking sense today, and I can assure him that if in the future he speaks like this on matters where the poor people are being exploited, he will win more votes from the CoD. (Laughter).

Comrade Deputy Speaker, I am in agreement with what was said by the previous speakers, that the insurance people really are crooks. I take my own experience. When I resigned from Foreign Affairs to come to politics, I took my money to them and they said if I become 55 years old I will get my money. Up to now I am still fighting.

07 June 2007

**MOTION-THE ROLE OF INSURANCE COMPANIES**  
**HON VENAANI**

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, how old are you now?

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**HON KAIYAMO:** I am near. I fully agree with what Honourable Mudge has said and with the Deputy Prime Minister that we need to do something. Seriously, our people are being ripped off by these people. I am supporting what Honourable Mudge said. Thank you.

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I think the Deputy Prime Minister provoked some of our little statements that we are going to make, and I think she raised something that is of cardinal importance and that is question of HIV/AIDS in this country, that people want to be in business, they want to make money and people can get ill of any disease and especially diabetes, AIDS, high blood pressure, cancer – a lot of diseases.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, it is unjustifiable for someone to try to do business, but yet when you are trying to do business you are discriminating. You want your insurance company to make money, but you are saying, *“no, if you are HIV/AIDS, stay away, if you have this, stay away.”* Then that company should not be allowed to operate. (Interjection)

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**HON MEMBER:** But they increase.

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**HON VENAANI:** Yes, they increase to levels that are unaffordable and that are tantamount to robbery. I am young and I am very strong, but I am suffering from diabetes as young as I am, and when you want to increase this portfolio because of certain reasons, then you are a high risk customer and they are not really keen to help you. But when you want to invest N\$10,000.00 and you are suffering from HIV/AIDS, then they want it. Then they will run to your office, you do not need to go to them. They will say, *“you see this money that you have in the bank, there are better ways to organise it if you want to earn some interest,*



07 June 2007

**MOTION-THE ROLE OF INSURANCE COMPANIES**  
**HON VENAANI**

*you are losing money.”* Am I not the high risk customer suffering from diabetes. But when I want something for my benefit, then it is a problem.

I feel that as a country, as a Nation that has poor people and people suffering from these diseases, we should really address that question.

If Insurance companies are serious, they want to be in business, let them be in business. But if they want to discriminate ...(Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, may I ask my Colleague a question, please? Honourable Venaani, are you aware that if you start working, worked for five years and after five years you contract HIV/AIDS, the insurance company, after having paid while you were healthy for 5 years, the insurance company refuses to pay out, let alone the money you paid in before you contracted that disease?

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**HON VENAANI:** I have heard about it, but all I am trying to say, just in a nutshell, is that we should just draw a line. If it is a matter of money, the principle is money, that you put this money out there, invest it somewhere else and after you die I am going to give you this. That is the game. Therefore, it does not matter whatever disease I am suffering from, what matters is that I must give you the money so that you go and invest the money and you bring the money back to me the day that I am no longer there. It is my money, it is not your money.

Perhaps I will lobby my Colleague probably to move this Motion to a Committee, to really come up with broader recommendations to this House on what to do, so that we do not leave it at the Debate level but take it to the next level.

With these few remarks, I support the Motion.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, Honourable Member. I recognise Honourable Minister Ekandjo.

**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker. Take for instance five people are working at a factory, they take out an insurance policy for five years. When the policy matures, these people come and say, “*no, do not take it, you can still add another five years*” and they tell you about the benefits and the good things. Then you take it for another five years. Then these people work for the next 4 years, only one year left and that factory closes, which means these people have now invested for 9 years and for the next 6 months they do not pay their insurance because they are unemployed. When they go back and say they want their money, it is said that no, for two, three months you never paid, so we cannot give you even a cent. Is it really fair? You have been paying for nine years, it is your money and now they refuse. It is not of your making that you are unemployed, the factory closed.

But when they recruit, they do not say, if you do not pay for two, three months, you are not going to get it. They tell you all the nice things, they do not tell you that if you skip two, three months you are not going to get money. I feel a law should be made that even if you pay for nine years and have only one year left, you should at least get the money. It is your money. Thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Any further discussions before I give the Floor to the Minister of Finance to adjourn the Debate.

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I move that the Debate on this Motion be adjourned until Thursday next week for my contribution.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Debate stands adjourned until Thursday. The Secretary will read the Third Order of the Day.

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07 June 2007

**MOTION SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES  
HON TJIHUIKO**

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE CURRENT POOR FINANCING  
OF OUR SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES IN THE COUNTRY,  
THEIR IMPACT TOWARDS POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND OTHER  
TRADE RELATED MATTERS THEREOF**

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** When this Debate was adjourned on Thursday, 15 March 2007, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Venaani, that the Motion be adopted. Honourable Tjihuiko adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. Honourable Deputy Speaker, allow me to, first and foremost, to congratulate Honourable Venaani for having brought this issue on the Agenda of this House for discussion.

The current financing of our small and medium enterprises in the country, their impact towards poverty alleviation and other trade related matters was the Motion that the Honourable Venaani put on the Table.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I understand and I agree hundred percent with the school of thought that argues that the role of Government in any democratic and free market economy should be restricted to the one of governing the country. Therefore, under normal circumstances that would have been the best way expected from Government.

However we would not have expected Government to come down to the level of financing institutions, let alone having an on hand approach to the development of the private sector, including the SME sector.

The role of Government could have been the one of creating a conducive environment for the private sector to do the things that they can do better, namely growing the economy and creating jobs, as I said, under normal circumstances.

07 June 2007

**MOTION SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES  
HON TJIHUIKO**

Given our history and background, I believe that our Government has been forced into a situation where they have to look at the issue of extending a hand to help those who were left out of the system because of the history of the past.

The issue of financing SMEs is so complex, because it entails financing of training that need special experts, financing of business linkages, financing of business plan development, etcetera. It is not just a question of giving money to start a business, it has a lot of things that need to be supported. You need to have a specific experience in that area.

The problem that I am seeing in supporting SMEs is that after Independence it seems that everybody is expecting Government to do everything. Everybody is saying that Government should do A, Government should do this, nobody is really coming up with an idea and try to implement it themselves. Everybody is expecting Government to do everything for us, not only the support and financing of SMEs, but also support the institutions that were supposed to be supporting the SME sector.

What I am saying here is that before Independence we had institutions like IMLT, the Private Sector Foundation, but at Independence everybody wanted Government to come in and finance even their own operational costs. In the absence of that, all of them have closed doors.

I think that Government, to some extent, has done what one would have expected them to do. If you look at the Government programmes in the various Ministries, be it the Ministry of Trade, be it the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, be it Gender Equality and Child Welfare, you will see a lot of specific tailor-made programmes. My concern is that yes, indeed the good ideas are there, but we do not have the necessary in-house capacity to roll it down to the villages and all small places to be able to provide the services that are needed in those areas, because of a lack of in-house capacity, the number of people that we have in the Ministries.

If you look at the banks, for instance, you see that most of the big banks have a support for the SMEs. We have the credit guarantee scheme. These are all support structures that have been put in place in support of financing specifically the SMEs.

07 June 2007

**MOTION SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES  
HON TJIHUIKO**

But now, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am seeing a very important missing link between Government, financial institutions and the recipients. We need to have a clear and strong support structure, a coordinated structure that would link all these programmes together in order for us to have one effective programme that would be able to answer to our problems.

The support programmes that I have just mentioned are sound and if one looks at it, they are also sustainable, but without having a specialised institution like we have seen in many other countries, India and South Africa, before we have an institution like the NDC that was strong on the ground, that had experienced people, that have the structures like buildings vehicles to do the job, unfortunately it happened that we have taken the decision that we have taken.

Let us look at the institutional organisational structure for the SME sector to coordinate these activities, to look at suitable and relevant training programmes, to look at things like entrepreneurship, training programmes, to look at MTI programme. If you look at Pages 364 and 365 of the Budget, the programme of the Ministry of Trade, I think the programme is very clear. We do not need to go back and say, "*what is it that we need to do?*" What we need to do is that we have that strong coordinated programme.

Therefore, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would like to recommend to the Mover of the Motion, Honourable Venaani, to seriously look at amending this Motion, that instead of looking at one specific area, financing of SMEs, to look at reviewing the whole SME programme, to see the training programme, to see the in-house capacity of the institutions before we start talking about the actual financing, talking about money. We would like to have the programmes, the structures in place, well-coordinated, well-oiled and only then that we start looking at how best can we finance these programmes. I am not saying this because I was influenced, I was actually not influenced by the Minister of Finance yesterday, that we should not come up with a programme without looking at financing. I talked about this before she has mentioned that yesterday, so I was not influenced by her.

With this I believe that if Honourable Venaani could just amend this Motion a little bit and allow this House to go broader than looking at financing and it could be referred to a Committee so that the Committee could also have a broader view of the overall SME development programme, I think that would do more justice to the sector, rather than looking at one specific area.

07 June 2007

**MOTION SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES  
HON VENAANI**

I had something that I wanted to say on SWAPO, but my secretary seems to have omitted it. Thank you very much.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Any further discussion on the Motion? I revert the Floor to the Mover of the Motion.

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I do not want to waste the time of the House, I want to thank all those Members who participated in this Motion and I want to recognise the sentiments that were raised by His Excellency, the President over the importance of this sector and how we should really look at it. We had consultations with him and he indicated that he really wants this sector to move ahead.

However I take some of the views that were expressed by many of the Colleagues that took part during the Debate, that we all agree in unison that if we want to develop our economy, if we want to create the necessary jobs to address the question of unemployment, the greatest answer lies with the question of providing the necessary support to the Small and Medium Enterprises.

However of course, as I said, many of our big financiers are also somehow paying lip-service to the commitment of financing SMEs, because of the question of collateral and collateral. We are not trying to share responsibility and risk. It seems to me that the banks that are running the Credit Guarantee Scheme are doing so because of charges that they can charge, because they are handling this kind of money. I do not think that they are ready as financial institutions to seriously support an infant sector that needs to grow our economy.

*Honourable Tjihuiko* was saying that we should address other facets of SMEs. It is true and I think the Motion, by saying “*and other matters related thereto*”, means that it is not a parochial Motion only looking at financing, but other matters that are also inter-related and related to the subject and can be discussed. I would plead to this Assembly to accept this Motion and to pass it at a Committee, for us to look at best practices as Parliament, first and foremost, and come back to this House and make some recommendations in the interest of our people and in the interest of our markets and the jobs that we want to create.

07 June 2007

Honourable Deputy Speaker, with these few remarks, I thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. It was indicated in the Motion that it is going to be referred to a Committee. I put the Question, that the Motion be adopted and be referred to the Economics Committee. Any objection to be referred to the Committee? It is agreed to. The Motion will be referred to the Committee on Economics.

I call on the Deputy Prime Minister to adjourn the House until Tuesday, next week, 14:30.

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**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER:** Before I adjourn the House, very briefly: I am very proud on behalf of all of us that out there people think we have shares in this and that, and the Honourable Finance Minister has cleared us. Not a single Minister, not a single Member of Parliament was mentioned in all these companies. Therefore, our names were cleared. Now the people should stop implicating us, that we are owning shares because we are not.

With these few words, please allow me to propose that we adjourn the House until Tuesday. 14:30 and have a nice weekend.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The House stands adjourned until Tuesday, next week at 14:30.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2007.06.12 AT 14:30**

**ASSEMBLY CHAMBER  
WINDHOEK  
12 JUNE 2007**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

**HON SPEAKER:** Took the Chair and read Prayers and the Affirmation.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Honourable Mushelenga.

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**EXTENSION OF TIME TO REPORT ON MOTION  
ON THE CONDITION OF CEMETERIES IN NAMIBIA**

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**HON P MUSHELENGA:** Honourable Speaker, the Motion on the conditions of cemeteries in Namibia was tabled by Honourable Dienda on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2006 and referred to the Committee on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2006 for further consultation and report back.

Due to other prior commitments, the Committee could unfortunately not conclude its consultations with all identified stakeholders. On behalf of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, who are currently out on an official mission, I as Acting Chairperson, therefore plead for the indulgence of this Assembly to grant the Committee more time to properly investigate this very important subject matter for report back at a later stage. The Committee was already granted approval for the extension of report back time on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2007, but could not cover all important areas of this Motion.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, your kind consideration and agreement to this request would be highly appreciated.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objection? Agreed to. Other Reports and Papers? Minister Kaapanda.

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12 June 2007

**REPORTS AND PAPERS  
HON KAAPANDA**

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT:  
ROADS AUTHORITY**

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:**

Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table the Annual Report of Roads Authority for the period April 2004/2005. I so move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Minister table the Report? Any other Reports or Papers? Any Notices of Questions?

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**NOTICES OF QUESTIONS**

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**QUESTION 65:**

**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 21<sup>st</sup> of June 2007, I shall ask the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Honourable Dr Nickey Iyambo, the following questions:

1. How many times has the price of milk and milk products gone up in the last 18 months in Namibia?
2. By what percentage has it gone up?
3. Is the Minister aware of the fact that milk is one of the staple foods in Namibia and as such, that there are whole communities who rely wholly on milk for a meal every day.
4. When is the Government going to start subsidising the price of milk?

12 June 2007

**NOTICES OF QUESTIONS  
HON ULENGA**

5. If never, why never?
  6. Seeing the high importance of milk in our food chain, the demand of food can only increase. When will Government adopt the good policy of encouraging milk production amongst farmers in the country?
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**QUESTION 66:**

**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Speaker, I further give Notice that on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> of June 2007, I shall ask the Minister of Mines and Energy, Honourable Speaker Erkki Nghimtina, the following questions:

1. How many times has the price of petrol, diesel and paraffin gone up in the last five years?
  2. By how many percentage points has each gone up?
  3. Can the Minister explain to the House why diesel goes up faster and is now more expensive than petrol?
  5. Is it true that the Minister is biased against diesel consumers, simply because the Minister is not a farmer?
  6. Is the Minister aware that it is the poor communal farmers, more than anyone else, who suffers the consequences of high and frequent increases in the price of diesel?
  7. How does Government intend helping the poor farmers against the rising costs of subsistence farming as a result of diesel price increases?
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**QUESTION 67:**

**HON ULENGA:** I give Notice that on Thursday, the 21<sup>st</sup> of June 2007, I shall ask the Minister of Education, Honourable Nangolo Mbumba, the following questions:

12 June 2007

**NOTICES OF QUESTIONS  
HON VILJOEN**

1. How many students were barred from writing their examinations this week at the Polytechnic of Namibia due to not having paid all their due fees?
2. What is the Government policy with regard to students who cannot pay for their studies in regard to writing exams?
3. When is Government going to lower the cost of studying in Namibia?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member table the Questions? Any further Notices of Questions? Honourable Viljoen.

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**QUESTION 68:**

**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 21 June 2007, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Environment and Tourism the following questions:

1. During the past couple of weeks there were several letters in newspapers in which tourists to the Etosha National Park expressed their disappointment with their experiences during visits. Is the Ministry aware of these letters and what is being done to deal with these complaints?
2. One of the complaints is that the staff are unfriendly and visitors to the Park feel that they are not welcome. Is it not possible to embark on training programmes to equip the staff with the necessary skills?
3. Admission to the Park and the cost of accommodation and facilities is very high. Namibians cannot afford to visit the Park and it seems as if we are catering for foreigners only. Can the Minister please explain why it was necessary to increase tariffs for accommodation in such an unrealistic way?

12 June 2007

**NOTICES OF QUESTIONS  
HON KAURA**

**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member table the Question?  
Honourable Kaura?

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**QUESTION 69:**

**HON KAURA:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, June 21, 2007, I shall ask the Minister of Defence the following:

What is the reason why all the old soldiers at Walvis Bay Military Base are being replaced with young recruits and they must summarily vacate the Military Base by the end of June, whether married or unmarried, whether they have children in school or not or whether they own property in Walvis Bay?

Some of these soldiers are former PLAN fighters who have bought houses in Walvis Bay, but all this is not taken into consideration. What is the reason for the speedy haste of removing them from the Walvis Bay Military Base?

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**QUESTION 71:**

**HON KAURA:** Honourable Speaker, I further give Notice that on Thursday, June 21, 2007, I shall ask the Minister of Lands and Resettlement, Honourable Jerry Ekandjo, the following:

The Kondiuo family has been sitting on a road corridor for a year now, having been expelled from the farm Otjiku. The Governor of the Otjozondjupa Region as well as the Regional Councillor of the Omutako constituency are aware of their plight. Your office cannot plead ignorance of their plight. When is your Ministry going to come to assistance of the Kondiuo family and resolve this matter in the same way the Ongombo issue was resolved with deliberate speed?

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12 June 2007

**NOTICES OF QUESTIONS  
HON MOONGO**

**QUESTION 70:**

**HON KAURA:** I further give Notice that on Thursday, June 21, 2007, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Mines and Energy the following:

Honourable Minister, many of our villages in rural areas are provided with mortuaries that are linked to the main electrical grid through Rural Electrification, but blackouts are experienced frequently, leading to problems, especially with the mortuaries. Some funerals are arranged hastily because of blackouts.

Honourable Minister, is it not possible to put up a backup system by providing solar panels at mortuaries to prevent the remains from decomposing when blackouts are experienced? I received these complaints from far-flung places in Omaheke, Kunene and Otjozondjupa Regions. Tsumkwe, in particular, is a case in point.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Minister table the Questions?  
Honourable Moongo.

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**QUESTION 72:**

**HON MOONGO:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 21 June 2007, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security the following questions:

1. Is the Honourable Minister aware that there are experienced police reservists in Oshakati Police Station who are discriminated against and worked for six to seven years, performed police duties in the charge office and at road blocks day and night, having an appointment certificate with a Force number?
2. Is it true that whenever there is recruitment they are deliberately omitted with the excuse that they are over-aged, but they were within the right age when they joined the police in 2001?

12 June 2007

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON DR N IYAMBO**

3. Can the Minister deny that this is a malpractice and unfair discrimination to inform the police reservists after seven years in duty that they are over-aged?
4. Is it not unfair recruitment according to the Labour Code and Affirmative Action which is punishable in the law?
5. When are the police reservists going to be recruited and become full police members? We need an explanation.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member table the Questions? Any further Notices of Questions? Any Notices of Motions? Honourable Schimming-Chase.

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**NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

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**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** I give Notice that on Tuesday, 19 June 2007, I shall Move –

That this Assembly Debates the matter of the transformation of the SADC Parliamentary Forum into a Regional Parliament, to enable the people of the SADC Region to meaningfully participate in the important matters of the Region through their elected representatives. I so Move.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member table the Motion? Any further Notices of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? Minister Iyambo.

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12 June 2007

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON DR N IYAMBO**

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON  
DROUGHT SITUATION IN NAMIBIA**

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the current drought situation in the country is the result of below normal to near normal rainfall for the 2006/2007 rainy season. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry's assessment mission, in collaboration with the Directorate of Disaster Management in the Office of the Prime Minister on crop and livestock conditions throughout the country, highlighted a number of contributing factors to the current situation.

It is customary at this time of the year for the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry to do a national assessment related to rainfall to assessing the condition of grazing, possible harvest and the availability of water throughout the country.

The country's crop-growing areas received good rains, leading to good crop prospects during the first half of the rainy season, but the same areas experienced long dry spells, floods and a persistent swarm of quelea birds during the second half of the rainy season. The combination of these factors led to depressed crop yields for this year, which will affect the food security situation at household level.

Domestic cereal production in 2006/2007 is provisionally estimated at 114 100 tons, consisting of 52 100 tons of white maize, 44 500 tones of pearl millet, 4 500 tons of sorghum and a forecast production of 13 500 tons of winter wheat. The production estimate is lower than last year by about 40 percent and represents 95 percent of the five-year average. The white maize reported herein does not include the production from irrigation projects.

In all thirteen Regions, livestock body condition ranges from fair to good for this time of the year, except in some areas where lactating cows and ewes' conditions are reported to be lean. The negative impact on some grazing land could be significant as the dry season progresses, and this will decrease the value of small and large stock animals. This would certainly deprive local communities of vital assets and increase vulnerability to food insecurity.

Therefore, farmers are encouraged to market some of their animals to ease the strain on the fragile veld/grasslands as a form of drought management practice.

12 June 2007

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON DR N IYAMBO**

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, through Cabinet, has already put in Motion assistance to small stock producers by opening the borders for the farmers to get rid and sell some of their flock outside the country and the same has to be emphasised for large stock, but in this case to local abattoirs.

As a result of the poor performance of the seasonal rains, the water situation in the drought affected areas is expected to worsen as the winter progresses. Some shallow watering holes and boreholes are expected to dry up, increasing the distance to water points for both livestock and humans.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and the Emergency Management Unit in the Office of the Prime Minister are doing a case study right not to be submitted to Cabinet for deliberation and pronouncement to be made thereafter.

On the Floor of this House there is a Motion tabled to deliberate on the drought condition in the country. I recognise that Parliament, as an autonomous institution, has an oversight responsibility over developmental issues in the country.

However, in this case it may be prudent for the Motion to wait until Government has pronounced itself on the drought condition in the country before the House deliberates on this matter in depth. We must not send unwarranted alarm signals in the country.

In any case, mine is a suggestion which the Honourable Members of this Honourable House may like to consider. For now, suffice to say that Government is aware of some unusually poor grazing conditions in some localities in our country.

As things now stand, the drought situation does not warrant that Government declares a National Drought situation, but rather that Government should recognise that certain localities in our country will face food shortage, insufficient grazing and water unavailability. Communities' cooperation has been required by Government and the recommendation is that everything possible will be done to address the needs in these particular localities that will be affected by the drought situation. Thank you, Honourable Members.



12 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING BILL  
HON GURIRAB**

**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Minister and I am sure the intervention of the Minister will be taken into account when we get to the stage mentioned by the Minister. Any further Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND READING – VOCATIONAL  
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BILL**

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**HON SPEAKER:** When this Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, 5 June 2007, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Deputy Minister of Education that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable Tsudao Gurirab adjourned the Debate and I give him the Floor.

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**HON GURIRAB:** Honourable Speaker, I rise to express our support for this very important Bill which was tabled last week in this House.

Honourable Speaker, the Bill on the Table is in numerous respects a successor to the National Vocational Training Act of 1994 and in many respects improves on that Act.

Honourable Speaker, education is an area which is very important for the development of our country: One of the areas in which the policies of our colonial past has denied our people skills development.

The system of education which we have followed for the last 16 or 17 years has tried to address some of the shortcomings of our past, but one area where we have not done it with success is the area of vocational and technical training and it is for this very reason that we welcome this Bill which was tabled last week.

One of the important things in this Act is that the Ministry recognises that in order to produce skills that are needed in the marketplace, there must be a tripartite collaboration between Government, on the one hand, Trade Unions and the employers and that is also provided for in the board that will oversee the

12 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING BILL  
HON GURIRAB**

training in vocational and technical training. That is an important aspect of this Act which we recognise and which we welcome.

Honourable Speaker, in so many employment areas, in so many vacancies which occur in our country, especially in the technical areas, skills are still being imported from outside the country. Our country is still a predominantly mining country, but the training of artisans in technical skills is still largely being done by the mining houses rather than by the Government. It is our hope, therefore, that once this Bill is adopted and comes out of Parliament, that more resources will go to the areas of vocational and technical training. We can only train so many students with Diplomas in Public Administration. The Polytechnic and UNAM currently churn out so many students with Diplomas in Public Administration and Political Science, important as those may be, but the skills which we are developing for our country must be skills which respond to the demands in the market, and as I say, our country's economy is still primarily one dominated by mining and secondly, by Agriculture.

It is in those areas that we hope and look forward, that once this important Bill becomes an Act of Parliament, that skills will be produced for the market place.

Another important thing about training young people in technical vocational areas is that with these skills in so many areas, they can be their own employers, instead of sitting with their certificates in Public Administration and waiting to be employed as clerks in Government departments. When young people are trained as artisans, electricians and in other technical skills, they can go out and create jobs for themselves.

With these few observations, Honourable Speaker, I wish to express our support for this very important Bill. I shall be raising questions on some aspects of this Bill on the question of ageism under the objects of the Act on Page 5 under Section 3 during the Committee Stage. It reads: "*The objects of this Act are to develop the competencies needed by young people for productive work and increased standards.*" When we come to the Committee Stage we would want to look at whether this Act is only aimed at providing skills to the young people. During the Committee Stage we will look at this specific reference to only young people, because one of the things which colonialism has done is that those who are not so young, sit without skills and that if we are passing an Act of this nature, it must be comprehensive enough to make skills and education available for

12 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING BILL**  
**HON GURIRAB**

everybody across the board and not, as important as training of young people is, only for the young.

Honourable Speaker, during the Committee Stage I shall be raising questions on the composition of the Board, as being provided for in this draft in terms of Section 7(3) of this Bill on Pages 7 and 8. It reads: *“The Board is responsible for the management, including the safeguarding of the assets and for the management of the revenue and expenditure and liabilities of the NTA.”* I wish to raise a question, because elsewhere a provision is made for the Chief Executive Officer and other administrative staff, whether it is the intent of this Bill to make the Board responsible for what is put under Section 7(3), or whether or not the role of the Board should be that of looking at the policy direction of NTA.

Honourable Speaker, in terms of Section 10(1), it also reads that the Minister, within one month of this Bill becoming an Act of Parliament, in terms of Section 4 of the State-owned Enterprises Governance Act, enter into a written governance agreement with the Board.

My question in this respect is: Is it a Governance agreement the Minister would be seeking in terms of this Section or is it a performance agreement? If it is the former, what would be the nature of such a Governance agreement?

Honourable Speaker, Section 15 of the Bill deals with Committees of the Board and there are several being provided for.

Section 16(5), on the composition of the membership of such Committees, the Board in respect of a Committee, must appoint its members from members of the main Board and these committees which are listed here are Standards and Curriculum Council, Assessment and Certification Council, National Training Fund Council, Industries Skills Council. The Board, in terms of the Bill, consists of eleven Board members. It creates four committees for what I would regard as technical and competency-based Committees. It however goes on to say under Section 15(5) that the Board must appoint Committee members from members of the Board, from these eleven and may include others.

Now, if you look at the composition of the Board, the Board is composed of five members nominated by Employers’ representatives on the Labour Advisory Council, two members nominated by Trade Union representatives on the Labour

12 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING BILL**  
**HON GURIRAB**

Advisory Council, three members representing the Government and a member of the Namibia Qualifications Authority nominated by the Council. Those are the eleven who, with others, would make up the Committees of the Board.

Honourable Speaker, why I am raising this is, given the technical nature of the Committees being proposed, whether from those eleven people there are the requisite skills to provide the necessary persons to competently manage the affairs of the Committees being proposed.

Those are some of the sections that we would want to look at during the Committee Stage.

Honourable Speaker, with these few observations, we support the Bill. Thank you.

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I rise in support of the Vocational Education and Training Bill. Firstly I wish to commend the Ministry of Education for tabling this Bill.

Vocational training is a critical component of any training system. This is because it provides practical skills that enable one to secure a job in the labour market. It also empowers its graduates to become entrepreneurs, thus providing jobs to others and creating new value that would boost the country's economy.

However, Vocational training is often looked down upon, especially by young people and is seen as an alternative for those who fail to qualify for admission into other institutions, such as the University, or those who are unable to make it through the secondary education system.

However, experience has shown how vocational training can play a critical role in economic reconstruction and industrialisation. The Federal Republic of Germany, for example, used vocational training to produce skills that enabled it to reconstruct its economy that was devastated by two World Wars and to become the world economic power that it is today.

Here at home statistics have shown that vocational training graduates are taken up in the labour market much faster and as a result, unemployment is much lower

12 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING BILL  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

amongst them than amongst other graduates. This is because the market has a greater appetite for technical skills than for administrators.

Further, equipped with skills, vocational training graduates are in a position, as I have indicated, to become entrepreneurs and provide employment both for themselves and for others.

Therefore, it is important that our young people shed this negative stereotype about this important programme and make use of the opportunities that are offered to them through the system. It is owing to this importance of this vocational training that this Bill is deserving of our unreserved support.

The Bill provides for the introduction of a training levy to be paid by employers for the purpose of facilitating and encouraging vocational education and training. The introduction of this levy is a welcome measure indeed. I know that it was provided for in the previous Act but never operationalised. We are all aware of the size of our national resources that is apportioned to education. This makes further resources increase under the Budget to the education system difficult, given the multiplicity of other needs that compete for the meagre public resources. That is why it is imperative that new sources of finance for the education system are identified and the training levy is one such source.

This levy, apart from raising additional resources for the sector, encourages stronger partnership in education between Government and the private sector, which is the main benefactor of trained manpower.

Further, late last year this House expressed its concern over the unimpressive performance under the Affirmative Action Act, that we were not really seeing private companies training previously disadvantaged persons to take up positions of high responsibility in the companies and one of the reasons could actually be that if you do not train, you avoid the additional costs of doing that. However if you now have a training levy that is charged on to employers, whether they train or not, that would actually motivate them to train in order to make use of the resources that they have contributed through this training levy. Therefore, I expect that it would have a positive impact on the empowerment of previously disadvantaged persons, it would improve the efficiency of our private companies and their productivity and surely, the high economic growth, because it would mean that the returns on our investments would be higher now because the productivity of labour is higher. It would then also enable us to affirm more

12 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING BILL  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

people, not just for the sake of it, but so that they are actually able to play their meaningful role in the economy.

I hope that we would then, between the private sector and the Government, agree on a human resource development plan that would ensure that our resources, public and private, are properly targeted towards the areas where there are skills deficit, while those areas are critical for economic transformation, so that we would stem the mass import of labour from other countries while our own people are not able to participate in economic activities because they do not have the necessary skills. This would enable us to train them, and when we have trained them, they would be in a better position to fend for themselves in the labour market and would not look to the Government to employ them. However of course, to do that, they have to have information with regard to where the skills gaps are in the market and where the opportunities lie for employment, so that they, like the vocational training graduates, are taken up with much ease once they enter the labour market.

There are a few other issues that I wanted to comment on, but I think those would be more appropriately raised during the Committee Stage and I would just like to once again thank the Ministry for the Bill and express my support for the Bill.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I just want to add my small voice to this Bill.

This Bill is overdue by three years. It was supposed to see the light of the day in this House some time ago. However, due to technical reasons it is only now that it is on our Tables.

I want to emphasise the importance of this Bill to the whole national effort to improve the education and training sector through the programme called, in short, ETSIP – Education and Training Sector Improvement Programme. That programme has a number of components, one of them is to improve, of course, Early Childhood Education provision and I think that has been attended to by integrating Early Childhood into General Education.

The other component is to improve the quality of educational outcome as well as the throughput of the general education system.

12 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING BILL  
RT HON ANGULA**

The third one is the expansion and improvement of the quality of vocational education and training and the fourth one is to improve the knowledge creation capacity of the Nation.

The expansion of vocational education and training depends on a number of initiatives. One is the opening up or liberalisation of vocational education and training. To do that a National Training Authority is being created by this Bill and that National Training Authority is to oversee the collection of the training levy and its administration and also to oversee the training providers.

The Bill provides that there will be a liberalisation of training, that individual providers will be given the opportunity to do so, because we found that the vocational training centres of the Government have limited capacity. In fact, for the information of the Honourable Minister of Finance, when applications are called for by vocational training centres, thousands and thousands of young people apply, but the capacity is so small. I think the biggest one can only accommodate about 500 students and given the demand, there is a need to open up the system so that private providers can be accredited and also benefit from the training levy, so that training becomes the business of all.

If you know how to upholster, for example, just establish your upholstery school and attract trainees. Then you will benefit from the training levy, or if you are an expert on car engines, just open up an automotive institute and you will benefit from the training levy. In so doing, you are not only opening more opportunities, but you are also making training demand driven. You do not train for training sake. If you go in many Government schools, the courses there duplicate each other. All of them are providing carpentry, all of them are providing cabinet-making, without considering whether there are demands for carpenters or cabinet-makers or plumbers.

Now the effort is actually to develop a demand-driven system whereby trainers will respond to the demand of specific skills in the industry and that is very important.

The training levy, which should be paid by certain employers who employ a certain number of people, is very important and I hope that we will all support it and talk to the industry, so that the industry can make its contribution. Actually, the bottleneck in our education system is the failure to provide a comprehensive programme for skills development.

12 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON VENAANI**

When we push learners through to Grade 10 and there is a bottleneck at Grade 11, the only safety valve is NAMCOL, but NAMCOL cannot do it all. Therefore we must provide a comprehensive system of skills development so that we give opportunities to all the young people, those who might not make it through academic competition and, therefore, this Bill is very important and I hope that the House will pass it with speed and urgency. I thank you.

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**HON DR ANKAMA:** Honourable Speaker, if there is no further discussions this afternoon, could I adjourn the Debate until Thursday?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objection? The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2007.

The first Notice of Motion is the one by Honourable Venaani. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion? Who seconds the Motion? Any objection? Agreed to. Honourable Venaani has the Floor.

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**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION IN  
THE COUNTRY**

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**HON VENAANI:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I listened very attentively to the Ministerial Statement by the esteemed Minister of Agriculture and due to the fact that Cabinet has not applied its mind, I would seek your indulgence to take this along too.

Honourable Speaker, I rise to motivate one of our country's most common climatic problems experienced mostly in a span of five years or so, that of drought. After travelling the vast breadth and length of our country, and in consulting with various stakeholders, we came across one fact, that it rained sporadically and many parts of the country did not receive sufficient rains for crop production and livestock sustainability.

The impact of drought on any society is very severe. The Regions, in my opinion, that are the worst hit by the drought is the whole great Kunene and Karas Regions



12 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON VENAANI**

and very large parts of the following Regions, namely Erongo, Oshana, northern Oshikoto and the eastern Omaheke. The rest of the Regions have various spotted parts that are worst hit by drought.

Any society such as ours has to have preparedness mechanisms as to how best to address the epidemic that threatens our existence by lowering our food sustainability and low levels of livestock.

Before I move into this Debate, my heart sincerely goes out to many farmers in Omusati Region, especially those under the Uukolongadhi cultural leadership for having accommodated close to two thousand cattle from the northern Kunene Region. However, one wants to caution that even with this assistance, if the situation continues and we do not receive early rains in September, I am sure that those farmers' generosity will also be challenged by the climate and they are also going to suffer. I feel that this area should also be included and the condition be closely monitored, because the number of cattle that are grazing in that particular area are becoming unbearable if they do not receive early rains.

One area that comes to mind is the Otjimbingwe communal area which is suffering from both severe drought and lack of water, of boreholes and I think that is one area which needs our serious attention.

Thirdly and lastly, one area that is also a problem area is the Kamanjab constituency where you have roaming elephants in their hundreds causing serious and severe damage to property and also escalating the costs of farmers. While they are trying to fight the drought, they have to fight the elephants and an amicable solution should be found to make sure that these animals go back to Etosha and that the farmers in that area can concentrate on the drought problem.

Honourable Members, coupled with an issue of drought, we should remind ourselves of the climate change that challenges our survival and of which we have not taken a lead role in addressing with those guilty of causing the emissions that threaten human survival, who are the ones trying to propagate that let us help Africa. We as leaders of the world, living in parts that would be worst hit by climate change, have to mitigate and strike workable win-win situations with mostly the first world countries to support our markets and our scientific preparedness in spotting these changes, so that we are better prepared to address the shortcomings. Our "*mum-ness*" challenges our very existence, I believe.

12 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON VENAANI**

Honourable Speaker, climate change will have a range of positive and negative impacts on Agriculture. Up to 2030 the greatest impacts could come from increased frequency and intensity of extreme events. Climate variability is currently the dominant cause of short-term fluctuation in rain-fed agricultural production of sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, and substantial areas of other developing Regions.

The most serious form is drought. When rainfall drops substantially below the long-term mean or fails at critical points in crop development. In semi-arid and sub-humid areas these rainfall deficits can dramatically reduce crop yields and livestock numbers and productivity. Such fluctuations can be countered by investment in irrigation or by food imports, but these options are not always open to low-income countries or remote Regions.

Honourable Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of this House that if a country such as Israel, with a serious water problem such as Namibia, can use a dripping irrigation system and can still farm successfully, I think it is time for our country to start looking at what we can do with dripping irrigation, to make sure that our farmers can still do something with a little bit of water.

Indeed, the availability of water for irrigation may be reduced by the increased frequency and intensity of droughts together with long-term changes in surface water runoff or evapo-transpiration, and this may reduce irrigated food production.

Although semi-arid and sub-humid areas are generally the ones given the most attention in climate impact studies, humid areas are also vulnerable to climate variability. They can suffer from changes in the length of the growing season and from extreme events, notably tropical cyclones causing damages from high winds and floods. Such disasters are shorter-lived and more localised than those associated with droughts and other forms of climate variability and so fewer people may be affected. However, the consequences for their food security can be equally severe. Not only do they lose current crops and livestock, but in cases where perennial trees are lost or spawning grounds seriously damaged, they also lose future crops and fish catches. They may lose their stored food, homes and possessions, including irrigation infrastructure, livestock and tools so that the negative consequences on food security may be felt for several years after the event. On the other hand, since these extreme events are relatively localised,

12 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON VENAANI**

other crop-producing areas within the same country can often provide the food needed in affected areas.

Recent research has suggested that some impacts of climate change are occurring more rapidly than previously anticipated. The impacts will stem primarily from:

- Regional temperature rises at high northern latitudes and in the centre of some continents;
- Increased heat stress to crops and livestock, for example higher night-time temperatures which could adversely affect grain formation and other aspects of crop development;
- Possible decline in precipitation in some food-insecure areas, such as Southern Africa and the Northern Region of Latin America, although the main impacts will occur after 2030.

Honourable Speaker, our country is not immune to these various factors and greater effort should be employed to address our shortcomings.

I thus plead to our Government to support many of the affected farmers and communities with the following assistance:

- To avail as a priority some food aid to communities that did not receive any rains and hence did not harvest their crops;
- To assist various farmers with fodder subsidy to their animals and to help design a waterproof system that would protect this scheme from corrupt elements and assist farmers with subsidy when selling their productive livestock (cows and ewes);
- To assist with grazing land available in some Government bought farms that are not yet allocated;
- To urgently address borehole problems that are reported to avert cattle dying of thirst;

12 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON VENAANI**

- To allow unabatedly the export of sheep-on-the-hoof to various markets, including South Africa, without any restriction until the drought situation normalises.

As a country, we further need to educate our farmers as to how they should farm to avoid various losses during droughts. Several actions need to be taken to mitigate and adapt to climate change. First, comprehensive support mechanisms must be formulated to help farmers adapt to climate change and to increase production under more variable conditions. Such mechanisms could include approaches to crop production, which improves the resilience of farming systems.

Secondly, given the probability of higher incidence of droughts, aridity, greater priority will need to be given to the following measures:

- Maintenance, both onsite and offsite, of a broad genetic base for crops and development and distribution of more drought-tolerant crop varieties and livestock breeds;
- Breeding for greater tolerance of crops, livestock and fish to higher temperatures;
- Development of salt-tolerant varieties of wheat, rice and oil crops;
- Improving the resilience of agricultural ecosystems by promoting practices such as agro-forestry that utilise and maintain biological diversity;
- Raising the efficiency of rainwater use and groundwater recharge by conservation agriculture, and that of irrigation water by appropriate pricing policies, management systems and technologies;

Honourable Speaker, all these actions have the benefit of helping to ameliorate the impact of current climate variation as well as countering future adverse effects of climate change and I think our country cannot only on a yearly basis put an emergency unit that would address the question of drought. As a country we need to put up a system that would continuously monitor and make sure that we budget, because our country is prone to droughts and we are going to be hit the worst by climate change. It is important for us even to have a directorate that would try to address some of these shortcomings.

12 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON KAZENAMBO**

Honourable Speaker, with these few remarks, I Move the Motion.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to make my contribution to the Motion under discussion. I appreciate and support the position articulated by the Minister of Agriculture and the efforts the Government is making are commendable.

However, my comments are just general observations.

While scientific points are made and known by researchers, mine will just concentrate on the general behaviour, because Government can do its part in fighting drought, but members of communities also have a responsibility to mitigate some of the factors that are aggravating the effects of drought.

We know now is wintertime and the practice in some communities is that this is the time when they embark upon activities such as hunting, and when they are in the veld, they cause fires. These fires also devastate the environment, it burns the grass that remains. One would appeal to members of communities to also caution themselves when they are out there, carrying on their activities.

It is difficult to make this appeal, but one has to say it because sometimes we only look at Government, but sometimes some of the things that aggravate drought is our own behaviour. You are driving in a bushy area, throw out a cigarette butt and it causes a fire. You throw out bottles and these bottles cause fires. Things like those aggravate drought.

Then there are those members of communities who are greedy. When drought subsidies are distributed, some of the powerful members of communities manipulate these things to their own benefit. I call that type of behaviour and conduct "*artificial drought*", because it is deliberately made by man. I think we need to guard against that.

The other issue which perhaps prompted me to contribute to this Debate is that, Namibia has a geographical limitation in terms of land size and you find that our rural areas, or the so-called former communal areas, are overcrowded and as a result, you find that they are overgrazed and when there is drought, the problems of overgrazing and overcrowding aggravate the drought situation.

12 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON KAZENAMBO**

Perhaps during this time a plan should be made how to deal with communal farmers, that in this time of need they must open up the fenced-off areas for the ordinary community members to benefit, because it is disadvantaging the vulnerable ones, while we are expecting Government to do something. Traditional leaders, church leaders and other community leaders must try to reason with these people in the communal areas who have illegally taken the land which belongs to all of us, so that those poor community members could have access to grazing.

The same goes to some people who are well-to-do and who even dominate Government water points, boreholes in the rural areas. Sometimes you find that there are some stronger people in the communal areas who are controlling these water points that are supposed to be water points, but they refuse to share with other community members. These are my experiences, I have experienced it firsthand. Government is trying to help, but some stronger villagers also contribute to artificial drought because they deny the weaker access to these resources.

I do not know about other areas, but the area where I come from these things are not a surprise. You find that a person is sitting at a water point and he denies others access to water. There is a group of four people at this borehole and they claim it is theirs. How does it come that you own a borehole privately in a communal area? Yes, I may be occupying one, but it is open to everybody to access it. I am appealing to those kinds of Kazenambo's, I am also a culprit, but I am appealing to the likes of Kazenambo outside there in the communal area that there is drought, those well-to-do who are occupying the boreholes should open up.

The other serious point, Honourable Speaker, is that I am also appealing to the Namibia Agricultural Union, because they are the first people who complain when a statement is made by a politician about land reform, to be honest. I know some of the people and I have made this point here, that there are many people with money outside there, so-called emerging farmers with money who want to buy farms and move out of the overcrowded communal areas. However I do not know when the miracle will come, because Government is talking from the top to the bottom.

Leaders of the Government have been talking, but surely now this Namibia Agricultural Union needs to talk to their members, because there are members

12 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON MOONGO**

with money, ready to purchase and they dilly-dally.

They come up with an excuse that the landlord is in Germany or they have to cut the land, while other people in the communal areas are overcrowded, are dying, their animals are dying from drought. Our white counterparts or our fellow black counterparts who are members of NAU must really appreciate that the land size of Namibia will not be expanded, Namibia will always remain Namibia and those who occupying under-utilised land, those who are occupying acres and hectares of land should please be generous and try to move an inch. They can move an inch and see that this is a year of drought and stop this dilly-dallying and contribute to land reform, so that at least we can fight drought. There are people with money who could move out of those overcrowded areas, but they are forced to stay there because the landlord is in Germany, the landlord is in Europe and they do not care about drought here.

Please, it is my appeal that these people who occupy land must even be prepared during drought to lease their farms to the needy ones. I rest my case.

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**HON MOONGO:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. First of all, allow me to congratulate my Colleague for bringing this Motion to the Parliament.

We are really faced with a serious drought. I appeal to the Government to seriously consider assisting those whose mahangu crops did not grow well as a result of too little rain and those who have no grazing for their animals. I appeal to the Government to reconsider the problem of the farmers in Kavango, because our community members in communal areas survival in Kavango area since they were ordered to move out from there, they have no grazing area and they cannot survive. I want the Government to take some action. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** On a Point of Order. If my memory serves me well, I think the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry in his Ministerial Statement indirectly touched on this Motion, that we are supposed to wait for the Government to come up with a pronouncement. I am just seeking advice.

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12 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION**  
**HON MOONGO**

**HON SPEAKER:** I cannot Rule the Honourable Members out of order for taking the Floor. After the Minister's statement I did suggest that the Minister's statement, and particularly the kind of reference the Minister made, would be taken into consideration. But I cannot rule the Honourable Members out of order if they want to take the Floor.

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**HON MOONGO:** I only want to appeal to the Government to reconsider those farmers who had to move from Kavango. Where can they resettle, where can they graze their cattle while we are in this difficult situation.

Government should look into that matter and give a helping hand during this drought.

I appreciate that the Government put up some troughs where the cattle of the communal people could drink and they subsidise the payment of that water. I appreciate that move, but individual people who have taken the pipes to the salty areas are not assisted at all and they are also community members who need to be assisted with Government water. The Government could not reach those areas and they did not take the water there, but the individual community members laid pipes for a distance a 20 kilometres from the Government points, but the Government does not assist and subsidise any individual person.

It is a serious problem to put water meters for cattle while individuals are taking water from those points. With this I support the Motion on the Table. I thank you.

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Speaker, I am rising to support the Motion on the Table, the Motion by Honourable Venaani.

A few days ago I put a few questions to the Minister regarding drought and they went more or less in the same direction as the Motion motivated by the Honourable Venaani.

It has become the fashion in Namibia that when these kinds of difficult times come upon us, Government on their side hurry, trying to get resources together to assist in a drought situation. It is very commendable. Some of us who do not



12 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON ULENGA**

have access try to remind Government, when are you going to move and do this, including give food for animals and people and also perhaps subsidise here and there, so that the sale of animals can be hastened.

However, Honourable Speaker, there is something that we fail to do and I think it is high time that we start thinking long-term with regard to the question of drought.

I understand the Sahara Desert started to develop about 10 000 years ago. I also understand that Namibia is perhaps the first or the second driest country on earth. It is also a well-known fact that the desert, arid to semi-arid areas in Namibia are not decreasing but they are increasing. Despite the fact that Government and others have put into place commendable programmes to counter desertification, the fact is that our arid and semi-arid areas are increasing and not decreasing.

It is clearly proved that the rainfall trends are indicating that as time goes on, we are likely to get less and less rainfall in the future. Therefore Mr Speaker, the writing is on the wall and yet we try to look at this problem on a seasonal basis and never really get beyond the seasons.

My urge is that as a Nation we should start to think long-term and try to increase the benefits that we can get from an arid area Namibia, and not just keep on and every season we try to get more food for drought-stricken areas.

Honourable Speaker, Joseph of the Bible, through a dream, has been able to advise the Egyptian King, that in the light of the seven coming years of drought, the country should start to prepare itself and, indeed, the country did prepare itself, so much so that all the other peoples of the Region depended on Egypt for drought relief. That was, as you can see, about ten thousand years ago, the time of the initial expansion of the Sahara Desert.

Today there is no need to dream any longer because Joseph has shown us the way. What we really need to do is to think proactively and get Namibia for good out of this kind of crisis. We have vast areas where animal feed can be grown, animal feed that can be used in times of drought. Honourable Minister, you know very well, that in Kansas in the United States, which is almost as flat as the northern and eastern parts of our country, they grow mahangu and sorghum and they grow it in abundance and they do not grow it for human consumption, they

12 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION**  
**HON ULENGA**

grow it for animal feed. They do not use this animal feed every year, they store it. You find silos and silos of sorghum, for example.

My suggestion to the Minister and to the Government is that the Government starts ....(Interjection)

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**HON MEMBER:** Water.

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**HON ULENGA:** Water is not a problem, my dear friend. Mahangu is a typical dry country plant. Where have you ever seen a plant that survives for months without water? That is what mahangu and sorghum does. It survives a month without water. (Intervention)

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** On a Point of Order. Is the Honourable Member advocating that mahangu should be given to animals? Is that the policy of the CoD?

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**HON ULENGA:** To answer to that shortly, it has not yet become the policy of the CoD. I am talking as an individual who lives in this Land of the Brave.

What I have seen, very sadly, is that a few years ago there was a commendable programme in the south of the country where farmers from the Berseba and Vaalgras area ...(Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** The area in the United States which Honourable Ulenga has referred to, the majority of the farmers there are not subsistence farmers, they are commercial farmers and the areas which you are referring to are occupied by subsistence farmers, people

12 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION**  
**HON ULENGA**

who are farming for their survival on land size that I have referred to a few minutes ago. If they start planting for animals, what are they going to eat? Is it the propaganda of CoD crisis ?

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**HON ULENGA:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Right now I have no appetite to fight my friend, Kazenambo. We are indeed on the same side, if you can only listen carefully to what I am saying.

Honourable Speaker, the point that I was about to make, is the sad demise of our ostrich farming scheme that was until a few years ago surviving very well in the South. I happened to be one of the Members of Parliament which visited that area which was farming with ostriches and the crisis which led to the demise of this scheme, with the resultant loss of a lot of money, including some Government money I understand, was simply that these people didn't have feed.

Now, I know of a small farmer in my area of origin who was a small number of ostriches and these ostriches are fed with mahangu and sorghum, just as plain as that, not even processed. It comes from the *oshipale* and it gets to the ostriches and those ostriches survive. It is just a question of thinking further than your thumb and you will have a solution to some of these issues.

As I was saying, Honourable Speaker, perhaps Kazenambo does not know, but in this country, in the very subsistence areas that we are talking about, many farmers produce in excess, mahangu, sorghum and *omakunde*. (Interjections). Honourable Speaker, what I am advocating is that the local subsistence peasant farmers be encouraged always to produce in excess. They already do, most of their crops do not get bought and if there is...(Intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** Another mahangu farmer.

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Indeed, who did not get a harvest this year. On a Point of Order. Comrade Speaker, the

12 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION**  
**HON ULENGA**

Debate on the Floor is the drought situation in the country, which means there was no harvest, there is no grazing.

Now the Honourable Colleague is digressing completely, because he is now talking about mahangu that we do not even have for human consumption, to be given to the ostriches. Where does that come from?

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**HON SPEAKER:** The Minister has a point. We need the mahangu for human consumption, for a start and then whatever is left over, for the ostriches.

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Speaker, I can understand the veneration that poor farmers from a drought-stricken country have for such a crop as mahangu. Some people want to be careful because they feel God may strike them with lightning if they can as far as think in their minds that they can feed mahangu to any other animal than a human being. However, we should be able to think beyond that. (Intervention)

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** On a Point of Information. The generic name of mahangu is “*iilya – iilya mwenyo*”, that is the source of life and the life of people. Now this policy of CoD, wanting to feed ostriches rather than the people is a very strange policy and I hope that the other members of CoD will call this Colleague to order. Feeding ostriches when you have starving people, what type of policy is that?

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Speaker, I am sure the point I am making is clear, it cannot be confused. I am not suggesting that human beings be neglected in favour of animals. What I am saying, and taking directly from the Motion of the Honourable Venaani, he is calling for measures to be taken so that both animals and people can be provided with drought relief. What I am saying is that it is a very good thing to ask for drought relief for one season, because we are now actually talking about this season that we are faced with. I am saying it this is good enough, but it will be even better if we could think a little further and

12 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION**  
**HON ULENGA**

make sure that in good years, rainy years, we encourage people to produce beyond what they will want to eat in a season, so that in the end we can store mahangu both for people and for animals. I am saying it has happened in other countries and a classical example is that you have from Joseph from Egypt. Perhaps it is not a real story, perhaps it is a parable, but it is put there with a reason and that is to make people think further than just a season. In the Bible we are told about seven seasons of drought and if you as a country that has been experiencing droughts...(Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** On a Point of Information. Comrade Speaker, I am a mahangu farmer and we are talking about the drought situation and I know the drought has affected some parts of the country and to a certain extent also the political parties.

On behalf of the majority I would like to welcome Comrade Nora Schimming-Chase back to Parliament. I understand she was busy with SADC Parliamentary Forum.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Ulenga, can you wrap up your contribution?

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Speaker, my proposal still stands. I did not know that my nephew has become a mahangu farmer. I also am a mahangu farmer, I do not even have a piece. What I am saying is that in future Government should be able to store enough food, so that in the end we cannot talk about drought relief every year. I am saying that we are in a favourable situation to achieve just that, because we are in a country which has vast areas.... This is not nice. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** It is

12 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON KAZENAMBO**

Parliamentary Debate, unfortunately Comrade President. If you are stepping on others' "*toys*" they have to respond. (Interjection)

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**HON MEMBER:** Which toys?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** I do not know the word.

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**HON MEMBER:** Toes!

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Whatever word. Unfortunately the Honourable President is stepping on that word, "*toy*" or "*toe*" or whatever and we have to respond. On a serious note, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Ulungu, the President of CoD is making a serious charge. He is creating the impression outside there that the Namibian Government is not prepared, it acts on an *ad hoc* basis and this is not so. The Government has an Emergency Unit in the Office of the Prime Minister that monitors emergencies and the Ministry of Agriculture, through their Drought Assessment Unit have been doing a lot. For us to be referred to biblical words, there are programmes and the Government is doing exactly that. If you are encouraged to put *omahira*, to put food and to store, what about other emergencies like drought? So, the CoD's policy on crisis is really a crisis one.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Ulungu, can you please wrap up? I think you have made your point.

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12 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION**  
**HON ULENGA**

**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Speaker, another consideration that Government can look at and note that I am not saying that Government does not have a policy, I am just saying Government could do better. When I was a young man, my father and others in the area used to grow sorghum and mahangu, not the harvest, but just the plants for feed during the drought times. They sow and then they cut down and bound them in bundles and this is something Government could be doing and not only use it in the areas where it is produced, but actually even take it to other areas, so that the animals in Mariental and in Omaheke could be fed by straw coming from Kavango where there is sufficient land to do this kind of crop.

The important thing is that Government must be sufficiently prepared, because if Government does not sufficiently prepare for drought, every year there is a crisis. Of course, it is a good thing to provide for emergencies, but why should we have an emergency when for the last ten thousand years we knew this is a dry country and it is going to get worse?

Honourable Speaker, I rest my case.

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL:** If there is no one else wanting to address the issue now, I would like to adjourn the Debate until tomorrow.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objection? The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until tomorrow.

The second Notice of Motion is one by Honourable Ulenga. Does the Honourable Member move the Motion?

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Speaker, as I have already indicated to your office in an earlier communication, I am awaiting various categories of verified data regarding forced relocations as well as farmers scheduled for removal from the various proclaimed towns in the areas I mentioned in my Motion. I would, therefore, like to postpone the motivation of this Motion until Thursday, 14 June.

12 June 2007

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objection? The motivation of the Motion stands adjourned until Thursday. That brings us to the end of the business scheduled for today. I now, after a long recess, for the first time since we started, ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I appeal to the Honourable Members to allow the Speaker to adjourn the House until tomorrow, 14:30.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:37 UNTIL 2007.06.13 AT 14:30**



**ASSEMBLY CHAMBER  
WINDHOEK  
13 JUNE 2007**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

**HON SPEAKER:** Took the Chair and read Prayers and the Affirmation.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Honourable Minister of Finance.

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**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORTS:  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND BANK OF NAMIBIA**

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Annual Reports for the Ministry of Finance for the Financial Years 2003/04 and 2004/05 and I also lay upon the Table the Annual Report of the Bank of Namibia for the year 2006. I so Move.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Minister table the Reports? Any further Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Any Notices of Motions? Honourable Dr Geingob.

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**NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

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13 June 2007

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON MUNGUNDA**

**HON DR GEINGOB:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Wednesday, 20 June 2007, I shall Move –

That this Assembly Debates the formation of the African Union Government by 2016 and refer the matter to a relevant Parliamentary Committee for scrutiny and report back to this august House. I so Move.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? Honourable Mungunda.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:  
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE CONFERENCE**

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:**

Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members. Gender-based violence has become a very serious national concern at the same level as HIV/AIDS and poverty. We had very ugly cases where in the area of Otjimbingwe a lady was killed and the perpetrator sucked the blood of the victim. We had a case where a husband killed his wife, cut her up and cooked her. We had a case where a young woman was beheaded and buried without a head and maybe after a month, the head was then taken to the grave in Mariental. We had a case where a one year old child has been raped and the child died because of her injuries. This has become very serious.

We had cases where a husband killed the wife and children and then himself or the wife killed the husband, the children and herself. We know that where there is violence and unrest, it has an impact on the economy of the country, especially while tourism is the backbone of the economy of the country. When we have peace and stability in the country, this brings more prosperity to the country.

Comrade Speaker, Namibian women and children are still in bondage in oppressive and violent households and societies and sometimes they keep quiet because of cultural and religious aspects.

13 June 2007

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON MUNGUNDA**

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare has initiated the creation of a multi-sectoral coordination body to encompass all the stakeholders to coordinate and fight violence more effectively and this initiative has been approved by Cabinet.

Besides our own laws, the Government of the Republic of Namibia has committed itself and has made considerable efforts to address gender disparities effectively through the ratification and signing of international instruments, agreements and conventions to protect and promote gender equality. These are the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, African Charter on Human and People's Rights of Women and its Protocols, the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development, its Addendum on the Eradication of Violence against Women and Children and the Beijing Platform of Action. Out of these laws and conventions, programmes were developed to promote gender equality and empower women to be in a position not to be victims most of the time during gender-based violence.

The Government of the Republic of Namibia, through the Ministry of Safety and Security, has established Women and Child Protection Units in all thirteen Regions of the Country to facilitate the effective implementation of the abovementioned Acts. These Units cater for women, girls, boys and men.

Comrade Speaker, in order for the Government to understand and identify proper interventions in combating gender-based violence and all other forms of violence against women and children, the country has established and created a National Database of Gender-based Violence with the aim of strengthening the efforts of all stakeholders in combating gender-based violence. The Database, therefore, gives different kinds of statistics on violence committed by the perpetrators. Those statistics help the Government and stakeholders in research areas to be undertaken in order to determine areas of concentration and root causes of violence.

When we look at statistics of rape cases from all thirteen Regions, which is monthly reported, we will see that in 2002, Caprivi had 34 cases, which is the lowest and Khomas had 174 reported cases, and we know many cases go unreported. The total reported cases for 2002 were 763. When we look at 2005, Caprivi declined to only 25 rape cases and Khomas 154, and the total rape cases for the whole country in all thirteen Regions were 933. We can see that from 2002 the reported cases of 763 went up to 941.

13 June 2007

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON MUNGUNDA**

When we look at the statistics, we can see that these figures show that the number of rape cases reported to the police from 2002 to 2005 per Region has steadily increased in Regions such as Hardap, Kavango, Kunene, Ohangwena, Omaheke and Otjozondjupa. The only Regions that have reported cases declining are Caprivi, which has shown a steady decrease during the four years, as well as Oshana Region, while the number of reported cases in the Khomas Region have fluctuated along the 4 years.

In order to come up with collective strategies, the Government, through the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare will host the National Conference on Gender-based Violence from the 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2007, which will involve all stakeholders. The Conference will be officially opened by His Excellency, President Hifikepunye Pohamba, the President of the Republic of Namibia. The objective of the Conference is to exchange views on the causes and effects of gender-base violence in Namibia, identifying gap and challenge in implementing gender-based violence as well as to develop action-based recommendations and follow-up mechanisms.

It is also important to point out one of the major successes in our country in the area of male involvement through formation of non-Governmental organisation for men. The Namibian Men for Change (NAMEC), the first male-driven initiative to address gender issues in Namibia was specially formed to sensitise and encourage men and boys to end violence against women and children.

Another male organisation involved in gender issues is the White Ribbon Campaign, which also focuses on gender-based violence issues and has conducted several successful workshops and conferences in 6 Regions for men and boys, encouraging them to fight against gender-based violence.

The main activities for this organisation, the White Ribbon Campaign, is the annual “*Father and Son Walk*”, which is five kilometres and usually it is done on the 25 November, the first day of the 16 days of activism, where fathers and sons have an opportunity to discuss the consequences of violence against women and children. Furthermore, they have the White Ribbon Week where they distribute white ribbons and at the same time, men make signed pledges not to condone violence against women and children.

13 June 2007

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON MUNGUNDA**

It is, indeed, a reality that incidence of violence against women and girls in Namibia still exists. Rape and domestic violence are some of the serious problems that continue to affect women and girls in our country.

The Namibian Government attaches great importance to the protection of girls' and women's rights. A number of laws and policies were put in place since attaining Independence in 1990.

I would like to give a word of appreciation to the following sponsors who made it possible for us to host this important Conference: UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR, USAID, Standard Bank, Old Mutual, SADC, Commonwealth Secretariat, MTC, Konica Minolta Namibia.

In conclusion, let me touch on a few highlights of the programme, which is a broad-based programme.

One of the highlights will be the panel discussions and there will be a study analysis from the Legal Assistance Centre on the implementation of the Rape Act. Then we will have panel discussions on the role of the Judiciary, the role of the Police, the role of forensics, the role of medical doctors and the role of social workers. We will then also have a panel discussion on the role of churches, the role of the media, the role of traditional leaders, the role of civil society and the role of men. These are just a few of the highlights because the Conference is over four days.

In conclusion Comrade Speaker, Members of this august House, it is my distinguished honour to invite all Members of Parliament to the official opening of the Gender-based Violence Conference which will start on Tuesday, 19 June 2007 at 09:00 at the NamPower Convention Centre here in Windhoek. May God bless us all and may there be peace for our country. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Minister for bringing to the House, once again, a matter of deep concern to the entire Nation, the plight of our mothers, daughters and girl-child everywhere in our country. I plead for understanding on the part of the Honourable Members that I should have shared the following information with you:

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13 June 2007

**ELECTRICITY BILL: SECOND READING**  
**HON KATALI**

I am in receipt of a letter dated 12 June 2007, addressed to me by the Minister of Presidential Affairs, requesting me to inform the House that on Saturday, 16 June 2007, His Excellency President Pohamba will participate in the railway construction work at Ondangwa-Oshikango extension line. The Minister, on behalf of the President, requests me to inform the Honourable Members that those who have an opportunity to join the President on this project, are kindly invited to do so. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND READING – ELECTRICITY  
BILL**

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**HON SPEAKER:** When this Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, 5 June 2007, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Minister of Mines and Energy that the Bill be read a Second Time. The Honourable Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources adjourned the Debate on behalf of the Deputy Minister of Lands, Resettlement and Rehabilitation and the Deputy Minister now has the Floor. Honourable Katali.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Comrade Speaker, due to further consultations on the Electricity Bill, I am requested to seek the indulgence of this august House to postpone the Debate on the Electricity Bill to 3 July. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Deputy Minister. Any further discussion? The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until 3 July 2007. The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

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13 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM  
HON VILJOEN**

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION  
SYSTEM, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE DEPLORABLE GRADE  
10 AND 12 RESULTS AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS FOR THE FUTURE  
OF OUR SCHOOL DROPOUTS**

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**HON SPEAKER:** When this Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, 5 June 2007, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Schimming-Chase, that the Motion be adopted. Honourable Viljoen adjourned the Debate and I now give him the Floor.

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**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, this issue of education was discussed many times in this Honourable House. There were many arguments and I personally participated a few times and used arguments. Sometimes you use the same argument twice, but it is good that we discuss the issue of education, because it is a very important topic and issue in our country. I know of no country in the world where everybody is happy and satisfied with their education system. Why should Namibia be an exception on this Rule?

I agree, the Grade 10 and 12 results are terrible. It is a tragedy that not all Grade 10 dropouts can repeat Grade 10. A learner is allowed to fail three times before he comes to Grade 10. Therefore, we cannot refer to automatic promotion in the true sense of the word. In practice, the only reason why all dropouts cannot go back to school is the lack of places in schools and hostels. There is no way that our schools and hostels can accommodate all the dropouts as well as the newcomers. The only solution is more schools and hostels.

I want to come to the curricula. The curriculum is that component that tells the teacher and the learner what is necessary for the learner to know to pass the examination. Grades 1 to 10 do not have a foreign system. The curriculum for every grade was designed for Namibia by Namibians and thus the Cambridge system cannot be blamed. Therefore, if our Namibian curriculum is the problem, then we will have to import a system from another country, with no guarantee that it will go better.

13 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM**  
**HON VILJOEN**

Grade 11 and 12 is a two-year course. You cannot repeat Grade 11 because it is a two-year course. Cambridge Examination Board helped Namibia to replace the Cape Education System. They gave us the curricula and helped with training. However, after 15 years the original curriculum was Namibianised by our own teachers. This year our teachers set the exam papers and did the marking. Officials from Cambridge are only there to moderate and control. Therefore, we can no longer refer to the Cambridge system. We have our own system, as my good neighbour, Honourable Arnold Tjiuiko, suggested earlier.

Before I discuss the real problems, I wish to remind you of the following: Long before Independence, private and semi-private schools were established. There were St Boniface, ELCIN Nkurenkuru, Oshigambo, Martin Luther, St Paul's, St George's, DHPS and many others. The results of these schools were always better due to factors like good discipline, good management, motivated teachers, good communication and parental involvement. (Intervention)

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**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Through the Speaker, is the Honourable Member aware that before Independence in the church-run schools, they used the power flourish methodology of education for liberation as opposed to Bantu, coloured and white education and that the results of those schools were at times so good, that the Government of the time refused us to publish them?

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**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, if it is true, then it is true. I said there are reasons why the private schools which I mentioned do better than other schools.

After the Independence of Namibia more private schools were established. Many private schools embarked on the curricula of the Independent Examination Board, mainly to offer the curriculum in their mother-tongue, which is the ideal situation. Other preferred the Namibian curricula for the secondary phase, but offered mother-tongue education in the primary phase. Another very important factor and probably the most important is that you do not have to explore and promote other religious cultures, but you can use your own as a basis for teaching all subjects and to foster high values in your school.



13 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM**  
**HON VILJOEN**

There was a time that these private schools were seen as having hidden agendas and catering only for certain privileged groups. This is not the case. The language, a high standard, good discipline and religious matters are the most important factors.

Let us look at what Namibians are saying about the problems and poor results at Government schools.

Recently the Governor of the Oshana Region said the following at a prize-giving ceremony: *"I believe that managers in education, at different management levels, should ponder this situation and really find out, if it is not yet known, as to why many learners are not doing well in their studies. School management, school boards, teachers and communities at large have to ensure that the education being provided to learners is of quality, that is one of the broad goals of the Ministry."*

A meeting of principals is scheduled to take place some time during this year at Rock Lodge near Okahandja and a spokesman said: *"The main purpose of this conference is to enhance school management, because ineffective leadership causes problems in the communities and jeopardises the aims set for Vision 2030."*

The aforementioned quotes clearly give an indication of the problems of education.

Honourable Speaker, since the first examination was written in Namibia after Independence, we realised that the results were poor and many missions were undertaken to the schools. Many investigations were done, Commission were appointed and many reports written, many recommendations were made and nobody ever questioned the outcome of any of the aforementioned Reports. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** May I put a question to the Honourable Member? Honourable Viljoen, my question is, the teaching of learners in the mother-tongue is so important and I agree with you. Are you aware that parents, for example in Windhoek, are literally forced to have their children taught in Afrikaans or German because there is no opportunity for them

13 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM**  
**HON VILJOEN**

to be taught in the mother-tongue? How do we overcome this problem, which is a serious problem which needs to be addressed?

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**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, I agree it is a problem. It was discussed many times in the Examination Board in Education and I think it is a long-term solution. Somebody phoned the other day and we discussed this matter of one-language curriculum. Therefore, I think somebody is working on this issue. I agree it is a problem. (Intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** We understand that Honourable Viljoen, is an ex-inspector, what does "*one-language curriculum*" mean?

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**HON VILJOEN:** Mr Speaker, presently it is a requirement that you have to pass at least two languages, of which one is English. I think in a one-language curriculum you will have to pass only one language plus all the other subjects.

The findings of all reports and recommendations on findings boil down to a few core problems, which are:

- Lack of discipline. (Intervention)

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**HON DR GEINGOB:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable former Inspector, I would like to ask a question about mother-tongue. As former teachers we all moved on with modern times, from mother-tongue to home language, which is more appropriate. We are trying to imply, if children were taught in mother-tongue it will form a better basis. However, I want to put to you that some kids could be born from parents who are Damara's, for instance, and they could be brought up by Oshiwambo-speaking people since they are still about one year old or six months and that child's language will not automatically be Damara. The parents would be Damara's, but if a child is brought up by Afrikaners, they will be speaking Afrikaans.

13 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM**  
**HON VILJOEN**

Now many scholars have dropped the idea of mother-tongue and they are using the home language. What is your view on that one? If you are arguing "*mother-tongue*", it means your parents are these, you must speak that language, but now people are talking about home language.

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**HON VILJOEN:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I was looking for the word, "*home language*" and I agree, in a country like Namibia it is very difficult to refer to "*mother-tongue*".

I just want to mention the problems:

- Lack of discipline
- English as medium of instruction
- Teachers who are not well qualified
- Lack of commitment of the learners and especially,
- Lack of commitment of teachers.

English as medium of instruction and under-qualified teachers are one of the main problems. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION:** Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Information and appreciating indeed the discussion that is going on, on the mother-tongue versus home language. It is true that linguistically we speak about home language, but it is no substitute for mother-tongue. Mother-tongue still stays as the mother-tongue of the kids, but you also make provision for the children who do come from mixed marriages, as the first Prime Minister, Honourable Dr Geingob said. So, we do not substitute "*mother-tongue*" with "*home language*", but we add to the mother-tongue the possibility that a child may not have a mother-tongue but will have a home language. I thank you.

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**HON VILJOEN:** Thank you for that information. I am convinced that most of our academic failures are due to the fact that the medium of communication,

13 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM**  
**HON VILJOEN**

which conveys the information to the learner, cannot transfer the knowledge effectively. It is blocked.

The teacher, as the first conveyer of knowledge to the learner, suffers with English as medium of instruction. Some have difficulty expressing themselves clearly in a second or even third language, let alone having to explain...(Intervention)

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**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Speaker, I do not believe that the teacher is the first conveyer of knowledge. I believe that by the time the child reaches Grade 1, that child has been infused with knowledge from the time that he or she was in the mother's womb. That is what modern science shows, but after that comes the family, the extended family, the cultural background. By the time that the child gets to school it is not an empty vessel to be pumped full, it already has a lot of knowledge.

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**HON VILJOEN:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I think my point was when a learner is at school. I agree that the environment at home is where the foundation is laid, but a learner at school listens to the teacher and if the teacher cannot convey the knowledge to the learner, due to a problem with the language, it is a problem.

The second conveyer of knowledge to the learner is the textbook. It causes the same handicap. The learner does not understand properly, neither what he/she hears from the teacher, nor what he/she reads in the textbooks, but the Nation expects good results.

Learners who are privileged to enjoy their education through their mother-tongue do not have these problems. This is the ideal situation and I agree that in a multi-cultural and a multi-linguistic society, it is not possible to provide home language education to all learners, due to financial constraints. (Intervention)

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**HON DR ANKAMA:** Honourable Speaker, could I ask my Inspector a question? Honourable Viljoen has spoken a lot about these issues, but sometimes these issues are a bit confusing. Talking about mother-tongue and home language

13 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM**  
**HON VILJOEN**

and then slightly on medium of instruction, what would you say when we talk about L.1, L.2 and then the discourses? I think you are referring to discourse when you talk about the cultural background. What would you say about that, L.1 and L.2 versus discourses?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Some of us were teachers the last century. Now it is teacher-to-teacher language. If we could speak it in a way that the rest of us could be with you?

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**HON VILJOEN:** Mr Speaker, I would appreciate it if the Honourable Member can make it clear, he is speaking in riddles. I do not understand exactly what he is saying.

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**HON DR ANKAMA:** My question is, when you talk about language, you talk about mother-tongue, home language versus the medium of instruction. Nowadays we talk about Language 1, L.1, and Language 2. You probably understand me, Language 1 and Language 2 and discourses would go along with the cultural upbringing of a person, whether you are from a home that is speaking mother-tongue at all times, or whether you grew up in an area where your suburban people there talk a different language and the activities that you do there, you scuffle them. Therefore, what would you explain on that?

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**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, I think this is a problem and that is that there is a requirement that if learners' home language is English, first language, then they are allowed to take English as first language. Otherwise the results will be very poor.

Honourable Speaker, what I said is that the teacher and the textbooks do not convey the knowledge clearly to the learner, but we expect good results.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40**  
**HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:20 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

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13 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM**  
**HON VILJOEN**

**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, enough is enough, there is a better way to conduct the business of the House. We must revisit our Rules. Honourable Viljoen.

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**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, the commitment of teachers and learners is a very important factor. To make this point clear, I invite the Honourable House to join me on a trip, the same trips that I have undertaken many times. We can get luxury cars from the Government Garage, but then we have to travel very fast, very far and on many gravel roads.

If you go through the country, in the morning at approximately 09:00 we will see large groups of learners still on their way to the school. At 12:00 we will see large groups of learners on their way back home – a very short school day indeed, not much time for education. If you pass a school, you will see the learners outside because it is school break or the learners are busy sunning themselves. If it is Friday, you will see many learners during the morning on the road, looking for a hike home.

If you stop at a certain school and ask for the principal, you might be informed that the principal and some of the teachers are at the auction – “*beesveiling*”. They are dedicated farmers.

The first Director of Ondangwa East, Mr John Kandombo, when newly appointed as Director, used to dress in a blue overall and visited the *cuca* shops under cover during the morning. By doing this, he could identify which of his staff were regular customers to the *cuca* shops during school hours.

The few teachers who are still trying to maintain order are standing solitary against the elements, like Mukurob against the desert winds, and eventually will also crumble. Principals need to take responsibility for their schools’ discipline and should be held accountable for the lack thereof. The Department of Education should also lend their support hundred percent to those principals taking action against lazy and incompetent teachers.

Honourable Speaker, I do not have reason to entertain this Honourable House with exaggerations. What I have mentioned is my experience and those of others who are willing to give the same report and if I had access to my old office, I will bring the written proof.

13 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM**  
**HON VILJOEN**

What remains is something to change the attitude of our school population; to change the attitude of learners and teachers, because as long as people are not committed, we are fighting a lost battle.

In conclusion, everyone in this country can play a role to improve the standard of our education. I wish to share the following with Members of this House.  
(Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** I regret the fact that I have to interrupt the Honourable Member making a very important point, but just to share information before he concludes.

Is it not time that we encourage Informanté journalists to wear the blue overalls and go around during school hours, to give us the current information as to who are those teachers who, while children are idle, are visiting the cuca shops? Can we not make such a recommendation?

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**HON SPEAKER:** These people should write about themselves too.

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**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, I wish to thank the Honourable Minister for her contribution. I do not even want to mention the name of the newspaper. (Intervention)

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** May I ask Honourable Viljoen a question? Honourable Viljoen, now teachers are the bad guys because apparently they do not come to school on time, but when we started this session, the Speaker was visibly disturbed that Members of Parliament did not come to Parliament on time. Do you have any comment to make?

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**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, I wish to support the Right Honourable Prime Minister. I think we are all responsible people and we must act accordingly.

13 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM**  
**HON VILJOEN**

I want to share something that I read in a newspaper about a Namibian couple at Witvlei, Mr Jannie and Judie Wiese, who took the responsibility for the Government school in Witvlei upon themselves, a small school. They renovated the hostel, replaced some of the equipment by finding donors...(Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** On a Point of Information. I think when the former Inspector of Schools is lashing at the teachers, I hope he is also aware that learning and teaching is not only confined to classroom activities, but children can learn while their teachers are outside. By the way, before I sit down, it was scientifically proven that people can only listen a certain time to something. If you keep them locked up in the classroom for the sake of it, they will no longer concentrate.

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**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, I hope the Honourable Member did not refer to my long speech here breaking the concentration, but I agree that extramural activities are very important for communication between the learner and the teacher. I however wish to say that these people at Witvlei did a lot. They found donors to renovate and to help the teachers with continuous guidance and it is appreciated. If all of us get involved, we can make a difference to the outcome of our education problems and in doing so, better the future of our Namibian youth. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank Honourable Viljoen for his thoughtful contribution. Any further discussion? Honourable Katali.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Thank you Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I would also like to add my voice to this Motion.

I am going to divide the Motion into three parts, the first part being the crisis in the education system, the second part being the deplorable Grade 10 and 12 results and the third and last one being the solutions for future dropouts.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, when I look at the first part, I see the



13 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM**  
**HON KATALI**

words “*crisis in education*”. When I looked at it, I asked myself, is there really a crisis in our education system? And with this I really want to indicate to the Honourable Members that we must be cautious when we are choosing words.

Our education system is not in a crisis, according to my understanding. Maybe the crisis is somewhere else, not in the education system. (Interjections). Maybe in the CoD, that can be called a crisis, but not in the education system.

I am saying this because we have to be sensitive to our children. Currently there are children who are going to school in the same education system, while we are calling the education system that they are undergoing as a crisis. We have students at the University, at the Polytechnic and some are even in South Africa and they are doing well. Are we saying they went through an education that is in a crisis? We really need to stop repeating what others are saying.

When somebody says education is in a crisis and we all say education is in crisis, I do not think that is really a good thing to say when we expect all the learners to come to this Parliament. Are we now going to say the Parliament is manned by people who went through an education which is in a crisis? I really think we do not need to allow this education system to be termed a crisis. (Intervention)

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**HON DIENDA:** Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, can you please inform the House where do your kids go to school?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** My kids started at Eunda Primary School and then some came to Control School in Ongwediva, then three started in Etosha in Tsumeb. One continued in Emma Hoogenhout, the other one was at Oshala and came to Gabriel Taapopi in Ongwediva. (Intervention)

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**HON KAURA:** The other four you do not know. (Laughter).

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**HON SPEAKER:** You know how many so far, very good.

13 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM**  
**HON KATALI**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Yes, so far I only mentioned five. Maybe the mothers of the rest know where they are. (Laughter). One is in the University, one is at the Polytechnic, one is at Arandis at NIMT.

Therefore, it is not really a good thing for Parliamentarians to condemn our education system to such an extent that we say it is in a crisis. (Intervention)

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** May I ask Honourable Katali a question? Honourable Katali, are you aware that one of the former honourable teachers sitting here, has been teaching at A Shipena which is in a perpetual crisis?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Right Honourable Prime Minister, I do not know who the teacher was, but the point is that we really have to respect what we have. Maybe while we are here we feel...(Intervention)

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**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Is the Honourable Member aware that the Right Honourable Prime Minister says Shipena is in a perpetual crisis?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** I heard about it, but I am talking about the education system not being in a crisis, not a particular school. If there is a crisis and there are reasons for that, maybe the Right Honourable Prime Minister has a reason to say so.

We should not, because we are here now, want to throw the school system and we think that our education system was better than the current education system.

That is wrong, because we have not counted the people that we started with in Grade 1 and what happened to them. Some of them became dropouts, some of them could not finish school, just like what is happening now.

3 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM  
HON KATALI**

Coming to the second, the deplorable Grade 10 and Grade 12 results. For a fact we are not satisfied with the results, but then, honestly speaking, there are learners in this country who are performing exceptionally well. I think a week or two ago I went to an award ceremony in Tsumeb for the Oshikoto Region and only if you are there do you hear from the teachers, the directors that there are improvements in our education system, in our school system. You might find a school that excels in the rural areas or a learner who excels in one or other subject, comes from a rural school. That is an indication that something is really happening in our education system and, therefore, the improvement is noted. We are really seeing some improvement and we actually say that this improvement must continue.

We know there are many schools, as Honourable Viljoen was saying, where they are not doing their part. It is true, but we have to commend those schools that are doing well and improve the results.

The last one is the solution for the dropouts. On this one I want to blame the system. (Intervention)

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**HON DIENDA:** On a Point of Information. Honourable Speaker, I think Honourable Schimming-Chase in her motivation did agree that there is some improvement. She did not say our education system is totally out of control. I can speak from experience. After Grade 12 my daughter went to South Africa and she received a bursary as the best student at the University with this Namibian education system. Therefore, it is not a matter that she said our education system is totally bad. It is not what she said, there are some schools...(Interjection)

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**HON MEMBER:** Then there is no crisis!

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13 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM**  
**HON KATALI**

**HON DIENDA:** I mean, she was coming from a Khomasdal school, which means that there are improvements.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Therefore, I am correct to say there is no crisis in our education system. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** May I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Honourable Katali, hearing it from the horse's mouth that indeed some of our schools are doing excellent work, are you convinced, as I am, that the word "*crisis*" is in the mind of those that are in a crisis?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** One would even want to ask who is actually... (Laughter)

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**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** The Attorney-General, because if you look at *man is mind* there must be crisis. Do not talk about Kapia and Hidipo.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** That said, the possible solutions for the future of our school dropouts...(Intervention)

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**HON DIENDA:** On a Point of crisis and Information. Is the Honourable Deputy Minister aware that the SWAPO crises are so many that you do not even want to bring it in the House to be solved? (Interjection). Like the bedroom crisis which Honourable Mungunda brought here.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** The problem why we have school dropouts roaming in the streets should not be blamed on the education system, because of the following reasons:

A Grade 10 learner, in my mind, is a trainable person. That person can read

13 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM**  
**HON KATALI**

instructions, that person is able to receive instructions, that person is able to be trained in any of the crafts or skills in order for that person....(Intervention

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**HON DR GEINGOB:** May I please ask a question? Teacher, since you are doing very well, tell me, is the purpose of education, when we are inculcating knowledge for those whom we are training, is the purpose to fail or is the purpose to succeed? It looks to me like we are now preparing people to fail and we are asking them to be permitted to repeat. We are now claiming we must allow failures to get so many chances to repeat. Is the purpose not that of excellence, that they must work towards success, passing? Now here I am hearing about Grade 10 must be allowed to repeat, repeat. How many times? We must be moving towards passing, not to fail.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Comrade Geingob, I think you said it all. That has been my standpoint all along, that to allow a learner to repeat Grade 10, does not guarantee the success of that learner in Grade 11 or Grade 12 or at the University. That learner is likely to fail once or twice. Therefore that is not the solution.

What I was saying is that why we have these dropouts not having work, is not because of the education system. The education system does not teach the learner to be an accountant. The school system does not teach a learner to be a carpenter. Someone somewhere has to take over and these are the industries. They are actually the ones that are claiming there are no skills in Namibia. Where should the learners get these skills that they need? From the secondary school? Not at all.

When you look at our Colleagues, the children of the whites, you do not find them without jobs. Are we saying that they do not also fail Grade 10 or Grade 12? Once they fail, where do they go? They are actually absorbed in the industries and they are being trained in different skills, welding, what have you. (Intervention)

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13 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM**  
**HON KATALI**

**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? Honourable Deputy Minister, you were doing fine until you came to the white children being absorbed in jobs.

Are you aware of the fact that the reason why many white school dropouts are having jobs is because the companies are in the hands of the whites and they make preferences for them to get positions even if they do not have the results?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Yes, that is actually the point I am making, that we should not cry that learners do not have skills. What type of learners? Do you think that only the black children are the ones not having skills? If all of us as Namibians had the same problems, then we could understand that this is true, the claims that the learners do not have skills. However I still maintain that if we could have a policy of some kind that would compel the industries not to cry for skilled...(Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** May I ask Comrade Katali a question? I think the question you want to pose is taken care of by the Bill which we are dealing with now on Vocational Education and Training. Would it not be helpful to suggest something to your counterpart there, that what you want to see in this Bill is exactly what you want to see implemented in Namibia, so that our children could have that opportunity to be trained in technical fields?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Yes, Comrade Ilonga, I have not gone through the Bill, but if this is covered, then I think it is ...(Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** On a point of information. Honourable Teacher, I am not going into detail on what you have said, but just a little piece of information based on the issue of our white

13 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM**  
**HON KATALI**

counterparts. They are our fellow citizens, but unfortunately on this one I have to share the information.

The perception which you are creating is that perhaps all the white dropouts are absorbed in the market, but that is not wholly true. There are parents who may have benefited in the past, but if you talk to white friends at the moment, some of their school dropouts are only at home and some of the parents are complaining. Therefore, on that one we need scientific research to prove whether all our white dropouts are absorbed in the job market and in any event, the Namibian market is too small.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Yes, I understand it could be one or two who are sitting at home. You cannot expect all of them to be absorbed, but the fact remains that the industries are crying for skilled labour, but they are expecting the school system to provide them with the skilled people and that is the point I am bringing home, that the industries must absorb these kids and then train them and they can work for them.

If you go to these garages that are repairing vehicles, the artisans that you find there are these old *tates* who just started as cleaners and handymen, until such a time that they learned the skills and they became artisans and they are the ones doing the job. My question is, what is wrong with taking the youngsters, for them to go through the same system? What is wrong with that? The same people that they are using did not go to school, they were just trained by themselves. Why should we not take these youngsters and train them and then if that happens...(Interjection)

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**HON MEMBER:** How many garages are in Eunda.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** There are three and I am not saying they all should go to Eunda, wherever it is. It is not only a garage, it is all the other industries wherever they are being found.

13 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM  
RT HON ANGULA**

Then the other thing which we as a country need to strengthen is this NIMT and Namwater at Okahandja

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**HON NAMBAHU:** May I inform the Honourable Deputy Minister that the problem with industry lies mainly in the fact that the industry uses the skills and competencies of those people who during the years have acquired such kinds of skills under them, but do not want to resort to training, because they do not want them to have a paper and then to remunerate them according to the paper they have, but prefer to use their skills and deny them to have a paper and therefore, the issue of competence-based training is not a welcome entity in the industry that we have in the country. Are you aware of that?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** If that is the problem then it needs to be addressed, because we cannot cry and on the other hand we do not want to do anything in order to get what I want.

As a country we need to strengthen institutions such as NIMT in Arandis. We have NamWater training in Okahandja and I do not know why Oranjemund was closed, because many of the artisans I am seeing here were the ones who were trained but it is now closed, but then we are still crying that people are not qualified to do the job. Why do we not get them qualified? They are sitting there, they are trainable.

I cannot really agree that a Grade 12 graduate, whether he came out with 16 points or 20 points, cannot be allowed to go to the University or Polytechnic and that he is useless and cannot be trained. They are trainable. Maybe we only need to look at some of these aspects and stop crying and saying people do not have skills, the education system is in a crisis. Thank you, Comrade Speaker, I rest my case.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I rise to share some thoughts on this subject.

I know that the Motion was moved at the time when there was an extraordinary congress in one party and somebody wanted to be seen to be talking something



13 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM**  
**RT HON ANGULA**

close to the hearts of the delegates. That being what it is, let me first of all say that there is no crisis in education, not at all. (Intervention)

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**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** May I ask the Prime Minister a question? Right Honourable Prime Minister, there is a time when a person is involved in good governance and transparency that you say, *“I will not talk on this topic because I have a vested interest.”* As somebody who sat with the 30 million for so many years for vocational training, is it not right for the Right Honourable Prime Minister, rather than trying to talk as if I was having an election campaign, to just say, *“okay, I messed up, so forget about it” and let the others talk?*

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** There is no messing up. We created a system of education which is best to none in Africa. It is there, you cannot undo it.

However, I want to share information with the public out there because I know that I will not convince the politicians here, because this is a political Motion meant for the extraordinary congress. Unfortunately people were not listening, they were not listening to what was happening in Parliament, so it did not go well. (Interjections)

I said there is no crisis in education, however there are challenges in education. These challenges have been recognised by the Government and it is for that reason that the Government initiated a study of how education is performing in relation to the economy.

Honourable Dienda, listen very carefully, she is not going to vote, she is not a CoD.

That study which was done by independent people discovered ...(Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** On a Point of Order. May I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister a small question? The Right Honourable Prime Minister continues to refer to the other side as CoD. Do you realise that there is no CoD there?

13 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM  
RT HON ANGULA**

The CoD proper is not present.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** The Shixwameni's CoD is around and there is no problem. (Intervention)

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**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** May I please give information to the Honourable Attorney-General? I am not surprised that the Honourable Attorney-General says that. There is a rumour that some of them were in the North when the results came out and some of them said, "*no, but Ulenga is father of the Party, so he should stay.*" Therefore I am not surprised that the Honourable Attorney-General wants to choose for the CoD where the majority lies. However it is alright, just remain calm, the truth will come out before the SWAPO Congress, then you will be able to say which is the right SWAPO.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I was sharing information with the House, especially the public out there, that the Government is aware...(Intervention)

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**HON MOONGO:** For the sake of progress and for the true colour of the Assembly, let us avoid tarnishing each other. Let us stick to the Motion for the progress of the Parliament.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Very, very wise words.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I was saying that Government is aware of the challenges and that is why a study was done by independent people and the study discovered the following:

13 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM  
RT HON ANGULA**

Number one, there is a lack of textbooks in schools. Four or three children share a textbook and a textbook is a critical learning tool, as you know. That is number one.

Number two, time on task is the problem, meaning that time spent teaching, is not the prescribed time of forty minutes. Sometimes teachers only use perhaps twenty minutes teaching and the time is critical in learning. That you know.

Management of schools leaves a lot to be desired and if there is no manager, obviously things like time on task will not happen, because teachers will not start their lessons on time.

They also discovered that some Regions are endowed with good schools while others are not. Those are the main findings of what is happening in schools. The other one is, of course, the head-start problem, early childhood, that if a child is not properly prepared to enter Grade 1, you do not expect this child to optimally benefit from education.

All those things have been analysed and in the process a programme was developed to address them. That is why a new word entered the educational vocabulary and the word is ETSIP – Education and Training Improvement Programme.

When that was done the resources required was found to be astronomical, not within the reach of the Namibian Government. Therefore, it was decided to organise a round table pledging conference last year. You know that and through that round table pledging conference Government itself pledged on top of the normal budget of the Ministry of Education, to put on top every year for five years, N\$100 million. You saw that in the Budget.

However, development partners on their part pledged more than N\$600 million for the next 15 years, what needs to be done is to implement the programme. The more we delay, the more we deny our children possibilities to succeed in life. That is the challenge. If that programme can be implemented, we expect one child-one text book. We expect the head-start programme to start so that the four and five-year olds will be prepared to start Grade 1 on a strong footing. We expect the teaching of mathematics and science to be strengthened. We expect the vocational education system to be expanded in order to provide skills for those who leave school at Grade 10, especially and we expect that our higher

13 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM  
RT HON ANGULA**

education system, besides teaching, will also emphasise research and knowledge creation.

You will recall that there was tabled in this House an ICT Policy Programme to create a critical mass of young Namibians with ICT competence, because that is the future. If the Nation wants to be competitive, we have to try to embrace new technologies. The programme is there, what is required is only to implement it and the sooner we implement it, the better. I hope that our Colleagues at the Ministry of Education are working 48 hours around the clock to implement that programme especially for our children in the rural areas.

One of the programmes in ETSIP is to build schools of excellence in the rural Regions, so that every rural Region will have a Windhoek High School of some type and the best students in that Region can now go to that magnet school, so that we tap the talents from there. The rural schools are ready, unlike the schools in which some of the Members were teaching. (Intervention)

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**HON DIENDA:** Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister a question, please? Right Honourable Prime Minister, the ETSIP that we want to implement in Namibia, the ratio is one teacher/fifty learners. What will happen to the qualified teachers who are roaming in the streets and there are no vacancies for them?

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** In a system as big as education there are always tradeoffs. The emphasis, of course, is on the learner and we want the classroom to accommodate more learners, so that we do not have some left out. That is the emphasis. The teacher is a very critical person in the education system, but we have to look first to the needs of the learners themselves before we look at employment. We have to look at the interest of the learners. That is the point.

I was saying, we now want to build these magnet schools which will attract talent, in Caprivi one, in Ohangwena one, Omaheke, which is one of the problem areas as far as schools are concerned, a challenging one. In Katutura you need to make all schools in Katutura magnet schools, so that they can compete with

13 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM  
RT HON ANGULA**

Windhoek High School and that is the problem with these schools in the area, in our townships. They are not performing and I really want to ask the Members here to go to the Department of Examination and Assessment and get Grade 10 and 12 results and read and see which schools perform. You will be surprised that most best performing schools are actually in rural areas. You will be surprised.

However since we believe that urban schools are the best, we tend to take our kids to the big schools which are crowded, but the discipline is not there, and those are perhaps the schools you visited and that is why you are talking about crisis. Perhaps you are talking about Jacob Marenga or something. However that is not applicable to the schools all over Namibia, it is not true.

Since Independence there was only one school which has been burnt down and has a tendency of being burnt down and Honourable Goreseb knows which school I am talking about. He should do something about that Dibasen School.

The point is that Government is doing the best it can do, because we know that the ultimate mechanism for empowerment, which you are talking about here, is to empower the children with education. That is why we are there. (Interjection). Go to the Polytechnic, go to the University, you will find Namibian kids performing superbly through the same education system. Go to Stellenbosch University, the best performing students are Namibians. It is true! You do not believe it yourself, but our schools are performing better than the schools in South Africa, if you do not know. The only schools in South Africa which are performing better are the private ones. You should know that.

Honourable Members, yes, it is true that in education, being a selective mechanism also because of examinations, there will always be some losers, but we should try to address the problem of losers through other mechanisms, such as skills development and all that, so that we include everybody in the empowerment endeavour through education and that is the best empowerment. It does not discriminate, it is you and your book. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** On a Point of Order. I am terribly sorry to disturb the Right Honourable Prime Minister, he has really answered all the questions.

13 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM**  
**HON DR MUJOMA**

I just wanted to ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister a small question. Comrade Prime Minister, I read so many reports, particularly from the developing countries, and I do not know of any perfect system in education. What I know is that there are always challenges. If you read the reports in Britain, those are critical issues between the Labour and the Conservative Parties, about these private schools, about public schools, about skills development and so on. These are critical issues and I agree with the Right Honourable Prime Minister that what we have is not a crisis, what we have are challenges and that is why Government is coming up with the Vocational Training Bill, ETSIP and all these. This is the way to try to address the problem. I know of no perfect education system and you will never get it. For the next fifty years we are going to grapple with these issues and that is why I say I support the explanation by the Right Honourable Prime Minister. We will never have a perfect system.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Comrade Nujoma, you are right. When the Right Honourable Tony Blair wanted to be elected in Britain, he only said, “*education, education, education*” – three times. Then he got his votes because of that. Just imagine the tradition of the British education and they are still panel beating it. Therefore we have to continue to continuously improve, things are changing all the time.

When I became the founding Minister of Education – “*founding*” is the very important word – there was no subject called ICT, but ICT is a very serious subject now. Therefore, education is always changing and changing. New things are coming in, you have to include them and you have to continue to improve and improve.

Fine, let us talk about improving education, but let us not talk about crisis – *asseblief. Baie dankie.*

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**HON DR GEINGOB:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I did not know that the founding Minister of Education subscribed to speak when I was asking for the Floor and also the “*Son of the Nation*” took my speech away from me. Now I am in a dilemma here. I was complaining, “*why are you saying that now?*”

13 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM  
HON DR GEINGOB**

But to come back to my few points I could make, Comrade Speaker, education is indeed so important, that is why we as parents are talking about it over and over and we ought to be involved in that, as we are doing. However as the Prime Minister has said and as said by Comrade Nujoma, education is ever-evolving and I was going to refer to the United Kingdom where a report has just come out, where they are talking about education reform. Reform is to reform what was already there, and you have to keep on reforming the education system. That is what the whole world is doing.

The United States, these are old, old countries with established education systems and they are reforming their education systems, they are improving on them as new ideas are coming, new concepts etcetera. You have to adapt or you will die. Therefore, do not keep on crying for the Cape Education system or Bantu Education system. There is no way anybody can convince me that the Bantu Education system I went through here – and some of you are lucky you are coloureds, I would have become coloured too to get better education – but the Bantu Education I got cannot be compared with what we are doing today. Come on, let us be honest. You cannot compare what the blacks were getting by way of allocation of funds and teachers with what you are getting today. Come on! It is not the same thing. However you have the right to ask for more, because we have hope that our Government is going to respond. That is why you are demanding more and more and that is the way to go.

However to talk about crisis – yes, challenges we were told. Sometimes we lack education. When you look at information flow, every day we are getting documents like this, printed information for the journalists who are sitting there, but are we using it? When we are debating about the education crisis, here is the ETSIP programme, outlined by the Prime Minister. Did the motivator of this Motion refer to it? Are we discussing that? I would have thought this Debate ought to have been based on that programme which Government tabled now, which is outlining the challenges and trying to answer the problem with codes, with money and programmes, giving you the outcome of that programme. Are we debating that? No!

We have papers here, all Ministries submit information and the journalists ought to use those, not to gossip about the Parliament, saying that we do not make sense. What sense do they make by writing nonsense? Here are our documents. If you want to inform people, journalists, my friends, use this information. There

13 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM**  
**HON NAMBAHU**

is information here, we are not educated or informed, we are sitting here, we do not use the information provided daily and, therefore, you talk in abstracts.

I would like to propose one day that really, this is not a waste of money, it is a modern state and we should try to be transparent. The transparency we talk about is here, but we never use it. We want to go and gossip, we want to talk in the air as if we are not nationals of this country. We are nationals.

When I am going around and looking at what is happening in this country, I am so proud, as you too are in your heart of hearts. You are, but because we have to debate here to score points, we use these kinds of arguments. In the meantime you are destroying the image of this beautiful country which you are proud of, I know that.

Please, there are certain topics that we politick on, there are others that are so serious that we do not play with. Education is one of them. I would have talked longer, but people have stolen my statement.

And since somebody said he was the founding Minister of Education, I am talking here as the founding Prime Minister and we are very proud of the foundation we laid and we are proud of what we have achieved so far. Thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Nambahu. You too will one day be a founder.

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**HON NAMBAHU:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I am not a founder of anything and obviously, after my seniors have spoken, I was actually contemplating as to whether I should still continue to add my voice. Most of what I wanted to say has been said, I have a few small things.

Comrade Speaker, I am rising to make my humble contribution to the Motion on the Table. The Mover of the Motion started off by characterising the state in which our education is found as one of crisis and this is where I object.



13 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM  
HON NAMBAHU**

When research was done on whether the molecule of the atom was the smallest unit of science or particles, the scientists, when they were in a crisis, said the atom could not be divided or the molecule could not be divided any further. Someone said that crisis was not of physics or science, it was a crisis of the physicists.

Therefore, when you are putting on spectacles of crisis, you are likely to see crisis everywhere.

Comrade Speaker, our system of education has a history to it and therefore, it is not fair to attribute its entire shortcomings to Government. I was addressing a meeting and I was saying, when you are in Government you can even be accused for the disappearance of the dinosaurs. We shall leave it there.

Without going into details of the Bantu education some of us went through, or the rural setting such education took place in and the overall colonial vestiges attached thereto, it suffices to say that those of us who were or are victims or survivors of such education know better what it was and can strikingly appreciate the differences – and there are many. We must be honest to ourselves. I went to school under a tree and then I was using the ground as my board to write. We should not go into these things because it reminds us of many things that we do not want to be reminded of.

The point is, there is a history to all this to which we all should be sensitive, maybe some more sensitive than others, given the skin pigment of ourselves. My seniors have spoken about Bantu and the pigments of our skins. Sometimes these are things that we need to be sensitive about and to be sensitive to ourselves when we give generalised aspersions. We have come a long way as a Nation and that we must appreciate.

The problem that I saw when I read the motivation of the Honourable Mover is that I have not seen the word ETSIP anywhere. My point is, focus on the arsenal at your disposal. I would have appreciated anyone who is going to make a critical and objective analysis of the state of education, to use ETSIP as the departing point. If we do not, and that is the arsenal that we have as of now, then some of us may have problems. (Intervention)

13 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM**  
**HON NAMBAHU**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION:** I am sorry to disturb the flow of beautiful ideas you are putting forward, but may I ask the Honourable Member a question, please? Is the Honourable Member aware that the Ministry of Education has distributed a draft document called ETSIP in this House and we are expecting just that critical analysis, very objective critical analysis of the education system that must not at any time be politicised to score political goals. The education system belongs to all of us. It is not affiliated to any political party and it should not be used in that respect at all. I object, I expect a critical analysis and objective analysis of what the Right Honourable Prime Minister highlighted today and what the founding Minister of Education put on the table and what Honourable Nambahu is saying now. Please come with a critical, objective analysis of saying this is what we have read from ETSIP, this is what is the shortcoming and this is what we want to see being implemented. We are implementing that programme and we are working forty-eight hours and please help us to do that. I thank you.

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**HON NAMBAHU:** Thank you very much, for this very valuable information Doctor. I am aware that you have invited comments and critique from all the stakeholders and I was under the impression and still am, that each and every Namibian you see walking in the street is a stakeholder in education, and is therefore compelled to give his critique and contribution as far as ETSIP is concerned. Therefore, if these contributions are coming in the form of Motions, there you have it.

Comrade Speaker, ETSIP talks of capacity creation, equipping role players to play their roles effectively and on Page 12 of the ETSIP document it says:

*“ECD and pre-primary education are much sought after for their children by parents who themselves are literate and value them and can afford them.”* To me that is a very important statement. Pre-primary education are sought after for their children by parents who themselves are literate, meaning that some of us went to school and when you came back at home, you were told to go and look after the cattle because education has never brought any benefits to that homestead. If you do not have a parent who is literate, how can he understand the head-start that you are talking about? Who is going to assist you in doing your homework? We did not have that.

13 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM**  
**HON NAMBAHU**

When it comes to the need for the role players to play their roles effectively, it includes making the parents more literate to play their role effectively in the head-start programme of the children. This is my understanding of the statement. I think we are now supposed to go out and publicise, emphasise the importance of the literacy programme and adult education which is being neglected and where many parents are now actually shying away. That is a way of equipping them to play their role as effectively as it should be? Because how else can you assist a person if you yourself cannot give what you do not have? You are not literate and here your child is talking about ICT and you cannot even spell your name.

It further talks of and recognises, among others, the challenges. It talks of improving management of delivery systems for quality of and access to pre-primary programmes. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** May I ask the Comrade a question? Comrade Nambahu, is it by accident or by deliberate arrangement that certain Members of this august House are not here to listen to the motivation of this Motion? Maybe it is because it was used as a campaign against them.

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**HON NAMBAHU:** I am tempted not to answer to that, because some people might not have the keys to their offices. Therefore, I am not too sure whether they are not still making copies out there. (Intervention)

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**HON DIENDA:** I was just wondering why are the SWAPO benches so empty over there. But on information, Honourable Speaker, I was elected to this House, I did not enter this House on a wheelbarrow. Thus nobody can abuse me here.

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**HON NAMBAHU:** Some things are self-explanatory, I will not go into that.

13 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM**  
**HON NAMBAHU**

The integration of the Early Childhood Development in the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare has now taken place as per ETSIP. It is no longer scattered...(Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Comrade Nambahu, you are doing very well and you indicated that there is a great need for us as Honourable Members to vigorously advocate the literacy education. Are you aware that some of the Members in this House condemn the literacy programme and they say it is a waste of resources for our adult people to be educated? Are you aware of that?

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**HON NAMBAHU:** If it is true, then it is true. (Intervention)

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**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** Is Honourable Nambahu aware, maybe the Honourable Deputy Minister Mushelenga may not be aware because she was out of the country, that literacy programmes for adult literacy were not discovered after SWAPO took over Government, but that the CCN, under my directorship, had more literacy programmes than there are today for adults?

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**HON NAMBAHU:** Comrade Speaker, I am also aware that SWAPO in many of the refugee camps had these programmes. If the Honourable Member is not aware about these programmes, I would be recommending an orientation course as to how we were conducting these programmes in the refugee camps. Please, we did not discover America today.

---

Early Childhood Development by the Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare has now been integrated and there is no separation, as it is alleged. There are caregiver programmes in ETSIP, something that is really commendable, because Honourable Viljoen here talked about the weakness of the system, where a caregiver is not actually trained to perform as is expected of him, to convey what he is expected to convey.

13 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM  
HON DR NDJOZE-OJO**

There are now proposals in ETSIP for this kind of situation.

There are school-readiness programmes talked about in ETSIP and an emergency training package for children in difficult circumstances. The Early Childhood Development Policy is in there and norms and standards for all these programmes countrywide, for them to be at *par*, because if the industry is complaining that the schools are not training, it is logical to expect that Early Childhood Programmes be tailor-made for the needs of the schools, so that you train as per what the child is going to be required to do once he has entered the school system.

The training programme for managers and caregivers, monitoring and evaluation tools, all these things are there. The need for attaching or adapting pre-primary classes or Early Childhood Development to existing schools must be explored and they talk about the need for pedagogues to actually be appraised of their roles.

Lastly, what I find more interesting, is that when your mother was carrying you and she has not listened to Beethoven or Mozart and the like, you are not likely to perform as is expected. I find that one very, very insulting, because I do not know who researched on that. Maybe we have intelligent students performing well because they have listened to *langarm*. Why do we have to refer to Mozart? Why do we have to refer to those things which have nothing to do with us? Or the *Nama Stap* or *Etenda* or *Eenghama*. Maybe that is why we have people who are outstanding in thinking.

Those who themselves or their descendants have eaten *Mutete*, *Omaadi Eengongo* or *Mopani shrimps*, maybe that is why we are so intelligent. So why do you have to refer to Beethoven and Mozart? This is what I do not understand and I want us to domesticate our thinking and in that we use ETSIP as the departing point. Thank you very much.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION:** On a Point of Information, there are still two minutes. The intention why we are actually saying adult education has now started, as the CCN knows, education is broader than Namibia, and as a point of information on Beethoven, it is not to say that a child who listens to music inside the mother's stomach and it has been researched and ascertained by empirical research that kids do better. So you could actually

13 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM**  
**HON VENAANI**

substitute that with an African drum or anything. It is not necessarily restricted only to Beethoven.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any further discussion? Honourable Mudge.

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**HON MUDGE:** Honourable Chair, if there is nobody else who wants to speak on the subject, I would like to postpone this Debate until Wednesday, 20.

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Speaker, I must admit today that I have never seen the Ruling Party trying to make a little bit of sense like today. It is true that our kids today at Grade 5 ...(Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** May I, with all due respect and honour, ask that young Parliamentarian to withdraw that we are not making sense in this House. It is insulting and cannot be minuted. Please.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Yes, I take your point, Deputy Minister.

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Speaker, what I meant was that you were performing a little bit very good today.

Honourable Colleagues, it is true that this country has made strides in various fields of our Government in this country. (Interjection)

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**HON MEMBER:** We know that!

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13 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM**  
**HON VENAANI**

**HON VENAANI:** I also want to tell you that we know that. We know that you cannot compare the Namibia of 1987 or 1983 and Namibia of today. Whether the economy, whether the wealth of the people, you cannot compare the country. We are in an Independent Namibia that is also performing and we are amongst those nations that are performing.

I listened very attentively to what the Right Honourable Prime Minister was trying to explain and that we are starting with ETSIP. Our party is on record supporting the programme of ETSIP, but the crux of the matter lies in the fact that it has taken us 17 years to realise that we do not have textbooks in schools. (Interjection)

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**HON MEMBER:** Where is your programme?

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**HON VENAANI:** It is coming, it is coming. Yours will also create a crisis, others will not. It is true that after 17 years we are realising that our management is a total failure. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** On a Point of Information. The Honourable Member is trying to be manipulative. It is not true that it has taken us seventeen years. If you are in a movement or if you are building something – and that is why the words challenges and reform – you build and in the process of building you realise the mistakes, so for the seventeen years you were not stagnant, you have been dynamic.

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**HON VENAANI:** “*Reform*” means a lot of things. (Intervention)

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** On a Point of Order. Our education system is reviewed every five years. It does not happen in many other sectors like that.

13 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM  
HON VENAANI**

The study I was talking about was one specific study to link education to economics and to the labour market in order to make Namibia a competitive Nation.

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**HON VENAANI:** Right Honourable Prime Minister, you are perpetuating that argument. Honourable Speaker, we should have started to reform our education system to become competitive every five years, not after 17 years, because as you were saying, the education system evolves. Now, if you are saying that seventeen years we were idling, we were just reforming the sector, we were not basing it on the economy of our country...(Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** On a Point of Information. I just realised that the Honourable Member is really so young that certain information has just bypassed him and he needs to be reminded as to where the education system has started.

The founding Minister of Education found eleven education systems. He had to change these eleven systems into one system. That was the starting point. The next is now looking at the material support. Maybe he also did not know that at some point there was a Presidential Commission on Education. Our education system has gone through phases. To tell the public that it is only after seventeen years that this Government is waking up to the reality is a misrepresentation and untruth and withdraw that statement.

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**HON SPEAKER:** The House shall rise in terms of Rule 90(a), automatic adjournment. Honourable Venaani, you will have an opportunity tomorrow to continue.

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**THE HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2007.06.14**



**ASSEMBLY CHAMBER  
WINDHOEK  
14 JUNE 2007**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

**HON SPEAKER:** Took the Chair and read Prayers and the Affirmation.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, before I start the business of the House, I want to, in all seriousness, request the Chief Government Whip to engage me, first to look at the applicable Rules of the House to ensure that if the present arrangements of the Rules are not helpful to the Speaker to start the business of the House on time, that we change the Rules and make it possible for the Speaker to start the business of the House at 14:30. I kindly request you so.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Any Notices of Questions? Any Notices of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements?

This being Thursday, we start the business of the House with questions. Question 28 is one by Honourable Venaani. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**QUESTION 28:**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:**

Comrade Speaker, I rise to respond to the questions by Honourable Venaani as posed on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2007.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare conducted a survey in 2002, entitled the “*Namibia Occupational Wages Survey 2002*”. The survey focused on the various sectors within the Namibian industry and aimed at establishing the number of Namibians in employment as at 2002, as well as the types of employment in which they are engaged within the different sectors. The respondents in the survey were employers and managers of the different establishments in the sectors.

14 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON VENAANI  
HON IILONGA**

The information that I am presenting to this august House in response to the question by Honourable Venaani, is thus based on the Namibia Occupational Wages Survey of the year 2002. Therefore, the data only refers to casual workers employed in the formal sector, that is casual workers in the informal sectors are excluded.

The term, "*casual worker*" which has been mentioned herewith, may have many meanings attached to it. However, the survey adopted a working definition for the term as follows: "*A casual worker is an employee who is employed as, and when an establishment needs him or her, and who often does not know how long he or she will work for the establishment.*" A total of 3 982 establishments provided the information countrywide.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, please note that the percentages particularly reflect each sector within the industry:

In Agriculture, the total employed are 14,340 and out of those 521 were regarded as casual, representing 17.1%.

In Fishing, the total employed are 3,287 and 13 are regarded as casual employees, representing 0.4%.

In mining and quarrying, 2,766 and only 2 were regarded as casual, 0.1%.

Manufacturing, 6,186 of which 183 are regarded as casual, representing 6%.

Electricity, gas and water, 711 and 10 regarded as casual, representing 0.3%.

Construction, 6,559 of which 1,081 are regarded as casual, representing 35.2%

Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles, total employed 17,112 of which 509 are regarded as casual, representing 16.6%.

Hotels and Restaurants, total employed, 5,170 of which 187 are regarded as casual, representing 6.1%.

Transport, storage and communication, 1,687 employed, 21 regarded as casual, representing 0.7%.

14 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON VENAANI  
RT HON ANGULA**

Financial Intermediation, 2,744 employed, 5 regarded as casual, representing 0.2%.

Real Estate, renting and business activities, 4,792 employed, 637 regarded as casual employees, representing 20.1%.

Public administration, Defence and Social Security, 9,608 employed, 217 regarded as casual, representing 7.2%.

Education, 2,128 employed, 16 regarded as casual, representing 0.5%.

Health and social work, 3,460 employed, 45 regarded as casual, representing 1.4%.

Other community, social and personal services, 6,308 employed, 156 regarded as casual, representing 5.1%.

The total employed are 86,858, with 3,603 regarded as casual, representing 100%.

In conclusion, Comrade Speaker, I am convinced that the information I have presented to this august House will serve the understanding and responds to the question posed by the Honourable Venaani and I will be helping us again to get the statistics for 2003 to 2007. The information is in this book which I know was distributed in this House. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Question 38 is one by Honourable Venaani. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**QUESTION 38:**

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would first of all like to sincerely thank Honourable Venaani of DTA for his question and I would respond as follows:

1. I would like to confirm that I met a Russian delegation, led by Mr Yuri Trutnev, Minister of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation. The

14 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON VENAANI  
RT HON ANGULA**

2. meeting took place on February 23, 3007.

The meeting was not a secret, it was open. The meeting was attended by senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Prime Minister's officers. Honourable Venaani should know that the Prime Minister receives foreign delegations for courtesy calls. Such meetings are not necessarily reported in the local press. However, the meeting of Mr Trutnev was reported both in local and in international press.

- 3 The meeting was a courtesy call. Indeed, the Namibian delegation thanked the Russian delegation for material, political and moral support during our bitter struggle. The Namibian delegation further expressed gratitude to the Russian delegation for study opportunities offered to the Namibian youth to study in the Russian Federation.

- 4 The Namibian Government cannot speak on behalf of the Government of the Russian Federation. However, Honourable Venaani should contact the Embassy of the Russian Federation to satisfy himself as to whether the Russian Federation has an intention to build 60 nuclear power stations throughout the world.

- 5 The Prime Minister did not attend the meeting between the Namibian Minister of Mines and Energy and Russian Minister of Natural Resources. The Prime Minister is therefore not, in the position to confirm the nature of discussions between the two Ministers.

- 6 Regarding the question on atomic waste, I am not aware of any atomic waste being generated in Namibia. If in the future such possibility arises, Namibia has environmental protection policies in place.

- 7 I am not aware of any bilateral agreement between the Russian Federation and the Namibian Government on nuclear cooperation.

I thank you.

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14 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON MUDGE  
RT HON ANGULA**

**HON SPEAKER:** Question 40 is one by Honourable Mudge. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**QUESTION 40:**

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you once again, Honourable Speaker. I thank Honourable Mr Henk Mudge for his question. I shall only respond to those aspects of the question relating to the Head of State and former Head of State. Honourable Mudge is at liberty to seek clarity from those Members of Parliament he alleged to have used State resources for political party activities. My response regarding the President is as follows:

According to the Medium Term Expenditure Framework 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, one of the budgeted priorities of the President is “ *to maintain regular consultations with various communities, traditional leaders, local and Regional authorities and the private sector.*” The President travelled to Nkurenkuru in accordance with these priorities. Honourable Member will recall that this august House approved the Medium Term Expenditure Framework last year.

Regarding the former President, Clause 6(a) of the Schedule to the Former Presidents’ Pension and other Benefits Act, 2004 reads in part as follows:

*“Transport: Three vehicles, namely one sedan, one four-wheel drive station wagon or equivalent, one pick-up van. Such adequate number of vehicles as may be determined by Cabinet. The cost of fuel and maintenance of the vehicles be borne by the Government.”*

The Act, as the Honourable Member knows, was passed by this Honourable House and subsequently the House has been appropriating monies to defray the costs implied in this Act.

Once again, I thank Honourable Henk Mudge for his question.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Prime Minister. Honourable Mudge.

14 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON VILJOEN  
RT HON ANGULA**

**HON MUDGE:** Honourable Speaker, this was a very clever answer, it was very well done, but I think the questions and the answers speak for themselves. Thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Question 45 is by Honourable Viljoen. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**QUESTION 45:**

**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, I do not put the Question. I wish to withdraw the Question.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Question 46 is by Honourable Viljoen. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**QUESTION 46:**

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I thank Honourable Viljoen for the question and I would like to draw the attention of Honourable Viljoen to Article 41 of the Namibian Constitution, which reads as follows: "*Ministerial Accountability: All Ministers should be accountable individually for the administration of their own Ministries and collectively for the administration of the work of the Cabinet or to the President and to Parliament.*"

I thank you.

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**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, I thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister. I am aware of Article 41, that is why I asked the Question. I thank you very much.

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14 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON TJOMBE  
HON KATALI**

**HON SPEAKER:** Does that imply the Honourable Member is not satisfied with the Prime Minister's reply?

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**HON VILJOEN:** By implication.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for that clarification. Question 47 is by Honourable Tjombe. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**QUESTION 47:**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand to respond to the questions posed by Honourable Tjombe. I would like to thank the Honourable Member for putting this question.

The first question of Honourable Tjombe relates to the agreement between the Government of Namibia and the Federal Republic of Germany.

The Ministry of Lands and Resettlement was promised funds by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany in 2001 for development towards communal land. However, the actual financing agreement was only signed on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2006 for 5.12 million Euros, which translates into N\$43 million at that time. The current total amount, due to currency fluctuation, stands at N\$53 million. The funds agreed to are, therefore, not N\$37 million as the Honourable Member may have been made to understand. Although the financial agreement was signed in May 2006, a portion of the money was only received in February this year in an amount of N\$24 million.

As for the second question, since the funds were only received in February this year, none of the 13 Regions benefited from the fund. Plans are in place for the utilisation of the funds.

14 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON TJOMBE  
HON KATALI**

However, may I make this august House aware that the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement, during the periods of 1999 to 2002, commissioned a study to identify under-utilised land in all thirteen Regions of Namibia. The study was conducted by the International Development Consultant. The study found that there are under-utilised land in the Caprivi, Kavango, Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto, Omaheke and Otjozondjupa Regions.

In some of the abovementioned Regions, areas identified by the study as under-utilised are being developed into small-scale farming units. For other areas identified and not being developed currently, plans are in place to carry out development as funds become available. In Caprivi, Kavango and Ohangwena Regions, portions of land have already been surveyed for small-scale farming units, while in Omusati, Otjozondjupa and Omaheke Regions plans are under way to survey the identified areas into small-scale farming units.

The answer to the third question is as follows:

The Ministry of Lands and Resettlement continues with the programme for developing small-scale farming units both in the Regions where survey has already taken place and in the Regions yet to be surveyed. Evidently, the funds will be used as per the signed agreement and to the identified Regions with the under-utilised communal land. I thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Deputy Minister for his reply. Honourable Tjombe.

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**HON TJOMBE:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I may only thank the Honourable Deputy Minister for his useful answers and then secondly, a follow-up, that I may want to know whether the Ministry is in the process to know when the second portion will the forthcoming from the Federal Republic of Germany?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** The second part will come after the first funds have been used up.

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14 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON VILJOEN  
HON DR N IYAMBO**

**HON SPEAKER:** Question 49 is one by Honourable Viljoen. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**QUESTION 49:**

**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** I wish to thank Honourable Viljoen for his questions.

1. Close corporations do not qualify for AgriBank loans.
  2. The law does not provide that AgriBank funds close corporations.
  3. It goes without saying that subdivision of separate economic units, each one registered with its own deed, are separate, but if, after separating them, one wants to put them in a close corporation, again it will not be possible for AgriBank to fund them. The overriding principle here is close corporation. The law does not provide that AgriBank fund close corporations.
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**HON SPEAKER:** Question 50 is by Honourable Venaani. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**QUESTION 50:**

**HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY:** I thank Honourable Venaani for his question and his interest in the development of energy in our country. The first question is:

*“Is it true that the Russian Federation has shown interest in co-financing the Epupa Project? Have any agreements been signed to this effect?”*

The answer is as follows: The Epupa Hydropower Project is not being considered for implementation at this point in time and all the questions related to

14 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON VENAANI  
HON NGHIMTINA**

Epupa, therefore, needs no immediate consideration as they are not relevant for answering. We do not have any Epupa project at this time.

Question 5: *“Why in the Minister’s opinion are the Russians not keen to invest in the 400 megawatt Kudu Gas Project?”*

Kudu Gas Project has so far only five main players, namely NamPower, who is responsible for the downstream, which means generation of electricity, Tullow Oil and NamCor who are responsible for upstream, which means the development of the gas, Eskom as an off-taker of part of the power that NamPower generates and Petro-SA who could off-take part of the gas which is not used for electricity generation.

As it stands now, the Russians are not part of the Kudu Gas equation and they have not requested to invest in this project. The reason why they are not keen to invest in Kudu Gas is known by themselves only.

For the Honourable Member’s information: The Government of the Republic of Namibia views the Kudu Gas to Power Project as a strategic and very important project. This is evidenced and reflected in Cabinet decisions to support the project where required and to create specific mechanisms to ensure that the Namibian mandate is clear and Namibian objectives are achieved.

In 2004, Cabinet declared the project of national importance and established the Ad Hoc Cabinet Committee on Kudu and Government mandated NamPower to drive downstream project and NamCor to participate in upstream.

In 2005, Cabinet approved NamPower’s investment in strategic projects.

In 2006, Cabinet approved equity injection into NamPower to develop strategic projects. The Government has already committed N\$750 million to NamPower for power project investment and the total will be one billion. A further injection would enable NamPower to increase the equity in the project. The combination of a lower return on this equity and the decrease in borrowing costs that this equity creates could give the project a significant decrease in costs.

Cabinet approved the establishment of inter-ministerial reinforcement team to assist Namibian parties and confirm Namibia’s mandate with regard to Kudu Gas development.

14 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON VENAANI  
HON NGHIMTINA**

The two Presidents of Namibia and South Africa, at their last meeting that took place in 2006, tasked their Energy Ministers to unlock the potential of the gas resources. This resolution is in line with the position taken at the SADC Heads of State Summit in Mauritius in 2005 and it demonstrates the Regional outlook of the Project and the collective resolution at SADC level to harness the Region's natural resources to the benefit of national and Regional economic growth.

**Assurances:**

- Bond listing of NamPower to raise funds for this important Kudu Gas project and other power projects in the country will take place on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2007 and we are assured that this will be a very good start.
- The Tullow Oil rig is already on the Namibian waters to start drilling the gas fields to explore availability of additional natural gas resources and we are optimistic that we may discover additional deposits of natural gas or, hopefully, maybe even oil.

Thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Question 51 is by Honourable Venaani. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**QUESTION 51:**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Thank you very much.

1. Yes, about 1 000 former Government security officials were transferred from the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication to the Namibian Police Force with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 1999.
2. Yes, these officials were transferred with all their existing notches and all benefits, except the payments of overtime which does not exist in the Namibian Police. These members were slotted into the salary and rank structure of the Special Field Force, civilian (Public Service) salary

14 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON VENAANI  
HON SHIHEPO**

structure, which in all cases were higher than their previous notches at the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication. At no stage were their service benefits discontinued or reduced.

Proof of their original date of appointment in the Public Service is in our records, which could as well compare with the GIPF files or records. Their last payment certificates were obtained from the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication and it was on that basis on which the first payment while with the police was effected.

Most of them were and remain a huge financial burden in that some did not meet the minimum requirements of the Force, due to age, criminal records and qualification. As a result some were only absorbed as civilians or un-graded, pending Public Service Commission decision on the matter.

In addition, the maintenance of the materials, such as vehicles, furniture, that they came with, became a financial burden to the Force in that they were only allocated for a one-year Budget (not rolling) for that purpose.

- 3        No, we are not aware of any of those members whose services were discontinued and recruited as new members or employees.

According to our records, they have kept their original dates of appointment in the Public Service either before or after 21<sup>st</sup> March 1990. Such reconciliation is well coordinated with the GIPF or Social Security in this regard.

4.        There are no abnormalities in this process and should there be any individual who is affected, it is not in line with our policy. Hence, such affected members or staff should approach the Inspector General's office to rectify such problem, if any.

Transfers and rotations are part and parcel of the Namibian Police policies and then Special Field Force is no exception and such moves are treated and compensated accordingly. Submissions to address the plight of the Special Field Force members' salary structure have on various occasions been forwarded to the Public Service Commission for possible improvement.

I thank you very much.

14 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON GURIRAB  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Speaker, if the Honourable Minister's answers are true, then I will end with the quote, "*if it is true, it is true.*"

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40  
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:10 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

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**HON SPEAKER:** Question 54 is by Honourable Gurirab. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**QUESTION 54:**

**HON ULENGA:** I put the Question.

**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable Speaker, there is an implicit understanding between economists that we wait for each other before we share information. I will wait for the Honourable Member to come before I provide the information.

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**QUESTION 55:**

**HON SPEAKER:** Question 55 is by Honourable Tjihuiko. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**HON MBAI:** I put the Question.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:**  
Honourable Speaker, can I ask for the indulgence of the House that all questions

14 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON ULENGA  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

related to the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development stand over until next week and the week after?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Question 57 is one by Honourable Ulenga. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**QUESTION 57:**

**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL:** Comrade Speaker, the Right Honourable Prime Minister's answers are as follows and I read them as they are:

This year's rainy season was far below the average in Namibia. Some parts of the country, including the Kunene Region, did not even receive a single drop of rain. The situation is, therefore, critical throughout the country. People and their domestic animals are affected by the drought. Even wild animals and birds are feeling the pinch.

Against this background of drought and famine, Government task teams are assessing the needs of people and animals in order to develop response strategies to the catastrophe. Until such a strategy is developed, I would like to request Honourable Ulenga to be patient. The Nation will be informed of Government's response to drought and famine at an appropriate time. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Attorney General for reading out the Prime Minister's reply to Honourable Ulenga's question. Question 58 is one by the same Honourable Member. Does Honourable Ulenga put the Question?

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**QUESTION 58:**

**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Honourable Speaker, the response as follows: I thank Honourable Ulenga for his

14 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON ULENGA  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

question. The State of Namibia is founded on the principles of equality, justice and democracy. Any action by a public official which detracts from these principles will violate the letter and spirit of the Namibian Constitution. It was against this background that Chapter 10 of the Constitution established the Office of the Ombudsman, among others to perform the following functions:

*“...to investigate complaints concerning alleged or apparent instances of violations of fundamental rights and freedoms, abuse of power, unfair, harsh, insensitive or discourteous treatment of an inhabitant of Namibia by an official in the employment of any organ or Government (whether central or local), manifest injustice or corruption or conduct by such official which would properly be regarded as unlawful, oppressive or unfair in a democratic society.”*

Since the Office of the Prime Minister has not received reports of investigation from the Ombudsman regarding the allegations stated in Honourable Ulenga's Notice of Question, the Prime Minister is not aware of such claims. Honourable Ulenga should direct such complaints to the Office of the Ombudsman for impartial investigation. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Attorney-General for standing in for the Honourable Prime Minister. Question 60 is by Honourable Ulenga. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**QUESTION 60:**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:**  
Comrade Speaker, I rise to respond to the question of Honourable Ulenga on the interest he has on the retrenched workers.

I thank the Member for his concern and the answer is as follows:

Rössing Uranium is currently in the process of recruiting employees due to the improvement in the demand of uranium, as well as the improved prices of uranium.

14 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON ULENGA  
HON IILONGA**

I am reliably informed, in order to inform Honourable Ulenka and the House, that Rössing Uranium has an agreement with the Mine Workers Union of Namibia (MUN) that stipulates that retrenched workers would be given preferential treatment whenever employment opportunities come up.

I should further mention that it is in the interest of any reasonable management of any institution to employ the services of the already trained persons, as they have knowledge and skills that they acquired on the job. I, therefore, strongly believe that Rössing Uranium has a reason to stick to the provisions of their agreement with Mine Workers Union of Namibia and give preference to the retrenched workers **if** they apply for the advertised positions.

It should be noted that it is not all the retrenched employees of Rössing Uranium who remain jobless. Some have taken jobs elsewhere in the market, but those who are interested in the advertised posts are encouraged to apply.

I have been reliably informed that currently there are about 230 positions to be filled and more positions will be advertised during the course of the year.

If the Honourable Member wants more details on this matter, I advise that the Honourable Member should approach the Human Resources Department of Rössing Uranium for more details. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Members for active participation. The questions which stood over will be answered next week. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION  
SYSTEM, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE DEPLORABLE GRADE  
10 AND 12 RESULTS AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS FOR THE FUTURE  
OF OUR SCHOOL DROPOUTS**

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**HON SPEAKER:** When the Assembly adjourned yesterday, 13 June 2007, in terms of Rule 90(a) of the Standing Rules and Orders, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Schimming-Chase, that the Motion be



14 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM**  
**HON VENAANI**

adopted. Honourable Venaani had the Floor at that time and I revert the Floor back to him.

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Speaker, thank you very much for the opportunity once again. When the day concluded yesterday, the Honourable politician on the other side of the isle, in the name of the Attorney-General, said that the young man on this side was not aware of the evolutionary process of the education system in Namibia. But yesterday I was saying that I was really impressed – and I must be very honest – with the way that the other side of the aisle was attempting to perform. “*Attempting*” is not a bad word, it was a good political attempt.

Honourable Speaker, I think it is true that we should look beyond ETSIP, that what is it that we want to achieve with our education system? I think it is a laudable exercise for the Government to have linked our education system to the demands of our economy. However one should also further advise that we should also look further than our own economy, that currently when we are talking about Regional integration, the Common Customs Union, probably a common African Government, we should also make sure that our education system would be able to have the capacity also to tap in on other markets, to provide employment at other markets and in other countries. That element should also be attached to ETSIP.

Honourable Speaker, the Motion, on the Floor was seeking to address the question of the current Grade 10 and 12 results. (Interjection)

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**HON MEMBER:** Crisis.

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**HON VENAANI:** You can call it by any other name, whatever name you want to give it, but I think the Motivator was trying to base her argument on the premises of the current Grade 10 and 12 results.

14 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM  
HON VENAANI**

Of course, no country, no people have any admiration to admire that you have a failure rate of more than 50%. No country wants that and when you look at especially the last Grade 10 results, they were a passing rate below 36% and that is a serious problem. I however think with the introduction of ETSIP, with the introduction of an education system that wants to address the current problems, we might succeed and we will only succeed if we partner the system, when we as parents, business community, Government, NGO's support the programme, political parties more so.

The funding alone that is needed is quite a huge amount and I do not think that the business community in our country has played a fair part in contributing towards the attainment of good results in our schools. However one thing that I want to disagree a little bit with is the fact of trying to create schools of excellence. It is my opinion that every school should become a school of excellence, not overnight, but the aim and the vision is to make sure that every school is a school of excellence.

Before Independence there were schools here, Concordia was one of them, Oshigambo and a couple of them. You should never allow to have a system where schools choose the pupils that they want to be in the school. It must be pupils that must choose the schools and during the years of Concordia we had pupils who were excelling in schools, A plus, but because some of them came from poorer backgrounds, they were not accommodated due to the fact that the schools was full or so. These are some of the issues that we must guard against, not allow a school only to be a school of those that are succeeding. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:**

May I ask Honourable Venaani a question? Honourable Venaani, are you aware that the school next door, Windhoek High, as we are talking is regarded as a school of excellence, but you find that we still have classes for blacks only and classes for whites only? Whenever there is an Expo for people to choose careers, the classes of the blacks are not exposed. Are you aware of that?

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**HON VENAANI:** I am not aware of that situation, but if the Minister is aware of it and he is silent about it, then you are so guilty yourself to allow such practice to continue unabated.

14 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM  
HON VENAANI**

Be that as it may, one area in which we did not fully succeed is the distribution of resources and, of course, we have already highlighted that, that we do not have resources. The formerly advantaged schools still have those resources. The only change that has happened is that they are open to anybody now, but we must also make sure that we should try to distribute resources and with resources I mean human resources.

The greatest problem is that a well-qualified Mathematic or Science teacher would not want to go and stay and teach at Onyaanya, because there might not be a nice school dormitory for teachers. Therefore, many teachers prefer to be in urban centres, those that are qualified and especially in areas that are very key to the survival of our programme. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** On a Point of Order. May I ask Honourable Venaani a question? Honourable Venaani, I am sorry to interrupt you, you are doing very well. Yesterday during the Debate on the same Motion, you commented that the Debate was very good and you are now trying to live up to that. With regard to the reporting in the *Namibian* on the same Debate, do you think that the points that you are advancing are going to be reported fairly?

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Katali, I have not read the *Namibian* or any other newspaper today, I was very busy with a delegation that is visiting us, and I did not touch any paper and I do not have any knowledge of what was contained in the paper, besides that I have heard of your story.

The other issue that I think we are lacking as a country is to create grammar schools, teaching our children grammar, to read, to write, because many of our students, even if you have the best curriculum, if you do not interrogate the question of teaching people how to read and write, they will never excel. In advanced countries you would have an English school. Many of us speak Namibian English because we never had the opportunity to go to grammar schools. A school that teaches you the virtues of a language and how it is spoken and a person can only excel in the academic field by having grammar schools and I think ETSIP should also address that facet of having one language school, a

14 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM  
HON VENAANI**

school that teaches children Oshindonga and Oshindonga properly, a school of language.

You only have a University where you want to go and speak the language used at the University, but you can only nourish a language at a younger age and have a greater command of it at a younger age. I think that it is one area that we should also try to address – whether it is Swahili like my brother speaks a little bit of Swahili.

The other issue is HIV/AIDS that is attached to the education problem and that is also commendable, that AIDS is no longer a disease, it is an economic threat to the existence of our own citizenry and the more we educate our people on this disease, the better we equip them to maintain our economy. However it should also not end up with AIDS, because other pandemics are also coming in, other diseases are also slotting in – high blood pressure, like my brother, Nujoma, might even have. (Intervention)

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**HON VILJOEN:** May I ask the Honourable Venaani a question? Honourable Speaker, this is my first time that I ask a question to Honourable Venaani, but I think I must use the opportunity. My question is, do you also think that learners are put into class groups on the ground of their skin colour or is it done according to their fields of study, and why is the public entertained on untrue allegations and we do nothing about it?

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Viljoen, apartheid is bad. It was bad yesterday, it is bad today, it will be bad tomorrow. Those days are gone. If it is true that there is a particular school that does that, then they are behind the times and our laws, our statutes in our country should call them to order and if there are Colleagues that are aware of these things, they must report them immediately. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** On a Point of Information. It is an open secret. At Windhoek High there are more than four classes where you find just the same colour. More than four classes

14 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM  
HON VENAANI**

have only one type of Namibians with a few lucky ones, those who are called coloureds. It is not an allegation, it is the truth. If a person says he cannot take Afrikaans as first language, they are grouped and you find just blacks in a classroom. I can take you tomorrow.

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Speaker, I do not want to be brought into this Debate of whether the school is practising racism or ethnicity, but according to my knowledge, persons are classified because they choose fields of studies, some social studies, some science, but if it is the case, let us address it. I will not say it is not true, because I am not aware of it. (Intervention)

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**HON DIENDA:** On a Point of Information. I think the Honourable Bernard Esau can help us out in this regard, because he is on the school board of WHS.

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**HON VENAANI:** There is one argument that I want to advance that was on various occasions advanced by Honourable Colleagues on the other side of the isle, by saying that when the opposition is calling for a repeat of the Grade 10s is an attempt for us to satisfy ourselves with the failure rate. I think that is not fair, nor right. The reason why we say that is because there is a problem of failures and if there are failures, let us give them a chance. We are not saying let it be an education system of failures and people must therefore repeat. If Universities can allow a person to repeat, if there are no resources it is something else, but when you are saying that when the Opposition is calling for a repeat of classes, it is because we are fighting for a system to be a failure system, it is not true. All we are saying is that there is a problem with the current failure rate and how do you address it, and one of the ways to address it is to make sure that these kids can have access to classrooms. I think on those premises Honourable Schimming-Chase is correct by saying that we have a problem with the results. Even ETSIP recognises that in its introduction, that we have a problem with the results that we are getting. Of course, it is true that the education system of any country is an evolutionary process and it needs to be reformed as challenges of the economy, because the economy changes and if the economy of the world changes, therefore the education system has to change because you have to create people that should respond to the economic demands.

14 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM**  
**HON VENAANI**

Yesterday you were saying that the reason why we are asking for this is because we are failures. I want to be on record just to give some institutional memory and I was challenged by my favourite politician on the other side. Pre-primary education – in 1994 a Motion was moved here from this side to reintroduce pre-primary education, not to stop pre-primary education. In 1998 we did the same and in 2001. So, to say that things have changed, we also advised and I think we should also be very honest with the public out there, that the role of the Opposition is not to criticise Government on every corner, but it is also to have that oversight function of saying that we are seeing this is done in a way that we think is not the correct way. However to create a perception out there that the Opposition is just there to attack Government, is not true and at least, if some of the Opposition Members behave in that way, it is also wrong. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Talking about the issue brought up in 1998 and you want to say that was the time that maybe the Government has reacted, do you remember when the Ministry of Women Affairs was established and even before, when we were having the Department of Women Affairs and even though the issues related to children were under the Ministry of Health, we have already been talking about looking into mechanisms of integrating pre-schools into the mainstream of education, way back before 1998 that you are referring to. Are you aware of that? Can you recall that?

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Speaker, through you, when a person is right, he is right. When he advises you correctly, he is correct. He cannot be wrong because he comes from a different party and when you give me advice on an issue that is right, you are right even if you are the Ruling Party and you cannot be wrong just because you happen to be SWAPO. We should not create a culture where the Opposition was right by advising and just to be on record that we advised the Government way before, when you scrapped pre-primary education we said reintroduce it immediately, and it is true that some of the Ministries, your former Ministries, also mooted the idea that it is important for us to have pre-primary education and that is constructive opposition in the country.

14 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM**  
**HON VENAANI**

I do not want to see Opposition Politicians bashing Government on every corner if the Government is right, if the policies that the Government is pursuing is right. Nor do I want to accept Politicians saying that when the man is standing on the Floor, he wants to make cheap political points. Who said political points are expensive? (Intervention)

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**HON MBAI:** May I ask my brother a tiny question? Honourable Venaani, are you aware that it was because of the fight from the side of the Opposition that today the Ministry of Education is envisaging the possibility of introducing ETSIP. It was because of the fight that was coming from this side. Is that true?

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**HON VENAANI:** The Opposition's influence and other factors came into play and I want to say something, that our purpose here is to guide one another. It is our Government, led by you. It is my Government, led by you, because you are the majority party. Perhaps one day I will be lucky and I will lead you. If you do not rig the elections I will do that. (Interjections). Well, it does not matter.

When President Kaunda, the former President of Zambia, lost elections, he asked his Minister of Territorial Integrity, "*you mean we lost what, you mean we lost what?*" "*No Comrade President, we lost elections.*" "*You mean we organise something and we lose it?*" Therefore those days also come. Do not worry, they do come.

I have probably concentrated more on the part of ETSIP, but the Motion by Honourable Chase is right that we have a new system now, let us give it a try and a chance for it to succeed.

Honourable Colleagues, ETSIP can be given a chance to succeed. One good thing is the fact that it is going to be reviewed every five years, that is important, because...(Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING:**  
May I ask my Colleague a small question? Honourable Venaani, you are doing

14 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM**  
**HON VENAANI**

well and you are saying what you might do to assist Government in terms of advising. Can we say that as from tomorrow we will be able to have access to documents which may come from the Opposition benches, which must be given to us so that we at least read what you advise on issues in terms of education, agriculture and so on? Will we be able to see it one day in this august House?

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**HON VENAANI:** That question is advanced by many Ruling Parties worldwide: How does the Opposition advise Government? There is a reality, the fact that you are leading the country, you have been entrusted with the mechanism to lead and it is your advantage that you are leading and you have the technocrats, you have the bureaucracy to do all the work. We do not have that. If you want me to write an ETSIP document, the capacity is not there. It is not that we do not know what we want, but our manifestos are very clear and bring the information Deputy Minister... (Interjection). Oh, you are very ignorant if you do not know your own. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** May I put a question? I was listening attentively to my young brother there and I think the problem with the Opposition in this country is that they really seriously need to change their mindset. There needs to be a paradigm shift in your thinking, because what I have noticed is that you are opposing everything because you are the Opposition and that is the game you are playing here. We have not seen anything constructive. Yesterday there were very constructive proposals here and today Venaani is repeating the same things we have been telling you yesterday. So there is nothing. You must come up with constructive proposals and be constructively engaged so that we can take you seriously.

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**HON VENAANI:** I challenge the Honourable Colleague to a live public debate on the policies of your Government. I will make you run home very early.

Honourable Colleague, the Opposition has moved motions that you accepted. (Intervention)

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14 June 2007

**MOTION - CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM**  
**HON VENAANI**

**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:** May I ask Honourable Venaani a small question? Honourable Speaker, Honourable Venaani is raising a very important point about a public debate for him to challenge the SWAPO Party policies and shortages. Can I find out when this debate will take place, because we are ready to debate with you. When will that take place and the venue?

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**HON VENAANI:** Probably at DTA Headquarters or NBC Talk of the Nation, Monday at 8:30.

Honourable Colleagues, we do not want to see, neither any party in this House wants to see a failure rate of 60, 70%. There we have agreement. Any party that wishes to lead this country one day or who is leading this country currently, the question of education is paramount to its own survival and I am sure the Ruling Party is struggling, it would be struggling the next election because they have struggled with this education Debate.

In trying to make a conclusion, Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase was correct, having raised the Grade 10 and 12 results. There is a problem there. You know it, the Government recognises it, but it is a system ...(Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** On a Point of Order. Honourable "*Tuli*" Chase is just chipping in now and again. Can you please keep quiet, we want to listen?

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**HON VENAANI:** Before they fight each other, all I am saying is that ETSIP must be given a chance to survive, we should partner ETSIP and as we move forward, we should continue to monitor its progress and if it is in the interest of our people, we would see it, if it is not, we are going to raise it.

With these few remarks, I support the Motion under discussion. Thank you.

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14 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

**HON MUDGE:** Mr Speaker, if there are no other members who would like to take part, I would like to postpone the Debate until Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> June.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objection? The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> June. The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE CURRENT PREVAILING  
DROUGHT SITUATION EXPERIENCED BY FARMERS IN THE  
COUNTRY**

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**HON SPEAKER:** When this Debate was adjourned yesterday, 13 June 2007, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Venaani, that the Motion be adopted. Honourable Minister of Justice and Attorney-General adjourned the Debate.

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members. I venture to make a contribution to the Debate on the drought situation in the country tabled by the Honourable McHenry Venaani of the DTA, at the risk of contradicting the wishes of my Colleague, the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, as he expressed the day before yesterday.

My courage to participate in the Debate though comes from what the Honourable Speaker directed on that day and that the Debate should carry on. Now I will do exactly just that.

The thrust of my intervention will focus on the following:

- The role of quarantines as one of the marketing schemes of cattle in the communal areas;

14 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

- The impact of the Red Line on meat production output of the country;
- The contribution of the Green Scheme to food and fodder production in the country; and
- The impact of export of animals on hooves to the local meat industry.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, as a measure of alleviating the problem of meat marketing efforts in communal areas, certain areas have been designated as quarantines for the purpose of making cattle disease free. Such quarantines have been established in various parts of communal areas, such as Oshikoto, Ohangwena and Omusati. I just do not know whether they are also found in Kavango and Caprivi Regions, respectively.

Comrade Speaker, research has revealed that there are about three million heads of cattle in communal areas alone. With the current drought situation, one wonders how many of these will make it to the next rainfall. As I am speaking here today, farmers are busy looking for alternative grazing where to relocate their cattle. Many would like to sell while the animals are still in good condition, however, the marketing opportunities are limited to a few buyers, such as the Kapana women, Meatco and a few butchery owners, yours truly included.

Comrade Speaker, we have been told that cattle in communal areas have diseases and unless they are subjected to treatment, its meat will not be permitted to cross the Red Line.

In the views of many of us, the introduction of the quarantine scheme was a measure to make the cattle so subjected to the treatment in the quarantine marketable internationally. What I have learnt is that when animals go through the quarantine scheme, they are indeed subjected to a vigorous health programme of vaccination for a specific period of time before they are certified as disease free.

My information may not be accurate, but people say that the cattle which go through the quarantine programme can only be sold to Meatco. Meatco in turn takes these cattle or the meat across the Red Line because apparently it is the only organisation with the right to transport cattle across the Red Line. When the meat crosses the Red Line, obviously where it is marketed is no longer an issue.

14 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

If there is no truth in this allegation, why is it then that the owners of the quarantine certified animals are not allowed to take their animals across the Red Line in order to sell at national cattle market places, such as cattle auction houses, as it is the case with commercial farmers? Why should communal farmers be restricted to sell to Meatco only, is the question?

Are we cheating ourselves or what is the truth about the quarantine situation, Comrade Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry?

If however, the quarantine scheme was not meant for the purpose of marketing, as it is generally believed, then let us look critically into this matter now that the country is afflicted by the drought. What is the reason preventing the cattle, which have gone through the quarantine system, from being taken across the Red Line by their owners and not by Meatco? Should this be true, as I believe it is, then this arrangement reveals two important facts, which are:

- There are concerted efforts in certain quarters to keep communal farmers in perpetual poverty situation while serving as suppliers of cattle to Meatco;
- Animals which have gone through the quarantine programme are disease free and can therefore, be taken across the Red Line. Am I correct to assume like I do, Comrade Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry?

I strongly believe that the quarantine scheme should serve the purpose of promoting animal health and getting as many cattle as possible from the land while they are still in a marketable condition.

The monopoly status given to Meatco as the sole buyer and transporter of live cattle from the quarantines should be examined seriously to expose and put an end to this exploitative system.

Comrade Speaker, related to the issue of cattle marketing in communal areas is the question of the Cordon Fence, better known as the Red Line. The monopolistic arrangement of cattle marketing in communal areas, whereby a single large company is the buyer and at the same time the price-maker or price-setter for the price of cattle, has contributed to the resistance by cattle owners to take their animals to the quarantines or the auction places. The belief among the communal farmers, which I believe is true, that Meatco buys their cattle for

14 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

peanuts, transport them across the Red Line and sell the meat products at international markets where the price is much higher.

Comrade Speaker, my next point which is also related to the drought situation in the country is the contribution of the Green Scheme to food and fodder production. Shadikongoro, Musese, Etunda Irrigation Scheme, the Hardap Dam Irrigation Scheme and others are expansive areas meant to do exactly what I said above, the production of food and fodder for human and animal consumption.

How much are these projects contributing to the Nation's food basket? With the drought situation hitting the country so hard, can we rely on these projects and if not, why so, Comrade Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry?

Efforts by the same Ministry to assist commercial farmers to expedite the process of getting their animals from the land are noted. The policy has been that for one to export sheep on the hoof to South Africa, the ration has been 6:1. If you sell 6 sheep in Namibia, you are allowed to take 1 to the South African markets. With the drought in the country this has been changed to a ration of 3:1.

Pressure, as I have seen, including indirectly coming from my young brother who just concluded his intervention as if knowing what I am going to say, is indeed mounting to even bring this down to 1:1. If you sell one sheep in Namibia, then you take another to South Africa. This means one sheep sold at home, another should be exported to South Africa.

Comrade Speaker, the downside to this request is that our abattoirs are being starved of the raw materials for slaughter. Soon we will be faced with the lay-offs of workers, since the capacity of these abattoirs is brought down from, for example what was said on television last night, that they are currently slaughtering 1 600 sheep per day instead of over 2 000 sheep per day.

The recent visit to State House by the Chairman of the Karas Abattoir to make a plea to His Excellency the President to take note of what is happening at that facility should not go unnoticed by the leaders of this country.

Where is our interest? Is it here or in South Africa? Exporting animals on hooves means creating labour there, selling the meat there, giving away the hide and other by-products which our local industry is in need of. Where is our interest? Here or there? We must tell the Nation.

14 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

The concession made by Cabinet to allow the ration of 3:1 is the utmost sacrifice a caring Government can do for its nationals. To demand more than this is tantamount to an abuse of the system and such cannot be allowed. Moreover, no concession so far is made for communal farmers. Only one example:

Auctions in many communal areas take place in open space. I visited some of them. No auction facilities are created for these people, except in very few cases, such as at Onyuulaye in the Okankolo Constituency. I do not know of any place. For this Government to expedite the removal of animals from the land, auction pens must be created wherever cattle are currently being auctioned. I know of many of these place, and if you want me to tell you, I can mention Oniibo, Ruacana and several places in Kunene Region, open space, no auction pens.

Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, each Region, must at least get one auction pen and the scheme must be replicated at constituency level as the time goes on. By doing so, we would assist communal farmers to realise the benefits from their livestock.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, Namibia is renowned as the driest country south of the Sahara. The drought situation this year ought not to find us unprepared and I believe we are prepared. Over the past 17 years the SWAPO Government has been putting in place mechanisms to militate against the vagaries of the weather, be it floods or drought.

The establishment of the quarantines is meant to opening up possibilities of making cattle disease free for international markets, putting money in the hands of cattle farmers, and reducing the amount of animals on the land. However, this is not what is happening. Instead we are enriching one organisation, whose beneficiaries are commercial farmers. Commercial farmers, we all know, have unimpeded access to international meat markets. What is happening is enrichment of the already rich and the impoverishment of the poor.

Another effort to militate against the drought is the establishment of the Green Scheme for food and fodder production. In a year of drought like this, we ought to turn to our national silos. However, the situation on the ground is different. We as a Nation should ask ourselves why. For how long are we going to move Motions in Parliament and Debate issues we ought to know how to handle by now?

14 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

Comrade Speaker, I have noted with displeasure attempts by certain Members of this House to opportunistically rush to table motions on issues they know ought to be dealt with in a normal administrative manner. The SADC Parliamentary arrangement is one such issue. The meeting to that effect was just concluded here and the Speaker and other Members of this august House participated. Before a Report was even tabled, certain Members have already rushed to table Motions here. Come on Colleagues, let us be more mature and reasonable.

Our continued membership to this House cannot only depend on how vocal or articulate we can be. Let us, therefore, be mature and disciplined to ourselves and to the Parties we belong to. We became Members of this House on account of our membership to certain Parties which placed our names on the Party lists and that is the starting point.

In conclusion, Comrade Speaker, the drought is here and did not hit us by surprise. Namibia is a drought prone country, so we know. Let us do what is possible without creating fear and uncertainty in the minds of our people. This Government, the SWAPO Government is able and capable of dealing with this emergency as it dealt with others before.

Having said that, Comrade Speaker, I rest my case. Thank you.

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. The Motion on the Floor of the House is quite in order as far as I am concerned, unless we want to dramatise issues that may not really be truly so.

Farmers are very sensitive people, obviously because the animals they farm with, are their livelihood. However I also know that with our open door policy, everybody who has something that he/she wants to be discussed are free to do so, particularly now during this drought period.

Honourable Ithana made reference to a number of issues, some of them probably quite in order, others not. I do not know of any abattoir in this country that has the capacity to slaughter 2 000 sheep per day. There are none. Whoever put it on the news, I know Karas abattoir has a capacity of 1 500. The rest are below that. Whoever wants to dramatise that, it is simply not true.

14 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON DR N IYAMBO**

What has been agreed to be slaughtered in the country and to be taken outside the country was in a meeting of stakeholders. The Abattoir Association was there, the producers were there, literally everybody was there and they brought to me what they have concluded. It is unfortunate that when people meet and agree, others propagate their interests differently.

From my side I am ready at any time, if there is concrete evidence or something to be looked into, I will be more than willing to do so. (Intervention)

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**HON MOONGO:** On a Point of Order. Since the Minister is now addressing the House and the communal farmers are really deprived of access to international markets, when is the Red Line going to be removed so that we also benefit from that side?

Explain, we do not only want cheap talk.

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** It is very good. If you want the Red Line, as it is, to be removed, I have to tell you categorically that will not happen. That Red Line is not a political line, it is an animal health line. We can have more lines like that in the country. For example, let us put the line between Namibia and Angola. Then we can talk of the animals from the northern part and the current Cordon Fence...(Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** On a Point of Information. I do not like to disagree with my senior, but on this one I disagree. If it was truly for health reasons, I could not see any of those who regard themselves as healthy, eating any meat when they find themselves outside the Red Line inside Namibia. Let us not politicise it.

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14 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION**  
**HON DR N IYAMBO**

**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Thank you very much. We can decide to remove that Red Line any time, we can do so, but let us forget about exports to foreign markets. Full-stop, that is all. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** On a Point of Order, Comrade Speaker. I will only agree with the Honourable Minister if between the Karas Region and Hardap Region there is a fence and between Khomas Region and Hardap Region there is a fence and throughout the whole country, because we cannot only think that the disease is only on the northern part. If we are preventing diseases to spread from one place to another, then we should cut up the whole country with veterinary Cordon Fences. If Karas, for example, has a disease, then it cannot spread to Hardap, etcetera. However to say it is only the northern part that should be cut off from the whole country is difficult to convince anybody.

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Minister. I think the difference is quite obvious. When referring to the South, you are referring to animals that are kept on farms, they are not grazing communally. Your animals on the farm only come into contact with the other animals on your farm. The problem in the North is that the animals are not on farms, they are moving freely. That is the main reason. In any case, look at other countries...(Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** On a Point of Information. I know this is a very serious issue, it affects our people, but I would be very happy and willing to have this Cordon Fence removed if our neighbours could make a maximum effort to control diseases there. The major problem is from the Angolan side, because I know that Botswana and South Africa, our immediate neighbours, make maximum efforts. When a disease breaks out, they take steps immediately. We have seen that Botswana has killed so many animals. They cull them because of the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease. Let us however really be objective and look at this issue, so that we can work with our

14 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION**  
**HON NUYOMA**

neighbours and assist each other. The problem is also the crossing of animals, as the Minister said. On that issue I tend to agree with the Honourable Minister, that we need concerted efforts as neighbours, so that we can control this disease better. Once the disease breaks out here in Namibia, we will lose the market and it will be a hard struggle to get it back. That is my only comment, Comrade Minister.

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Thank you very much, I am thankful to Honourable Nujoma. In fact, right now there is a proposal on the Table to have animal health production vaccination in the SADC Region, to be funded through SADC. I can also reveal to you that the Millennium Development Account has accepted the setting up of a Cordon Fence between Namibia and Angola, but on the Namibian side. We hope that when that is going to happen, there will also be funds to do likewise on the Angolan side. Thank you very much for what you have said.

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** I just spoke and I really hate to be talkative, but I do not want my Colleague to leave this subject before he clears up some of the perceptions some of us have. Is it true, Comrade Minister, that the cattle that go through the quarantine system are only sold to Meatco and where does Meatco take these animals?

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Thank you very much. Let me just answer the question, please. (Intervention)

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**HON ULENGA:** Now that the Honourable Minister is on his feet, answering this question, and seeing that there is so much excitement stirred up by this issue of the Cordon Fence and the Minister says it is totally non-political, the politics of it divides the country, you can already see my friend sitting next to me is saying “yes, yes” when people are defending the Cordon Fence. Why does this matter

14 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON DR N IYAMBO**

divide the country into two? Why do the northerners say they want the Fence gone, while the southerners seem to be saying they want it to stay where it is?

That is number one.

Number two, perhaps the Minister can actually give the House a brief history of the Cordon Fence. How did it come to be and how did it come to be where it is? Tell the House.

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Thank you very much. Let me first answer Honourable Ithana and then I come to you. The animals that are taken to the quarantine is mainly for the people that have indicated they want to sell their animals to Meatco. The meat from the northern part of the Cordon Fence is only sold to South Africa, nowhere else and South Africa says, if you have to send meat from the northern part of Namibia, meat that is not allowed to go to Europe, you have to quarantine your animals for twenty-one days. After that, go and slaughter the animals, quarantine the meat for another twenty-one days, then only thereafter you can send it to South Africa and nowhere else does that meat go as far as foreign trade is concerned. That agreement is only with South Africa, nobody else.

I am however sure you also know that a few years ago the business people in the North were offered the opportunity to send the same meat to DRC. It was in their hands. You also know how much money Cabinet has spent in that respect. It has collapsed, but it is not the choice of Namibia, it is the choice of those who want to trade with Namibia and that is what they require.

Let me answer the other question, that it seems to be deliberate to help the farmers in the southern part. We are expected to send about thirteen thousand tons of meat to Europe, that is our quota. Last year we only managed to send nine tons. Would it then be possible that people on this side of the Cordon Fence have to protect themselves or to be protected to the detriment that they do not even meet the quota that they are allowed?

It does not make sense. It is simply that on this side of the Cordon Fence there were not enough animals to be brought to the abattoirs for slaughter, hence only nine tons.

14 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION**  
**HON DR N IYAMBO**

In fact, what we are told by the EU is that if there is a fence put up between Namibia and Angola, then one can look into the possibilities of declaring the whole of Namibia as disease free. The essence here is that we do everything to put up that Cordon Fence. It is only then that we can confront our trading partners. Before that I am afraid it is not going to be possible. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. May I ask the Honourable Minister a question? The main purpose of the Cordon Fence is, as it was explained, a health issue, not a political one. In this country, seventeen years after Independence, can the Honourable Minister share with the Nation how many people have died of this meat on the other side of the fence, including ourselves here? When we go there for a weekend, we eat the same meat. How many have died or have been treated because of the sick meat? That is the first question.

The second question is on the European market. How many of the Europeans who come here, who travel to the North and sleep at those lodges on the other side of the Red Line, have died or got sick by eating that same meat on the other side and not from this side? Can the Honourable Minister help us? For 17 years we are advancing the same argument of disease, but Europeans, Namibians and everybody eat the same meat and that meat crosses the fence in the stomach and nobody has been treated. What is the real reason if it is not politics?

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** In fact, you are saying 17 years, I will go further than that. The reported disease, foot-and-mouth, in the North in fact was 46 years ago, not less than that. (Intervention)

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**HON NAMBINGA:** Could I put a question to the Minister? Comrade Minister, I am also a communal farmer and I would like to join others in condemning the Red Line. My point to the Honourable Minister is that it is very interesting to see Members of the Executive also condemning the Red Line. My question to the Honourable Minister is, is the maintenance of the Red Line only a decision of the Line Ministry or is it a collective decision of Cabinet?

14 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION**  
**HON DR N IYAMBO**

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Thank you very much. What I know is that it is an animal health Cordon Fence, Cabinet has never debated the removal of that Cordon Fence. It has never. I will still say that if Cabinet decides to remove that Cordon Fence, the only thing we have to do is just to forget about trading with outsiders. That is all.

We have the same problem in South Africa, but South Africa is saying, "*we have a big population, we consume our meat, we do not want anybody to tell us what to do in South Africa.*" They do not trade with European countries, not with anybody, their population consumes it themselves. Our problem is that we have a small population, we cannot consume all our meat, we need to export. 36,000 Namibians currently depend on the farming community in the communal areas. Once we decide to remove that Red Line, we must also in that sense decide on the fate of those Namibians. It is as simple as that. (Intervention)

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**HON BOOYS:** On a Point of Order. Honourable Speaker, I am a commercial farmer but I am not a meat producer. I understood the Minister's argument very well. Anybody who thinks like you and me will argue the way the Minister is arguing, but if you think one-sided, you will not even listen to the other side of the story. We in Namibia are saying, please remove the Red Line so that the communal farmers in the North must also sell their animals this side and get better prices. But now the understanding is, yes let us remove the Red Line, but then those who are buying will say, "*no, I am not going to buy from you.*" That is the point of the Minister. We can remove it, but the point is, we are not the ones who are saying we are not going to eat meat from the North. I eat meat from the North, but we are saying that those who are importing our meat are the ones who will say, "*no, I am no longer going to buy your meat.*" What are we going to do then? That is how I understood the point.

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Botswana has 7 Cordon Fences and the beauty of having so many is that when in

14 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION**  
**HON DR N IYAMBO**

one area a disease has broken out, they just close that and the rest continue farming. I think other Members also know that at Sukses on the other side of Rehoboth, passing the eastern part of Windhoek, before you reach Otjiwarongo there is also another Cordon Fence. You do not see it because all you have here are farms with a district road that goes there, just like you have from Windhoek International Airport to Gobabis. What it means is that when a disease breaks out that side, then we close that side. That is not the only Cordon Fence.

Last year we were even planning to have a Cordon Fence from Kamanjab all the way to Ruacana and then later on to have another Cordon Fence from Oshivelo all the way to Nkurenkuru. That is just to compartmentalise the country with so many Cordon Fences, to make sure that when something breaks out, we are able to trade with the meat of our country from other parts. (Intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Minister, you will have the Floor to continue tomorrow. I just want to respond to the analogy between Botswana and Namibia. Our preoccupation is that the so-called Red Line was created as part of colonialism, apartheid and oppression by white people and we are preoccupied by that, to rectify it as Independent Namibia, all the wrong things that colonialism did. However there are serious consequence that we have to think about. I do not think it is a matter of patriotism, but think about the consequences. Wrap up.

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** We have to think so because the Cordon Fence was put up around 1960. The country was still colonised, Bantustans were coming in. Probably that is how we get these things in our minds that it is political. It is not. We need to create more Cordon Fences, countrymen and women, if we want to trade with our animals' meat in this country. Otherwise, let us forget. (Interjection)

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**HON MEMBER:** Europe is not the only continent in the world. Why are we stuck at Europe?

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14 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON DR N IYAMBO**

**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Let us come back next week, I will remember that.

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**HON SPEAKER:** The House stands adjourned under Automatic Adjournment.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:49 UNTIL 2007.06.19 AT 14:30**

**ASSEMBLY CHAMBER  
WINDHOEK  
19 JUNE 2007**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

**HON SPEAKER:** Took the Chair and read Prayers and the Affirmation.

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**ANNOUNCEMENT**

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I have been informed by the SWAPO Party that Honourable Nambinga has been elected as Chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security to fill the vacancy which occurred as a result of the resignation of Mr Ben Amathila.

I now, in terms of Rule 38(6) of our Standing Rules and Orders, announce Honourable Nambinga as duly elected Chairperson of the said Committee. Congratulations.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Any Notices of Questions?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS**

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**QUESTION 73:**

**HON MOONGO:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2007, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Defence the following questions:

Is it true that the Ministry of Defence, in collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister, adjusted the housing allowance for the members of the NDF to a reasonable level?



19 June 2007

**NOTICES OF QUESTIONS  
HON MOONGO**

**QUESTION 74:**

Can the Minister confirm or deny that there was a mission of 998 NDF members to Liberia, led by Lieutenant General Kashopola, Battalion 3 and they were supposed to be given money, but at their arrival the "*trommel*" was empty?

1. Were the culprits brought to book?
  2. Were the members paid?
  3. Was the Anti-Corruption Commission informed?
- 

**QUESTION 75:**

1. Is it true, when a member of NDF dies, the deceased's family has to go to Windhoek to claim the pension money?
  2. When will the pension offices be decentralised so that the deceased's families can get easy access?
- 

**QUESTION 76:**

Can the Minister confirm or deny that NDF members who were accommodated in the camps are forced to vacate their rooms and those who decided to stay will be forced to pay for television, electricity, water and food?

1. What is the correct procedure or can the Minister explain?
  2. Why do the members have to pay N\$14.00 to watch television in the camp?
  3. Is it true that there are some officials who have Government houses and they also claim housing allowances while still sleeping in the camps? Does the Ministry condone corruption?
-

19 June 2007

**NOTICES OF QUESTIONS  
HON MOONGO**

**QUESTION 77:**

Is it true that in 2001 the Sanlam insurance or shares matured and no members got benefits of dividends?

- (a) Is this not self-enrichment by the officials?
  - (b) When are the members going to get their dividends?
- 

**QUESTION 78:**

Is it true that N\$110.00 are deducted from every member's salary every month for funeral cover? If yes, why are the coffins of poor quality?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member table the questions? Any further Notices of Questions? Any Notices of Motions? Honourable Viljoen.

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**NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

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**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Tuesday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2007, I shall Move –

That this Honourable House discusses and considers the expansion of beneficiaries of affirmative action to include all Namibians who started their school career in 1990 irrespective of gender, race or colour. I so Move.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member Table the Motion? Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry.

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19 June 2007

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON DR N IYAMBO**

**HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that tomorrow, the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2007, I shall Move –

That this Assembly ratifies the Free Trade Agreement between the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) States. I so Move.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Minister table the Motion? Any further Notices of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? Honourable Iyambo.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I have a Ministerial Statement to make, but I will require the assistance of our Parliamentary assistants to hold a map for me, if it is possible. (*See copy of attached map right after page 174*)

What I want to inform the Honourable Members very briefly is on the foot-and-mouth disease and its relation to the drought in Namibia and other associated issues.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the impression that was given last week is that we only have one Cordon Fence in Namibia, and that is not the case, we have several. We have one existing veterinary Cordon Fence starting around Aranos, it passes Rehoboth east of Windhoek and it goes to the farm Sukses. From Sukses one line goes the west and it ends up at Brandberg. The other one goes towards the east and it ends somewhere near Rietfontein.

Therefore, what we currently have in the country is this one area, this one and this one, and then the fourth one is the black one. This black one is the much talked about, the so-called Red Line, dividing the commercial farmers and the communal farmers. All these Cordon Fences are nothing else, but veterinary Cordon Fences for the health of the animals and for Namibia to be able to trade with its meat mainly to the European Union, Norway and South Africa.

19 June 2007

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON DR N IYAMBO**

The whole of this brownish area is currently declared foot-and-mouth

disease free and, therefore, the meat of any animal from here can be exported to the European Union, Norway and the rest.

Why can animals from the northern part only be exported to South Africa?

Before any of those continents or countries agree to import meat from Namibia to their countries, they have to come and satisfy themselves about the health conditions and the measures being taken in the abattoirs.

Thus far, therefore, South Africa said they can import meat from the northern part of the Cordon Fence, provided that those animals must first be quarantined for twenty-one days and after twenty-one days go to Meatco abattoirs, in this case to the abattoir in Oshakati, slaughtered there and the meat be kept for another 21 days. After 21 days that meat can then be packed in trucks and be driven through Namibia on the way to South Africa.

Just beyond that black line are commercial farms. These commercial farms border on the Red Line and any of the farmers here who want to send his or her animals to Meatco or bring it to Okahandja or Windhoek, have to isolate those animals from other animals and be kept isolated for 21 days and after 21 days they are put in a sealed truck and delivered to Windhoek abattoir or Okahandja abattoir. The reason for that is simply that, because they are so close to this Red Line, there is a possibility of foot-and-mouth disease and therefore, they have to be quarantined for 21 days. However in their case they can then be delivered directly to Abattoirs. The reason for 21 days, clinically in the case of foot-and-mouth, is just that 21 days are considered to be the incubation period.

After the quarantine the animals are simply examined, they do not undergo any rigorous vaccination programme, as was alleged here. They are simply looked at and if there is something, it will show itself within those 21 days.

Therefore, we have quarantine in Caprivi, in Kavango, in Oshikoto, Omusati, Ohangwena and then the northern part of Kunene.

Because this area is seen to be a potential area for foot-and-mouth disease because of the free movement of animals north and south of the border between Namibia and Angola, Government has vaccinated these animals regularly every

19 June 2007

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON DR N IYAMBO**

year. However since this vaccination programme has been going on for some time now and no disease has been discovered, a decision was made to say that some areas can just be left and no vaccination any longer. For example, in the northern part of Kunene we no longer vaccinate animals, in Oshana we do not vaccinate them any longer, but because Omusati and Ohangwena border on Angola, these animals are vaccinated once a year as well as the animals in Kavango.

From this point to the Caprivi part the animals are vaccinated twice a year, simply because of the contact with buffalos. Buffalos are known to be carriers of foot-and-mouth disease. It does not mean that they get sick of it, they are a bit more resistant and the incubation period is a bit longer.

What we want to do is to say, in times to come, if the international community agrees, this whole area will be considered to be simply a surveillance area, so that no vaccination takes place any longer. When we reach that status, it would mean each and every individual there could actually call Meatco to come and pick up the animals from his or her kraal to go the abattoir.

Until such time that the planned Cordon Fence is put up here, vigorous vaccination is taking place. Thus far it is calculated that the coverage is about 30%, but once that average has improved to 80%, it is most likely that the animals could simply be treated like the animals on the southern part of the Cordon Fence. However that has to be done together with the international organisation for animal diseases that has to agree. This area will then be considered to be a surveillance area where vaccination has to take place continuously and vigorously.

I informed you the other day that the Millennium Challenge Account has in principle agreed to assist Namibia within five years from now to put up this Cordon Fence and then the position here will become much easier for Namibians to trade. But this has to be done together with the international community that comes to Namibia every year and vigorously check the kind of system that we have in place in order for them to agree to have Namibian meat exported to their countries.

Honourable Members, the issue of saying this black line here, the current Red Line, must be removed, that simply cannot be removed. Let us just accept that as

19 June 2007

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON DR N IYAMBO**

a fact. If we tamper with it, no export of meat from Namibia will happen whatsoever and I do not think any Honourable Member of this House wants to see that situation developing. I really do not think so.

Therefore, the plan is to let this Cordon Fence be there, but creating another one here and the plans are also that we do create other ones within this area here, for the simple purpose that if there is a line here and a disease breaks out here, you simply close this area and the rest of the country can trade. That is really what it is.

I informed you already last week that Botswana has seven of those compartments of fences in their country and that is why they are in a better position. When disease breaks out in one area, they close that area and the rest can continue to trade.

I thought that it is important for Honourable Members of the Honourable House at least to have that basic information, if we do not already have it, in order for us to help the ordinary people in the villages, because honestly, if the Honourable Members here do not understand that as a fact, then it is just too dangerous for Namibia and for the future of the trade of Namibian beef to the outside world.

We are indeed talking to various countries, apart from the existing partner that we have, to expand our market. However if the kind of information that we demonstrated here last week is the one that goes to the outside community, I do not think it will augur well for this country.

May I only say that maybe sometimes it is one thing to be a radical, but it is another to be a realist. Thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Minister for his important Ministerial Statement. Any further Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE CURRENT PREVAILING  
DROUGHT SITUATION EXPERIENCED BY FARMERS IN THE  
COUNTRY**

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19 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION**  
**HON DR N IYAMBO**

**HON SPEAKER:** When the Assembly adjourned on Thursday, 14 June 2007, in terms of Rule 90(a) of the Standing Rules and Orders, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Venaani, that the Motion be adopted. The Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry had the Floor and I now revert the Floor back to him.

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Motion on the Floor of the House is timely. It is timely because we have a situation in the country, although not in the whole country, that could be termed a very difficult period to be for some of our farmers.

I agree with Honourable Venaani that the farmers in Regions such as Kunene, Oshana, eastern Omaheke, northern Oshikoto and others as well as the southern part of the country are going to experience a very difficult time.

As a responsible Government, we have agreed to listen to the call of some of our farmers, particularly the small-stock farmers in the South, that their sheep are actually going to be demised if no assistance is given. We have assessed the conditions and capacity in the country and the time that would elapse when the farmer reports readiness to give his or her sheep for slaughter is long. Within that time period it is very much possible that those market-ready sheep will shed teeth and therefore, become no longer prime products for the market.

We listened to the farmers and we said the producers, the abattoirs, the Meat Board and the Union must meet, deliberate and suggest to Government what we should do in this particular case. They made a proposal to us, I went to Cabinet and I was grateful that my Cabinet Colleagues, as leaders, understood and gave permission for a number of sheep to be exported across the border on the hoof. However that period is only for two months. After two months the situation will be looked into.

Of course, soon we are going to have the same request from the other parts of the country. Last week I made a Ministerial Statement on the Floor of this House where I said that a team from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Office of the

19 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION**  
**HON DR N IYAMBO**

Prime Minister are going around the country, collecting the data and assessing the situation before a Report will be made which will be submitted to Cabinet to see what we can do.

However I must say that it is not going to be possible for the Government, while we will be willing to look into the situation, to provide for example fodder for the farmers, but should there be grazing areas, the Government will assist the farmers to transport their animals to those areas. The best way to go about it, although it is not easy, and we have already started doing that, is actually to appeal to the producers to bring some of their animals to the abattoirs right now before the animals become too lean. (Intervention)

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**HON MOONGO:** May I ask the Honourable Minister a question?

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** You may ask the question, but I may not answer.

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**HON MOONGO:** On a Point of Order. Since the Minister now explained, I would like to know when was foot-and-mouth disease detected in that area or is this only a political issue that the Minister does not want to open up the area for the people to sell?

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**HON SPEAKER:** The question was declined. Put it in a way that it does not sound like a question.

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**HON MOONGO:** On a Point of Information. Since the Minister is explaining that there is no longer disease in the North, I want to know when was that foot-and-mouth disease detected. If it was a long time back, it means there is no more disease and there is no political will to set up mechanisms so that the other people



19 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON DR N IYAMBO**

can also sell their livestock and make a fair contribution. It is just a lack of political will on the side of the Government, they want to monopolise the market.

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the interest of the farmers in this country and the livelihood of our people must be the interest of each and every Honourable Member in this House. I informed you that those people to whom we export our meat come to Namibia every year.

Now take note: We only consume 2% of the meat produced in Namibia, only 2%, the rest is being exported. Are you saying, if we open up the border and everything else, we must consume our own meat in Namibia, which we cannot do? Do you want the meat to be given to dogs and cats, lions, wolves and jackals and the rest we throw into the sea? Remember the welfare of your people who are working in agriculture today.

Therefore, Honourable Speaker, it was asked here how much the irrigation schemes contribute towards food production in the country. I could say that the five irrigation projects that we have are contributing 25 000 tons of maize to the staple food of the country. Together with the commercial farms it is 45 000 tons. Therefore, irrigation is making a very good contribution, indeed, and we want it to be stepped up.

We have however also said and I said it during the Budget Debate, that when Cabinet promised a billion to be given to the Ministry of Agriculture to develop irrigation, we have never been able to come close to that. What is allocated to irrigation is N\$23 million per year and I said, do not look at the Minister of Finance, do not do that. It is simply because we have too many competing needs that we have not been able to do that. We have to be realistic. It will most probably take some time before we can realise what we want to see, although Government, and specifically the Minister of Finance is doing her best to see whether that situation cannot be improved.

The drought or partial drought in the country is a reality and I think we must debate this Motion with cool heads and with concrete facts. When it comes to things on which the lives of our people depend we should put aside the *warra-*

19 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION**  
**HON DR N IYAMBO**

*warra* politics. Leave the politics of the 1950, “*the Boers go to Kakamas*”, that is rubbish in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. (Laughter).

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**HON KAURA:** May I ask the Honourable Minister just a small question? I just want to find out from the Honourable Minister, in view of the fact that the Government would be prepared to assist with transport of livestock to areas where grazing is available, what kind of assistance would be available to people on the other side of the Red Line in the Omusati Region who have drought and fodder cannot be provided?

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Thank you very much, Honourable Kaura. I think you used Omusati as an example, it could be anywhere. I am saying that it is going to be very difficult to give fodder to the farmers. We want to encourage them already now while there is time, to decide on the number of animals that they can sell to get them off the field.

Of course, the other assistance that we as a Government provide to the communal farmers when they are selling their animals, is that Government makes available N\$1 per kilogram and Meatco makes an addition of 50 cents. We say that while we cannot meet the needs of our people hundred percent, there are some measures of assistance that can be given. It is a very difficult decision to make, if there were enough money I would not hesitate to say we will subsidise the fodder. However, that is how I look at it now, what we will be able to do.

As we, therefore, go on debating this Motion, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, my appeal to the Honourable Members is to give messages that will educate our people out there and what they themselves will be able to do. (Interjection). I know you are a mad person. Sorry, that is withdrawn.

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**HON MOONGO:** On a Point of Order. He is more mad than me, I am far better.

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19 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON MBAI**

**HON SPEAKER:** The Minister withdrew.

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**

Therefore, we have quarantine facilities literally in all Regions, particularly in the northern communal areas. We have auction pens in most, if not all, the communal areas south of the Cordon Fence. Those are facilities that Government is providing to try to help our people.

The difficulty that we have is this: The people north of the Cordon Fence have not yet realised the importance of animals as far as their economic survival is concerned. If you ask somebody from the North to slaughter an animal of two and a half years, he will think something is wrong here. They like to sell those old animals that have lost value. The animal is big, it has lost value, the meat is not good and you know that in these days of chocolate some of these people cannot even chew meat any longer. Therefore, the meat must be tender and that is the message we have to give our people, to change their culture. Of course, Government is doing what is can. You have heard about the bull scheme that has been introduced there, at least to change some of the genetic materials of the animals that we have there, which are predominantly Sanga and Nguni.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I really just want to tell you, let us treat this Motion with the seriousness that it deserves and not to send the wrong message. I thank you.

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**HON MBAI:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I will be very brief, as usual.

I rise only to make a short contribution to the Motion under discussion. First of all, I thank the Honourable Venaani for bringing this very important Motion to this respected House and I will fail in my duty if I do not thank the other respected Members for their contributions they have made so far to this Motion.

I also appreciate the comprehensive Report that the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry is busy compiling for the House that would entail the state of the drought situation in our country. While we are awaiting this very important

19 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON MBAI**

information, Honourable Speaker, let me make some observations with regard to drought in our country.

To start off, Namibia is a dry country. Let us not be surprised by a sporadic good year, like the one we had last year, and expect the same situation to occur the next season. It never happens in this country.

I believe the agro-meteorological data in place allow for the evaluation of the drought situation, even allow for the better prescription and quantification of the variability and rainfall patterns in this country. In short, let us agree and accept our rainfall is not consistent. Therefore, it is essential to plan, to budget, train our communities, to put our development priorities in such a way, accepting the reality that we are operating in a dry country.

Honourable Speaker, allow me, while I am making this contribution, to put emphasis mainly on six factors. The one is communal land usage and management, the next one is the resettlement and rehabilitation, bush encroachment, construction of earth dams, relocation of the Cordon Fence and the marketing of livestock.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the already dry situation prevailing in this country is two-fold. The rainfall pattern, as I indicated earlier, is particular to a dry country like ours and the worsening of the situation by human factors, human behaviour and approach.

Earlier in this House we were very much privileged to have been informed that areas that are mostly hit by drought, in many cases are communal land. Why? Is it because it never rains in communal land? Is it because it is only raining well in commercial areas? No, the reason why communal land, first and foremost, feels the heat of drought is because of overcrowding, over-grazing and these are attributed by a lack of a land-use policy, management of communal land and a proper small-scale farming mechanism.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the issue of overcrowding and over-grazing is also partly attributed by some well-to-do farmers with large herds of livestock, but still in communal areas, awaiting relocation through the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme. Honourable Minister of Finance, the Scheme has come to a standstill or is too slow.

19 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION**  
**HON MBAI**

The other scheme is the one of Resettlement and Rehabilitation. Honourable Minister responsible, I believe it is never too late. Let us come back to the drawing board. The current scheme and policy will and shall never address the need for rehabilitation in its present form. I challenge you, Honourable Minister ... (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** May I ask Honourable Mbai a question? Honourable Mbai, are you aware that there are affirmative action farmers who have been relocated to commercial farms, but who are still maintaining their herds of cattle in the communal areas and what are we going to do about it? Venaani knows, he is part of it, they are keeping those cattle there while they have been allocated commercial farms.

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**HON MBAI:** That is true and that is again the lack of proper management of communal land. If there were rules and regulations, proper administration in place in communal land, it would have been very easy, because even the beneficiaries of the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme are... (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** May I ask the Honourable Colleague a question? Honourable Mbai, I think you are doing extremely well. My question is, while you are looking at this communal land usage, as you are rightly putting it now, do you really think the problem is within the Ministry responsible for not having a known programme for addressing the issue that is being addressed?

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**HON MBAI:** Honourable Speaker, I deliberately brought this issue back to this House, for this House to reconsider the current policy and arrangement and whether they are addressing the needs.

As I said, to answer the first question, it is required from every beneficiary of the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme to take all his property and all his livestock to the allocated farm. If there are still livestock of beneficiaries in communal land, I believe it is illegal and steps need to be taken against them. I believe I am not one of them.

19 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON MBAI**

I challenge you, Honourable Minister, to go out today and have a public hearing out there and you will come back with a concept other than what is on the Ministry's table.

Bush encroachment is one of the major stumbling blocks to red meat production in our country. This is mainly because grass production and natural pasture decline and grazing capacity decreases along with it. Since the cost of bush control is extremely high, natural bush mortality is welcomed very much, but we cannot depend on the mercy of bush mortality, more especially in the communal area.

Life has equal worth and every Namibian has an equal opportunity to succeed. We must use the resources available so that human life can indeed have equal worth. Honourable Minister, where is our aggressive, constructive engagement with regard to bush control in communal areas? What happened to the project? Why is the project not getting off the ground?

Let us come to the issue of earth dams. The construction of earth dams is very vital. The floods from the Cuvelai, reaching oshanas and pans in Omusati, Oshana and Oshikoto on occasions when we have good rains, the floods caused by increased water levels from the Kavango and the Zambezi, why are we not constructing more earth dams in all parts of our thirteen Regions so that we can catch this water?

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40**

**HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:11 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

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**HON MBAI:** Honourable Speaker, I was about to conclude. Honourable Minister, I agree with you that the current Red Line, the veterinary Cordon Fence, cannot be removed overnight because, as you have explained last week and today, it will be detrimental, it will be night for all of us south and north of the Red Line. The situation of removing this Red Line overnight will not only affect the colleagues south of the Red Line, it will affect the whole country, and it is not only the Red Line, also the border between Namibia and Botswana. It is also detrimental whenever livestock from Botswana come into our country.

19 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION**  
**HON MUDGE**

Honourable Speaker, let us utilise the resources of the State to give every Namibian an equal opportunity to succeed. I agree. Honourable Minister, let us go back, if it is needed, even to the President, to the National Planning Commission, to the donor agencies, so that we can immediately start with the partial relocation of the Veterinary Cordon Fence in the northern Kunene area and in the Mangetti-West area. When we start there or start somewhere, it will encourage those people who are still living in the danger zones that at least a beginning has been concluded, we are busy doing something but by just talking, we are going to relocate, we are going to demarcate areas without practical implementation of what we are talking about, we are really not doing good for our country and our people.

Let us demarcate this area, vaccinate against possible diseases, impose the regulations that are required by those colleagues that are buying our meat. It is not only about diseases, Honourable Members. I know that currently the livestock prices in the market are more or less the same, but the quality of the livestock also needs to be addressed. It is not only the diseases whenever we are talking of equal opportunities. It is a process, it will take some time.

Last but not least, Honourable Speaker, when it comes to marketing, I would like to appeal to the Honourable Minister to consider, because normally in a drought situation the prices of livestock are too low and if it is possible for the Minister to consider the introduction of incentives, encouraging farmers to get rid of those market-ready animals from the ground.

With these few remarks, I rest my case and I support the Motion.

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**HON MUDGE:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I will be as brief as possible.

I thank Honourable Venaani for bringing this Motion to Parliament. I also want to confirm my support for what the Honourable Minister has said. I was quite surprised and wondered how the man in the street would understand this whole issue about the Red Line and the Fence when I saw how many Members of Parliament did not understand that. However what I do agree with is that the Fence could have been more to the north from round about Tsumeb.

19 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON MUDGE**

Be that as it may, the fence with Botswana on our eastern boundary is a good one, we have the good Fence in the south at Ariamsvlei and we have the ocean in the west and I think we realise that the reason why the Fence was actually put up where it is, was also because of the fact that in the northern Region the people were also migrating with their cattle between Namibia and Angola. Therefore it was very difficult to put a line directly on the boundary.

We all know about the problems that the Government had when they wanted to erect a Fence some time ago. As they were making progress in front, the people were actually breaking off the fence at the back.

When we come back to the necessity of these Fences, if you have experienced the drought and recession and the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in 1960, then you will agree that it should never, ever happen again. Namibia only utilises about 2% of all the meat produced in the country and the rest is being exported and we, especially those of us in this august House that have dealt with the National Budget....(Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** May I ask Honourable Mudge a question? Honourable Mudge repeated what the Honourable Minister said, that only 2% of the meat is consumed in Namibia. Do you now mean the meat within the Red Line or which meat are you referring to?

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**HON MUDGE:** Honourable Speaker, the meat in the Red Line is part of the meat outside the Red Line, that is meat in Namibia. That forms part of the total.

We utilise only 2% of the meat produced in the country and the rest is exported and we, especially those of us in this august House who dealt with the National Budget not long ago, should know best of all that we cannot afford to lose the income generated from any export. It is unfortunately a fact that the importer, in this case the European Union, dictates the conditions under which they are prepared to import. (Intervention)



19 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON MUDGE**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** May I ask Honourable Mudge a question? Honourable Mudge, you are saying all the meat in Namibia has been counted. How was that process done? Are we not only talking about the meat which is going through Meatco? Are those goats and cattle that we are slaughtering in the villages also part of the statistics of the meat that we consume?

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**HON MUDGE:** Honourable Speaker, I would like to only deal with the issues that I have here. That is for the Honourable Minister to speculate.

I said it is unfortunately a fact that the importer, in this case the European Union, dictates the conditions under which they are prepared to import our meat and we have no choice but to conform to those conditions.

If ever you would see chaos, then it will be the case if the meat producers in the country are not allowed to move with their cattle from one farm to another due to the lack of grazing at a time of foot-and-mouth outbreak. You will be forced to stay on your land even if your cattle, sheep and goats die of hunger. Needless to even speculate what the effect will be on every other sector in the country because no one will escape the consequences. The effect will be devastating.

The point is that it has absolutely nothing to do with who is staying north of the Red Line, Honourable Moongo. If Angola would have been prepared – and these are the facts – if Angola would have been prepared to put up a fence just north of our northern boundary, then we could probably have done away with the one just north of Etosha, although, as Honourable Iyambo explained and using Botswana as an example, the more Fences you have, the better, because then you have the opportunity to stop the spread of a disease like foot-and-mouth at one of these Fences and at least have the rest of the country clean.

But Honourable Speaker, there is absolutely nothing that stops the Government to put up a proper Fence on our northern boundary, but then it will have to be patrolled properly to ensure that under no circumstances will any animal enter from Angola into Namibia.

Honourable Speaker, then I just want to make a few comments on the export of livestock to South Africa. Honourable Iyambo has dealt with the issue, but allow

19 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON MUDGE**

me to make a short contribution.

This issue is not as simple as it may sound and the main reason is because there are persons involved in this with their own agendas and these persons bypass the normal channels of the organised agricultural sector and approach the Ministers and Deputy Ministers directly, the result being the implementation of measures that eventually prove to be very bad for the sheep farmers as a whole, because it is evident that the industry is divided between the producers, on the one hand, and the owners of some of the abattoirs, on the other hand.

I would like to request the Honourable Minister not to be misled by some of these role players and I do not want to mention any names here. I will discuss that with the Honourable Minister afterwards. (Interjection)

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** It is a rumour!

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**HON MUDGE:** It is not a rumour. The point that I would like to make is that the producers worst hit by the scheme to have the majority of sheep slaughtered in Namibia is the communal farmers, because most of the communal farmers are farming with what we call *vetstert* – fat tail or whatever you want to call that.

These sheep have traditionally failed to get good prices due to the fact that they are extremely fat, but over a period of time a niche market has been developed in South Africa where meat of such sheep got much higher prices than in Namibia. They talk about N\$100.00 per sheep.

Due to the new regulations according to which sheep farmers have been forced to market six sheep locally for every one exported to South Africa, several of these marketing channels to this niche market have been lost.

One can now speculate who is losing out most. Obviously, the abattoir owners would like to slaughter as many animals as possible because they get the benefit, but it is only a few people who are going to benefit but the ones who lose out more are hundreds of producers of which the most important ones, as I said, are the communal farmers who should be assisted to get the best prices possible for their animals.

19 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON MUDGE**

It is so that we lose out on the hides, but let me assure you, we probably lose more jobs by not supporting the transporters and auction companies and all the people involved in buying these livestock from the communal farmers and all other farmers in the country.

This issue should actually be a separate point of discussion and I will again discuss this with the Honourable Minister. However in the meantime, I would like to seriously request the Honourable Minister to ensure that he has every side of the story before taking any further decisions.

I repeat, many Namibians have suffered only because a few had their own agendas, but I am convinced that this issue can be resolved in an amicable way, because the current scheme is not the full solution.

I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. Any further discussion? Honourable Kaura.

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**HON KAURA:** I move that the Debate be adjourned until Thursday.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any further discussion? Then the Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until Thursday. Any objection? The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE : LABOUR BILL**

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**HON SPEAKER:** Does the Honourable Minister of Labour and Social Welfare move that the Assembly now goes into Committee?

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**HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Honourable Speaker, I am rising to beg for the indulgence of this august House to allow me to

19 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
HON DR A IYAMBO**

adjourn the Committee Stage until Thursday next week, the 27<sup>th</sup> of June, for further consultations.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objection? Then the consideration of the Committee Stage stands adjourned until 27<sup>th</sup> June 2007. The Secretary will read the Third Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING : VOCATIONAL EDUCATION  
AND TRAINING  
BILL**

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**HON SPEAKER:** When this Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, 12 June 2007, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Deputy Minister of Education, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable Dr Ankama adjourned the Debate but I know that I have despatched Honourable Dr Ankama for an engagement elsewhere on my behalf.

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**HON SIOKA:** Honourable Speaker, I was requested by Honourable Ankama to adjourn the Debate on his behalf to next week Tuesday.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any further discussion? Honourable Dr Abraham Iyambo.

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**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:** Honourable Speaker, I take the Floor to make a very brief contribution to this very important Bill, Vocational Education and Training Bill.

Comrade Speaker, I want to start by supporting the Bill and also later on to make a proposal.

I was looking at the structure of the Bill as well as at the objective of the Bill. This is a Bill for vocational education and training. My concern is with respect to the content of the Bill. The Bill concentrates more on the establishment of different boards as well as the establishment of some funds, whereas the object is

19 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
HON DR A IYAMBO**

mainly to look at employability of Namibians, creating skills and creating competencies. That part is not coming out explicitly how the Bill will achieve that.

If you look at Part 1, it deals more with preliminary provisions and that is not yet answering how we should improve employability of these many people who want to engage in vocational activities. The same thing with Part 2, which is more on the establishment of the Namibia Training Authority and Part 3 is more on the board of the Authority, how it is going to be established. It is therefore not yet coming to the point on how do we address the issues of employability of these Namibians. Part 4 is also on the Fund as well as Part 5, and Part 6 is on the levy and the last one, general provisions and preliminary provisions.

What I am trying to say is that what is contained here is good, but maybe if it is going to be amended, we should look at how do we train people at vocational training and what is required to ensure employability, to create the skills and create competencies. At the moment that is not answered by the Bill.

The object of the Bill, according to Clause 3, is to achieve an effective and sustainable system of skills formation. It is not coming out because it is more on the establishment of boards, their functions, how many as well as the establishment of the funds, but not how to achieve what the objects are of this Bill.

The Bill is supposed to align everything with the labour market, but it is not coming out because it is much more on the boards as well as on the functions of the boards and on the funding. However how we ensure the formation of skills, how we ensure that these skills are aligned with the labour market for employability is not coming out so clearly.

The Bill supposed to look at how to accelerate development. with the way it is structured, it is difficult to see how the impact will be if we only know the boards and the funds. It is supposed to ensure that technology, engineering, product development are achieved through vocational training, but it is not coming out. That is why I was saying that maybe after it has been established, if the review will not take a long time, it could be good for a review to come and look at how vocational training will contribute to economic development, will contribute to the fast-tracking of our economic growth.

19 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
HON DR A IYAMBO**

Having said that, I would like to come to a point that is covered here under the powers or functions of NQA under Clause 3 with respect to Namibia Qualification Authority. It is said here that the NTA, in respect of vocational education and training and subject to the policies and procedures determined by the Namibia Qualifications Authority may do a few things. I have some problems with the Namibia Qualifications Authority and I think we should maybe start reviewing the functions, duties and all the responsibilities of the Namibia Qualifications Authority.

For example, we have people being trained at the University of Namibia, we have a faculty dealing with issues of Fisheries. People train there for four years, but through the Namibia Qualifications Authority, any Namibian trained at the University of Namibia for four years in fisheries, does not qualify to be employed as having a degree for four years, even though the person has been there for four years, whereas if somebody comes from other countries, they have been there for three or four years, they automatically qualify. However Namibians, even though they have been trained at the University of Namibia for four years, do not qualify through the Namibia Qualifications Authority.

Now we have tens and tens of Namibians who have been trained at the University of Namibia in the area of Fisheries for four years, but that degree of four years, through the NQA is not recognised as a four-year degree. Hence, when they are to be employed in Government, all those who studied Fisheries for four years, are down because it is not recognised.

When we discussed this with the NQA, the whole thing was just muddled and we wanted to have more Namibians to be employed and to be encouraged to study. I think the activities of the Namibia Qualifications Authority should be reviewed. Some of us went through that because of different backgrounds. This concentration on a country and the advantage if you having studied in South Africa is really putting Namibia at a disadvantaged and discouraging a lot of the youngsters who have studied at different institutions.

Honourable Speaker, I support the Bill, but just to say that the objective of the Bill to ensure that people can be employed, the skills are created aligned to the labour force is not coming out. (Intervention)

**HON TJIHUIKO:** May I ask the Honourable Minister of Fisheries a question, please? Honourable Minister, I have listened very carefully to what you have just

19 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

said and I support what you have said hundred and ten percent. Having said what you have said, are you really now going to support this Bill or can you perhaps come with an idea of what you wanted to see. It seems there is something that you want to send out.

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**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:** Yes, the Member seems to be a mind reader, but a very, very poor one and who has failed miserably. That is not what I am saying and I repeat that I support the Bill, but in the future just to look at other issues, what are the objectives of vocational training in terms of the labour market. The Bill should be amended in the long run to accommodate that. It does not say that as soon as one raises a point, then you do not support that. I am raising the point to ensure that improvements be considered in the long run. Therefore, do not be worried, it is a contribution to improve the modalities of lawmaking and improve it in the future. Just to repeat again, I support the Bill. Thank you.

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**HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I am happy to rise and to contribute to the Vocational Education and Training Bill, which seeks to establish the Namibia Training Authority and all matters related thereto. Let me right at the onset pledge my agreement with the Deputy Minister of Education that the tabling of this Bill could not have come at a more opportune time.

Increasingly, I appreciate, as indicated in the speech of the Deputy Minister, that His Excellency the President, during the latest State of the Nation Address, called for the “*doubling of the pass rates*” amongst school-going youth of our country. This is clear that both the President and the Line Ministry, as well as the entire country, are concerned with the education of our youth and thereby, the improvement of the standard of living of our people at large and the youth in particular.

Honourable Speaker, it was anticipated in the 2004 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto that emphasis be placed on vocational training especially by the five registered Government Vocational Training Centres in the country where 16

19 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING**  
**HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

technical trades and 5 commercial, hospitality and craft trades are offered.  
(Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Acting Secretary-General of SWAPO Youth League a question, please? Honourable Member, I just want to find out, from the word go you are talking about the youth and the SWAPO youth policy. Are you now trying to use this House for the campaign for the Secretary-General of SWAPO Youth League?

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**HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE:** Honourable Speaker, I am sure Honourable Tjiuiko is not one of my voters, he is also not a member of the SWAPO Party. Therefore, I am not seeking his vote. May I continue with my speech?

In addition, 7 Community Skills Development Centres cater for the community training needs with a view to empower communities and improve their standard of living.

The 2004 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto also indicated that there was a comprehensive reform of the vocational education and training sub-sector, aimed at making vocational education and training more relevant to the needs of industry and economy in general. This reform anticipated the establishment of the National Training Authority which was to oversee the streamlining, operation, expansion and financing of the sub-sector. It is clear, Honourable Members, that the origin of the Bill tabled in this august House lies in the policy of the SWAPO Party and its Government towards education and vocational training. I want to specifically urge the Ministry of Education to ensure that the existing vocational training institutions, including and in particular COSDEC centres across the country be empowered with all the necessary resources.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, in my contribution to the Budget speech recently in April I had the following to say:

*“... that the youth of our country has the potential to create a society that all of us can be proud of. In order for them to do this they must be availed all the support necessary. One area in which this can be done is to support technical and*



19 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

*vocational training centres so that they can absorb many of our youth who might not have been able to find a space in the formal schools. There is no person who is not trainable, therefore every young person in all the thirteen Regions of our country is trainable. I appeal to my colleague who is also a youth, Honourable Minister of Finance, to consider making budgetary provision for this kind of training. I am sure that the Minister of Education as well as the Ministry responsible for Youth would be reliable stakeholders in this endeavour.”*

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, these words were true then and they are now. I believe that this Bill must pay special attention to the plight of the youth by not only implying their participation but by practically involving them in the search for sustainable solutions to the challenges they face, ranging from unemployment to the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Against this background, perusing the Bill, one is encouraged to notice reference being made to the youth, *inter alia*, that the Bill seeks under Section 2(a)(iii) to develop “*the competencies needed by young people for productive work and increased standards of living*” and under Section 5(2)(e) the Bill encourages “*the development of vocational education and training opportunities for the youth and the unemployed...*”

I also welcome that the Bill, which aim is “*to provide for a new policy, institutional and funding framework for vocational education and training in Namibia for improved skills and standard of living*” also provides for the establishment of the Namibia Training Authority and the National Training Fund for the imposition and collection of the vocational education and training levy.

However, Honourable Speaker, while appreciating this Bill, I want to propose that under Section 9, which contemplates the composition of the Board, a sub-section be added to include youth organisation also to sponsor members to serve on the Board of the National Training Authority. It is futile to have an organisation dealing with issues relating to the youth, but then have them excluded in the process of implementing the duties and responsibilities of that particular organisation. The proposed National Training Authority will fail or succeed depending on the involvement and participation of the youth of our country. After all, it is the youth who constitutes the largest section of the population. Therefore, they deserve to be represented on platforms like these.

Honourable Speaker, in relation to the doubling of pass rates, according to the

19 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

current entry requirements into vocational schools, a potential candidate must possess Grade 10 as a minimum qualification with pass marks in mathematics and science, respectively. This is however a stumbling block for those unemployed youth who may be interested in vocational training but do not possess such requirements. Particular emphasis is on the Grade 10 and Grade 12 dropouts who have, for one reason or another, failed through the formal education system and may want to enter the vocational field.

In this particular regard, I want to commend the proposal by the Ministry of Education for the relaxation of the entry requirement and wish to call upon fellow Members of this august House to support this noble initiative.

In addition to the high entry requirements, the tuition fees are also of concern. Figures obtained at the Vocational Training Centre in Windhoek indicate that the Government subsidises about 50% of the total tuition fees and the apprentice has to cover the difference. As a matter of interest, if the tuition fees for a particular field is N\$21 000, Government pays about N\$16 000 and the trainees have to cover the difference.

This proportion of payment puts some trainees under enormous pressure and leads to non-participation in the scheme or non-completion of the course due to non-affordability.

Although during the past years the Education Ministry has received the largest amount in the Budget, only a meagre amount is allocated to the Vocational and Training vote, making it almost impossible for many unemployed youth to gain the necessary skills and thereby reduce the skills shortage in Namibia. I am of the view, therefore, that it would only make rational sense to allocate adequate resources towards vocational training, which forms part of a competitive workforce.

However, statistics obtained from the Windhoek Vocational Training Centre indicate that from 2001 to 2006 the centre produced 389 graduates and 63% of them are employed; 11% are self-employed, whilst 26 percent are unemployed. Honourable Speaker, may I at this juncture appreciate members of the public and private sector who have taken the initiative to sponsor apprenticeship and students at our various institutions.

However, for consistency and fair partaking towards the development of skills in

19 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING**  
**HON BASSON**

our country, I wish to call for a research to be conducted with a view of compelling parastatals and private sectors to contribute a certain percentage of their dividends, profits and reserves towards the development of skills, as it is a tested practice in some other countries.

Honourable Members, when our public and private sectors truly join hands to invest in the training of the youth of our country and thereby support the initiatives of Government, such as the establishment of the NTA, which not only deals with the youth issues but also meaningfully involve them, the future training activities shall be sustainable and participatory beyond Vision 2030. I thank you for your attention.

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**HON BASSON:** Comrade Speaker, allow me to congratulate the Deputy Minister of Education for introducing the Vocational Education and Training Bill to this august House.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, as it is known, this Bill is set to establish the Namibia Training Authority (NTA), The Board of the Namibia Training Authority and the National Training Fund, to regulate the provision of vocational education and training; to provide for the funding of vocational education and training; to provide for the imposition of vocational education and training levy; to provide for the appointment of inspectors and designation of quality system auditors and to provide for incidental matters.

I am pleased to take note that this Bill provides for the establishment of a Board of the Namibia Training Authority, whose task it would be to determine the policies and procedures of the NTA and the administering and control of the National Training Fund. I would like to advise the Board to put emphasis on trustworthiness and to always act with fidelity, honesty, integrity and in the best interest of the NTA and the Fund in managing their financial affairs.

I would also like to recommend to the National Training Authority to, in particular, look at already existing institutions. This recommendation is based on the fact that I come from the Hardap Region where we have a vocational training institution at Kheichanagab, near Mariental. At Kheichanagab the training is only for one year. Half of the trainees do not have equipment to use during their lectures and due to the lack of accommodation space, not even a sufficient number of trainees of that Region can be accommodated. The referred institution

19 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
HON BASSON**

also does not have any further programmes, which means that most of the students who completed at Kheichanagab are left on the streets, because they have only the basic training.

Over here in Windhoek, Comrade Speaker, the Vocational Training Centre continues to be overcrowded. My concern and question, therefore, is, what is to happen to those children who could not complete Grade 10, because some of them are technically geared or were born with qualities to further his or her studies in one or another technical field.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to take this House back to those years in our schools during the sixties where work with your hands – it was called “*handewerk*” – was a compulsory subject for boys and girls. I can remember we made small table mats from reeds and small baskets. It is very important that we should take these things back to the primary school.

If we reintroduce this system as far down as primary school, then our Nation stands to reap the fruits from the introduction of this very important Bill. If we reintroduce this system at primary school level but make it optional to go into the science field or vocational training, we stand a chance to detect the direction of field in which our learner is able to further his or her direction of field. When the student reaches Grade 8, then the institution may embark on sorting them according to their fields of interest.

This may bring about the lessening of the failure rate in Grade 10, which will then result in the decrease in unemployment and a decrease in street kids. I am speaking as a former teacher. Some of the students are not interested in the subjects that we teach them in the schools, so if they cannot pass they decide to drop out. That is why we find so many street kids. (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question, please? Honourable Basson, you were talking about the good old days of the sixties. Are you really saying that the education system by then, comparing with now, was better to the extent that you were trying to confirm to the Honourable Minister that it is better for us to go back? Is that what you are saying, that you are longing for the Bantu Education as opposed to the current education under the SWAPO leadership?

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19 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING**  
**HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

**HON BASSON:** Comrade Speaker, I will never ever move backwards in my life. I will never support Bantu Education, never ever. I am talking about doing things with your hands, not the system. I will never support Bantu Education.

Comrade Speaker, let me repeat this one because he disturbed me. If we reintroduce this system at primary school level but make it optional, we stand a chance to detect the direction of fields in which a learner is able to further his or her studies at secondary school level when he or she reaches Grade 8 and then the institutions may embark on sorting them according to their field of interest. This may bring about the lessening of the failure rate in Grade 10, which will then result in the decrease in unemployment and a decrease in street kids.

With these few remarks, Comrade Speaker, I wish to express my support for this very important Bill. I thank you.

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**HON MANOMBE-NCUBE:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to give my humble contribution to this important Bill under discussion. First of all, let me congratulate both Ministers for their tireless efforts to make education responsive to the needs of our Nation.

By empowering Namibians with skills, especially youth, we enable them to become effective contributors to national development. Furthermore, by supporting our nationals with vocational education and skills we improve the possibilities of meeting some of the key objections of Vision 2030.

Unemployment is perhaps the single most important challenge facing our economy. Indeed, this Bill comes at a time when the country is most occupied with this problem. The Bill deserves to be supported. A welcome feature of the Bill is its attempt to ensure a convergence between the requirements of the private sector and the output in appropriately skilled human resource of vocational and education and training institutions.

Honourable Speaker, in my contribution to the Second Reading of Combating of the Abuse of Drugs Bill, I had this to say:

*“There is no doubt that this Bill is an important one. But it, however, needs to be implemented as part of a comprehensive range of measures which address socio-economic challenges that our country faces, such as unemployment.*

19 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING**  
**HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

*Unemployment, as we all know, constitutes one of the single most important of challenges which Namibia faces. Effective employment creation will go a long way towards facilitating the implementation of the measures that this Bill envisages. We need, through employment creation, to make it less possible for criminals to entice our youth to criminal activities.*

*Given this situation, I should suggest that we as Parliamentarians representing this Nation must concentrate our minds to find effective strategies for how our economy could progressively create the jobs that our youth need. This requires the conception of strategies which are broad and wide-ranging in terms of the sectors they should touch. For example, vocational training alongside academic education should be given more emphasis than perhaps has been the case to date.”*

It is important for us as a developing country to recognise that our Nation's development rests on the availability of a skilled middle to lower strata of our labour market. This strata should comprise of people with technical competence gained from direct training and/or experience. Their skills make our economy tick and it is imperative to ensure their continuous supply to meet the demands of the employers. This Bill, therefore, provides a strategy for achieving this.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, what Namibia needs is an army of "hands-on" experts operating in a democratic environment in which their potential can be fully realised. We have a duty as politicians to invest in the growth of our economy and its productive capacity by creating opportunities for maximising the utilisation of the available human resources.

We must be relentless in our efforts to change the psychology and approach that regards only academic achievements as worth celebrating. There is no developed country that became developed on the back of academicians only. Vocational education and skills development provided the backbone to their socio-economic growth and thus their graduation into developed Nation status. We have a duty to inculcate this thinking into our youth.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, an eye-opener was provided into the value of vocational education and training for me, through the visit of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts to Germany last year, where I have seen how young people are being skilled in admirable and amazing ways.

19 June 2007

**MOTION ON SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION  
HON IILONGA**

The point is that if other countries can do it, we also can. We have the potential to do so. We only need to work hard to create the conditions for this to happen, and it is my belief that this Bill provides the direction we should follow as a Nation.

I support the Bill without any reservations and urge for its speedy passage.

I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Kaiyamo?

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**HON KAIYAMO:** Comrade Speaker, I move that the Debate be adjourned until tomorrow afternoon.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objection? The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until tomorrow afternoon. The Secretary will read the Fourth Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE NATURE AND AIM FOR WHICH  
THE SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION WAS ESTABLISHED**

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**HON SPEAKER:** When this Debate was adjourned on Tuesday 5 June 2007, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Gertze that the Motion be adopted. The Honourable Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Welfare adjourned the Debate and I give the Floor to the Deputy Minister.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Comrade Speaker, I rise to make my contribution to the Motion of Honourable Kala Gertze of CoD on the nature and aim for which the Social Security Commission was established.

Comrade Speaker, I want to inform Honourable Kala Gertze on the nature and aim for which the Social Security Commission was established. It was

19 June 2007

**MOTION ON SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION  
HON IILONGA**

established for the following purposes to which I will come later. Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, my contribution will be divided into three parts. Part one will be dealing with general or international norms and when the idea was first introduced. Part two will be dealing with Namibia, while part three will be dealing with the duties of the Social Security Commission.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, unfortunately Honourable Kala Gertze is not in. Social Security was created or established for the following aims and objectives:

1. Social Security Context.

The term “*social security*” was first used officially in the United States of America legislation in 1935 and in an Act in New Zealand in 1938. Since then, it has become a term that is used worldwide and is defined as follows:

*“It is the protection society provides for its members through a series of public measures against the economic and social distress that otherwise would be caused by the stoppage or substantial reduction of earnings resulting from sickness, maternity, employment injury, unemployment, invalidity, old-age and death; the provision of medical care; and the provision of subsidies for families with children.”*

That is the purpose. As seen above, the definition of social security denotes a general term that describes a number of related programmes, including retirement, disability, dependents and survivor benefits. These programmes provide workers and their families with some monthly income when their normal flow of income shrinks because of the referred to contingencies (retirement, disability, death, etcetera). The minimum standards for social protection are contained in the ILO Convention No 102 of 1952.

The provision of social security can be found worldwide. The types of schemes, their organisational structures and quality of governance may differ, but the aims are the same, namely to provide income security when workers and their families face certain risks throughout their years in active gainful employment and thereafter.

It has been demonstrated the world over that the presence of a reasonable social safety net for all individuals and households enlarges and strengthens the labour



19 June 2007

**MOTION ON SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION  
HON IILONGA**

force of a country, adds to its capacity to promote growth and accept change, and underpins a greater degree of political and social stability. Just imagine if you do not have social security.

Furthermore, entitlement to adequate levels of social protection is recognised explicitly in several international declarations dealing with the matter, and in various international labour standards on social security, which had progressively enhanced...(Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:** May I ask Ekanda a question, please? Honourable Ekanda, you may sympathise with me about my worry. As we discuss social security our colleagues from CoD are too quiet. Are you not worried, Honourable Colleague?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Comrade Speaker, I cannot be worried about something which I am not part of.

Progressively enhanced the benefits and entitlements that all members of the community have the right to access of the benefits. Access to social protection is a basic human right, as well as a measure of human welfare, and its promotion will require normative actions on the part of Governments and its social partners.

2. Social Security in Namibia.

The social security system in Namibia is an integral part of Government's efforts to promote and maintain the welfare of the people living in Namibia. Namibia's Constitution, Chapter 11, Article 95, stipulates that "*The State shall actively promote and maintain the welfare of the people by adopting appropriate policies and measures.*"

It is towards this end that the Supreme Law directs, *inter alia*, that Government:

- Shall seek, through appropriate legislation, to provide maternity and related benefits for women;

19 June 2007

**MOTION ON SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION  
HON IILONGA**

- Shall gain membership of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and where possible, adhere to and act in accordance with the International Conventions and Recommendations of the ILO.
- Shall ensure that senior citizens are entitled to and receive a regular pension, adequate for the maintenance of a decent standard of living and the enjoyment of social and cultural opportunities.
- Shall instigate enactment of legislation to ensure that the unemployed, the incapacitated, the needy and the disadvantaged are accorded such social benefits and amenities as are determined by Parliament to be just and affordable, with due regard to the resources of the State.

In accordance with the above Constitutional mandate, Government proceeded and established the Social Security Commission on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 1995.

3. Social Security Commission's Duties.

The primary role of the Social Security Commission is to administer the funds established by the Social Security Act or established by any other law that assigned the administration to the Social Security Commission. Currently these funds are:

- The Maternity Leave, Sick Leave and Death Benefit Fund (MSD); the National Pension Fund (NPF); the Development Fund (DF), and the National Medical Benefit Fund (NMBF). The above four funds are established by the Social Security Act. The Social Security Commission also manages a fund that has been assigned to it, namely, the Employees Compensation Fund, formally known as Workman's Compensation Fund.
- Generally, the funds promote social protection of employees with a degree of social solidarity through pooling of savings to insure against certain contingencies, such as MSD and ECF funds. It positively bears on decent living standard through cash transfer to employees during defined difficulties during their working lives or sustain them during retirement. The latter is the purpose of the National Pension Fund which we are busy to develop. When completed, it will be brought to this House to be given the go-ahead.

19 June 2007

**MOTION ON SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION  
HON IILONGA**

- The role of the Social Security Commission is to administer these funds by registering the members, receiving the contributions, paying the benefits, managing the surplus funds, account for the funds and buy any assets necessary for the carrying out of these duties.

For example, as at April 2007, the Social Security Commission had 489,000 employees registered as members for the Maternity, Sick Leave and Death Benefit Fund and 26,900 employers registered for the Employment Compensation Fund.

During the 2006/07 Financial Year, the Social Security Commission paid benefits totalling N\$45 million to alleviate realised contingencies caused by maternity leave, sick leave, death, medical expenses related to injury on duty and pensions to surviving spouses and children where a qualifying employee died on duty or due to injuries sustained while on duty. These benefits went a long way in easing the pain of those affected.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, in conclusion, social security is a noble idea and must be maintained in our country. What we need to do is to improve its operation and protection.

With those few contributions, I rest my case and I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Deputy Minister for his contribution. Any further discussion? Does Honourable Gertze or any of his Colleagues wish to reply?

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**HON GURIRAB:** Honourable Speaker, in the absence of my Colleague I wish to adjourn this Debate until Tuesday next week.

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**HON SPEAKER:** The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until Tuesday next week. The Secretary will read the Fifth Order of the Day.

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19 June 2007

**MOTION - TAXATION ON PENSION PAYOUTS  
HON GORESEB**

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON REGULATION OF THE CURRENT  
TAXATION REGIME AGAINST PENSION PAYOUTS**

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**HON SPEAKER:** When this Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, 6 June 2007, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Gertze, that the Motion be adopted. The Honourable Goreseb adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

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**HON GORESEB:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament. I rise in support of this very important Motion on income tax, which affects each and every individual and legal person in this country. My contributions will be very brief and focus on pension savings.

Tax has an extremely long-established history. The ancient Egyptians appointed the masters who increased the burden on the children of Israeli slaves under Egyptian domination.

It is said, as a general rule tax is the source that is best exploited by the Government. It is imposed on individuals and companies to finance services that the State is obligated to provide to meet its goals.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we have all heard that tax is divided into two main categories, progressive and regressive tax systems.

Progressive tax graduated and its rate varies according to the taxpayer's income, as it was clearly demonstrated by the Mover, Honourable Gertze.

Regressive tax, on the other hand, is a fixed rate irrespective of the taxpayer's income. For example, Value-added Tax is imposed at a fixed rate of 15% on rich and poor alike. It is regressive in that it is a tax that is proportionally greater on the income of a poor man than on a rich man.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, this Motion seeks for gradual tax reforms to relieve the tax burden on the individual citizens over a period of time and it depends on the economic performance of a particular state.

19 June 2007

**MOTION - TAXATION ON PENSION PAYOUTS  
HON GORESEB**

Any tax increases will decrease disposable or after tax income for both the individual and company, which discourages savings and consumption. Hence, the continued poverty amongst our citizens.

Honourable Speaker, in a progressive income tax system, bracket-creep harms income taxpayers. For example, adjustments to wages and salaries to keep abreast of inflation, or promotion, or a little increment which was fought for by the Trade Unions, push people into a higher tax bracket where they have to pay higher marginal and average tax rates even though their income has not increased in real terms.

In such a scenario the State is the beneficiary of this redistribution, unless it takes active steps to prevent bracket creep by regularly adjusting tax brackets so that they remain constant in real terms. I thank the Honourable Minister of Finance for reviewing the tax bracket of our lower income earners from N\$24,000.00 to N\$36,000.00.

Honourable Speaker, I fully agree with the Mover that our tax bracket discrepancies need some rearrangements, to give some breathing space, as our citizens cannot make any significant savings under this pressure.

To my view, the only savings each and everyone of us are making is for retirement, the pension, which is of course a statutory compulsory saving.

I am mindful, of various tax-free investments one might choose from, for example buying shares in companies where the dividends are tax free, or investment in any unit trust where the dividends are tax free, or Government Treasury Bills or Namibian Post Office savings banks. However, it is always easier to say than to get it done.

Honourable Speaker, when you get your pay cheque or salary at the end of the month, it is always interesting to see your net pay. Most of us expect more than we get. By the time you get your salary, it has been cut up like a pizza with several entities taking a piece of the pie. (Intervention)

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Honourable Goreseb, I just want to understand what you are saying and I have a question just for clarity's sake. Did

19 June 2007

**MOTION - TAXATION ON PENSION PAYOUTS  
HON GORESEB**

you say that some of you are spending more than what you have? Did you say that?

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**HON GORESEB:** No, I did not say that. What I said is that most of us expect more than we get. Usually that is the case. By the time you get your salary it has been cut up like a pizza, with several entities taking a piece of the pie. The entities that take the money differ from person to person, for example rent, water and electricity bills, school fees, bonds, etcetera.

It is true that almost every income earner has to pay income tax, but the aforesaid scenario makes meaningful investment very difficult for most of the citizens, due to little disposable income left, hardly sufficient for consumption purposes.

Hence the importance of pension savings, which is compulsory to each and every employee for the future. However, because of the cumulative nature, the non-taxable low income earners become taxable.

From this cumulative lump sum, one-third is tax free, whereas the remainder two-thirds are subjected to income tax.

Now my big question to the Honourable Minister is: Why should we again pay tax on these meagre savings, the pension? You have worked all your life, you have paid your income tax and now the last amount which you are going to use is also taxable. Why?

Honourable Members, this calls for an urgent tax reform or proportional tax adjustment on our pension savings.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I support the Motion and its reference to a relevant Standing Committee as pleaded by the Mover. I thank you.

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19 June 2007

**MOTION - TAXATION ON PENSION PAYOUTS  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member. I know the roots whence the Honourable Member hails from and he has once again proven that he can see things before they happen. The next speaker is the Minister of Finance.

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the House. I rise to make a few observations on the Motion on Taxation which is currently on the Table of the House.

Regrettably, the statistics used in the Motion by the Member is for the most part inaccurate or it is placed out of context. As a result, a skewed picture is painted about the tax rates at which tax payable is calculated.

The statistics used by the Member was obtained from Inland Revenue Directorate at the Ministry of Finance for a completely different purpose and does not reflect the actual situation of the number of tax assessments issued in a specific Tax Year. For example, the statistics in the Motion compares the number of assessments issued on income, ranging from zero to N\$200,000.00, which is 141,359, to the number of taxpayers registered at the end of 2006/07 tax year, which were 298,725.

It is important to clarify that registered taxpayers are persons registered at the Inland Revenue Directorate for income tax purposes. This includes a large number of persons who may no longer be employed at the time of assessment of the returns in respect of a certain year or whose income is below the threshold for paying taxes. Some of these persons may never submit further tax returns because they no longer earn an income. These persons can only be removed from the register once information is received that such persons are no longer subject to income tax. It would thus be wrong to compare the number of tax assessments in a year to the number of registered taxpayers at one point to determine the level of tax compliance or the efficiency of tax revenue collection.

The factual situation about income tax assessment received for 2002/03 Tax Year is that 99% of the returns have been assessed and 97% for the 2004/05 Tax Year. Outstanding tax returns are being followed up and summonses are being issued for non-compliance.

I must emphasise, however, that although these returns are outstanding, it does not mean that no tax was paid. In many instances tax was already paid through

19 June 2007

**MOTION - TAXATION ON PENSION PAYOUTS  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

PAYE deductions and provisional tax payments.

Concerning the issue of over- and under-deductions, it is important to clarify that income tax deductions – and I must emphasise this – are made at the source of income by the employer and not by the Ministry of Finance. In the case of Government employees this is done at the level of the employing Ministry.

To ensure that correct tax deductions are made from their salaries by employers, employees need to notify their employers about their pension contributions to approved retirement funds and employers should take this into consideration when PAYE is calculated on a monthly basis. The employers have a legal obligation to make adjustments during the year of assessment to ensure that correct tax deductions are made from the salaries of their employees. Unfortunately, employees do not always provide the employers with the information they need to make correct tax deductions and employers also sometimes ignore the information provided by the employees and as a result, incorrect deductions are made which could result in debit or credit assessments.

It could also happen that invalid expenditure deductions by the taxpayer are disallowed by Inland Revenue, with the result that such a taxpayer will have to pay in the difference.

Concerning the tax brackets, it is unclear as to why the Member felt that they are discriminatory or why they do not make sense. Tax tables are based on a progressive scale, as the preceding speaker just mentioned, with higher income attracting a higher rate of taxation than lower income. This type of taxation system is internationally acknowledge and renowned because of its redistribution effect, which makes it more appropriate in situations like ours where income distribution is highly skewed.

The current tax brackets provide for a threshold of N\$24,000.00 per annum. A person who earns less than N\$24,000.00 per annum does not pay tax and we all know that this amount will be increased to N\$36,000.00 per annum, as I announced during the Budget presentation. The lifting of the tax threshold will have the effect of reducing effective tax rates and thus increasing the net pay for salary earners.

A person who earns more than N\$24,000.00 per annum, but not more than N\$40,000.00, pays a tax at a rate of 17.5% currently on the difference between



19 June 2007

**MOTION - TAXATION ON PENSION PAYOUTS  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

N\$24,000.00 and N\$40,000.00. For example, if the taxable income of a person is N\$40,000.00, then the tax at 17.5% on the difference between N\$24,000.00 and N\$40,000.00 is N\$2,800.00. Thus, the effective tax rate in this example is 7% because of the way that the tax rate is applied.

For taxable income that is more than N\$40,000.00 but does not exceed N\$80,000.00, the tax is calculated at N\$2,800.00, which represents 17.5% on the difference between N\$24,000.00 and N\$40,000.00 plus 29.5% on the amount more than N\$40,000.00 and not exceeding N\$80,000.00. Therefore, if the taxable income is N\$80,000.00, then the tax will be N\$2,800.00 plus 29.5% of N\$40,000.00, which is N\$14,600.00 and the effective tax rate is 18.25%.

For taxable income that is N\$80,000.00 but does not exceed N\$200,000.00, the tax is calculated as follows: N\$14,600.00 which represents 17.5% on the difference between N\$24,000.00 and N\$40,000.00, plus 29.5% of the difference between N\$40,000.00 and N\$80,000.00 plus 34.5% on the amount more than N\$80,000.00 and not exceeding N\$200,000.00. Thus, if the taxable income is N\$200,000.00, then the tax will be N\$14,600.00 plus 34.5% of N\$120,000.00, which is N\$56,000.00 or 28% effective tax rate.

In the last tax bracket all income exceeding N\$200,000.00 is taxed at 35%. The tax payable is then calculated as N\$56,000.00, which represents 17.5% between N\$24,000.00 and N\$40,000.00, plus 29.5% on the amount more than N\$40,000.00 and not exceeding N\$80,000.00, plus 34.5% on the amount more than N\$80,000.00 but not exceeding N\$200,000.00, plus 35% on the amount exceeding N\$200,000.00. Therefore, if your taxable income is N\$300,000.00, then the tax will be N\$56,000.00 plus 35% of N\$100,000.00, which is N\$91,000.00 or an effective tax rate of 30.3%. That is the highest effective tax rate in Namibia.

Therefore, it cannot be correct that a person who receives an increase will have a lower net payment than before the increase because he has to pay tax under a higher tax bracket. For example, if a person's income before an increase was N\$80,000.00 per annum, then after tax deductions of N\$14,600.00, he or she remains with the net salary of N\$65,000.00 per annum. If he or she receives an increase of N\$10,000.00, then she or he will have a net pay of N\$71,950.00 per annum after taxes, which is of course higher than the initial income. This is because a higher tax rate of 34.5% was only applied on the income increase of N\$10,000.00 and not the whole income and this is important and that is why I

19 June 2007

**MOTION - TAXATION ON PENSION PAYOUTS  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

outlined the calculation of tax payable in respect of the various tax brackets, because it is not true that you can take home less at a higher income level than you did at a lower income level because of tax.

Concerning the taxation on pension payouts, tax annuities are a specific inclusion in the definition of “*gross income*”. This means that accumulated annuities in the year of assessment are taxable based on a progressive tax rate, like employment income. If a person’s accumulated annuities are less than N\$24,000.00 and he or she has no other income, then it will not be taxed. If the annuities are above the tax threshold, they are taxed at the rate as discussed earlier. The rate of taxation is determined in respect of an income level and not the age or labour market status of its earner. However, a maximum of one-third of the total pension benefit is regarded as a single lump sum and, therefore, not taxable.

If one were to tax pension annuities at a lower rate, then there would be massive transfer pricing, and my Colleague, the Economist there would know, with income earners transferring their income from employment income into pension annuities, with resultant negative implications for public revenue and there are people who are known to have transferred their income, sometimes by as high as 60%, to pension contributions and leave only 40% as salary income, so that after five or seven years they retire and then they go and reap the annuities without taxation. Then you really have a situation of inequities because only the rich can afford to do that.

Furthermore, in our society of high income disparities, there are many income earners whose income is much lower than the pension annuities of many pensioners. I can tell you that because I deal with the tax files of people. It would thus be inappropriate and, indeed, unjust to tax the lower income earners, the majority of whom are struggling to survive on their income, at a higher rate than pension income earners whose income may be much higher. This could also undermine our efforts to reduce income disparities, especially with the possibility of transfer pricing that I referred to earlier, and could result in further impoverishment of the poor, as the poor will end up with a higher tax burden.

With regard to whether pension annuities are taxed at a higher rate, this is not the case. However, where a person has more than one source of income, which increases the total income received and moves it into the higher tax bracket, then the higher tax rate will be applicable.

19 June 2007

**MOTION - TAXATION ON PENSION PAYOUTS  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

For example, if a pensioner whose pension annuity is N\$40,000.00 becomes a benefactor of another annuity, say a death benefit annuity or any other income, so that his or her total income becomes N\$80,000.00 per annum, then that person will be taxed at 29.5%.

Similarly, if an employee was earning N\$40,000.00 and as a result of a death benefit annuity ends up with a total income of N\$80,000.00, then the rate of 29.5% will apply, as above.

This, however, does not mean that pension annuities are taxed at a higher rate. It only means that the rate of tax would increase progressively as total income increases, regardless of whether that income comes from one source or from a multiplicity of sources and whether that comes from different employment they held or it comes from annuities and death benefits or whatever, we are not concerned about where the money comes from, we are only concerned about the total income that flows to an individual and that it must be taxed at a progressive rate.

Is there a double taxation of income both at the time of deductions for contribution to pensions and at the time of payment of annuities? I would say no, because deductions are exempted from taxation and at the time of payment of the pension, the one-third is also exempted. It is only the annuity that is taxed.

I must however also indicate that in-between there, when your deductions are growing through the investments by the pension funds, the returns on your investments are also exempted from taxation and that would have a multiplying effect on the value of your pension because if it was the case that there was a taxation on the pension deduction and also that the income of pension funds was taxed, then it would mean that the amount that would have to be reinvested would be smaller and therefore, the outcome of that investment would also be smaller, but because there are these two exemptions, it enables these investments to grow faster and, therefore, the value of the pensions are actually enhanced.

What that mean is that if you were to decide that we should not exempt pension contributions from taxation and we should not exempt pension funds from taxation, so that you that is paid on total income during the time that one is working and then tax exemption is given on annuity, then all those other benefits and the multiplying effect on your investments would be forfeited and people will

19 June 2007

**MOTION - TAXATION ON PENSION PAYOUTS  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

complain when their pensions reduce because they may not fully understand it.

Now that that would be the result, you think you are gaining, but when you eventually start to receive your net pay and you realise it is smaller, it will be thought that the Treasury has cheated the public and we do not want to do that.

It would also discourage savings if you do not have these incentives. The question would be why should one invest a part of one's income if the return is not worth it? You invest because you have that anticipation that you get more out of it.

Finally, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I do not think that this House would want to undo the policy of income redistribution. I must really emphasise that because it will be that if we decide that we are going to tax pensioners at a lower rate. It may be appealing if you think about an old person that receives a pension grant of N\$370.00, it may make sense then, but what about a chief of a parastatal that gets N\$1.5 million per year? Now that person goes on pension and all of a sudden they are taxed lower than a secretary who is working. It is actually unthinkable and we cannot do that in a situation of inequity.

Furthermore, as lawmakers we must also form part of efforts to cultivate in our society a culture of paying our taxes. It really hurts me when, of all the people in this country, it is Members of Parliament that complain about paying taxes. I know that you want to optimise your income, but we always have to think that there are many other people who are in a much worse situation than ourselves and we should be prepared to make a contribution to the upliftment of the livelihood of the majority of our people.

It is agreed that taxation should not be a burden to taxpayers, nor discourage business. It is also the case that the tax base will have to broaden more, but we cannot wait until we have a broader tax base to optimise revenue collection. I know that our tax rates are quite comparable with those of our peers, so they are not discouraging investments.

Many of the developed countries whose welfare systems we seek to emulate, and I know all of us here are supporters of a welfare state, have comparable or even higher tax rates in order for them to sustain their welfare systems.

19 June 2007

I was surprised that one Western country has a tax rate of something like 48%. I was shocked. It is a welfare state and it is a huge contributor to overseas development assistance.

Namibians should thus be happy to finance our development, each one according to one's income level. It is a duty we owe to our Nation and to our future generations. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** The opposition benches asked that you distribute copies to them so that they could also have their say. With that the House stands adjourned under automatic adjournment until tomorrow afternoon.

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**THE HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:58 UNTIL 2007.06.20 AT 14:30**

**ASSEMBLY CHAMBER  
WINDHOEK  
20 JUNE 2007**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

**HON SPEAKER:** Took the Chair and read Prayers and the Affirmation.

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**ANNOUNCEMENT**

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, today is the International Refugees Day. Memories are still fresh that only some 18 or so years ago a good number of us, however we might have characterised ourselves, were refugees in foreign lands and have been able to enjoy the goodwill and support of so many across the world. We have refugees mostly from friendly neighbouring countries amidst us and I know that this Government has been doing its level best and as people to be of assistance to them. We are happy that a much larger number of them have been able to return to their respective countries and are now productive citizens.

Last week I accompanied the Right Honourable Prime Minister together with the Deputy Ministers of Home Affairs and Education, the Minister of Information and Broadcasting and were able to engage some of the good class refugees who are there, who are benefiting from our education establishment, preparing themselves and are making a contribution to our development efforts. That was a testimony to the goodwill and support and hospitality that we are extending to them.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Honourable Kaiyamo.

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**TABLING: REPORT OF STANDING  
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

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20 June 2007

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES  
HON KAIYAMO**

**HON KAIYAMO:** Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table the Report of the National Standing Committee on Public Accounts on referral of the Reports of the Auditor-General on Regional Councils and Local Authorities for discussion.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member table the Report? Any further Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Any Notices of Questions? Honourable Kaura.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS**

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**QUESTION 79:**

**HON KAURA:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2007, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting the following:

There is an FM Radio tower constructed near Buitepos, 85 kilometres east of Gobabis near the Botswana border. That is laudable, however only three national languages will be served, namely Oshiwambo, Tswana, Otjiherero plus the official language, English. Two important languages are excluded, namely San and Nama/Damara.

Honourable Minister, what is the reason for the exclusion of these two languages, because the communal areas as well the commercial farming areas of Omaheke are fully domiciled by those two language groups. If it is an oversight, I request the Minister to take a re-look at this problem and include the two languages that are left out.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will Honourable Kaura table the Question. Any further Notices of Questions? Any Notices of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements?

20 June 2007

**MOTION ON UNION GOVERNMENT OF AFRICA  
HON DR GEINGOB**

The first Notice of Motion is the one by Honourable Dr Geingob. Does the Honourable Member move the Motion? Who seconds the Motion? Any objection? Agreed to. Dr Geingob has the Floor.

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**MOTION ON UNION GOVERNMENT OF AFRICA**

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**HON DR GEINGOB:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. It is my great pleasure and honour to table a Motion of destiny in this august House. I move, Honourable Speaker, that Namibia joins the rest of Africa in considering a Motion that Africa forms a continent-wide Union Government of Africa by the year 2015.

As you know, this House sent five of us to the Pan-African Parliament to represent Namibia at that Pan-African body. The Members are as follows, just to refresh your memory: Honourable Kasingo, Honourable T Gurirab, Honourable !Nawases-Taeyele and yours truly from this House, and Honourable Hakaye from the House of Review.

In response to requests made by the Chairman of the African Union during the Eighth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in Addis Ababa from 29 to 30 January 2007, for the Pan-African Parliament to make an input to the Grand Debate on the Union Government of Namibia, the Bureau of the Pan-African Parliament constituted a task force, comprising distinguished African experts, to assist in the process of developing a PAP position.

This task force submitted its Report with some recommendations. This Report presents the perspective of the PAP on Grand Debate and makes specific recommendations on the transitional mechanisms and processes required to achieve the goal of realising the Union Government of Africa.

The Report deals with conceptual issues relating to the envisaged Union Government, highlights the challenges to, and opportunities for, integration including the structural, institutional and legal convergences and divergences of the Organs of the proposed Union, and discusses the context in which Africa finds itself globally. It then underscores the importance of Africa's integration as



20 June 2007

**MOTION ON UNION GOVERNMENT OF AFRICA  
HON DR GEINGOB**

the only safeguard against the danger of a new detrimental scramble for Africa's resources and neo-colonialism.

Starting from the premise that the search for integration is embodied in an entrenched desire for unity in Africa, the Report provides a historical resume of the contribution of Africa's great civilisations, human ingenuity and excellence to humanity, including to knowledge production and wealth creation. Further, the Report demonstrates the contribution of Pan Africanist solidarity both to combating slavery, colonialism and human dignity and to subsequent developments which culminated in the political liberation of the continent.

The Report further makes a number of recommendations, among them the following, that:

- The AU encourages robust Debate, particularly among Africans, on Africa's common values, aspirations and how to translate these into tangible benefits within the context of the Union Government;
- The AU reflects critically on the character, nature and scope of the envisaged Government;
- The process of creating a Union Government be built upon past successes, and that it fast-tracks both the building blocks for such a Union and the implementation of all measures that would facilitate its creation; and
- That AU initiates a review of all AU instruments, as a basis for according PAP full legislative authority as well as clarifying the mandates, roles and responsibilities of various AU organs.

The movement towards the Union Government of Africa reflects the resilience and determination of the African peoples to achieve real unity, speed up development, strengthen progressive democratic governance throughout the continent and improve Africa's position in the world. This is a true expression of the emerging African Renaissance. As an organ that represents all African peoples, including the interests of all peoples of African descent, the PAP is poised to play a leading role in the process leading to the Union Government. This is the paraphrased version of the Report.

Next month the African Union Summit will be held in Accra. The agenda item

20 June 2007

**MOTION ON UNION GOVERNMENT OF AFRICA  
HON DR GEINGOB**

for this meeting is the discussion on the Union Government of Africa. That is the reason I brought this important matter to the attention of the Namibian people through this august House for a Grand Debate.

As I have said on Africa Day earlier this year: *“This idea of a Union Government for Africa was predicated by our forefathers. Forty-four years ago, that is on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 1963, leaders of African countries that had secured their Independence established the Organisation of African Unity. It was a formalised beginning of our working together towards a shared goal of a free Africa, free of oppression, exploitation and subjugation. By 1990, the whole of Africa had been liberated from colonialism. Now our dreams are bigger – a united Africa where Africans can live with dignity, without want, in peace and in harmony.*

*Africa is a diverse continent with more tribes, languages and cultures than there are countries. National boundaries are mostly artificial, created by the colonial powers. Therefore, a united Africa is not a far-fetched dream. At the very heart, we are one people.”*

In Namibia, during the years of our struggle, we were committed to Pan-Africanism. The commitment of Comrade Sam Nujoma to Pan-Africanism won him the support of other Pan-Africanists throughout Africa and Diaspora during the struggle for the Independence of Namibia.

The fact that African states are entertaining the idea of an African Union shows that African states are comfortable with their Independence, to the extent that they are willing to consider surrendering some of their sovereignty to a supranational body.

We in Namibia – again on the insistence of the Founding Father – are singing the AU Anthem together with our National Anthem and are raising the AU Flag next to our National Flag. I think we are the only country which is doing that.

Honourable Speaker, in Africa, we are at a turning point. The concept of Pan-African Government is no longer just a thought. Slowly, but steadily, it is being given a shape. As Kwame Nkrumah had said: *“Thought without practice is empty. Action with thought is blind.”* This wisdom demands of us that we locate our thoughts of a Pan-African Government into a crucible of reality. However, our action must be tempered with reflection. That is the purpose of my Motion.

20 June 2007

**MOTION ON UNION GOVERNMENT OF AFRICA  
HON DR GEINGOB**

The objective of Africa attaining political union by the year 2015 is a truly noble one and as a country that believes in the future of the African Union, we have to embrace it fully. Similarly, as an African I am totally attached to the great potential that such a goal holds for the well-being of the African people.

First, I am of the opinion that the Debate about a political union by the year 2015 ought to be unpacked at two levels. The first level of analysis is conceptual or theoretical, if you like, and through this we are likely to understand the institutional aspects that should drive the process of political union by 2015. I believe that once we have clarity about the conceptual, we will be better placed to see challenges and not necessarily obstacles, towards political union in Africa by 2015.

I think that this Debate is conceptual, because we are charting into territory that has been chartered before and there is a plenty of literature on Regionalism. In this case, I am of course talking about the most advanced Regional integration project or process in world history, the European Union. In that connection, there is a historical reference point when we talk about political union. It is a Debate that is not taking place in a historical vacuum or context.

In essence, the whole idea of Union, if we have to break it up, is the last stage in the process of Regional or continental integration. That is the road travelled by the European Union since its original framers first mooted the idea.

The European Union is the only case in point where we could talk meaningfully about a political union, and recent discussions in the EU about a constitution for Europe or a mini-treaty these days does suggest that there is sufficient consensus at a political leadership level to have a president for Europe or a foreign minister. Africa will not necessarily go through the same process since the context within which political union will become a reality is substantially different.

Therefore, we should not be surprised that it takes time for a new continental body like the African Union to launch itself, especially given an ever-expanding and multifaceted agenda. It took a good number of decades for other comparable bodies in Latin America (Mercosur), Asia (ASEAN) and Europe to acquire institutional capacity and build confidence within their respective regions and outside. I do not think that the African Union experience will be fundamentally different.

20 June 2007

**MOTION ON UNION GOVERNMENT OF AFRICA  
HON DR GEINGOB**

However, the critical question here is one of the speed at which Africa should move in order to achieve political union by the year 2015. And if we agree that political union is the last phase in the process of Regional integration, we would agree that we have to move at a much faster pace with regard to Regional economic integration. The African Union in its pursuit of political union will have to rely increasingly on Regional economic communities.

When economies are substantially integrated, interdependent, their collective political destinies become linked. Therefore, the cost of conflict becomes prohibitive.

This leads us to the second equally pertinent level of analysis, the institutional level. I am talking here about the institutional readiness or capacity of the African Union to achieve political union by the year 2015.

Evidently, the most obvious concern here would be financial. And secondly, yet related to the first, we would add the organisational capacity of AU to drive the process of political union to its logical conclusion. Here I need to mention that one of the most important institutional benefits of belonging to a continental body is access to expertise and related symmetries of information. However, the lack of financial resources prevent the AU from becoming institutionally strong in order to provide the necessary technical assistance to member states in vital areas such as civil service reform, democracy and economic management.

I am specifically talking about the capacity of the AU to promote good political and economic governance in member countries. Its capacity to create a culture of common values and norms about democracy, which are a necessary condition for ending conflicts.

The African Union faces the additional challenges of endemic poverty and civil conflict among many of its member states, although that is the Governments smaller in numbers. These undoubtedly provide important institutional challenges towards the goal of political union.

Clearly, progress towards a Union Government of Africa should be in stages. Development and strengthening of Regional communities is one way forward. The other way would be for the AU to set certain standards, for example political (democracy, human rights) practices in all the countries and economic (budget

20 June 2007

**MOTION ON UNION GOVERNMENT OF AFRICA  
HON KAZENAMBO**

deficit, limitations, movement of people, common currency) before the Union Government is established.

It is these challenges that we need to reflect on to realise Africa's dream of a United State of Africa.

Finally, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, I am requesting you to, on behalf of the Namibian people, debate the Motion here but by so doing, also allow our public and media to be engaged in this process of the destiny of Africa. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for his very important motivation of a subject which is near to the hearts of all of us. Any further discussion? Honourable Hausiku.

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**HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Comrade Speaker, I wanted to make a very small contribution tomorrow afternoon, since I will be leaving on Monday to attend the conference referred to by the Honourable Geingob.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Honourable Speaker, it is not proper to speak after your boss has spoken, but I will also be away on a mission and I will contribute now.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, it is one of those Motions that are not only emotional, but are also timely. It affects one closely because its not only the destiny of Africa which should be on constant review and shaping or reshaping itself, this Motion comes, as it does, when the world at large is grappling with pertinent issues, such as globalisation that is shaped or influenced by the issues of political, technological and economic nature.

20 June 2007

**MOTION ON UNION GOVERNMENT OF AFRICA  
HON KAZENAMBO**

The issue of global trade relations is one of those issues which demand countries, continents, Regions to position themselves to test their strength to perfect their negotiation skills as to how they will cut the cake of the globe.

The issue is coming when countries and continents are trying, as usual, to outperform themselves to marginalise one another. Therefore, it is heartening when those who have been the pioneers of the liberation struggle, like Honourable Hage Geingob, who have been at the formation of the political parties, like the one I belong to, are not yet tired and are saying, *“let us continue with the march of seeing where we place this continent in the global political arena.”*

I am saying that, Honourable Speaker, this issue is one of those emotional issues because the African people are not only discussing the future of this country, but they have been heavily involved in shaping this continent's future. We emerged from a history of slavery, we also experienced colonialism, we are experiencing trade marginalisation at global level as we are talking.

The children of African descent during the slavery era will remember that many of them were taken from cities like Ghana or countries that are now called Ghana, some were taken from Angola and centres, such as Liverpool in the UK became centres where the African children, the African people were unpacked and delivered like they were packing our diamonds and shipping them somewhere. These people did not only go there, but they are the people who developed the United States which you see shining today. They are the people who contributed with their blood and sweat to see the shining tunnels and tarmacs that we see in cities like London, Manchester, New York, Brazil, Mexico and others across the globe. It was the African people's sweat.

Our mothers had to console themselves with songs of sadness in the plantations of South America. Our mothers and sisters, when the tough was going tough, could sing African beats, African dramas and these were the people who had been pushed to the side.

When we discuss the future of Africa, we cannot forget the heroes and heroines, like Mother Rosa Park who said *“no subjugation”*, a mother refused to stand up for a white person who said, *“stand up, I want to sit in this seat.”* She said no and she said no to maintain my dignity as an African person.

20 June 2007

**MOTION ON UNION GOVERNMENT OF AFRICA  
HON KAZENAMBO**

When we are discussing about the African Union, we are talking about uniting the strength of the African people as we did during the liberation struggle. It was the Africans themselves who said no to colonialism and people in Namibia, under the leadership of nationalists like Hosea Kutako and under the leadership of leaders of the liberation struggle, like the Founding President Dr Sam Nujoma, pioneers the people who are sitting in this House across the Political Parties, the Honourable Katuutire Kaura, the Honourable Theo-Ben Gurirab, the Honourable Hage Geingob, Honourable Hidipo Hamutenya in *abstentia*, the Honourable Nahas Angula, the list goes on, Dr Libertina Amathila and Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase were the pioneers, the people who responded. Maybe I made a mistake by mentioning names, but I am trying to justify a point.

My point is that some of the names that I have mentioned here, maybe some without their permission, are mentioned because in one way or the other they have contributed to the Africa which we are now enjoying. Some of them contributed through giving their intellectual capital. They made sacrifices, they made choices, they could teach in universities across the world, they could become staff of the World Bank, they could become staff of the IMF, they could work for different institutions after the completion of their studies. However they sacrificed their own comfort to contribute to the liberation struggle so that today Namibia and Africa could be what it is.

Sometimes the youth of this world, of Africa today, join the chorus, we join the music of condemnation of countries like Zimbabwe. You become shy when the names of Honourable Robert Mugabe is mentioned, but these are the people who have been at the centre of the liberation struggle. Let alone the mistakes that are there, if there are any, but the truth is that today we are talking of a free Zimbabwe, free Namibia, free Angola, free Nigeria, free Liberia, free Botswana and the list goes on because of people who made some contribution. Some of them were assassinated, they paid with their blood, like Comrade Patrice Lumumba and that the only crime he has ever committed is to represent the interest of the African people.

When those poor Zambians are here, some of them would say, “*these Zambians, what do they want here?*” Their economies became what they are today because of the sacrifices which they made to the African people. Zambia, Tanzania were the centres where these shining politicians, who were regarded as instigators, as trouble-makers, as terrorists, those mothers in Tanzania, those mothers in Angola, those mothers in Botswana, those mothers in Zambia always said *Vana Vange*.

20 June 2007

**MOTION ON UNION GOVERNMENT OF AFRICA  
HON KAZENAMBO**

When the planes are oozing around you, those mothers in Angola would not only be concerned with their kids, they would also look after you as Namibian. They would open their hearts, they would cook the last drop of mahangu for you or maize-meal that she could cook for her kids for you. That is the African solidarity which we sometimes easily forget because of xenophobia.

In conclusion, Honourable Tjihuiko is feeling guilty because he has violated the principles. He was one of the pioneers. He could have worked in these clinics and the administration here, but he stood for a principle. Now what makes me feel pain is that this gentleman who stood for principles joins the chorus of tribalism, preaching tribalism while he sacrificed. Now he is just preaching when he is in Okakarara, when he is in the village. (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? Can the Honourable Deputy Minister please, even for the media to be able to report on what was said, just tell this House what he has been saying for the last 15 to 20 minutes? What is the message that you are trying to get through to us or to the public out there? What is it that you are talking about?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:**

Honourable Tjihuiko, the message, and I am glad that you have dodged the question that you wanted to ask, the basis, the core of my discussion is that today, as we are talking here, we have liberated ourselves but within the psychology of global politics. The treatment which we are receiving as African people, in the eyes of some people outside there, whether you are a South African, a Ghanaian, you are Namibian, for some people Africa remains one irrespective of where you come from and we are supposed to be coming from trees and we are treated the same in terms of international trade relations.

When we land at Heathrow Airport, when we land at Frankfurt, when we land at Kennedy Airport, irrespective of whether you are from Namibia, irrespective of whether you are from Ghana, irrespective of whether you are from South Africa, irrespective of whether you are from Rwanda, perhaps even if you are a senior



20 June 2007

**MOTION ON UNION GOVERNMENT OF AFRICA  
HON KAZENAMBO**

Minister, there is a good chance of you being stopped at that airport and being pushed aside. We still need the same treatment.

In terms of our products as the African continent, when they go to the international markets, they are treated in the same way in terms of pricing. (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** On a Point of Information. I appreciate the argument of the Honourable Deputy Minister, but sometimes as politicians and leaders we should not be economical with the truth. If you travel to Africa today, all of us are travelling to Africa, at very few countries you will be able to get in without a Visa. You have a lot of countries in Africa where you cannot get in without having an extra page in your passport. All of us have experienced that, whether you are a Deputy Director, whether you are a Director, we are all travelling to these countries.

The reason why I am asking the Honourable Deputy Minister that what is it that he is talking about, we are talking about an issue of the Africa Union, of an African Government as presented by the former Prime Minister and we should concentrate on that. You are trying to tell us things which we know that is not true.

The other day I was in Mali and the kind of treatment that I got in Mali I never got in London or Germany or Paris. Thus, it really depends on the countries. We should not look at people's colour. Let us be realistic when we are addressing some of these things. You are being totally unrealistic. We are all travelling and we all know what we are talking about, you are not the only one travelling.

The other point is that you are talking about Okakarara tribalism. What does that have to do with the issue on the Table?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:**

Notwithstanding that Herero violence and tribalism, let me continue. Exactly, Honourable Tjiuiko, I am saying that the issue of discussing the African Union and having an African Government, like we are having the EU and the United

20 June 2007

**MOTION ON UNION GOVERNMENT OF AFRICA  
HON KAZENAMBO**

States of America and other models, I am saying it is timely because the prejudices which you are displaying here, corruption is everywhere my friend. One of the most important accounting firms in the world, called ENRON, which collapsed was not an African accounting firm, but it was deep in the United States. Therefore corruption is everywhere.

If you travel and things happen to you, here I am discussing bigger issues and I think your picture is yet to reach there. I forgive you for that. Let me continue.

The issue is the issue of African solidarity. I am saying that other continents, other parts of the world have moved on. They are speaking with one voice, they are setting standards and values. If you go to the EU today, the European countries are aspiring to become members of the EU because at the continental level they have set standards, they have set values. Therefore, they can put a merger, but for you to qualify, you have to behave like this. This is the basis where we are saying that if Africa becomes united, we can speak with one voice on some of those issues that you have raised. It will accord our people freedom to travel across the continent without requiring visas, like you have experienced, and you cannot do this without having a mechanism of governance. This is all we are saying and I do not know what your problem is.

We are saying that today southern African countries are trying to form a cartel to talk about their diamonds and so on, and these are the issues, that when you are negotiating at international level about the labour relationship or labour environment within the continent, we should speak with one voice.

When we are talking about our products in Namibia, in global politics it is a question of power, of groups. They add value and we are saying that if we add our strength together, we can negotiate with these mighty bodies and mighty continental bodies. This is what I am saying, because united we stand, divided we fall.

We have an example: It was African solidarity, Angola opening up for Namibian freedom fighters and South African freedom fighters; Tanzania opening up, giving refuge and shelter to African freedom fighters. That is why today you sit in this Parliament, otherwise you could still be in Katutura and you could even have been taken further on into the mountain. You would not have enjoyed the title of "Honourable". (Intervention)

20 June 2007

**MOTION ON UNION GOVERNMENT OF AFRICA  
HON KAZENAMBO**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** May I ask Honourable Kazenambo a question? My question is triggered by the interjection of Honourable Tjihuiko, because I think he missed the point, he does not even recognise that this is a very important Motion and it touches so many hearts and it is at the core of our existence. May I therefore assume that Honourable Tjihuiko is tribally prejudiced, he thinks tribally, he associates tribally, he even travels tribally and sing and eat tribally?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Yes, I agree with you and I said this Motion is an emotional one and it touches many facets. (Intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** Can we with the seriousness and eloquence with which Dr Geingob introduced this very important Motion on the subject of African Unity, give it the importance that it deserves and not turn it into a boys' scouts kind of belittling? Think about the Motion, set aside the personal things.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Yes, honestly speaking...(Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, I am sorry to stand up again, because of the serious allegation that was made to try and derail the attention from the real issue into a tribal issue. If the Colleague wants us to bring a Motion to discuss tribalism, like we did last year, he should just bring that Motion and I will be more than willing to participate in that.

Coming to the point, the point that I wanted to make is that the Motion, as it is, is of great importance to us, not only to discuss it, it will be a source of education. I was actually requesting the Honourable Deputy Minister to stop singing in the

20 June 2007

**MOTION ON UNION GOVERNMENT OF AFRICA  
HON KAZENAMBO**

House and address the issue, so that all of us can understand what has happened in the history, what is the way forward. Now he has this tendency of misusing Parliament, standing up and singing and talking about soccer, talking about netball, talking about tennis. Let us talk about netball if we want to talk about netball. That is what I really wanted to ask the Deputy Minister, address the issue. There is nothing on tribalism on this Table.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** As I am moving towards my conclusion, I said the Motion is so important...(Intervention)

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question? I am listening very attentively to your contribution and it is quite good, but I want to ask you one question before you conclude and that is quite central to Africa.

How do we deal with northern Africa, because of late we are talking about sub-Saharan Africa and sub-Saharan Africa is moving really close into integration, but our Colleagues north of the Sahara are at one moment behaving as Arabs, when it suits them, the other moment as Africans. How do we foster that relationship to make sure that we mend those fences, in your opinion?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you very much, Honourable Venaani, for asking that critical question, that important question, a realistic one. Global politics, as a concept, is really packed with complex issues. You will find that even in the United States of America you find groupings, be it trade or political blocs. There will always be some issues of that nature, but those issues need to be seriously addressed, given full study and full research on how do you reach solutions. Those I will call challenges.

Your question is based on the reality today and even if you take the European Union, before I come fully to your question, the EU is always challenged by the

20 June 2007

**MOTION ON UNION GOVERNMENT OF AFRICA  
HON KAZENAMBO**

question of the former Eastern Europe or countries of Eastern Europe, some who are now starting to join the EU, but the fact remains, some of the countries, like Turkey, have issues of religion.

The issue of southern Africa versus sub-Saharan Africa is a challenge to the African Union. You need to start to move. Challenges will always be there and you address them as you go. It may be a minor challenge or it may become a bigger challenge, but Africa's problems are so big that they cannot be halted by one issue.

Namibia attained its Independence and later, with the efforts of the likes of Honourable Nangolo Mbumba and Damaseb and with the guidance of the Prime Minister and the Founding President, Theo-Ben Gurirab, the Minister of Foreign Affairs...(Intervention)

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40**

**HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:11 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, let the tabling of this important Motion in the Namibian Parliament which is taking place when our President and Minister of Foreign Affairs are also going to engage the other leaders on this matter, let us look at it when we debate it, that it is one of those Motions that are meant to consolidate the African people to share opportunities – economic opportunities, to share their talents and skills. Some countries have a surplus of intellectuals and they will feel free and they will feel at home across the continent. When I am in Kinshasa, Brazzaville, Windhoek, Lusaka, Cairo, Cape Town, I am at home as an African, I deserve to be here just like the members of the European Union are sharing opportunities and business and political power. It is about Africa consolidating its power, therefore I really, with this in mind say, do it like you did for eradicating colonialism, do it like you did by eradicating slavery. (Interjections). Those are the Pan-Africanists, we are provoking them. (Intervention)

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20 June 2007

**MOTION ON UNION GOVERNMENT OF AFRICA  
HON KAZENAMBO**

**HON MINISTER OF VETERAN AFFAIRS:** May I please ask a question? Rest assured, you did not provoke me. I just want to maybe provoke a thought, not you. In the context of Africa, which is at different levels, and I am now talking country to country, different levels of development, some of them very poor, some of them with middle income and others well-developed, what kind of unity are we talking about? Political unity or economical unity? I am asking this based on the year 2015 which has been mentioned, which to me is very near. Do you not think that if we get into an African Government, those countries that are behind will overgraze those who are earning something? The influx will go to those who have everything and in that way they overgraze those ones and all of us would end up in poverty?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Dr Tjiriange, the disparities between countries in terms of their economic power or whatever are realities, they will be there. Simply put, they will be just like economic regions or districts within a country. You find those economic disparities between regions and districts, but by virtue of the fact that you have a framework of governance, then you can build on that and balance the difference between a poor Region and a richer Region, because it becomes your responsibility to balance. You are duty bound to balance this.

The current situation is that you do not have a binding legal framework where you can say that a poor country which was left behind, becomes the responsibility of all African people or all African structures to address that. Those people who find themselves in so-called rich or well-developed African countries do not think it is their duty and responsibility.

When a Namibian in Gam hears people talking about the problems in Somalia or Sudan, it is just like you are talking of something in heaven or in hell, he does not care. However when Sudan is part of us and not only part of us economically, we have to share our economic problems, we have to share our economic opportunities, we have to share our political problems. Even without this framework we are currently doing exactly that, because countries which I think they are better off and it is not their responsibility to care about others. The

20 June 2007

**MOTION ON UNION GOVERNMENT OF AFRICA  
HON KAURA**

African people themselves are voting with their feet, currently there is no arrangement, they end up being harassed as illegal immigrants. If you however put a framework, there will be a framework to address some of these issues.  
(Intervention)

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**HON MOONGO:** I want to ask a question. Honourable Speaker, that spirit of Africanism and Pan-Africanism is great, but if we fail to share the cake inside Namibia with our colleagues, the returnees, ex-fighters, how can we share with those Somalis? Is it not only a political mouthpiece?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Yes, I attempted to answer the question of Honourable Dr Tjiriange, my senior leader and Honourable Dr Geingob has mentioned that the theme will be pact. As to the question of the timeframe, surely the process itself will tell how ready we are and in what sector we are and what area and then we start.

In conclusion I encourage Africans to share opportunities and problems by having a framework like all other people are do, because this world is about organisation and this Motion calls for organisation. I support the Motion.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Deputy Minister for his contribution. Honourable Kaura.

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**HON KAURA:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I might be a little bit sentimental when I am addressing this Motion, because I continue to pinch myself when I see ourselves in this august House, because when Honourable Hage Geingob stood up to introduce this Motion, I went back to 1958 when this nice young boy from Tsumeb came to the Augustineum and when this

20 June 2007

**MOTION ON UNION GOVERNMENT OF AFRICA  
HON KAURA**

nice, young, handsome man with nice hair came from Usakos, who is now the Speaker of the House. He did not have hair like the rest of us, his hair was nice and soft.

I remember when we used to gather at the student house in Philadelphia as Namibian students, talking about Osagefo Kwame Nkrumah and Gamal Abdul Nasser of Egypt, Jomo Kenyatta, Julius Nyerere, Achmed Benbela, especially when the AOU for the first time met on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 1963 in Addis Ababa under Haile Selassie the Emperor then, who was the host of this gathering and in America and in the West the idea of an African Union was laughed at, because Africa was looked at as a tribal continent. How can you unite all these tribes? It was looked at as a joke, a serious joke at that point in time.

But you know, it started, the Organisation of African Unity was launched, the Liberation Committee was launched and ultimately, through the Liberation Committee, the whole of Africa became free from colonialism in 1990 with the Independence of Namibia.

I am wondering whether history is repeating itself, because I think I recall the name “*Namibia*” was introduced by Hage Geingob at the National Assembly of the United Nations and in 1990 we entered the independent Republic of Namibia.

So, it might appear like a mirage to have an African Government by 2015, but a start must be made somewhere. There are various complexities, but a start must be made. A journey of a thousand miles starts with one step and this step must be taken and be taken now.

Even the Regional groupings, like SADC, who could have imagined that a *coup d’etat* could be avoided in Lesotho because the South African Army went there and got peace and crushed a potential *coup d’etat*?

Although I was critical of our entry into the DRC, ultimately I have to take off my hat for the entry and the visionary actions taken by our Founding Father, that he went into the DRC and a democratic election took place and we have a democratic Government in the DRC.

Who could have imagined that the African Union army would be in Darfur today to try and bring peace and an end to the genocide which is being perpetrated in Darfur?



20 June 2007

**MOTION ON UNION GOVERNMENT OF AFRICA  
HON KAURA**

Who could have imagined that Liberia...(Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** You mentioned that you take your hat off for Namibia's forces that they entered DRC to ensure that peace prevails in that country. Since that is a mission completed, is that why the CoD is now disintegrating, because there is no more a need for the existence of CoD, because the DRC has peace and our forces are no more there? Is that the reason why the CoD is disintegrating?

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**HON KAURA:** For example, through ECOWAS peace has been brought to Liberia...(Intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** I hope we will stick to the African Union, that is what the Motion is about, the African Union.

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**HON ULENGA:** May I ask my elder brother a question? Honourable Kaura, talking about this incursion into the DRC, that you say eventually you took your hat off for somebody, do you recall how many souls perished in this misadventure? Do you recall that it is between five and six million souls that died of that infamous debacle that happened in Central Africa, called the Lakes Regions Conflict? Do you recall the number?

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**HON KAURA:** I would like the Honourable Member to read the book, "*Lord of the Flies*" and then he can ask that question.

20 June 2007

**MOTION ON UNION GOVERNMENT OF AFRICA  
HON KAURA**

In Liberia today we have historically for the first time on the African continent a female president. There is also peace in Sierra Leone through Regional groupings. Therefore, I think the ultimate destiny is to have an African High Command, as it was proposed by Kwame Nkrumah, one central command, one African army, so that we can be the architects of our own destiny and we can be able to face the globalisation problem head-on, because if we do not unite, we are going to be colonised economically and I think the time is now, this Motion is timely. Some might think that eight years is too short, but a beginning must be made and the time is now. Thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank Honourable Kaura for his contribution. Any further discussion?

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**HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Comrade Speaker, I move that the Debate be adjourned until tomorrow afternoon.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objection? The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until 14:30 tomorrow afternoon.

The second Notice of Motion is the one of the Minister of Trade and Industry. Does the Honourable Minister move the Motion? Who seconds the Motion? Any objection? The Minister has the Floor.

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**RATIFICATION: FREE TRADE AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN SACU AND EFTA**

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**HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:** Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker and Honourable Members of the National Assembly.

I rise to motivate, for consideration and ratification by this august House, the Free

20 June 2007

**RATIFICATION: FREE TRADE AGREEMENT  
HON NGATJIZEKO**

Trade Agreement between the Southern African Customs Union and the European Free Trade Association. This is done in accordance with Articles 63(e) and 144 of the Namibian Constitution. The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) comprises of Norway, Switzerland, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

To put the issue at hand in the proper context, allow me to state the following:

The mandate of the Ministry of Trade and Industry include, *inter alia*, the following functions:

- The creation of favourable economic space to overcome the market challenges;
- To competitively position Namibia in the global market;
- To achieve full Regional integration in terms of socio-economic and political structures;
- To transform Namibia into a globally competitive industrialised economy;
- To play a leading role in establishing effective and operational supra-national Regional institutions;
- To actively participate in international trade dialogue and integrate Namibia in the global economy; and
- To maintain sound policies that ensure effective cooperation and favourable trade relations with other countries.

All the above tasks can be achieved through the effective participation in the implementation of the SACU Agreement that was signed in 2002, as well as other Regional and international instruments that Namibia is party to. One of the objectives of the SACU Agreement is to promote the integration of the SACU Member States into the global economy through enhanced trade and investment. It is my conviction that the increased market access for Namibian products shall result into more domestic and foreign direct investments.

The SACU Agreement also calls for the development of common policies and strategies. Article 31 of the SACU Agreement specifically calls for the

20 June 2007

**RATIFICATION: FREE TRADE AGREEMENT  
HON NGATJIZEKO**

establishment of a common negotiating mechanism for the purpose of undertaking negotiations with third parties. Namibia, therefore, is bound to negotiate relevant trade agreements with third parties jointly with other SACU Member States, such as Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and South Africa.

It is for the reasons and contexts given above that the Government of the Republic of Namibia, through its National Trade Negotiating Team, together with its SACU partners, has concluded negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) in August 2005. This Agreement has since been signed by all parties in June 2006 in Geneva, Switzerland, with Namibia and Botswana having signed it on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July 2006 in Gaborone, Botswana.

The implementation of the Agreement is expected to commence soon upon ratification and depositing of instruments of ratification by all State Parties. To date, all EFTA countries have ratified the Agreement, with only Botswana and South Africa having done the same on the SACU side. Namibia is, therefore, required to do her part in this process after complying with the relevant internal legislative procedures. I am hopeful that we will be in a position to commence with the implementation of the Agreement by the third semester of this year, 2007.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, in a nutshell, the SACU-EFTA Free Trade Agreement aims to:

- Achieve liberalisation on trade in goods in conformity with the WTO, that is, covering substantially all trade between the two parties;
- Bring SACU trade relations with EFTA countries on par with what exists with regard to the EU;
- Promote adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights, thereby enhancing confidence for EFTA investments in SACU; and
- Incrementally contribute to harmonious development and expansion of world trade through removal of trade barriers.

20 June 2007

**RATIFICATION: FREE TRADE AGREEMENT  
HON NGATJIZEKO**

The coverage of the SACU-EFTA Free Trade Agreement is trade in goods, both industrial and agricultural, with limited scope for trade related issues, such as intellectual property rights and investment.

The Free Trade Agreement provides for immediate abolishment of all import customs duties on SACU industrial goods destined for EFTA countries. SACU, in return, will be required to progressively reduce customs duties on its imports from EFTA countries over a period of nine years.

The text of the Agreement presented to you, Honourable Members, for ratification comprises of the Main Text and seven Annexes. The Main Text contains the general principles and provisions, while the Annexes contain the specific undertaking, which are:

- Territorial Application, which in short states that, when ratifying this Agreement, the Kingdom of Norway shall exempt the Territory of Svalbard from the application of the Agreement except for trade in goods. This is a constitutional requirement for Norway, because even though the territory of Svalbard is considered as a territory under Norway, it has its own separate jurisdiction. Trade in goods, however, does not fall under this exemption.
- Annex II talks about exempted products from application of the Agreement when imported in EFTA countries. Those products listed under this Annex are covered by the bilateral agricultural agreements.
- Annex III talks about the arrangement for and list of processed agricultural products.
- Annexure IV, list of fish and marine products covered by this agreement.
- Annex V refers to rules of origin and administrative cooperation.
- Mutual customs administrative assistance is contained in Annex VI.
- Tariff Regimes which describe how tariff duties will be eliminated is contained in Annex VII.

20 June 2007

**RATIFICATION: FREE TRADE AGREEMENT  
HON NGATJIZEKO**

- List of SACU Tariff Investigations (listing the tariff investigations by ITAC which is acting as a SACU National Body) that were ongoing at the time of the negotiations is contained in Annex VIII.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, once again allow me now to table the abovementioned Agreement for your consideration and ratification.

Your positive consideration and ratification of this Agreement, Honourable Members, will serve to reinforce and give impetus to the implementation of the said Agreement, and thus ensuring a widened economic space for Namibia's industries in the form of additional market access for our export products. This will further reconfirm the position of Namibia as an attractive destination for investment and trade and with predictable and reliable legal system.

I am counting on your partnership and continued support and I thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Minister for his statement. Any further discussion?

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, in the absence of any contribution, I would like to adjourn the Debate until next week, Tuesday.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objection? If not, then the Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until Tuesday next week.

The third Notice of Motion is the one of the Honourable Venaani. Does the Honourable Member move the Motion?

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Speaker, due to consultations taking place, I would want to defer this Motion until next week, Wednesday.

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20 June 2007

**MOTION ON FORCED EVICTIONS OF FARMERS**  
**HON ULENGA**

**HON SPEAKER:** Any objection? The Motion, due to ongoing consultations on the matter, as we are all aware, is deferred until Wednesday, next week. Any objection? Agreed to.

The fourth Notice of Motion is the one by Honourable Ulenga. Does the Honourable Member move the Motion? Who seconds the Motion? Any objection? Honourable Ulenga has the Floor.

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable Members, I bring this Motion before the House so that we as elected Members of Parliament, who have the welfare of the entire country's people as our business and responsibility, can debate the socially, economically and psychologically insensitive and, indeed, destructive manner in which people, especially resident farmers within the boundaries of newly proclaimed townlands, are robbed of their property and forcibly evicted from their homesteads and their *omapy* and forced to settle on marginal lands, by the local Town Councils, Honourable Speaker, so that we can further express ourselves critically on the developmental value of many of the newly proclaimed towns and can consider the many negative social and economic effects deriving from forced urbanisation, and further entrust the matter into the hands of the relevant Standing Committee of Parliament for further action and report back.

Honourable Speaker, some of the Honourable Members of this House will remember that the representatives of especially Helao Nafidi Town in Ohangwena had approached Parliament some time ago with their grievances with regard to this matter and this Motion is, therefore, not only brought before this House as a personal concern or that of our Party alone, but indeed the collective concern of all of us as Members of Parliament.

Honourable Speaker, the development objectives for proclaiming new towns should include the following, namely to:

- Bring Government closer to the people so that local people can elect and participate in their own Government;
- Encourage people's participation in the development of their own areas;

20 June 2007

**MOTION ON FORCED EVICTIONS OF FARMERS  
HON ULENGA**

- Empower communities to redress Regional imbalances inherited from the colonial past;
- Avail affordable services to communities, such as water and electricity which people can afford to pay;
- Realise social justice by ensuring that there is equal and fair distribution of resources and services amongst all the people in a town;
- Bring employment, income and better and modern housing to all;
- Create sustainable communities;
- Create environmentally sustainable conditions of development;
- Bring inclusive development and governance and to ditch marginalisation of local communities;
- Eradicate exploitation, domination and cultural imperialism where people's culture is made not to count.

Indeed, Honourable Speaker, official Government policy in this country with regard to Regional and Local Government is best summed up in the dictum, *"Bringing Government closer to the People."* This has been the mantra or the slogan since 1992 when that particular law was first passed by this House.

Honourable Speaker, according to the Second National Development Plan, NDP II, Volume 1, Chapter 29, Regional Councils and Local Authorities and Traditional Authorities have been established to encourage people's participation in the development of their own areas, amongst other things. It is further declared under the same chapter that the system of Regional and local Government should be aimed at empowering communities to redress Regional imbalances, to help in creating local capacity for economic planning, and to provide the necessary infrastructure to meet local concerns.

Honourable Speaker, using the experience of the community of Helao Nafidi Town in Ohangwena Region as example, I shall submit that the commendable development objectives cited above have not, unfortunately, been pursued on the ground and I shall submit, therefore, that Government has been deliberately



20 June 2007

**MOTION ON FORCED EVICTIONS OF FARMERS  
HON ULENGA**

neglecting its own declared polity in this regard. Not only that, but I shall also argue with regard to the experience of the community of Helao Nafidi Town that Government has been imposing the proclamation of new towns on the people from above, without engaging the concerned communities in consultation, counselling and advice. Communities have, therefore, not been engaged with regard to matters concerning their own development.

Honourable Speaker, I shall further argue, using the experience of the community of Helao Nafidi Town, as I mentioned, that the elected Town Councils in the newly proclaimed towns seem not to be interested in listening to the concerns and grievances of communities, nor are they serving the development interests of the people. Honourable Speaker, instead they follow some opaque and abstract concept of development, totally devoid of popular interest.

Honourable Speaker, I shall therefore further argue, that instead of benefiting local communities, the proclamation of many new towns have not only disrupted lives and destroyed livelihoods by taking away their source of income, it has also traumatised lives.

A number of people are known to have committed suicide some time after they were informed they were going to be evicted in order to make space for town development. I have examples. Other elderly people have not been able to adapt to new conditions after being forcibly relocated, and have suffered physical ill-health and finally died.

Honourable Speaker, as a result of this peculiar approach by Government, which in the end really marginalizes popular interest, the Helao Nafidi Townlands are proclaimed not over an empty unused piece of desert land, but over seventeen existing and thriving *omikunda*, or local farming communities and villages. These *omikunda*, Honourable Speaker, will ultimately have to be dismantled and removed in order to make room for the new town. The *omikunda* or villages I am referring to are as follows: Okelemba, Onuno, Onaame, Ohangwena (yaAmoni), Omalyata, Onamwilwa, Omatunda, Omuloka, Okanghudi (ke heshi aka kaPohamba), Onamhinda, Oshikango, Onuno, Oipapakane, Omafo, Ohangwena (yeengulu), Engela, Eeshoke, Olunghono.

These villages collectively span over an area about ten by twenty kilometres of productive farming land. The numbers of local farmers involved and their

20 June 2007

**MOTION ON FORCED EVICTIONS OF FARMERS  
HON ULENGA**

families and whose livelihoods are put at risk by the proclamation of Helao Nafidi is unknown, but may eventually be above forty thousand people.

The Helao Nafidi Town area has a total number of seventeen primary, combined and secondary schools, being Ohangwena Primary, Ponofi Senior Secondary, Omutaku Primary, Onekuta Junior Secondary, Ndapona Shikende, Oengali Primary, Odibo Combined, Odibo St Mary Secondary, Elao Primary, Oshikango Combined, Engela Junior Secondary, Hghiteke Primary, Weyulu Primary, Ndilokelwa Primary, Nakambuda Primary, Ndjukuma Primary and Etale Combined.

Engela Hospital, Ohangwena Clinic, Okatope Clinic and Odibo Hospital are the main health facilities catering for the inhabitants of Helao Nafidi Town. If and when a large number of farmers are forced to leave the new town area and relocate elsewhere, these educational facilities and health facilities will lose their usefulness as the number of their learners intake will be reduced. Further, relocated farmers and their families may not find areas so well supplied with schools and clinics such as the ones they are forced to leave.

Honourable Speaker, this brings me to the burning issue in every newly proclaimed town, the issue of land ownership and land use.

Honourable Speaker, communal land belongs to the State, but it is very important to note how communal land did come to belong to the State. Today we have been listening to some historical speeches already in the Motion that preceded this one, but I would like to remind the House once more.

Honourable Speaker, before colonisation all land that makes up the present Namibia had belonged to communities and polities, and these communities and polities had their own way of adjudicating over land. However, the colonial Government, in a simple, violent, ruthless and unjust act of expropriation, confiscated the people's land and declared it the property of the colonial state. In most of central Namibia, this happened after the ruthless and criminal genocide of the Herero, Nama, San, Tswana and Damara people by the German imperial Government through General Lothar von Trotha. (Interjection). You were not there that time or you would also have suffered the same fate, I am sure.

Many of the people of the newly proclaimed towns, such as the inhabitants of Helao Nafidi Town, are only now realising the real meaning of the saying that

20 June 2007

**MOTION ON FORCED EVICTIONS OF FARMERS  
HON ULENGA**

*“communal land belongs to the State.”* They thought all the time that the land belongs to them.

They find themselves at the receiving end of a disowning that happened more than a century ago, but is effected only now. Government has been able to take the land without giving proper compensation to the evicted people, even in cases where the piece of land in question has been quite developed. There are many disputes regarding what would be fair compensation, with Government Officials often unilaterally and arbitrarily determining compensation amounts on their own.

Many affected people, therefore, have lost the benefits deriving from the proximity to schools, hospitals, clinics and health centres and other amenities.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, according to the Local Authorities Act (No 23 of 1992), Paragraphs 3 and 4, the President may declare any area as a municipality, town or village, provided that certain procedures are followed:

The traditional land ownership and land use patterns are annulled by any such proclamation. Village headmen and headwomen who in certain cases derive an income from their occupations, are deprived of such income. In the case of Helao Nafidi, we are talking of the uprooting of thousands of people, some of whom have been occupying their homesteads for more than fifty years. Honourable Speaker, one such example is Meme Maria who was recently shown on television crying tears. Maria and her husband who have been in their place for 52 years and have, through perennial fertilisation and constant care, turned their mahangu field into a veritable food basket, the likes of which they cannot hope to develop anywhere else, especially seeing that the wife is now in her mid-seventies and the husband in his eighties.

Honourable Speaker, believe it or not, in April this year these two elderly people were served with a notice from the Town Council that they should not prepare for further cultivation of this field, but that they should vacate their home of 52 years by August this year. All in all they were given four months to pack up and go.

Honourable Speaker, it would be a shame and a disgrace if in the end this family is moved from their land. One wonders what is so wrong to have a garden or a productive field on the edge or even in the middle of a town. I see it everywhere

20 June 2007

**MOTION ON FORCED EVICTIONS OF FARMERS**  
**HON ULENGA**

else in Africa and elsewhere. Why can it not happen in Namibia? Why should farming lands be forcibly removed or taken away from close to towns?

Honourable Speaker, the Helao Nafidi Town project is especially redolent with bad governance and no other project can be further from Government's declared policy of bringing Government closer to the people than this one.

First, when local elections were supposed to be held in 2004, SWAPO Party simply declared themselves as the winners as no other political parties participated or offered to participate in that election. Now listen how victory can turn into defeat. The so-called winners then failed to introduce themselves to the people, so until now the people have no idea of what really happened politically. In their view, these councillors were imposed on them because the process was never explained to the people, it was only understood within the SWAPO community and not by the people at large. At least that is what the people are saying. (Interjection). Are you prepared to call the people liars? So, until now, Honourable Speaker, the people of Helao Nafidi have no idea of what political process was taking place that brought in a Mayor and other Town Councillors, not to speak of the implications of this process.

Since then, Honourable Speaker, the "*newly elected*" Town Council has started to impose and charge service rates on the entire inhabitants of the town area, including many of the villages listed above. People in traditional homesteads who traditionally throw rubbish and dung into their mahangu fields so as to keep the land well-fertilised, were given municipal black rubbish bags to throw in their rubbish and charged accordingly. They are charged basic rates for water and electricity without their particular lands being surveyed and developed. Although no one, except perhaps a very few, live on serviced erven...(Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**  
Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question?

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**HON ULENGA:** It would be procedurally wrong for me to allow the question, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** What was the question, Honourable Minister?

20 June 2007

**MOTION ON FORCED EVICTIONS OF FARMERS**  
**HON ULENGA**

**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** The question is whether the Honourable Member is insinuating that ordinary villages are asked to pay for municipal services. That is unheard of in law if the place is not yet proclaimed. I just wonder what that information really means, because you cannot ask anybody to pay for municipal services when the town has not been proclaimed.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thought that in the English language it is a good question, Honourable Ulenga. Unless you know something I do not know.

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**HON ULENGA:** Although no one, perhaps a very few....(Intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Ulenga, I am not joking, I am asking why you are declining the question if in my judgment it is a good question? Maybe you know something I do not know.

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**HON ULENGA:** As a matter of fact, Honourable Speaker, I would not be able to answer that because I did not listen to the question, because it was not supposed to be put. Yes, the question was not put. I declined the question, I did not listen to it. (Intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** You did not want to take any question, in other words?

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**HON ULENGA:** Because I am motivating. Honourable Speaker, I just said procedurally it would be wrong for me to take the question and the Minister can perhaps ask the question later or can get a copy of my speech and deal with it.

20 June 2007

**MOTION ON FORCED EVICTIONS OF FARMERS  
HON ULENGA**

Honourable Speaker, even though, with the exception of a very few, not many live on serviced erven and though many have provided themselves with their own water and electricity, including their own piping, all were initially charged with water and electricity rates. Of course, they live in a nominally proclaimed area, but they live in their villages. That is their experience on the ground.

Honourable Speaker, recently all the water points for use by people and animals were closed by the Town Council without any explanation and people and animals alike reverted to drinking and using surface rain water. Clearly the Town Council ignores the reality on the ground and treats the place as a town and not as a farming community. The so-called “*elected*” Local Government seems to have no appetite to talk to the people, as can be deduced from correspondence between themselves and a local aggrieved community committee.

The people of the villages named above are, therefore, no beneficiaries of development, they are losers and suffering victims of Government policy of a forced urbanisation. The winners are mostly not the local people, but foreigners, including Chinese businessmen who have already started to acquire 99 years leasehold contracts on some of the land from where local farmers have been evicted.

In the light of the Helao Nafidi experience and in the light of the experience of communities in many other newly proclaimed towns, one cannot draw any other conclusion but that Government lacks the necessary vision when it comes to Local Government and Rural Development objectives. One cannot but ask these questions: Is Government thinking before acting? Why are the new townlands imposed on land that is already usefully and economically utilised? Are we bettering people’s lives or are we creating urban poverty, slums and hovels? Are we implementing social justice or creating more inequality?

Honourable Speaker, in many parts of the world, countries and Governments employ planning systems to develop new towns. In our part of the world, that is Africa and the south generally, Egypt, Nigeria and Brazil are some of the countries that have actively developed new towns for various reasons. Some Members may have visited the 6<sup>th</sup> of October in Egypt – I remember Honourable Geingob and a team of us about ten or thirteen years ago visited this very town – or even Milton Keynes in the United Kingdom.

New town planners have always kept the issue of distributive social justice in

20 June 2007

**MOTION ON FORCED EVICTIONS OF FARMERS  
HON ULENGA**

mind, in other words, making sure that the development of a new town would bring about a better life and better economic and social conditions for all concerned, and the widest sharing of all resources. Planners have tried to avoid creating opportunities for more poverty, more exploitation, new forms of oppression, marginalisation, powerlessness and cultural imperialism, where local people are always told that their way of life counts less than other foreign cultures.

Honourable Speaker, the principle and aim of building sustainable and prosperous communities is most important and should be on top of Government's priorities regarding development planning for both rural and urban areas alike.

Many modern Governments have adopted the practice of carrying out proper social and economic impact assessments (SEIA) as a must, before they would embark on any serious project such as the proclamation of a new town that would be imposed on an already existing community. SEIA ensures that the involvement of the people in any development planning, and is a very important element in any planning. It is the process of predicting the social and economic impacts or outcomes that are likely to follow from specific management or policy actions, allowing Government or any decision-makers to understand in advance the potential consequences on the human population and even on the environment, from any proposed action. It would have been an excellent way to involve communities and stakeholders in developments involving themselves, through consultative and participatory techniques.

However, from talking to members of the community on the ground, it would appear that the Namibia Government has not cared to carry out any social and economic impact assessments before deciding to proclaim the new town of Helao Nafidi and many other newly proclaimed towns, because when you talk to the people on the ground, they do not remember this social and economic impact studies.

Honourable Speaker, had they done so, Government would have been able to identify the number of people who may be negatively affected by the proclamation of the new town, and would have been able to develop mitigation strategies to minimise negative impacts, because as it is there do not seem to be any strategies minimising negative impacts or working out alternative ways to achieve the desired outcomes. Had the Government involved the people fully, as

20 June 2007

**MOTION ON FORCED EVICTIONS OF FARMERS**  
**HON ULENGA**

it seems it has not happened, it would have developed a better understanding of local values, the cultural context and other sensitivities.

Honourable Speaker, though I mainly drew from the experiences of the community of Helao Nafidi Town, the Government's lopsided approach with regard to Local Government and Rural Development applies virtually to the whole country. It is important that we as lawmakers engage fully the local communities in the various newly proclaimed towns in order to understand their needs and fears, so that we do not end up legislating and imposing laws and policies insensitive to the lives of others and to their social, economic and cultural upliftment. In the case of Helao Nafidi Town, and in other cases, it is imperative that we as lawmakers get intimately acquainted with the situation on the ground, and that our action as law- and decision-makers be thoroughly informed by that knowledge and awareness of the situation on the ground.

Honourable Speaker, I therefore move that after proper debate and the most critical consideration of the issues, that this Motion eventually be referred to the Parliament Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration for public consultation and further appropriate action and report back.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for motivating his Motion. Any further discussion? Honourable Kaura.

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**HON KAURA:** I move that the Debate be adjourned until Wednesday, next week.

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**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Comrade Speaker, I am seeking the indulgence of the House. The Motion which was just introduced has a lot of things on which information must be brought before discussion, to enable a proper discussion and understanding for us to take a decision from an informed position. Therefore, I was about to propose that this Motion be adjourned to give the Ministry an opportunity, so that we are able to seek this information and look



20 June 2007

**MOTION ON SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM  
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

at some very serious allegations that are being made here. The intention is really to adjourn the Debate on this Motion, giving us more time, to some time in July, so that we are able to do that.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister. It is probably the direction we are going, but for now Honourable Kaura wishes to adjourn the Debate until next week Wednesday. Any objection to that? None. The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until Wednesday, next week.

The fifth Notice of Motion is by Honourable Schimming-Chase. Does the Honourable Member move the Motion? Who seconds? Any objection? Agreed to.

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**MOTION TO TRANSFORM THE SADC  
PARLIAMENTARY FORUM INTO A REGIONAL  
PARLIAMENT**

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**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise today to move a Motion: *“That this House strongly urges the Government to support the transformation of the SADC Parliamentary Forum into a Regional Parliament to enable the people of the SADC Region to meaningfully participate in the important matters of their Region through their elected representatives.”* I do so, Mr Speaker, Sir, to carry out decisions by the SADC Parliamentary Forum, calling on Parliamentarians, especially those who represent their colleagues at Forum level, to do so.

At the Plenary Session of the SADCPF held in Windhoek recently, the Right Honourable Prime Minister, addressing the Opening Session on behalf of the President, His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, had this to say regarding the transformation of the Forum to a Parliament:

*“The SADC Parliamentary Forum has an important role to play within the framework of SADC. I stated earlier that Namibia is proud to stand shoulder to*

20 June 2007

**MOTION ON SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM  
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

*shoulder with other SADC Member States in supporting the SADC Parliamentary Forum both in its current form and when it eventually becomes a Regional Parliament. It is our hope that this vision will be realised sooner rather than later. As you are well aware, the SADC Region was a pioneer in this respect; however it is a source of concern that other Regions have now surpassed us.*

*As we all know, the SADC Regional Parliament initiative is one that Namibia fully subscribes to. Right at the outset, when the first Speaker of the National Assembly Independent Namibia, the late Dr Mosé Tjitendero, organised consultative meetings to fast-track this idea, there was no doubt that SADC could not remain an executive entity only. In fact, the absence of Parliamentarians in Regional policy-making arena leaves a lacuna that must be filled.”*

Honourable Speaker, Sir, the role played by Parliament in general and Parliamentarians, in particular, in contributing to national development cannot be over-emphasised. It is for this reason, Honourable Speaker, that I seek to move this Motion urging the Government to support the transformation of the SADC Parliamentary Forum into a regional Parliament. From the onset I hasten to mention that almost all the Regions in Africa have regional parliamentary bodies, some of which have legislative powers. The SADC Parliamentary Forum has been in existence for ten years now and from its inception the Forum has made tremendous contributions towards the Region’s development and democratic dispensation.

With regard to election observations, this House may wish to note that the Forum has so far observed twenty-one elections in the SADC Region, including the recent one in the DRC, Zambia, Madagascar and Lesotho. A few weeks ago the Forum deployed an observer mission to Angola to observe the voter registration exercise. Allow me, Honourable Speaker, at this juncture to share with you in detail some of the issues surrounding this subject of the transformation.

The Preamble to the Forum's Constitution states that:

*“The main objective of the Forum is to constitute a Parliamentary Consultative Assembly. The ultimate goal of the Forum is to establish a Regional Parliament Framework for dialogue on issues of Regional interest and concern”*

An objective that is acknowledged in the 8<sup>th</sup> of September 1997 of the SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government approving the establishment of the

20 June 2007

**MOTION ON SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM  
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

SADC Parliament Forum as an “*autonomous institution of SADC, in accordance with Article 9(2) of the Treaty.*”

Mr Speaker, Sir, consultations on the proposed SADC Parliament have given rise to a number of questions, chief among which are the following:

- What is the comparative advantage of establishing a SADC Parliament?
- What is the value added by the transformation of the SADC Parliamentary Forum into a Regional Parliament?
- What is the cost effectiveness on transformation of the Forum as opposed to establishing a new institutional structure?
- What will be the mandates, roles and responsibilities and functions of the SADC Parliament in dealing with the issues of SADC?
- How will the SADC Parliament relate to and complement the work of national Parliaments of SADC Member States and the Pan African Parliament?

The objective of motivation to respond to the above questions is thus: It seeks to provide additional information on the proposed Regional Parliament to facilitate decision-making by the relevant structures of SADC and to encourage debate in this august House.

Article 3 of the draft protocol on the SADC Parliament, which was approved by the 15<sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly, outlines the objectives of the proposed Parliament as follows:

- Strengthening and facilitating the effective implementation of SADC policies and programmes and maximising the implementation capacity of the SADC by involving Parliamentarians in SADC activities;
- Accelerating the Regional integration agenda of SADC;
- Promoting unity, good governance, democracy, human rights, gender equity and equality, human and economic development and peace and stability in the Region;

20 June 2007

**MOTION ON SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM  
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

- Contributing to a more prosperous future for the people of the Region by promoting Regional cooperation, self-reliance and economic efficiency; and
- Fostering inter-parliamentary cooperation within and outside the Region.

Honourable Speaker, with regard to the role and functions of the proposed Parliament, the draft Protocol envisaged that a SADC Parliament would, *inter alia*:

- Provide a regional forum for dialogue, consultation and the public consideration of matters of common interest by representatives of the peoples of the Region;
- Facilitate the harmonisation of laws in the Region;
- Facilitate the ratification and implementation of international agreements by State Parties;
- Inform other SADC institutions of popular views on development and other issues affecting SADC States;
- Debate and approve its Budget and the Budget of SADC;
- Consider annual reports on activities of SADC, annual audit reports of all SADC institutions and any other reports referred to it by the Council or Summit, and take binding decisions on any issues when requested to do so by the Summit; and
- Examine, discuss or express an opinion on any matter, either on its own initiative or at the request of the Summit or Council or other policy organs of SADC and, where appropriate, make recommendations relating to:
- Respect for human rights;
- The consolidation of democratic institutions and the culture of democracy;
- The promotion of good governance and the rule of law;

20 June 2007

**MOTION ON SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM  
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

- Enact Regional laws as determined by the Summit;
- Provide any other service that may be in the furtherance of the objectives of SADC and the Parliament.

Mr Speaker, the question has arisen as to the comparative advantage, value-adding and cost effectiveness of the proposed Parliament vis-à-vis the current consultative Forum, to the objectives of SADC.

After ten years of existence, the Forum has performed a central role especially in enhancing parliamentary participation in Regional cooperation and integration in SADC. Among other key interventions, the Forum has been instrumental in promoting democratic, free and fair elections; lobbying and advocating for equitable representation and participation of women especially in politics and decision-making positions; enhancing the contribution of Parliamentarians in the development and implementation of effective policies and programmes relating to the fight against poverty, HIV and AIDS, underdevelopment and unemployment among other challenges facing the peoples of southern Africa.

Such illustrious and the existing potential and capacity of Parliamentarians to positively contribute to and influence SADC's Regional development, cooperation and integration agenda, could be further enhanced through the establishment of a SADC Parliament as the legislative arm of SADC. After 25 years of existence, during which time SADC has established a number of institutions to directly contribute to the above objectives, the process of building a SADC community stands to benefit immensely through the complementary role of parliamentarians to those of the Summit, Council of Ministers and the Tribunal, by undertaking some of the functions of a parliamentary nature.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the principal role of the SADC Parliament would be to oversee the work of SADC institutions in the same way the European Parliament oversees the work of European institutions and the EU Commissions without prejudice to the work of national Parliaments, such as the British House of Commons and the German Bundestag, for instance?

In most countries, of which most SADC Member States are not an exception, the constitutional mandate of ratifying international agreements, including SADC Protocols, rests with national Parliaments. As envisaged in the SADC Treaty, the ratification process would naturally be followed by the harmonisation of Regional

20 June 2007

**MOTION ON SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM  
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

plans and objectives through the domestication of such agreements at national level. National Parliaments are expected and empowered to monitor and exercise oversight on the effective implementation of related programmes and projects at national level. Available evidence shows that the pace of ratification of SADC Protocols, among other international agreements, and therefore, their domestication into national laws and policies, has thus far been very slow.

The Forum holds the view that one of the major ways of accelerating the ratification and domestication of SADC protocols, would be through the empowerment of the proposed SADC Parliament to “*enact Regional laws as determined by the Summit.*” As clearly articulated in Article 5 of the Constitution of the Forum, such legislative powers would be without prejudice to the sovereign roles of national Parliaments on national legislation. Indeed, there are matters where wide-ranging consensus already exists and on which there exists scope for Regional legislation. These include issues relating to the environment, management of cross-border natural resources, transport and communications, trade, tourism, gender equality and democratic elections. The scope of the legislative mandate for the proposed SADC Parliament recognises the sovereignty of national Parliaments on a range of other issues.

There is no formal mechanism currently at the Regional level for an oversight and monitoring role for legislatures in the work and programmes of SADC institutions. Other than through the Executive, opportunities do not as yet exist for the popular participation of the peoples of southern Africa in the work of SADC through their directly elected parliamentary representatives. The SADC Parliament is, therefore, expected to provide an organic link between SADC and the ordinary citizens of SADC through their elected representatives.

Mr Speaker Sir, it goes without saying, that the relationship between Regional Parliaments and the Pan African Parliament is clearly articulated in the Protocol on the Pan African pr. Article 3(9) of the Protocol provides that one of the objectives of the Pan African Parliament is, “*to facilitate cooperation among Regional Economic Communities and their Parliamentary fora.*”

Article 11(7) of the same provides that one of the functions of the Pan African Parliament is, “*to promote the coordination and harmonisation of policies, measures, programmes and activities of the Regional Economic Communities and the parliamentary fora of Africa.*”

20 June 2007

**MOTION ON SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM  
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

Significantly, Article 18 states that the Pan African Parliament “... *shall work in close cooperation with the Parliaments of Regional Economic Communities and the National Parliaments or other deliberative organs Member States. To this effect, the Pan African Parliament may, in accordance with its Rules of Procedure, convene annual consultative fora with the Parliaments of the Regional Economic Communities and the National Parliaments or other deliberative organs to discuss matters of common interest.*”

Although the establishment and functioning of the Pan-African Parliament, *per se*, is not dependent on the existence of parliamentary fora of Regional Economic Communities, the above articles clearly envisage a complementary and mutually reinforcing relationship between the Pan African Parliament as an organ of the African Union and the Parliamentary fora of Regional Economic Communities.

Under the current arrangements, however, unlike other Regions of the continent such as East and West Africa where Regional Parliaments exist, southern Africa does not have a Regional Parliament and as such, it is deprived of formalised opportunities for consultation and interaction with the Pan African Parliament and other existing Regional Parliaments during Pan African Parliament meetings. Thus far, countries of southern Africa are dependent on bilateral parliamentary contacts and initiatives. The proposed SADC Parliament is, therefore, expected to serve as the link between the Pan African Parliament, on the one side and national Parliaments, on the other, in mobilising the collective positions of SADC Member States at the Pan African Parliament.

As illustrated above, the value added by a Regional Parliament vis-à-vis the Forum would be introducing the parliamentary dimension at the Regional level. The establishment of a Parliament would provide for the legislative arm of SADC as part of and one of the institutions of SADC.

Honourable Speaker, naturally the question will arise as to the costs involved in such process.

Budgetary considerations and the comparative experiences of the Pan African Parliament, the East African Legislative Assembly and the ECOWAS Parliament, show that the transformation of the Forum into a Regional Parliament, using the existing institutional framework, is far more cost effective than starting a new institutional establishment. Whereas the East Africa Legislative Assembly currently runs on an estimated annual Budget of US\$3 million, the Forum’s

20 June 2007

**MOTION ON SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM  
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

Budget currently stands at about US\$184 million. The recommendations outlined below should ensure that the Forum is transformed into a SADC Parliament without a significant increase in the cost of running the new institution.

It is, therefore, recommended, Honourable Speaker, that the proposed Parliament could be established as follows:

A decision by the Summit to approve the establishment of a SADC Parliament in principle with modalities to be worked out between the Executive and representatives of the Forum; Article 9(1) of the SADC Treaty be amended to specifically provide for a SADC Parliament, alongside other organs of SADC;

- (a) SADC approves a protocol on the SADC Parliament to further articulate the role, functions, objectives and powers of the Parliament to strengthen, deepen and expand Regional cooperation and integration;
- (b) In the interim and as a cost-effective measure, the current Secretariat of the Forum serves as the Secretariat of the proposed Parliament. Should additional skills be required, national Parliaments would be requested to second qualified staff to the Secretariat;
- (c) The current headquarters of the Forum in Windhoek, Namibia would remain the headquarters of the SADC Parliament;
- (d) Since no new infrastructure needs to be established, the proposed Parliament would convene along the same lines as the Forum's Plenary Assembly, that is, in SADC Member States on a rotational basis with staff of the national Parliaments hosting parliamentary sittings, working alongside the skeleton staff of the Secretariat in servicing Standing Committee and plenary sessions;
- (e) The financial provisions of the proposed Parliament would be managed under the current consultative Forum arrangements where national Parliaments equal annual subscriptions to the organisation;
- (f) The Chairpersonship or Presidency of the proposed Parliament would follow the current arrangements where elected Forum chairpersons do not serve on a fulltime basis; and



20 June 2007

**MOTION ON SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM  
HON SPEAKER**

- (g) The configuration of the southern African sub-Region within the context of the African Union vis-à-vis the composition of SADC as a Regional Committee needs to be examined to facilitate a SADC Parliament comprising the present membership of the existing Regional Committee.

In conclusion, Mr Speaker, the above analysis weighs in favour of transformation in the long term, as opposed to the establishment of an entirely new institution. It further calls for the SADC Parliament to be empowered with legislative powers on Regional matters, but only in so far as such powers do not infringe the sovereignty of national legislatures. In this regard, Honourable Speaker, the draft Protocol approved by the Forum Plenary Assembly in December 2003 was designed to facilitate concrete consultations for the establishment of the proposed SADC Parliament and is thus available as a working document.

In the interim period, Honourable Speaker, various leaders of the SADC Parliamentary Forum, including our own Speaker, have gone on Missions to talk to Heads of State of different SADC countries and I am proud to say that since its inception, our former President, His Excellency President Sam Nujoma, as well as our incumbent President, President Hifikepunye Pohamba, have been very vocal and very strong in their support of the endeavour to transform the SADC Parliament Forum into a SADC Parliament.

With that support I hope that we in this House will be able to debate the matter not just for ourselves, but for the information and benefit of the Nation and at the end of it all, be able to come to a unified decision. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for the Motion, but before I open the Floor, I need to clarify one or two things. The Motion just motivated by Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase should have been motivated by the Speaker of the National Assembly of Namibia. It is, therefore, a non-partisan, non-political party Motion, but for obvious reasons the Speaker could not do so. The Standing Committee on Rules and Orders, chaired by the Speaker, therefore, mandated Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase in her capacity as the Vice-Chairperson of the SADC Parliamentary Forum. You have heard, Honourable Members, those of you who were present at the opening of the SADC Parliament Forum Plenary Meeting a little while back, a week-long meeting here in

20 June 2007

**MOTION ON SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM  
HON SPEAKER**

Windhoek, the Statement of our Head of State, read out to the gathering and to the public by the Right Honourable Prime Minister. Currently Namibia is the host of the SADC Parliamentary Forum. My predecessor, supported by those on the Executive side, the first Prime Minister, the first Foreign Minister, ensured that we got to host the SADC Parliamentary Forum here in Namibia.

The former President and the current President of our Republic have both supported the hosting of the SADC Parliament here in Windhoek. I would, therefore, advise those Honourable Members who would wish to contribute to this Debate, to make use of the research done by Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase.

What the Speaker of the National Assembly is asked by his counterpart, the Speaker of the Parliament of Botswana, who is the current Chairman of the SADC Parliamentary Forum, is that the national Parliaments, what was true for me is true for all the SADC national Parliaments, that this issue of transformation of the Forum into SADC Parliament be debated in the national Parliaments. This, therefore, is the beginning of that debate required of the national Parliaments throughout SADC. I thought I should clarify that, so that this Motion is not seen as a CoD Motion. Any further Debate on this Motion?

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Speaker, seeing that there is nobody, not even Abraham Iyambo, who want to touch on this Motion, I would like to propose the adjournment of the Debate on the Motion to Tuesday next week.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objection? The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until Tuesday next week.

The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND READING – VOCATIONAL  
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BILL**

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**HON SPEAKER:** When this Debate was adjourned yesterday, 19 June 2007, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Deputy Minister of

20 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING BILL**  
**HON KAIYAMO**

Education, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable Kaiyamo adjourned the Debate and I yield the Floor to him.

**HON KAIYAMO:** Honourable Speaker, I rise to take part in the Debate and support this important Bill, a Bill that touches 60% of our population. This Bill is, in my view very important, second to the Education Bill that was passed in this Parliament. It has been outstanding for years, despite the fact that it has been for long in the cooking pot before it came to this House.

The mighty SWAPO Party and its Government is not only talking in theory about reducing ignorance and poverty in this Republic, but also practising it by bringing this important Bill to this House.

Honourable Members, this Bill is welcome in the sense that it will fill a vacuum in the training field, to add to the few trainings that are there but not in line with the laws of this Republic. Good work has been done already on the ground, the curriculum is already in place, the process is on and we only need this Bill to be passed.

Not only the youth are already tired of waiting and those who may fail NAMCOL and other relevant exams are saying “*halleluiah, amen*”, and some may say “*Mukuru unotjari*” or some may say “*Kai-kai Eloba.*”(Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question, please? Honourable Kaiyamo, I agree with you, but you are now saying that the Bill is going to enable people to be trained and you say halleluiah. Do you think that the problem that we have in this country is lack of training people or it is a lack of trained and qualified people that we have in this country that are unemployed for the last how many years? Do you really believe that this Bill will solve the problem of our young people?

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**HON KAIYAMO:** I believe this Bill will help to reduce the poverty in this Republic.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I am also happy to state that in this Bill the State is also regarded as an employer. I hope it will honour its obligation to pay its levy and not only give money like any other employer in the Republic.

20 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING BILL  
HON KAIYAMO**

If the State is also an employer, then it must also pay its levies like another employers.

Honourable Speaker, I just returned from the Women Conference in Uganda and the communiqué at the end of that conference called upon the Governments to make gender sensitive laws. This one seems not to be in line with that. Its objectives under Article 3 should mention gender. There is no gender here.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the vocabulary of “*must*” is good. I do not like “*may*” because it is too opportunistic. The law must engage business, trade unions and all other stakeholders in building a system of training in our country.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Minister could please explain to this House and to the masses the meaning of “*fiduciary*” in this Bill. If the functions of the Board it includes fidelity, honesty, integrity, it should also have women in their own right on the board. Gender is not automatic on Page 9 of the members of the Board. In my view, women, youth and physically challenged colleagues should be on the Board and it is not mentioned here. The churches may as well play an important part if they could also be on the Board.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, to hold office for three years is too short in my view. Five years may be good, because from our respective experiences in forming council boards, three years is not enough, because in three years one may not put everything in place, especially when you have to form the board from the ground. It goes without saying there is an urgent need to amend all other Acts that talk about three years, because that is not enough.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in the disqualification of members there is a word that we inherited from apartheid, the so-called “*unrehabilitated*”. The law is saying you cannot put somebody who has been “*bankrot*” in this Bill, but we have some rehabilitated politicians in this Parliament. Why can somebody who is rehabilitated not be on the board?

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Bill states that if you are absent for three meetings, you could be disqualified. It should be added that it is three consecutive meetings, otherwise these meetings are organised and you are not there and you are disqualified, to enable the Chairperson not to fill the vacancies after the minutes of those meetings. A Chairperson can arrange meetings which

20 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING BILL  
HON KAIYAMO**

were not scheduled and then you are not there and you lose your place on the board.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I am sure Honourable Noa will be happy to hear of the disclosure of interest as a must in this Bill, a spouse for those who have more than one spouse or an “*Okaumbo*” or “*mitgesellin*” in German. If you have those, you must also disclose your interest.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the N\$2 000 in this Bill for those who do not respect the law is peanuts. I think it needs to be increased to N\$20 000, so that people will respect the law. (Intervention)

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**HON NAMBINGA:** May I just put a question? He mentioned something that I could not really catch, he said people must declare their interest, including those who have “*Okaumbo*”. I just wanted to know what he meant.

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**HON KAIYAMO:** This Bill speaks clearly about spouses and we know that in our society there are people with those spouses. That is why I am saying they should also declare their interest.

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**HON SPEAKER:** More men, including Namibian men, and especially men in this House should attend conferences, workshops, symposium that deal with women affairs. You will be better men for doing so. The House shall rise under automatic adjournment until tomorrow afternoon.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:40 UNTIL 2007:06:21 AT 14:30**

**ASSEMBLY CHAMBER  
WINDHOEK  
21 JUNE 2007**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

**HON SPEAKER:** Took the Chair and read Prayers and the Affirmation.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Any Notices of Questions? Any Notices of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements?

Today being Thursday, we shall, according to tradition, commence with the opposition benches. Question 36 is by Honourable Moongo. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS**

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**QUESTION 36:**

**HON MOONGO:** I put the Question.

**HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION:** Honourable Speaker, I ask the understanding of Honourable Moongo that I answer on next Thursday.

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**HON SPEAKER:** The Question stands over until next Thursday. Question 43 is by Honourable Kaura. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**QUESTION 43:**

**HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I rise in this august House to respond to questions raised by Honourable Kaura on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April 2007.

21 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON KAURA  
HON NGATJIZEKO**

The questions raised relate to an alleged relationship between a Namibian business person and a foreign business person, which in the view of the Honourable Kaura constitutes an act of corruption.

Let me from the onset inform the Honourable Member that the Ministry of Trade and Industry does register companies, but what we do not do is to take decisions on behalf of companies about what the management of companies should be like. The function of directing and managing of companies is the prerogative of the shareholders, the board of directors and the appointed managers.

The Companies Act (Act No 16 of 1973) does not allow the Minister of Trade and Industry to interfere in the internal activities of companies. Had the Companies Act provided for the contrary, Namibia would not have generated a significant amount of investment, as it is the case, because the private sector should remain as such.

During the registration process the Companies Act requires of the Ministry to ensure that all the procedures and formal requirements of the application process has been complied with, but this process does not include the screening of individuals, as that function is the realm of other agencies of Government. The mandate of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, amongst others, requires us to tirelessly work towards to the creation of a conducive environment within which enterprises can be established and managed profitably. In this regard, it is our task to institute appropriate measures which can serve as enticement in order to attract foreign direct investment as well as mobilise adequate local investment.

Consequently, in our quest to attract foreign direct investment to our country, we are mindful of the fact that some people may converge on our country who may not necessarily be the type of investors that we wish to attract, but of course, our hope is that other agencies of Government will perform their duties diligently in order to ensure that criminal activities are discouraged and destroyed where they occur.

Having said this, I must admit that I am somehow perturbed when Honourable Members are inclined to support the media in sentencing our people without trial. I believe that our legal system allows for a fair process of hearing before our courts. It, therefore, seems prudent for me to suggest that we as lawmakers should be the first to refrain from activities that may best be described as

21 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON TJIHUIKO  
HON KATALI**

encouraging gossip and the associated unwarranted tendencies. I thank you very much.

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**HON KAURA:** I thank the Minister for the answer and I hope our system will not go for the small fish and let the big fish go untouched. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Question 54 is by Honourable Tsudao Gurirab. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable Speaker, yes indeed, NAMFISA has finalised its investigation and the report has been produced. The regulator is now studying the report and is preparing itself to take certain measures that will be warranted as a result of the findings of the investigation. I would however not be in a position to table that report, because of the sensitivity that is attached to some of the issues, the divulging of which may compromise the follow-up measures and further investigations that may be required. I think it is understandable, you cannot conduct an investigation and just table a report in Parliament if there is confidential information that still has to be followed up.

That is the position, I will not be able to put a Report on the Table, but as more information becomes available, I will be happy to share that part of the information that can be shared publicly. For now we cannot do that until all the measures have been taken. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Minister for the clarification. The substantive answer to the question would follow in due course, I believe. Question 55 is by Honourable Tjiuiko. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**QUESTION 55:**

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to respond to the questions posed by Honourable Arnold Tjiuiko of NUDO as follows:



21 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON TJIHUIKO  
HON KATALI**

Honourable Tjihuiko, frankly, I am not aware because the situation on the ground revealed that the miners referred to as being dumped along the road between Karibib and Otjimbingwe are three former small miners employed by the farm owner, who were relieved from their duties five or six years ago, resulting from an unending misunderstanding between them and their employer.

All of the occupants referred to at the site are voluntary small miners who have decided to, unfortunately, settle at the place where they are now self-employed as small miners of tourmaline on private farms.

These miners are mining on farms such as Outabeb and New Schwaben and sell to Mr Michael and the tourists in nearby towns like Usakos. The people being referred to came voluntarily from all parts of Namibia for one purpose and that is small mining and nothing else. The number has since risen from three evicted ex-small miners to 25 families, totalling about 400 voluntary small miners registered with the Ministry of Trade and Industry, referred to as NEWS WEAPON.

Currently there is a possibility of the number to rise due to benefits derived from what they are doing. Among this group there are two families with livestock, one with 15 goats and the other one with 2 donkeys and 2 cattle. They are currently getting water from a NamWater dam for own and their animals' consumption.

As I indicated before, these people are not farmers at all. I repeatedly confirmed that they are small miners who are self-employed and they enjoy the business they are involved in.

Comrade Speaker, let me state here, that our Ministry is characterised by an open door policy. History reveals that none of these people have ever approached our office with regard to any complaint. I should also inform this august House that our Ministry has Regional offices countrywide with competent staff who can handle issues of this magnitude.

We should also take note that the resettlement programme is based on fair participation by all needy people and stakeholders. As such, if those people want to participate in this programme, they must feel free to follow the laid-down procedures and tender their resettlement applications as required.

Honourable Tjihuiko, point of correction, some of these people have been living alongside the road for the past eleven years as seasonable miners, who leave the

21 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON TJIHUIKO  
HON KAZENAMBO**

site and go back to their places of origin after earning some money and they go back to the site for extra business earnings after a year or so. As such, they are not constant dwellers of the site, as the Honourable Member seems to be alleging them to be.

In this regard I wish to restate the stand of the Ministry, that we are not responsible for the people in question. At the time of our visit to the area, no school-going children were found on site, as they are left at their parents' original villages in pursuance of their education. The total number of women could not be established as people were already away for their daily activities when the team from our Ministry visited the site. I am, however, well informed that the number of men by far outnumbers that of women.

The Government of the Republic of Namibia has already intervened through Erongo Regional Council by visiting the site and requesting the people to organise themselves into committees for the relevant services to be provided to them. From our investigation it became clear that the people on site are business people. Our function is land acquisition and resettlement of needy landless people. In other words, our target is those people in need of land to pursue agricultural activities in order for them to be fully participating in the mainstream of the country's economy.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I hope I have answered the question of the Honourable Member and that his concern has now been put to eternal rest. I thank you.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** I just want to thank the Honourable Deputy Minister for a good answer and also to recognise that yes, indeed, there are people living on the road, making a living from staying on the road. Thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Question 56 is by the same Honourable Member. Does Honourable Tjihuiko put the Question?

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21 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON TJIHUIKO  
HON KAZENAMBO**

**QUESTION 56:**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:**

Honourable Speaker, I am standing to respond to the question asked by the Honourable Member of Parliament from the NUDO Party, Honourable Arnold Tjihuiko, who wants to dominate me by claiming to be my uncle.

The first question that Honourable Tjihuiko asked was whether the Minister would confirm that the Oshikoto Regional administrative office will be moved from Tsumeb to Omuthiya. He asked if this is true.

The Minister's response to Honourable Tjihuiko's question is as follows:

In terms of a decision taken by political authority of the Oshikoto Regional Council and in accordance with the directive and recommendation from the Delimitation Commission, plans are underway to relocate the Tsumeb Oshikoto Regional Council's Headquarters to Omuthiya, which is designated as the capital head of the Oshikoto Region.

This august House will be aware that the Delimitation Commission is an independent Commission that the President of the Republic of Namibia appoints from time to time in terms of the Constitution. This independent Commission makes such decisions after consultations with communities and stakeholders.

The second question the Honourable Member asked is whether it is true that the reasons for the decision to move the office from Tsumeb to Omuthiya were to bring services closer to the majority of our people?

The answer is as follows: Bringing Government services closer to the people remains one of the Government's top priorities in terms of Decentralisation Policy of the Government of the Republic of Namibia. This policy objective may as well be the reason why the political authority of the Oshikoto Region and the Delimitation Commission's recommendation decided to relocate the Tsumeb Oshikoto Headquarters to Omuthiya in this regard. Be that as it may, I wish to state that although the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development is the main agency of the Central Government in spearheading the decentralisation process, the Ministry cannot be drawn into

21 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON TJIHUIKO  
HON KAZENAMBO**

Debates as to what were the reasons to move the Tsumeb Oshikoto Headquarters to Omuthiya. This is purely the decision of the political authority of that Region in accordance with the recommendation of the Delimitation Commission.

The third question Honourable Tjihuiko asked is whether I would agree with him that by taking the offices to Omuthiya would also help to stimulate economic growth in the town and surrounding villages.

It may well be the case, but as to whether this has played a part, remains the knowledge of those who have taken such a decision.

In the fourth question Honourable Tjihuiko asked, that if the answers in 1 to 3 are in the affirmative, which he assumed it would be, why the Government decided to move Government offices from Okakarara to Otjiwarongo?

My response to this question would be to advise that Honourable Tjihuiko should get in touch with the political authority of Oshikoto Region and also with the Delimitation Commission in order to get firsthand information as to the reasons why they are going to move the Tsumeb Oshikoto Regional Headquarters to Omuthiya. By doing so, Honourable Tjihuiko will be in a position to understand as to why the decision was taken to move Government offices from Okakarara to Otjiwarongo. He is also equally advised to do that with regard to the political authority, both in Okakarara constituency in the Otjozondjupa Region and also the Delimitation Commission to find out more.

In the fifth and last question, Honourable Tjihuiko stated that, having realised now that economic growth can be built around the service industry, such as the Government, amongst others, he wanted to know whether the Ministry would consider moving Government administrative offices back to Okakarara on the basis of the same reasons why, apparently, the Ministry has decided to move offices from Tsumeb to Omuthiya.

I think I have already responded to this question in my responses to the questions above. However, I wish to emphasise that the questions being asked by Honourable Tjihuiko are issues better dealt with at community level and with those that are competent enough in terms of their roles and responsibilities. The decision to move the headquarters is not in the domain of the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development or the Central Government in general, but rather with those entrusted with such responsibilities

21 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON GURIRAB  
HON DR AMATHILA**

in terms of the law and, for the information of the Honourable Member, that is the beauty of democracy and decentralisation. I thank you.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** I just want to thank the Honourable Deputy Minister for trying on behalf of the Minister. The only thing that I can advise is that you can run, but you cannot hide. Thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Question 61 is by Honourable Gurirab. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**QUESTION 61:**

**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you for the question, Honourable Tsudao.

The investigation on the rotten food was completed around June 2006. An investigation Report was compiled and tabled before Cabinet.

The Ministry of Justice (Attorney-General) was approached for legal advice and assistance in the drafting of a charge sheet. It was then resolved that a disciplinary committee be established to enquire into the allegations or findings against those responsible.

Two disciplinary committees were established and five staff members were charged with misconduct.

The Governor of Caprivi was suspended for a month pending the outcome of the disciplinary hearings of the five charged staff members.

The first disciplinary hearing by a disciplinary committee, composed four members and an investigating officer, dealt with only one staff member, Mr Dobson Kamwi. This matter was first postponed and later finalised on the second

21 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON ULENGA  
HON SMIT**

round. The charged staff member was not found guilty as charged and was discharged accordingly.

Then another disciplinary committee was established in June 2006, composed of three different members and the same investigating officer.

This committee had four hearings. The first hearing started on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2006 and the fourth one was completed on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2007.

At the completion of the four cases, the Committee had to study the Report together with the evidence adduced at the hearing and eventually pronounce themselves. However the Committee decided to call one more witness and now we are told that the date is set for finalisation of these cases and it will be somewhere from the first week of August 2007. Therefore, let us hope by August 2007 this case will be closed. Thank you very much.

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**HON GURIRAB:** Honourable Speaker, I will wait until then.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Question 65 is one by Honourable Ulenga. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**QUESTION 65:**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** The first question by Honourable Ulenga was: *How many times has the price of milk and milk products gone up in the last 18 months?*

It happened five times. It was in May 2005, June 2006, October 2006, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007 and 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007. It should also be noted that for the two years prior to the first increase mentioned, no increases occurred for the dairy producers. It showed that Namibia Dairies has no control what the retailer charges the consumers, they only have suggested retail prices and guidelines that are recommended.

21 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON ULENGA  
HON SMIT**

The second question is: *By what percentage has it gone up?*

The standard annual price increase to the trade in May 2005 was 1.5% on average. The standard annual increase in June 2006 was 1.37% on average. The extraordinary increase in October 2006 of 3.19% to the trade was a result of worldwide increases of packaging material and transport cost. The increase on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2007 of 50 cents per litre of fresh milk was only fully passed onto the producer after the dairy producing industry was about to collapse due to the feed cost. In other words, the consumer price did not go up, only the producer price and on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2007 an annual price increase of 8.73% was passed on to the trade. Honourable Speaker, that gives us an average 4.4% consumer price increase over the past four years per annum.

The third question was: *Is the Ministry aware of the fact that milk is one of the staple foods of Namibia and that there are whole communities who rely wholly on milk for a meal a day?*

I am not so sure about this statement, but we agree that people are relying on milk and that it is an important component. After they have eaten a lot of meat they drink some milk.

Question 4 and 5 are: *When is the Government going to start subsidising the price of milk and if never, why never?*

Subsidising a commodity is not a simple issue because it could support inefficiencies in the economy and the marketing chain. The Government understands the high importance of milk products as part of our food basket and, therefore, encourages milk production in various ways.

Government supported the industry to gain “*infant industry*” status for certain milk products in terms of Southern African Customs Union Agreement. Recently Government was successful to extend the infant industry status for 4 years and improve on the tariff for imported products in order to protect and build our own industry.

The sixth question is: *Seeing the high importance of milk in our food chain, the demand of which can only increase, when will Government adopt the good policy of encouraging milk production amongst farmers?*

21 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON ULENGA  
HON KONJORE**

An example of Government's initiative is the Ogongo Milk Collection Scheme, a project funded by FAO, established to encourage milk production and improve milk consumption in the Ogongo community. This scheme is run by a cooperative known as the Ombuga Ekoto Dairy Cooperative Society. The members of the cooperative are farmers around the Ogongo area and they will be suppliers of milk to the project. There will be a collection and processing centre that will be constructed in the near future.

Secondly, Government is also involved in Vungu-Vungu to improve the dairy sector. The first phase was to improve and to increase the fodder production unit and we are currently busy to improve the quality of the herd and also the processing plant, to increase milk production in that area.

Lastly, Honourable Speaker, the milk industry is a highly technical and commercialised industry all over the world today and the irrigation development will also add to the development of dairy production in the years to come. A constant affordable supply of fodder is the backbone of any successful dairy industry and they are interrelated. The success of the irrigation development will also determine the success of growth of the dairy industry. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON ULENGA:** I thank the Deputy Minister for the futuristic answer that he gave. Of course, there is no way that one can be satisfied with the ongoing rising of the price of milk, but I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Question 68 is by Honourable Viljoen. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**QUESTION 68:**

**HON MBAI:** I put the Question on behalf of Honourable Viljoen.

**HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** Thank you,



21 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON VILJOEN  
HON KONJORE**

Comrade Speaker. I would like to respond to the questions put by Honourable Viljoen, *in absentia*, for the information of the House and the public at large as follows:

I am, of course, aware of the letters and I have personally engaged with Namibia Wildlife Resorts on these matters. Additionally, I should add that the Presidential Economic Advisory Council has been thoroughly briefed on these issues. An important point to note is always to draw the line between facts and fiction.

It should be realised that the deterioration of infrastructure in Etosha and elsewhere did not come about overnight, but rather accumulated over years of mismanagement and neglect. It was for this reason that the new management of Namibia Wildlife Resort developed a turnaround strategy that was fully supported and approved by the Cabinet of the Republic of Namibia.

The turnaround strategy addresses the systematic improvement of all facilities in the Namibia Wildlife Resort portfolio, as well as strategies to improve service delivery and to run the company on sound business principles. Priority was given to the three camps in the Etosha National Park, which are Okaukuejo, Halali and Namutoni, to coincide with the celebration of the Etosha Centenary and in recognition that these camps had received some of the most severe criticisms over recent years.

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism is also investing into improving park infrastructure, such as gates, roads, signs, fences and waterholes to improve the visitor experience. Our belief is that the author's intention is to destroy and in fact mislead the public on issues that are not true. The Etosha camps are going through a thorough refurbishment as mandated by the Cabinet. Halali is on the verge of completion, while Okaukuejo and Namutoni are both undergoing reconstruction that will be completed well in time for the main celebration of the Etosha Centenary in September 2007 to be held at Namutoni.

Namibia Wildlife Resort places great value on service delivery as an integral part of the redevelopment process and has undertaken an intensive and ongoing in-service training exercise for all levels of employees. I am pleased to inform you that my Ministry's gate officials have also been included in this training to provide them with the necessary skills to offer a more welcoming service.

In determining the tariffs or "*rack rates*", as they are called in the tourism

21 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON VILJOEN  
HON KONJORE**

industry, for the 2007/08 tourism season from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2007 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2008, a number of factors were taken into consideration. In order to be in line with the tourism industry, they are now offered on a per person bed and breakfast basis, and in some cases, dinner, bed and breakfast. Additionally, in determining the rates, consideration was given to the dramatic improvements that have been made through the redevelopment projects undertaken as part of the Namibia Wildlife Resort turnaround strategy. The rates are, therefore, structured to be compatible with accommodation facilities in the tourism sector, and in particular the areas nearby the various NWR facilities. Market research had indicated that Namibia Wildlife Resort is by far the cheapest tourism service provider in the country.

Having said this, as almost all letters in newspapers have concentrated primarily on the Etosha National Park, I would wish to expand particularly on this park.

Redevelopment of the three facilities in Etosha, Okaukuejo, Halali and Namutoni, will be fully completed before the new rates come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2007. Through the redevelopment process and in line with market demand, provision has been made to complement the product on offer with a new premier class of accommodation. For example, in Okaukuejo, five of the units close to the waterhole have been converted to premier double story units, with balconies overlooking the waterhole. This is in essence an entirely new product and it is obviously misleading to make direct price comparisons between the former facilities and this entirely new product, which is what many have done. Okaukuejo will still offer other types of accommodation, including chalets with braai facilities, family chalets with self-catering facilities, double rooms and camping facilities, thereby catering for a wide range of needs and a range of price categories.

Whilst not wishing to detract from the Namibian market, given the importance of the tourism industry to the Namibian economy, it is imperative that the primary draw card to our magnificent country, the Etosha National Park is presented in the most favourable way to international visitors. For so many years we were severely criticised for the dilapidated state of the facilities in Etosha, precisely for the reason that it had a negative impact on the entire tourism industry.

The challenge is, of course, in balancing the needs of the local and international tourist. In the case of Namibia Wildlife Resorts, this is achieved in a number of ways.

21 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON VILJOEN  
HON KONJORE**

As mentioned, a wide range of products are on offer to suit different preferences and pockets. Additionally, Namibian citizens and permanent residents enjoy a 25 percent discount on the rack rate at all Namibia Wildlife Resorts facilities any time of the year. The company will also design special packages to encourage Namibians to take time to relax and enjoy our natural treasures. I should also point out that the Ministry likewise has a three-tier system for park entrance fees, which is Namibians, SADC and Foreigners, to ensure that access to the parks remains affordable to Namibians, in particular. We have additionally not increased the park entrance fees this year.

I can assure Honourable Members that the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and Namibia Wildlife Resorts will continue to work closely to ensure that the Etosha experience becomes and remains a memorable and fulfilling one to all visitors, whether Namibian or foreign. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Minister. The House shall now rise for refreshments.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40  
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:15 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

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**HON SPEAKER:** Question 69 is by Honourable Kaura. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**QUESTION 69:**

**HON KAURA:** I put the Question.

21 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON KAURA  
HON NAMOLOH**

**HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, I have the honour to respond to the questions posed by Honourable Kaura. He wanted to know what is the reason why old soldiers at Walvis Bay Military Base are being replaced with young recruits and that they must summarily vacate the military base at the end of June, whether married or unmarried or whether they have children in school or not or whether they own property in Walvis Bay or not.

The answer to the Honourable Member's question is that the troop movements are part of the ongoing reorganisation and restructuring process as the NDF transforms itself and prepares itself for the inevitable generation age gap. The move is planned to be in phases and there is no hasty movement. The word "*removal*" is also not appropriate to describe this planned process.

I should also inform the Honourable Member and this august House that the Chief of the Defence Force has the prerogative to deploy and rotate all members of the NDF wherever and whenever he deems it necessary and at any time. In the military you have no permanent place to stay. If you decide to own a house in Walvis Bay or decide to settle in Walvis Bay does not prevent the Chief of Defence to relocate you.

I can take my own example: When I started, I was in Windhoek, then in September 1990 I was posted to Grootfontein to establish the Army Headquarters. I was stationed there, I bought a house there, but 5 years thereafter I was redeployed. I decided that I should have a house in Grootfontein and my house is still there, but I am not in Grootfontein.

We have informed this House earlier on that we are also trying to construct family quarters in all our establishments to cater for those who are being rotated, that they live in family quarters built by the Defence Force.

Of course, we should bear in mind that in the Defence Force there is no democracy. You are not asked, "*can you please move to Base A or Base B?*" You are ordered, you are instructed to move. As we sit here today most of the units which we have created in this country have been rotated throughout the country and there is no way you can claim "*I stay here.*"

You are given marching orders and you march, you go. Otherwise, if there was

21 June 2007

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON KAURA  
HON NAMOLOH**

democracy in the Defence Force, soldiers would not go and fight because nobody wants to sacrifice his life. Therefore, every soldier should be ready to move to any place in the country within 24 hours. That is the norm, that is the life of a soldier.

Reorganisation and rotating the deployment of the NDF members to any part of the country is not unique to the NDF, but the normal practice in all Defence Forces worldwide.

Furthermore, members were informed about the change in time in order to make the necessary preparations and arrangements.

The nature of military work requires constant movement, including deployment outside the national border.

This unfortunately disturbs family life and soldiers are aware of these facts. It is part of their national duty and things they are expected to do. Ideally, the Defence Force is supposed to have family quarters. This could have minimised the disturbances the married couple endures, but due to limited financial resources there are not sufficient married quarters in the NDF. These are issues we are currently working out and we need the support of the Honourable Members in this regard.

In his second question Honourable Kaura says, *“some of these soldiers are former PLAN fighters who have bought houses in Walvis Bay but all this is not taken into consideration.”* I am surprised that Honourable Kaura singled out ex-PLAN fighters since members who joined the NDF after Independence are ex-fighters PLAN and SWATF and later may also have acquired properties in Walvis Bay.

This, notwithstanding, the NDF does not discriminate as to who should be affected by the reorganisation. Furthermore, the NDF does not classify its members as ex-PLAN or ex-SWATF or wherever they served before joining the NDF. We are managing a national unitary force, the Namibian Defence Force and we are not discriminating against anyone.

In his third question he wants to know the reasons for what he termed *“a speedy haste of removing them from Walvis Bay.”* We are not removing them, we are rotating them, we are reorganising them. This is not a matter of removal, but a planned reorganisation. It is *“speedy”* as Honourable Kaura termed it, I must say

21 June 2007

**MOTION ON MATRIMONIAL PROPERTY RIGHTS  
HON VENAANI**

soldiers are not sluggish by nature, they tend to act swiftly but orderly.

I should inform the House that what we are doing now, we have an aging Defence Force and we are recruiting young blood to these units, so that the old ones will go to other units where they will be getting out into retirement. It is being done orderly and swiftly, it is not removal, it is just in order.

I hope I have favourably responded to the Honourable Member's questions. I thank you.

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**HON KAURA:** I would like to thank the Honourable Minister for the orderly advancing to the rear.

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**HON SPEAKER:** The Notice of Motion is by Honourable Venaani. Does the Honourable Member move the Motion? Who seconds? Any objection? The Honourable Member has the Floor.

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**MOTION ON MATRIMONIAL PROPERTY  
REGIME STATUS OF MARRIED COUPLES**

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**HON VENAANI:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this august Assembly.

I rise to make a brief motivation on a subject not politically so popular to be discussed openly by many of our citizenry. However, my inquisitiveness in the matter is due to serious public outcry by many married couples and of course, this House is called "*Parliament*" which means the "*house of debate*", to change society and to direct society into modernity.

Honourable Speaker, as a footnote I would want to advise that this Motion should not be understood in any other context than the one that I am putting it and that context is when married spouses are willingly intending to change their

matrimonial property regime status. Furthermore, as a footnote, this Motion is not a competition of gender, whether who owns what wealth, it is in the context of that willingness and I want it to be understood on those premises.

Honourable Speaker, traditionally society viewed marriages as that church rites initiated marriages and death ought to terminate them, but of course, reality has proven otherwise.

The economics of marriage have changed over time. Historically, in many cultures, then and now, the family of the bride had to provide *lobola* for marrying their daughter. The social status of the couple was supposed to be equal. After the marriage the entire property, called “*fortune*”, is expected to be inherited by the wife, in some cultures, and in many cultures it belongs only to the husband. The wife was all the time called the property of the husband, which did then include the protection a single woman did not have. In other cultures the family of the groom had to pay a bride price to the bride’s family for the right to marry the daughter. In some cultures, dowries and *lobola* and bride prices are still demanded today. In both cases, the financial transaction takes place between the groom or his family and the bride’s family. The bride has no part in the transaction and often no choice in whether to participate in the marriage.

In many modern legal systems, two people who marry have the choice between keeping their property separate or combining their property. In the latter case, called community of property, when the marriage ends by divorce each owns half; if one partner dies the surviving partner owns half and inheritance rules apply to the other half. In many legal jurisdictions, laws related to property and inheritance provide by default for property to pass upon the death of one party in a marriage to the spouse first and secondarily to the children. Wills and trusts can make alternative provisions for property succession.

In some legal systems the partners in a marriage are jointly liable for the debts of the marriage. This has a basis in a traditional legal notion called the “*Doctrine of Necessities*”, whereby a husband was responsible to provide necessary things for his wife. Where this is the case, one partner may be sued to collect a debt for which they did not expressly contract. Critics of this practice note that debt collection agencies can abuse this by claiming an unreasonably wide range of debts to be expenses of the marriage. The cost of defence and the burden of proof is then placed on the non-contracting party to prove that the expense is not a debt

21 June 2007

**MOTION ON MATRIMONIAL PROPERTY RIGHTS  
HON VENAANI**

of the family. The respective maintenance obligations, both during and eventually after a marriage, are regulated in most jurisdictions.

Our own legal system operates in the very same fashion as highlighted above. However, we lack the absence of a law that governs our status of marriage and because of the precedents that our common law has created through judgements of cases has continuously and unabatedly allowed embarrassment of couples to be asked to divorce if they interchangeably wish to amend their matrimonial property regime, either from out of community of property to in community of property or vice versa. It is my firm belief that unless this Legislature expresses itself on the matter, the situation shall remain unchanged within our courts and the precedent shall always apply that couples would be asked to divorce.

I think this Legislature should play a catalyst role in providing a law that would modernise our system to allow our married people to exercise their rights if they willingly so wish without any embarrassment.

Of course, Honourable Speaker, various reasons exist why many couples might wish to change their status and common amongst many are the following:

Sometimes partners, at the initiation of their marriage, might not know the implications of marrying under which category and obviously, under common law or traditional marriages would be construed to be marriages in community of property.

Secondly, the different categories were never clarified to them and the most common one is when you have rich widows or widowers that are exploited by their partners, only marrying for their assets, the marriage of convenience. This is a serious problem in this country that needs to be addressed, because you find that a widow or widower has inherited a couple of millions and gets married and as soon as this guy has signed the certificate in community of property he starts doing his own thing. Now he is standing at Augustineum with the BMW of the deceased and is taking the young ones, he is no longer taking care of the family. I think it is fair for a person who has assets in a marriage to be able to tell the court of law that *I got married because of love, but I do not want to be trapped in a position where I am kept hostage in a marriage because of my assets.*

The other one is that we have emerging business people in this country who, for one or other reason, do not want to risk all their assets to creditors, even if they



21 June 2007

**MOTION ON MATRIMONIAL PROPERTY RIGHTS  
HON VENAANI**

never pledged their assets against debts. Sometimes you have two spouses, one is a business person, the other one works at a company, but the other one is running risks, he signs contracts, borrows millions and at the end of the day the other spouse did not pledge of her assets to these contracts, but at the time when the business collapses, then the whole family assets will be taken away. I think we should have laws that would change this.

We as a Nation must intervene and legislate what in our opinion is important to reform the system.

In order for the parties to change their matrimonial property system, the following requirements must be considered:

There must be sound reasons for the proposed change. These people should apply to a court of law and there must be sound reasons for the proposed change. Sufficient notice of the proposed change must be given to all creditors of the spouses. That could be done through advertisement so that creditors are also covered, those who have attached assets to lending they have provided. The court must be satisfied that no other person will be prejudiced by the proposed change. Those are the four requirements that are necessary for us to put in a form of a law.

Only with these reforms would we allow our citizenry to live with modern times and laws that suit modernity, rather than the backward requirements that are cumbersome and frustrating.

I thus plead for the relevant Standing Committee to consult the public if this Motion is adopted and come up with an informed proposal on the subject matter in the interest of our citizenry.

Honourable Speaker, with these few remarks, I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member. Any further discussion?

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**HON MOONGO:** I would like to adjourn the Motion until next week, Wednesday.

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21 June 2007

**MOTION ON AFRICAN UNION GOVERNMENT  
HON HAUSIKU**

**HON SPEAKER:** Any objection? The Motion stands adjourned until next week, Wednesday. The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE FORMATION OF THE AFRICAN  
UNION GOVERNMENT BY 2015**

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**HON SPEAKER:** When this Debate was adjourned on yesterday, 20 June 2007, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Dr Geingob, that the Motion be adopted. The Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

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**HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Comrade Speaker, I must start by saying that I am pleased to speak on this Motion of Destiny, tabled by my Chief Whip, Comrade Dr Hage Geingob. My approach would be twofold. One would be to give a background to the genesis of the call for a continental Government and to look at the current state of the Debate. I will then move on to provide an insight to the Government's thinking on the matter.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, Union Government of Africa is sometimes referred to as the United States of Africa or just the Union Government. As Honourable Members may recall, this is a name sometimes given to one version of the possible future unification of Africa as a national and sovereign federation of States, similar in formation to the United States of America.

The phrase, "*United States of Africa*", was mentioned first by Marcus Garvey in his poem, "*Hail, United States of Africa*" in 1924. Garvey's ideas deeply influenced the birth of the Pan-Africanist Movement which culminated in 1945 with the Fifth Pan African Congress in Manchester, England, attended by W E B Du Bois, Patrice Lumumba, George Padmore, Jomo Kenyatta and President Kwame Nkrumah.

21 June 2007

**MOTION ON AFRICAN UNION GOVERNMENT  
HON HAUSIKU**

Former President Kwame Nkrumah and Emperor Haile Selassie, among many others, took the idea forward to form the Organisation of African Unity, the forerunner of today's African Union. The idea has recently been advanced by President Muammar al-Qaddafi at the Sirte Extraordinary Summit of the OAU in September 1999 and later during the 2000 OAU Summit in Lomé, Togo. Colonel Qaddafi raised the idea of an African Union, loosely modelled on its European counterpart.

Comrade Speaker, the issue of a Continental Government was raised by Ghana as far back as the First Summit of African Heads of State and Government that took place in Cairo, Egypt in July, 1964. The matter was referred to a technical Committee and the Summit eventually took a decision to follow a gradual process, a process that has first seen the political emancipation of other Member States and the adoption of the Monrovia Declaration, which paved the way for the Lagos Plan of Action, the Final Act of Lagos and the Abuja Treaty.

In recent times, of course, the Debate took a similar route of submission, consultation, expert review and further consideration. The AU Commission has now submitted a Study on an African Union Government and a Report on African Union Government Implementation Modalities.

The study suggests a Road Map that indicates a three-phase approach. The first phase is suggested to start from 2006 to 2009, the second phase from 2009 to 2012 and the third phase from 2012 to 2015, of course the timeframe that Comrade Geingob has indicated in this Motion.

I must point out, Comrade Speaker, that the Study is a result of Summit Decisions since the first proposal in recent times on the matter.

During its Fourth Ordinary Session, which took place from 30 to 31 January 2005 in Abuja, Nigeria, the AU Assembly took a Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.69(IV) on Proposals of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. The Assembly took note of these proposals and accepted that they were pertinent, forward-looking and in line with the vision of the African Union. The Assembly then decided to set up a Committee of Seven Heads of State and Government, chaired by the President of Uganda and composed of Botswana, Chad, Ethiopia, Niger, Senegal and Tunisia, to consider with the Chairperson of the Commission the said proposals and submit a report to its Fifth Ordinary Session in July 2005.

21 June 2007

**MOTION ON AFRICAN UNION GOVERNMENT  
HON HAUSIKU**

The Fifth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union which took place from 4 to 5 July 2005 in Sirte, Libya, again considered the matter. A decision was taken on the basis of the Report submitted by the Committee referred to above. The Assembly again took note of the Report and reaffirmed that the ultimate goal of the African Union is full political and economic integration leading to the United States of Africa.

The Assembly then decided to establish another Committee of 7 Heads of State and Government to be chaired by President Olusegun Obasanjo, the Chairperson of the African Union at that time, and composed of the Heads of State and Government of Algeria, Kenya, Senegal, Gabon, Lesotho and Uganda, this time to consider all the ideas discussed during the Summit and others that would possibly be submitted or arise through consultations and to submit a Report to the next Session of the Assembly. The mandate was for the Report to include the steps that need to be taken for the realisation of this objective, the structure, the process, the timeframe required for its achievement as well as measures that should be undertaken, in the meantime, to strengthen the ability of the Commission to fulfil its mandate effectively.

Comrade Speaker, the Sixth Session of the Assembly, which took place in Khartoum, the Sudan, from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2006 considered the matter again and through Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.99(VI) on the Report of the Committee of Seven Heads of State and Government, took note of that Report, commended the Committee for its Report and reaffirmed once again that the ultimate goal of the African Union is the full political and economic integration of the continent, leading to the United States of Africa.

The Assembly then requested the AU Commission to follow up on this Report in accordance with the Work Plan and the framework of action contained therein and to consider the contribution of President Muammar al-Quaddafi and all other pertinent ideas discussed during that Session as well as others that may be submitted or arise through consultations with all relevant stakeholders and experts as envisaged in the Report and to submit a consolidated document with a roadmap for consideration by the Assembly at its next Ordinary Session in July 2006.

The Seventh Session of the Assembly, which took place in Banjul, the Gambia, again considered the Report of the Committee. The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria who presented the report on the proposal to form a

21 June 2007

**MOTION ON AFRICAN UNION GOVERNMENT  
HON HAUSIKU**

Continental Government of the “*United States of Africa*”, wanted Heads of State and Government to take a decision, accepting the proposal in principle at the Summit. He was supported, of course, by a number of States, including Senegal, Chad, Congo Djibouti, as well as the representative from Burkina Faso.

However, Heads of State, specifically from SADC, felt that there is a need for further consultations and that the Report has been distributed just before the discussion of the item and, therefore, needed further consultation.

The Assembly decided that an extraordinary Session of the Executive Council should be convened in due course with a view to thoroughly study and discuss the contents of the document and come up with recommendations that would be considered at the next session of the Assembly in January 2007.

Meanwhile the matter was discussed at the SADC Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government where our Prime Minister represented us, which was held on 23 October 2006 at Midrand, South Africa. The Summit exchanged views on the scaling-up of the implementation of the Regional economic integration, notably the launching of the Free Trade Area by 2008, the preparations for the Customs Union by 2010 and SADC’s position on the African Union Government. The Summit took note of the Report of the Chairperson of the Ministerial Committee of the Organ on the African Union Government. The Summit noted the study on the African Union Government towards the United States of Africa and agreed that the effective establishment of the Union Government will occur when the African Continent attains higher levels of both economic and political integration. There is, therefore, consensus, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, in SADC that the time is not ripe for a Continental Government.

The Executive Council convened its Ninth Extraordinary Session in Addis Ababa on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2006 to consider the matter as per the 7<sup>th</sup> AU Assembly mandate. Council concluded as follows:

- That all Member States accept the United States of Africa as a common and desirable goal. However, differences exist over the modalities and timeframe of achieving this goal and appropriate pace of integration.
- There is a common agreement on the need for an audit review of the state of the Union in order to know where we are and areas in which significant

21 June 2007

**MOTION ON AFRICAN UNION GOVERNMENT  
HON HAUSIKU**

- improvements have to be made in order to accelerate the process of integration. This includes the need to strengthen the Commission and other organs of the Union and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), as well as their interrelationships.
- There was also agreement on the need for pragmatic and progressive approach that would not necessarily involve an amendment of the Constitutive Act but would aim at filling gaps that exist and support the consolidation of various institutions. It was proposed that the existing mechanisms should be used to carry out such audit review. In this respect, changes that could be affected through the amendments of the Rules of Procedure or the Statutes of the organs without amending the Constitutive Act should be undertaken.
- The Report and recommendations of the Executive Council should be submitted to the Assembly at its next Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa in January 2007 for consideration.

Comrade Speaker, the Ninth Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council concluded that it had fulfilled its mandate and decided therefore, to submit Reports and recommendations to the Eighth Session of the Assembly.

The Tenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, which took place in Addis Ababa, from the 25<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> January 2007 considered the matter again, following the introduction of a Report of the AU Commission Chairperson on *“the Strengthening of the Commission”*, despite the conclusions of the Ninth Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council.

The Executive Council took note of the Report of the Chairperson the Strengthening of the Commission and agreed to refer the abovementioned Report to Member States for further consideration in order to facilitate consultations with stakeholders, since some of the issues contained in the Report are of such gravity as to require wider Government institutions. It further decided that consultations be carried out among Member States with a view to recommending the convening of an Extraordinary Session of the Council.

The Executive Council welcomed the offer of the Republic of South Africa to host a retreat of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to reflect on the state of the Union, to be followed by an Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council and

21 June 2007

**MOTION ON AFRICAN UNION GOVERNMENT  
HON HAUSIKU**

requested the Commission to take the necessary measures to facilitate this process and to submit a report to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in June 2007.

The Eighth Session of the AU Assembly considered the matter again, following the Report of the Committee of Seven Heads of State and Government and the circulation of a second document titled, “*Strengthening the AU Commission towards a Union Government*”, submitted by the AU Commission Chairperson. The Report was not discussed but the Assembly considered and adopted the Executive Council Decision on the matter, which recommended further consultations due to the far-reaching implications of any decision on the Union Government.

Comrade Speaker, I must point out that the Commission Chairperson’s documents to the Executive Council as well as the one prepared for the Assembly were initially not approved by the Executive Council in view of the position of the Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council. The Commission explained that the Commission Chairperson has the prerogative of making submissions to the Assembly and therefore went ahead with the said submission. Of course, some delegations felt that the Commission was pushing the matter while they wanted issues to be addressed gradually.

The matter invited serious debate at that session. Some Member States called for Member States to make up their minds on the matter and to answer the hard questions that are involved in the issue. The Assembly in the end decided to have a “*Grand Debate*” on the matter, following suggestions of convening an Extraordinary Summit as well as suggestions for dedicating the next Summit to this matter.

It was agreed that the Ninth Ordinary Session of the Assembly, which will be held in Accra, Ghana from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2007, would be devoted to the holding of a Grand Debate on the subject of the establishment of a Union Government. It was decided that all other agenda items shall, in principle, be transferred to the Tenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly scheduled for January 2008, with the exception of the election of the Members of the Commission, and requested Member States to carry out the necessary national consultations within their countries. It also requested the Commission and the Regional Economic Communities to undertake Regional and continental consultations, respectively.

21 June 2007

**MOTION ON AFRICAN UNION GOVERNMENT  
HON HAUSIKU**

As reflected in all the Assembly Decisions, general consensus exists about the ultimate objective of a United States of Africa. Namibia is part of that consensus and will fully participate in making the ideal a reality. The ideal is not simple to implement as Nation States are involved. The United States of Africa will no doubt take time to be established, but the intention is clear, that one day it will be there.

Comrade Speaker, the Ninth Extraordinary Executive Council recognised the difficulties in the implementation of the ideal at this stage. A few Member States, mainly from the western and northern Regions and the Chairman of the AU Commission, however, continue to advocate the school of establishing the African Union Government now.

There are far-reaching implications, Comrade Speaker, for all Member States if the ideal of a United States of Africa were to be implemented immediately. Implications range from political, constitutional, economic, social and financial.

At the political and constitutional levels, the issues of sovereignty must be looked at with the handing over of authority to a “*federal authority*”, which would be the Union Government. This must be preceded by constitutional amendments and total reorganisation of the Nation States’ body politics.

At the economic level, the issues of integration will need to be taken further. The issues of common currency, common economic policy, common external tariffs and many more will need to be dealt with both at national and Regional levels.

At the social and financial levels, Member States would be required to make contributions that will sustain the Continental Government and that is the principle of having ownership over this Government. This Government cannot depend on handouts, it will have to be funded by the Africans themselves or Member States if we want the Government to be ours. This will also necessitate a budgeting process that will have to be agreed at Continental Government level. The movement of people and labour will have to be liberalised across the continent. This will have an effect on the extent to which people will enjoy their rights not only to work, but also to all other social amenities. The scope of the actual financial implications is not quantifiable at this stage yet, but will no doubt be substantial if we reach there.

Comrade Speaker, the Brainstorming Session of the AU Ministers of Foreign



21 June 2007

**MOTION ON AFRICAN UNION GOVERNMENT  
HON HAUSIKU**

Affairs, which was held in Durban in May 2006, overwhelmingly argued against an immediate formation of the Union Government. The meeting clearly stated for a gradual process, albeit expedited in line with the Abuja Treaty and the provisions of the Constitutive Act.

It is in this context of the SADC position and the expected Grand Debate from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> of July, as well as the overwhelming views of members against immediate accession to the United States of Africa that we delayed a nationwide consultation on the matter. It is also from this background that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomes this debate in the National Assembly as a start of national consultation.

But it is important to emphasise that the final directives on the way forward will become clear after the Grand Debate by Heads of State and Government in Ghana. The Government of Namibia, Comrade Speaker, supports and agrees to eventual continental integration, but maintains that we follow a gradual process through Regional Economic Communities, as agreed in the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community.

Comrade Speaker, in conclusion, I have copies of the two main documents that I referred to earlier on, which the Honourable Members can read to get a broader picture of the proposed Union Government and the work that has been done and is ongoing today. I will leave a copy for the Honourable Members' reading with the Secretariat, but the Secretariat have indicated their machines are broken, they cannot make copies, but indeed, the two copies are there and Members can make their copies. I will leave a copy of the Study on African Union Government towards the United States of Africa and the Report on the African Union Government Implementation Modalities with the Parliament Secretariat.

Comrade Speaker, this is my small contribution to this Motion. I want to conclude that this is a very important Motion and that, indeed, as Parliamentarians we are discussing this Motion in order to sensitise our people towards the formation of a Government that will indeed be shared with other African States.

In conclusion I also want to mention that Comrade Hage Geingob yesterday referred to a very important step that Namibia has taken in singing the National Anthem together with the African Union Anthem and flying our National Flag together with the African Union Flag. It is true that Namibia is the only country

21 June 2007

**MOTION ON AFRICAN UNION GOVERNMENT  
HON DR A IYAMBO**

that is doing that up to date and many of the Ambassadors from the African States have approached the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to commend us on what we are doing and to sensitise at international fora our Colleague Ministers to do the same in their national States. We should however thank the Founding President who, at one of the SWAPO Congresses, requested and introduced the idea of doing exactly what we are getting praise for in the international world.

Thank you, Comrade Speaker, I support the Motion.

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**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. The Debate is very informative, very enriching and highly educative for different categories of generations, both the seasoned generation, the younger generation and the upcoming generation.

Honourable Speaker, the idea for an African Union Government is definitely a grand idea, an idea that is surely pregnant with great promises and opportunities for the African people. Listening to the Honourable Hage Geingob as well as to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the dream is for Africa to be whole again, and to become again a true cradle of humanity. The idea, therefore, arriving at the Pan Africanists' mission for a united, prosperous and solid Africa and its Diaspora.

We however want to know more, we want to interrogate as we drive the unity and solidity of Africa and appreciate the genesis and inter-collectedness of events as part of our history that is so rich.

I would like to just enquire about the institution building of this phenomenal body as part of the great Africa, to enquire on the issue of institution building on the dynamism of these institutions, how they would operate.

Would the Union be seen as the same as Government? We have the African Union and now the proposal an African Union Government. The European Union has the European Union. We have the African Union, the Union that is binding us all, that glue all Africans. Will the Union be the same as Government or there will be the Union and that the Union will have a Government or is the Union also a Government? Just to get clarity on that.

There is always a concept of Pan-Africanism. We have the issue of a Pan-African Parliament. Other institutions of our great continent still have Pan-

21 June 2007

**MOTION ON AFRICAN UNION GOVERNMENT  
HON MOONGO**

African whereas others are starting more with African. Will this be the same as a Pan-African Government, Pan-African Parliament? I am referring here to the institution building, the genesis of all these institutions and how they will function and how they will be interpreted.

Normally if you have a Union, it is not an automatic requirement possibly that you have the supreme leader of that Union. For the Government, you may have the head of that Government, but through the Debates, is the intention to have either the Prime Minister of Africa or the President of the African Government? Is the intention, through the protracted debates and discussions, to have one Head of the African Government or will Heads of State possibly rotate to lead.

I was interested in the timeframe, but the Minister of Foreign Affairs has kindly shared with the Assembly what is expected in terms of timeframe. Of course, it will take a long time. However my question was, what is our vision for the establishment of the African Government?

When the European Union was established – Honourable Venaani was older than myself that time – it took so long to establish the Union. I expect that if it is a Government, the machinery and everything might even be more complicated. What are the long-term intentions? Are we constrained by time or is it open-ended as we discuss and refine what we want to do?

As I said, the idea is great. We are supposed to maybe even have this union or Government before others if we are to retain that true label, the cradle of humanity, where humanity started. We are supposed to today to be even more united and bonded than the other continents and parts of the world.

Right Honourable Hage Geingob, I support the submission and I really need to be educated how Africa has travelled through the different turbulences and the future seems to be bright. Thank you very much.

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**HON MOONGO:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Colleagues. I am happy that this African Government has now been proposed as it could have been proposed a long time ago. We were happy that time when we heard that East Africa tried their best at their level to establish a Regional Government, but they went through difficulties. Of course, we are not angels, we can try but we

21 June 2007

**MOTION ON AFRICAN UNION GOVERNMENT  
HON MOONGO**

must first of all be ready. We must be ready to share, because if we are not ready, we will be laughed at. I would like to request the colleagues that do not keep their house in order now, start from the parties, SWAPO Party is having a mess, if the CoD has a mess and only the DTA are united, I think we have to put our houses in order and prepare to unite with other African Colleagues. This type of jealousy and monopoly of power which slows down the decentralisation and it is embarrassing and now we talk of an African Government. Of course, it is a good idea, but we first have to prepare ourselves and be ready to accept the other African Colleagues. Otherwise we will never succeed.

With this, I support the Motion. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank Honourable Moongo. In the big Pan African Parliament we will continue to debate this issue.

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS:** I move that the Debate be adjourned until Wednesday, next week.

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**HON SPEAKER:** The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until Wednesday, next week and in the meantime the Honourable Members would be best served to collect all the available written information and whatever else could help the Debate when it commences.

The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND READING – VOCATIONAL  
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BILL**

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21 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING BILL**  
**HON KAIYAMO**

**HON SPEAKER:** When this Assembly adjourned yesterday, 20 June 2007, in terms of Rule 90(a) of the Standing Rules and Orders, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Deputy Minister of Education, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable Kaiyamo has the Floor.

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**HON KAIYAMO:** Comrade Speaker, I want to recap that gender is excluded from this Bill and we need to put that in.

Page 11 of the Bill – meetings and decisions of the Board. The Bill is saying these meetings can take place anytime. I am of the opinion that it may confuse the people. I would advise that a reasonable time should be brought in, so that those Communists may not call a meeting on a Sunday 09:00 to exclude the Christians. What I am saying is that “*anytime*” is confusing and I want to bring in, “*any reasonable time*”.

Comrade Speaker, there is a need to give allowances to those civil servants who are on the board, because they are giving their service after work and most of the time they are busy with these board meetings without any remuneration and their work is suffering because of these meetings. If those civil servants who are serving on boards of parastatals are getting allowances when attending these meetings, why not give allowances to those civil servants who are on the board of this Government institution? I feel this is selective morality, all the money is coming from the same pool and the allowances should be standard.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I need to be guided in this respect. This Bill is exempting the Levy Fund from tax, while the same Ministry of Finance is allowing library books to be taxed. Our laws must be harmonised. If we tax some, we must also tax the others. I am having in mind the Florence Agreement where the library books are being taxed and in this Bill the Levy Fund is not taxed. I would like to have the understanding of the Ministry so that the library books are not taxed. Honourable Speaker, this Bill is talking about the Annual Report and there has been an improvement in all the Bills so far regarding the reporting. I fully agree that the Public Accounts Committee did a good job in bringing the idea of reporting to this House. This Bill states they can only report during an ordinary session, not any session. That is why I feel this Bill is an improvement.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I hope all the stakeholders have been

21 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING BILL  
HON NAMBAHU**

consulted on this Bill. There is an urgent need to consult all the stakeholders if this has not been done, despite the urgency of the Bill.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the appointment and powers of inspectors are a little tricky. This Bill says the Minister may appoint any suitable person to promote and monitor this Act. What is the legal status of this person? In the Labour Act these inspectors should be police officers and in this Act it is any person. So what is the legal status of this person?

On Page 21 down the line it says one can go as an inspector without a warrant and enter any working place. It cannot be done in our system. I do not know how this Bill is going to do it. You will not be assisted without a warrant in our system if you want to do your work good. If this is allowed, then we as a Government will continue to fight court battles and I was made to understand that we are not doing well in that field of fighting court battles.

I can assure you, you will not seize any book from any company without a warrant and clear legal status. The inspector, according to this Bill, may be accompanied by somebody to interpret. I would urge that we add “*useful and qualified person*”, so that the right interpretation is being done.

Honourable Speaker, on Page 22 the word “*reasonable*” is used but it is not in the definitions. I would advise that the definition of “*reasonable*” should also be put in the Bill so that everybody is clear what is meant by “*reasonable time*.”

With these few words, I support the Bill. Thank you.

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**HON NAMBAHU:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, for the opportunity to contribute to this very important Bill.

Allow me from the beginning to register my support for the Bill and to say that it is really a good start.

Having looked at the efforts that are taking place worldwide in terms of vocational training improvement and enhancement, I do not have any other choice but to congratulate the Colleagues for coming up with this important Bill.

21 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING BILL  
HON NAMBAHU**

Honourable Speaker from the onset, I would like to echo the words of the previous speakers who questioned and interrogated the preamble. All good scholars and academics would agree that when you write your thesis or anything, there is that thing that you call matching and balancing your title and the contents of what you are actually addressing.

My Learned Colleague that side, Comrade Iyambo, was questioning as to whether the issues that are addressed in the Bill actually corresponds with the title in the preamble. I have not done much research regarding the other laws that are pertinent and relevant in terms of vocational training, but having looked at other efforts in other countries, I think it is accepted worldwide that Germany, for example, has the best practices in terms of vocational training. I did glimpse in the Internet just to look at how they are doing and they are certainly at the stage of reforming their own Acts.

When you look at the mosaic of issues that the Vocational Training Act is addressing both in Germany and the United States, you could see that this is probably a good beginning but there are other pertinent issues that we maybe are advised to look at and make a comparative study in order to enrich ours.

Honestly, I did not have a chance to look at the policy that preceded this Bill in order to be informed what are the current prevailing problems that are affecting our vocational training in order for it to form the basis and to be the genesis – to borrow my Colleague's words – of what are actually the problems that are prevailing that we are trying to address. Hence the need for that policy and if I have not seen it, I will not be spot-on if I were to make a critique of what I have at hand, but I would wish that whoever is enriching this Bill should look at that.

The other issue I picked up is to align the Bill with ETSIP, the Education and Training Sector Improvement Programme. We need to always coordinate and integrate so that at least what we are proposing, even how futuristic it is in ETSIP, is actually made provision for legally in what we are legislating, so that the development is actually in tandem with what we are proposing to have in future.

The other issue I picked up is related to the composition of the board. Inasmuch as I agree with my Colleagues who are proposing an addition to the membership of the board, one is careful to actually put in place a huge bureaucratic establishment that will be very slow and very ineffective in acting, given the

21 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING BILL  
HON NAMBAHU**

magnitude and the large number of its composition. Be that as it may, what worries me most is actually the expertise in the board. We have all the representatives from all the stakeholders that we can conceive in there, but I am unable to pinpoint the expertise that may be necessary to summon at the time of need. I am not seeing that expert composition. Maybe it is implicitly contained in the representatives of Government that are in there, but if it is not, there is probably a need to strike that balance.

I would go further on the issue of research. I do not know whether these institutions are going to rely on outside research or are going to create in-house research capacity in order to back their decisions. I know we have a lot of research institutions in the country, but I do not know whether there are avenues in here that would permit the structures being proposed here to invite and summon this kind of research in order to backup their decisions and how they want things to be done. That is probably something that we could look at and see if it is properly addressed. If not, somebody needs to look at that in order to have that research capacity, either the board or any other person who is entrusted with carrying out this.

The other issue of importance that I see is the prevailing situation with foreign qualifications. Countries which do not have the in-house capacity are looking at others who have the capacity for their citizens undergoing this kind of training, but given our historical background, and some of us have gone through this kind of thing, I cannot help but get worried, because sometimes if you are trained in Africa the standards are low, if you are trained in America, the system is different when you come home. If you are from Russia, there is no education, it is only politics. When you send your people out and when they come back, they come and face these difficulties. I do not see this kind of situation addressing our situation and problems that we are facing.

In Germany they have capacity in certain areas and they do not have it in the others. They are sending these people outside. However our own ideological and sometimes Cold War thing, when you come back you are facing all these kinds of discrimination. Unless the vocational training policy addresses some of these issues and see how we can domesticate all these foreign applications, we would probably not have done a good job.

There are a lot of people, not only from Cuba, Honourable Tjiuiko. I have some Colleagues who studied in Finland and at the Temple University and they had



21 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING BILL**  
**HON NAMBAHU**

problems when they came home. I do not think it is only Cuba where you have problems.

Having said that, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I wholeheartedly support the Bill as a good start, but it is definitely not complete, it is just a first step in the right direction and we must be prepared to enrich it as we go, not that approach of a once-off exercise and one size fits all and we do not want to touch it tomorrow because we think we have done a good job. Society is in transformation and this must be in correspondence in what is happening and how we are legislating.

With those words, I support the Bill wholeheartedly.

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**HON BOHITILE:** I move that the Debate be adjourned until Tuesday, next week.

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**HON SPEAKER:** The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until Tuesday. The Secretary will read the Third Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE**  
**MOTION ON BENEFITS OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS**

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21 June 2007

**HON SPEAKER:** When this Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, the 06<sup>th</sup> of June 2007, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Moongo, that the Motion be adopted. The Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development adjourned the Debate and now give the Minister the Floor.

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21 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING BILL  
HON NAMBAHU**

**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING:**

Honourable Speaker, I move that the Debate be adjourned until Tuesday, next week.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objection? The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until Tuesday, next week. The Secretary will read the Fourth Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE ROLE OF INSURANCE  
COMPANIES AND WHETHER THEY SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE  
NATION**

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**HON SPEAKER:** When this Debate was adjourned on Thursday, 7 June 2007, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Dienda, that the Motion be adopted. The Minister of Finance adjourned the Debate and now give the Floor to the Minister.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable Speaker, hers was a request that she wanted to contribute. May I, in her absence, adjourn the Debate until Tuesday, next week?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objection? The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until Tuesday, next week. The Secretary will read the Fifth Order of the Day.

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21 June 2007

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION  
SYSTEM, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE DEPLORABLE GRADE  
10 AND 12 RESULTS AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS FOR THE FUTURE  
OF OUR SCHOOL DROPOUTS**

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**HON SPEAKER:** When this Debate was adjourned on Thursday, 14 June 2007, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Schimming-Chase, that the Motion be adopted. Honourable Mudge adjourned the Debate and I give the Floor to Honourable Mudge.

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**HON GURIRAB:** Honourable Speaker, I adjourn the Debate until Tuesday next week.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Considering the time factor and the no-show of the Honourable Member concerned, the Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until Tuesday, next week. On that happy note and good management of the Business of the House, the House stands adjourned until Tuesday next week. The House is adjourned until Rule 90(a), automatic adjournment.

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**THE HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2007.06.26 AT 14:30**

**ASSEMBLY CHAMBER  
WINDHOEK  
26 JUNE 2007**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Took the Chair and read Prayers and the Affirmation.

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**ANNOUNCEMENT**

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** All Members are kindly reminded that in terms of Rule 15(c) of the Standing Rules and Orders, the First Session of the National Assembly shall terminate on Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup> of July 2007. All business not disposed of by 12 July shall lapse, but can again be introduced at the next session by means of substantive Motions.

Members are, therefore, urged to table their items by deadline of Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> June 2007. After the 28<sup>th</sup> of June no items will be considered for tabling.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Honourable Minister of Labour.

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**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT, 2004/05:  
SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION**

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**HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I lay upon the Table the Annual Report of the Social Security Commission for the year 2004/05.

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26 June 2007

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON MOONGO**

**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Table the Report, Honourable Minister. Other Reports and Papers. Notices of Questions. Honourable Moongo.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS**

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**QUESTION 80:**

**HON MOONGO:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2007, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Education the following:

1. Can the Minister agree or is it deliberate tactics to delay the paying of loans of students who do medical- and other professions in foreign countries?
  2. Is the Minister aware that frustration can hamper their studies? I am also asking whether this lack of commitment from the side of the Government will invite a lower pass rate?
  3. How many medical students are affected? When is the Minister going to pay?
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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member table the Questions? Honourable Venaani.

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**ORAL QUESTION**

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I crave for your indulgence to invoke Rule 82(d) to ask an oral question to the Right Honourable Prime Minister of our Republic.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I want to ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister

26 June 2007

**ORAL QUESTION HON VENAANI  
RT HON ANGULA**

as to when his Office is going to table the Black Empowerment Policy called TESEF to the House for debate?

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you for your question. The Office of the Prime Minister is now busy to develop a policy on economic empowerment based on the principle of social justice and growth. This policy has to be developed on the basis of participatory input. Currently a company called “*Black Namibia*” has been assigned to consult, inform and eventually formulate policy guidelines which will be considered by a special Cabinet *ad hoc* Committee and eventually by Cabinet and at the end by this Assembly.

We expect this document to be here next year, not this year. Democracy is expensive in terms of time. You have to consult all the stakeholders, whether they are workers, whether they are employers, whether they are youth, women, politicians, peasants and all the excluded ones. You know that TESEF is a comprehensive programme, looking at different means of empowerment – empowerment through equity ownership of companies, if you have money to buy shares, empowerment through employment equity to make sure that those who were excluded are part of the management of various economic enterprises in our country, empowerment through business development, things like mentorship and other ranges of empowerment vehicles per sector.

Therefore, you will realise that this is a very comprehensive undertaking, looking at how different sectors can develop empowerment charters to meet the principle of social justice and economic growth. That is where we are now. Thank you for your question.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Thank you, Honourable Venaani. Further Notices of Questions? None. Notices of Motions. Honourable Ncube.

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

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26 June 2007

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS  
HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

**HON MANOMBE-NCUBE:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2007, I shall Move –

That this Assembly discusses and considers representations by law of people with disabilities in the Parliament of the Republic of Namibia and at other levels of governance. I so Move, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Table the Motion. Honourable Minister Kaapanda.

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:**  
Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I give Notice that tomorrow, Wednesday, 27 June 2007, I shall Move –

That this Assembly ratifies the Multilateral Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Angola, the Government of the Union of Comoros, the Government of the Republic of Madagascar, the Government of the Republic of Mozambique, the Government of the Republic of Namibia and the Government of the Republic of South Africa on coordination of maritime search and rescue services.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Table the Motion, Honourable Minister. Further Notices of Motions? Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND READING – VOCATIONAL  
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BILL**

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26 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION BILL**  
**HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** When this Debate was adjourned on Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup> of June 2007, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Deputy Minister of Education that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable Bohitile adjourned the Debate on behalf of the Deputy Minister to reply. But before I give the Floor to the Deputy Minister of Education, I recognise Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

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**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING:** Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, at the onset, let me thank the Deputy Minister of Education for having introduced the Bill under discussion, a Bill that I believe when it becomes a well implemented law, will go a long way in facilitating the realisation of Vision 2030.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, as you may all be aware, we are living in the world of high technology. The world of high technology, on the other hand, is the world of both white-collars and those who are well-versed and skilled in technical work. It is indeed those who are skilled with technical know-how who will determine the speed at which the world must move. Although we may allow them to move with the same speed, it is only those who are prepared who will be able to do so on time.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, knowledge-based societies in all spheres of life, including technology, has become the driving force for nations and, therefore, countries that are not making efforts to make a move in technological advancements, may lag behind and will find it difficult to catch up with countries that have already started and have taken off the ground.

When this Bill was introduced in this august House, what came into my mind was the world of high-technology in which we are living and the speed at which it is moving. That necessitates the need for one to understand the meaning of the key words of the Bill, namely vocational, education and training. I believe once one understands those words, one will appreciate the concept of this Bill in its holistic form.

In this context, I understood vocation as a strong feeling that one ought to pursue to be able to achieve a particular career or occupation. This simply means there



26 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION BILL  
HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

is a need for career development to ensure correct occupation and effective employment. Education, on the other hand, implies the process of teaching or learning in order to acquire broad knowledge. Similarly, training denotes the acquiring of skills in a particular field of study. Against this backdrop, for someone to pursue a certain professional career and occupation, education and training become therefore the enabling yardstick that is indispensable.

Should those definitions, as mentioned above, prove to be correct, as I presume they are, the vocational goal is aimed at effective and efficient service delivery. Hence, a need to avail a good combination of both teachers, students, materials and financial resources. The availing of human and other resources will be the gateway for the success of the envisaged dream of vocational training. This means there is a need for teachers who are capable to deliver, students who must be able to understand the vocational education and training for future use and adequate enabling resources to complement human resources.

When I was trying to scrutinise through this Bill, I realised the criticality of the powers and functions of the Namibia Training Authority that need unreserved support by all stakeholders to be able to achieve what this law will finally want to be done. Those powers and functions are market oriented and are designed and tailored to address the needs of the market demands that will eventually contribute towards our developmental goals.

If the final goal is to be achieved, we will all be the beneficiaries and our people will appreciate. Hence a need that in the process of implementation there must be concerted efforts between the public and private sectors as equal partners. The Government may put laws in place, but the Government may not necessarily have all the resources in order to implement those laws.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, the administration of the Vocational Education and Training Bill, once it becomes a law, will enable us as a Nation to take stock of the economic impact brought about by the vocational training in our country and what we have achieved over the years. We may be able to give answers to questions such as, what have we achieved in the past 17 years when it comes to vocational training and whether we have met the demand of the labour market.

Similarly, we also have to answer to the questions: How many people have graduated through these centres and how were they funded? Was it privately, was it through the Government or was it individuals? I believe positive answers

26 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION BILL**  
**HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

will be found. However, the question will come: Was all this done based on a specific plan or was it just happening by itself?

For example, you might find there may be many students who qualified in vocational training but they are unemployed, because the field of studies in which they graduated do not have a high demand in the market as there were no clear directions. Therefore, this Bill will serve as a benchmark that enable us to articulate our national policies and needs when it comes to training to be market oriented.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, the Fund being proposed to be established is a commendable idea in the sense that there are many young people who finished their grade 12 too, but their careers are not being realised due to lack of funds for fear of getting into debt through study loans before one starts working.

I am also underlining here that this Bill is coming at the right time when there are medium and long-term plans in the form of the National Development Plan and Vision 2030. Vision 2030 is a long-term and broad policy framework that aims at national development. National Development Plans are the implementing instruments that are designed to take this country into a long journey to the year 2030. That will only be possible should we get prepared now for that long journey.

One of the enabling vehicles to take us through is to ensure that vocational education and training efforts are intensified through intensive education and training. Equally, as the Bill made a provision for the constitution of the Board, I strongly recommend that in the appointment of Board members gender balance must be seriously considered. Even though it does not come out clearly in the Bill, I am sure that could be done in the implementation.

To conclude, Comrade Deputy Speaker, the importance of this Bill cannot be overemphasised. I, therefore, support the Bill and call on all of us to do likewise. I thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker.

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**HON DR ANKAMA:** Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly. My contribution was prepared for last Tuesday and I

26 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION BILL**  
**HON DR ANKAMA**

may touch on some important points that have been highlighted by contributors during my absence, but let me take it as I have prepared it.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, fellow Members, the world of today requires that people of all ages, with emphasis on the youth, be equipped with the appropriate but stretchable or modifiable skills that enable them to survive and meet head-on today's societal needs and challenges.

In the world of today and hopefully that of tomorrow, people should have a blend of practical knowledge, social skills and gratifying attitudes. Hence, the globalisation of our lifestyles, competitiveness and the economic knowledge in our daily encounters would threaten anybody and any State who or that is ignorant of factual veracity.

As stated in Part 1, Section 3 of the Bill, the main objectives, which include *inter alia*, "to achieve an effective and sustainable system of skills formation", that is "aligned with the labour market" and further to "*establish a stable organisation and management system that clarifies roles in responsibilities for vocational education and training*", it is in my view of utmost importance right at the onset for us to consider in a wider context the following areas of interest to the Vocational Education and Training enactment.

Linkages between the vocational education and training and the world of *realia*.

Namibia has a relatively small population and would do better economically if we engage ourselves seriously in mass production of basic goods, not only for our personal use but for export to our neighbours and even to the rest of the world. We are blessed with a lot of natural resources and we can capitalise on these should we have the necessary expertise for adding value. Therefore, the need to create and identify the linkage between the vocational education and training and the world of *realia* is indispensable during our Debate on the Bill.

Curriculum development based on the local market or knowledge:

Addressing the Fourth Annual Technical and Vocational Education and Training Seminar, the Right Honourable Nahas Angula, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia placed emphasis on the following:

*"The active participation of all sectors of our economy and society in aligning all*

26 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION BILL**  
**HON DR ANKAMA**

*their policies and activities to contribute to the overall goals and objectives of*

*Vision 2030 and the national, Regional and local development plans and initiatives.” and that “the technical and vocational education and training system should be effective and respond adequately to the new demands for a skilled workforce who can competently provide the vocational and technical productive skills and services required to make the reform a success.”*

The Prime Minister’s statement above tallies well with the Australian vocational education and training system which is one of the most sophisticated in the world. The Australian vocational Education and training system is industry-led. In their system, the employers, unions and professional associations of an industry define the outcomes that are required from training. These are the key players, because they are partners and they are necessary to be that way. Their vocational education and training system is jointly managed by state, territory and Government in partnership with industry and training providers.

Notwithstanding, the success of our vocational education and training will largely depend on transforming the existing vocational training centres in the country into dual training systems, that is, training students for the job-market and training teachers for the vocational education and training as they grow, taking the Chinese model, meaning that we need to train dual.

Students who will definitely sharpen up their skills in the market will definitely be absorbed by the market because they meet the standard and at the same time training teachers who would be meeting the challenges of training. Those institutions that we are trying to expand, need relevant educators, need people with skills in order to train the students.

The use of home-grown expertise: Applying the National Training Fund described in Part IV of the Bill, the vocational education and training should be encouraged to mostly make use of the national or local experts to enhance and sharpen the skills of students undergoing training or apprenticeship. These may include basketry, clay pottery, wood carving, local beer brewery, *omalovu*, oil extraction – *Onzowe*, local food stuff preservation technologies, for example the distillation of *ombike*, etcetera.

I would further like to advocate for the use of expertise and skills of some professional individuals, fellow Africans with refugee status in Namibia.

26 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION BILL**  
**HON DR ANKAMA**

Reliable information reveals that Namibia is home to African refugees of whom some have scarce qualifications and expertise. As a country, Namibia can tap from the expertise and skills of such people while they are here. After all, if recruited they will impart and transmit knowledge to fellow Africans, thereby contributing in making Namibia a fast emerging economy.

Such an approach could benefit both employers and employees in gaining extended skills in perfecting their local products and research, because people also want to do research while doing whatever they are doing, to inform themselves and to inform the markets.

In the Australian structure, clients of the vocational Education and Training system are employers and individuals who use it or intend to use it. This simple, flexible and relevant system responds to client needs.

I have come to the second-last, which is the Bill, the final stage, an evolving product. What do I think about this? It is a fact that Namibia, like many other developing countries of the world, is in a transitional phase, moving towards a knowledge-based economy and requires an educated generation of skilled people. Their quality in education and skills will determine their ability to contribute to mould, create and share understanding in today's world and in future.

Therefore, in my humble request, I would like to appeal that this crafted draft piece of legislation be critically debated in this House of Assembly and then be extended to all stakeholders for their input and adoration before signed into law. I wish that it is better given to the people out there. These are the people who complain on a daily basis and they need to be consulted in order to give their input on such a very important Bill before it becomes a law.

Finally, I would like to salute the entire team that was instrumental to the creation of this important Vocational Education and Training Bill. I support the Bill without reservations and I thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:**  
to the Minister to respond.

Thank you very much. I now give the Floor

26 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION BILL**  
**HON DR NDJOZE-OJO**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION:** Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly. I rise to thank the Honourable Members for their honourable contributions to this important Bill whose noble aim is to make vocational education and training a sustainable part and parcel of our dynamic education system that is not static, but forever changing to make itself more and more responsive to the needs of our dynamic society.

This Bill is aimed at strengthening the second leg of our education system, the vocational education and training sector and I wish to start by just making very brief references to all the contributions made, and I will start from bottom-up and I will start with thanking *Honourable Dr Ankama* for the contribution he has just made. I just want to alleviate your fears by saying that this Vocational Education and Training Bill has come a long way and it has been a very, very tedious consultative process. It has come through a very strict consultative process because we wanted to know what the industry would need, we wanted to know what the population of Namibia needed the vocational training to be looking like. So before we drafted the Bill we consulted widely.

Thank you so much that indeed, as we have intended, it is going to be a value addition to the education system that has for long, because of the nature of our education history in this country, been void of a very strong arm of vocational training and I hope that it is going to add value to the academic arm that produced doctors like us. We are going to produce carpenters who will provide furniture for the Assembly for us to sit on.

I was at a conference and I am tempted to ask the Honourable Members to vacate their seats and sit on the Floor and I would have just wondered how they would look like, because they would not want to sit on the Floor because they need a chair to sit on, very well-padded and it is not done by an academic, but a person who was trained vocationally to do that. Therefore, it is very important.

I wish to thank the *Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting* that the information and technology element is going to be a very prominent part of this Bill. Of course, the effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery of our education system is at the heart of the Government of this country, as being repeatedly said every time we had an opportunity to make our policy clear on education.

The power of the National Training Authority, as you said, will not be

26 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION BILL**  
**HON DR NDJOZE-OJO**

overemphasised, but we will also make sure that such a power will be utilised to the benefit of the Namibian people.

Gender balance must be kept and adhered to and it is always good to remind us of how important it is. Traditionally vocational training is considered as a man's vocation and I hope that through your inputs and improvements that we will have to bring about, we want to produce lady carpenters as well as welders. I hope that the Educational Education and Training Bill will make provision for that.

I wish to move on to *Honourable Ncube*. Thank you for your congratulating messages, especially to my Minister and I who worked tirelessly to improve and to bring about this Bill.

It is true that a Bill of this nature is also linked to the Motion we have just moved this morning, that it is not going to be only gender sensitive, but it also has to accommodate people living with disabilities. At the moment, with the Ehafo Trust, we have been demonstrating that people living with disabilities can also produce very good materials we could use for prosperity. It is indeed part and parcel of a comprehensive package, which is not really removed from what we are trying to do through ETSIP, because vocational training and education is a sub-programme within ETSIP and it is also taken care of within that broad perspective and policy of the Ministry of Education. It is true that academic education is not the only thing and, therefore, we are inspired by Germany, as per your reference to the visit to Germany. We have been working very closely with GTZ in the Vocational and Education Directorate where we have been tapping from their expertise in many different ways and in fact, the Zambezi Vocational Training Centre is also closely supported by the GTZ and Luxembourg.

Moving on to *Honourable Basson*, thank you so much. It is always good to be applauded, but at the same time we do not want to have our heads high up. We thank you very much.

You talked about good governance, that this Bill should put emphasis on the principles of good governance. You see, a Bill is just a law and if the people who are administering the law and implementing it are not susceptible to the principles of good governance, that Bill will not be subjected to the principles of good governance. I trust that the Honourable Members and the Government of the Republic of Namibia has proven itself to adhere as much as possible and where possible to the principles of good governance. We will try to be responsible, as

26 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION BILL  
HON DR NDJOZE-OJO**

we are trying to be, to the unemployed. We are trying to be responsive, we are trying to be accountable to the people who are left out by the education system academically and we are trying to be transparent. That is why we are bringing the Bill to the scrutiny of this House and those are the principles of good governance.

Thank you very much, *Honourable !Nawases - Taeyele*. You brought the element of the youth involvement in the implementation of this Bill and you made reference to the SWAPO Manifesto. Basically what we are doing is to administer and implement the Government policy as encapsulated in the SWAPO Manifesto and beyond.

It is a constitutional provision that people should be provided with education – when you make reference to Article 20 of the Namibian Constitution. Vocational education and training is part thereof. But also, every Government comes up with their own manifesto that they put to the electorate to say, “*this is what I am going to do*” and that is where the SWAPO Manifesto comes in. The SWAPO Manifesto earmarks what the Government of Namibia should be doing and they have promised the people so to do. That is why this Vocational Education and Training Bill is not designed and drafted oblivious of the fact that the SWAPO Manifesto stipulates certain things that must be adhered to.

It is true that we need a comprehensive reform and as I started by saying, education is a dynamic process, you never stop reforming it and people have seen us reforming education in Namibia. When you look back in the history of education in Namibia, you may say that we started the kind of education we are talking about in 1805 in Warmbad. That is about 202 years ago. That is the kind of education we are talking about today and that is the western type of education as brought in by the missionaries and so on, that has developed through different stages, the education system that was for proselytising of the Namibian people who were thought to be pagan then and they were to be made Christian. Therefore it had one mission.

Then you moved through that to different kinds of education systems, the Bantu Education. It is unfortunate that some people are longing for that, very unfortunate. That was the education for the natives. After that we moved to the national education system that was very tribalistic oriented. Then we moved on to Education-for-All as an offshoot of Jom Tein Conference of 1990 and Namibia just came on board as a new Nation. We benefited a lot from all the declarations



26 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION BILL**  
**HON DR NDJOZE-OJO**

that followed. Then we came in 1993 with our reform, which I termed as a “philosophy of education reform in Namibia”, that talked about the tenets of access, equality, quality, equity, democracy, efficiency and effectiveness. Therefore, the types of concepts we are talking about here are not very new, they are documented very well and now we are coming lately with ETSIP as a part thereof. So, we have been reforming and beyond ETSIP we are going to continue to reform because education is supposed to be responsive to the needs of the people and the needs of the people do change as a society develops.

I want to thank *Honourable Abraham Iyambo* for supporting the Bill. Your concern was the structure, the content and the relationship between how strong the content is in relation to the structure. Your concern is, yes, we have a new law, we have a Bill, is this Bill going to be in a content form and also answer the question of vocational training in a practical way.

You see, because the Bill is a law, a law is a frame within which you will put all the procedural things within. I am hoping and I am assuring you and this House that if there is anything that needs to be done to improve this Bill, we are not going to say it is perfect, because it is not going to be perfect until that is done. We will look into how we are going to make it more effective in the practical sense without being dogmatic about it theoretically.

The powers and functions of the National Training Authority will be under the control of my able Minister and he will have a way of dealing with it, because he had proven himself as a very effective politician who had many different portfolios. I am sure the power of the National Training Authority will not overwhelm us.

I thank you very much, *Honourable Tsudao Gurirab*, for your contribution. In fact, as you went into various sections of the Bill, it gave me the impression that you have done a very thorough examination of the Bill and I thank you very much for that thorough examination. It is true, we need to improve on the Act and I hope at Committee Stage we are going to come with practical recommendations as to how we are going to improve on this Bill.

It is true that education is very important for development and that is why we are bringing the Bill to provide just for that.

It is true that we felt that a tripartite kind of agreement and arrangement is very

26 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION BILL**  
**HON DR NDJOZE-OJO**

important, where you have the public and the private and the trade unions being part thereof. Most of these people were consulted through the appropriate organisations.

As I started in my introduction, when we had to consult with the private sector and asked why they do not employ the people we train through these centres, they told us the shortcomings of our training. That is why the curriculum development and redefining the curriculum was a very important part thereof.

It is true that vocational training is important and it has to be attached to the mining sector, as you have elaborated. You made mention of Subsection (3), Section 10 and Section 15, among many of the Sections you referred to and I want to assure you that we will leave no stone unturned to make sure that wherever we can bring improvement on this Bill to be more responsive to the needs of our people it will be done.

I thank the *Honourable Minister of Finance* for her contribution and critical analysis. You emphasised a hands-on skills development and practical skills and it is good to listen to you, Finance Minister, because eventually that is where we are going to get the money. I think we listened carefully to your input and we will try our best to make sure that vocational training is given the same kind of respect as academic training is given.

Finally, I want to touch on what the *Right Honourable Prime Minister* said about the Vocational Education and Training Bill. Not repeating what he said, but assuring that the Vocational Education and Training Bill is part and parcel of regulating vocational education in the country. I really feel that there is a need for expansion. We have already started looking at how we can expand without necessarily duplicating efforts. We have identified areas of buildings standing idle in different Regions, we know that there is a need for vocational education centres in the Regions where they do not exist. We have done the feasibility study of various existing infrastructures and we are in the process of putting a vocational education and training centre in the South as well as in the East where they do not exist, and currently in Eenhana and Ohangwena Region we are also busy with a Spanish sponsorship to set up a vocational education centre. We are therefore working behind the scenes and very soon you will get the impression that we have not been sleeping. We are however also trying to strengthen the existing centres where they were found wanting.

26 June 2007

**VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION BILL**  
**HON DR NDJOZE-OJO**

In the final analysis, we as the Ministry of Education believe that we need a comprehensive programme of skills development and we are not oblivious of the bottlenecks that may be there, lagging behind the duck, but we want to assure you as the Ministry of Education that has come up with this very interesting programme of ETSIP, that is geared towards achieving Vision 2030, that we will try our best to ensure that vocational training is responsive to the needs of our people, as intended.

On behalf of the Ministry of Education, I welcome the improvements suggested and wish to assure this august House that no stone shall be left unturned to ensure that this very important Bill is dynamically improved as we implement it.

I thank you very much for your kind attention.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Minister, for your response. I now put the Question, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Any objection? Then it is agreed to. The Secretary will read the Bill a Second Time.

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**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING BILL**

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**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON BENEFITS AND ALLOWANCES OF  
TRADITIONAL LEADERS IN AN EFFORT TO ENABLE THEM TO  
PERFORM THEIR DUTIES**

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** When this Debate was adjourned on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2007, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Moongo, that the Motion be adopted. Any further discussion?

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26 June 2007

**MOTION ON BENEFITS TRADITIONAL LEADERS  
HON KASINGO**

**HON KASINGO:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I just want to make a short contribution on the Motion.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40  
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:13 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** When we left for tea-break, we had Honourable Kasingo to contribute to the Debate on the benefits of Traditional Leaders.

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**HON KASINGO:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, for giving me the Floor to make a short contribution on the Motion concerning the benefits and allowances of Traditional Leaders.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, although I do not agree entirely with the motivation by the Mover, however, there is a sense in this Motion, taking into consideration the environment in which the Traditional Leaders and followers are operating.

I have just concluded the consultations on the unrecognised Traditional Leaders and the problems related to that with my Committee, the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs and we have consulted unrecognised as well as recognised Traditional Leaders in the majority of our Regions.

My group concentrated on Karas, Omaheke and Otjozondjupa Regions. In all three these Regions we have visited, apart from paying attention to the unrecognised problem, we also paid a courtesy call to the recognised Traditional Leaders. All of them highlighted the problem of transport as well as offices.

I should tell you it would really be prudent to look into the problem with transport of these Traditional Leaders. For example, in Karas Region we met and they were proposing that if they could only be given one vehicle to be put under the supervision of the Regional Governor of that Region, meaning not each, but at least a combination of Traditional Leaders in the Region to be allocated a vehicle, that would make sense. Even the recently concluded Conference on Violence

26 June 2007

**MOTION ON BENEFITS - TRADITIONAL LEADERS  
HON KASINGO**

also highlighted that the Traditional Leaders also want to take part in solving this problem, but they are immobile.

I am also aware of the Operation Clean-Up which the Ministry of Works and Transport is embarking upon and I was just thinking that maybe the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development can discuss with the Minister of Works, Transport and Communication that they be given vehicles. Honestly, there is a need for these people to have transport. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:** Through you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, may I ask my Comrade a question? You are doing extremely well, but I have concern about Traditional Leaders being immobile to solve problems. However, to my knowledge, though not that long experience, is that it is the subjects that are moving to the Chiefs and Traditional Authorities and not necessarily the other way around. What is it that makes the Traditional Leaders to be immobile? Let us be honest and let us keep the culture, because we are saying we should go to our roots. If we go to our roots, then we should not make our leaders to move, we go to them as a tradition. That is my point.

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**HON KASINGO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Comrade Mushelenga. I was of the same mind as my Colleague, Comrade Mushelenga, because we are from the same tribal authority, the Ondonga Traditional Authority which has been there for some time, which has established itself and where the subjects move to the palace of our King.

When I consulted and met some Traditional Leaders, I was moved... (Intervention)

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**HON UI/O/OO:** May I ask my Honourable Colleague through you? I will agree that we are coming from different cultures and some of us are of the opinion that it is necessary to give the Chiefs transport because some of the areas are very far from each other and the Chiefs from Ondonga or the San or Ovaherero need to reach their subjects. Therefore, I think it is important that the

26 June 2007

**MOTION ON BENEFITS - TRADITIONAL LEADERS**  
**HON KASINGO**

Chiefs must be provided with transport and I fully concur with the person who is having the Floor, by requesting that the Honourable Minister of Works, Transport and Communication, together with the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development must do something in order to alleviate the problem the Chiefs are facing. What do you think, Comrade, is it a good idea?

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**HON KASINGO:** Yes, a very useful contribution and I was just coming to the situation of your people in your area. Honourable Deputy Speaker, some time back I was of the same mind as Honourable Theopolina Mushelenga and I stated that we are from the same Kingdom Ondonga Traditional Leaders which has been there and the subjects are mobile. They can go to the palace. (Intervention)

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**HON NAMBINGA:** Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker, may I ask Honourable Kasingo a question? Comrade Kasingo, I am not at all against providing Traditional Leaders with vehicles so that they can be mobile, but my question is, do you think these people must be given vehicles when there is money or do you think they must be given vehicles because DTA is demanding that they must be given vehicles, the reason being that when we undertook the Outreach Programme with the Honourable Speaker, the Vice-President of DTA, Honourable Moongo, is on record as having told Traditional Leaders that whatever they get, they get because of them, the DTA. He was literally saying, *“you must join us now to demand.”* My question is, are we going to give money when there is money to buy vehicles or are we going to do it because DTA is demanding that they must get vehicles? (Interjection)

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**HON KAURA:** The Nation is demanding.

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**HON KASINGO:** Thank you very much for that wise question. As I have stated from the beginning, although I do not agree with the words behind the motivation of the Mover, I stated that somehow there is sense in looking into the

26 June 2007

**MOTION ON BENEFITS - TRADITIONAL LEADERS  
HON KASINGO**

working environment of Traditional Leaders. It is not because DTA are asking for it...(Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** On a Point of Information. I want to inform this House that now we are in trouble, because of the old-age pensions. The old people there said only the DTA are fighting for that money, the Government is not thinking about them. Honourable Moongo knows that now that we are in 2007, he will go back and start to mobilise this Assembly to give transport to the Traditional Authorities. He knows that the DTA people will get vehicles to mobilise their own parties and communities. I do not know why we are talking about those things, we can come with our own Motions.

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**HON KASINGO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Minister of Gender. I take note of your concern, but I am talking in my capacity as the chairperson...(Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Comrade Deputy Speaker, may I ask Honourable Kasingo a tiny question? My question is, do you think it is possible for the Traditional Authorities to mobilise their communities and raise funds so that they can buy their own cars? I know of Traditional Authorities who have done just that by mobilising their people, asking a tiny contribution and through fines by the community courts and also maybe asking for donations? I think that has to be done, I think that is the best way, because there are already some Traditional Leaders who today say they are Traditional Leaders and we will open a Pandora's Box.

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**HON KASINGO:** Thank you very much. I hope my Colleagues will give me a chance to make my point clear. I am talking in my capacity as a Member of

26 June 2007

**MOTION ON BENEFITS - TRADITIONAL LEADERS  
HON KASINGO**

Parliament and also as the Chairperson of the Parliament Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs. (Intervention)

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**HON DR AMWEELO:** Comrade Deputy Speaker, may I ask the Colleague a small question? Comrade Loide Kasingo, you said that the Traditional Leaders need to be provided with old cars, which means it is *skoroskoro*. If you want the Traditional Leaders to be provided with old cars, who will be responsible for repairing and maintaining those cars?

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**HON KASINGO:** If I can be allowed to clarify my point I would like to make. I am saying I am talking about the recognised Traditional Authorities, those who need transport and I was saying that I travelled through the Karas, Omaheke and Otjozondjupa Regions. I am also aware that some recognised Traditional Authorities are capable of raising funds...(Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** May I ask the Honourable Colleague a question? Honourable Kasingo, having listened to the good intervention by Honourable Nujoma, which I think is sensible, by saying that the community should also be in a position to raise some funds to cater for some of these basic needs, do you not think that the reason why the communities are not able to raise funds is because the Traditional Leaders that have been recognised by the communities are the ones that the Government has not recognised, and the ones who have been recognised are the ones who do not have the followers and they do not have somebody to collect the funds.

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**HON KASINGO:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I disagree hundred percent with the last intervention. When I visited the Omaheke and Otjozondjupa Regions, I came across a recognised Traditional Leader from the San community and that is what really changed my mind.

During our consultations I asked him and it was against the background of our traditional set-up, that we used to go and assist our...(Intervention)

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**HON NAMBAHU:** On a Point of Information and it is also a kind of appeal. The Honourable Members of the Committee are privy to information that they have obtained during the consultations and have the background of what is happening out there. They have yet to present a Report and I am of the opinion that we are prejudicing and pre-empting the recommendations and collection of information that we have obtained and we are now presenting the House with this information without bringing them into the context of how we obtained the information and the recommendation that we are going to bring and the Report we are going to table. I would appeal that we really limit ourselves to the Motion and leave some of the things that we are privy to and bring them in the form of a Report. Because there are political points to be scored, I do not expect everybody to agree with me, but honestly, I think that the Debate is premature when it goes into some of these things that we are privy to. Unless we bring the full report to the House and the Committee has consensus on the recommendations, I do not see us doing justice to the issues at hand.

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**HON KASINGO:** On a Point of Information, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I am not reporting on my mission. If they can just listen to me so that I can explain myself.

If you can recall what the Mover is asking at the end of his motivation, I am moving towards that and I cannot jump towards that without the reasoning behind that. The Motion which calls for the allowances and benefits, I was saying maybe we can concentrate on the transport and I have to give the reasons why I say that because I met with these people and moreover, the mission on which I went is not on the allowances and benefits, it is on the unrecognised leaders. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** On a Point of Information. Honourable Kasingo is using information which makes people to intervene. It is because she is quoting her Committee's findings while we still do not have that. If you say *I met*, whether formally or informally, she could say it without referring to what she said in the Mission which she was assigned by this House. You can talk of transport to be given to the Chiefs without mentioning anything that you have in your Report.

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26 June 2007

**MOTION ON BENEFITS - TRADITIONAL LEADERS  
HON KASINGO**

**HON KAURA:** On a Point of Order, Honourable Deputy Speaker. The Mission of Honourable Kasingo was to deal with unrecognised Traditional Leaders and the Report that will come back to this House will deal with unrecognised Traditional Leaders, not with recognised Traditional Leaders. This Motion is dealing with the problem of recognised Traditional Leaders and the problems they are confronting in order to execute their duties and responsibilities. These are the things Honourable Kasingo picked up as far as transport is concerned with recognised Traditional Leaders and that, for example, they are not in a position to administer their functions properly because they lack transport. Ignorance is bliss, the rest of the House is so ignorant that now it is SWAPO versus SWAPO.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I think that issue was prompted by one Member from the Committee who went out with Honourable Kasingo. I think what is in their Report is what is attacked. We always warn the Opposition, once you go out on a trip, do not come and put a question concerning the Report. You will be warned not to proceed with that issue. We also warn them, that is why we want this balance.

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**HON KASINGO:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Colleagues of SWAPO Party, I hope you will understand me. I am taking the Floor to contribute on this Motion and I was saying, *inter alia*, that when I went on that Mission I informally met recognised Chiefs. I just mentioned that I met them so that I can strengthen my facts, so that I am not asked how do I know. I want to explain for the other people not to think that I am supporting DTA.

What I am saying is that I was so impressed and I was so touched when I met these recognised Traditional Authority of the San-speaking community in Tsumkwe. We talked informally and he related that he does not have an office, he puts his books in a bag and move around. It is on that basis that I am saying there is a need for transport to be provided and hence...(Intervention)

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**HON DR AMWEELO:** On a Point of Information. We are all Members of the Committee of Loide Kasingo and this information will come later. This is not

26 June 2007

**MOTION ON BENEFITS - TRADITIONAL LEADERS  
HON MOONGO**

the right time to mention this information right now, because we are working on that. Just be patient, the Committee 's Report will come to this House.

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**HON KASINGO:** What I would like to say in conclusion is that the request of the Mover, because Honourable Moongo at the end of his motivation requested this Motion to go to the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs and I am saying it is not needed. What is needed is for the Mover to consult with the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development concerning in particular the issue of transport. That is what I am trying to say. Thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Any further discussion? I revert the Floor to Honourable Moongo to reply.

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**HON MOONGO:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. Allow me to thank *Honourable Venaani, Honourable Tsudao and Honourable Kasingo* for their good understanding. They gave tangible facts and points which affect the Traditional Leaders practically. Allow me also to thank *Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila*, the Minister of Finance, for her understanding, although the Minister was trying hard to indicate that the Motion was politicised. The fact however remains that every Namibian has equal rights before the law, Article 10. Whether it is a Chief or who, they have equal rights.

I was disappointed to learn that some Members are trying to prevent the Traditional Leaders to engage in politics. What about the blood of our forefathers and the honour and dignity of the true contributions made by our Traditional Leaders, such as Hendrik Witbooi, Ipumbu and Nehale? Their blood was shed and it still waters our freedom.

I know some people are enjoying benefits from the Government and do not think of others who do not get anything. The attitude of *Omulilo gongula opeha lyoye* must come to an end and dear Colleagues, let us share the cake of Namibia's Independence equally. The cake is big enough if it is shared properly. Let us protect and defend as well as execute the law of Namibia effectively. Let us be united, let us be faithful to the people of Namibia. We must eradicate poverty, eradicate power monopoly and let us not make other leaders to be beggars.

26 June 2007

**MOTION ON BENEFITS - TRADITIONAL LEADERS  
HON MOONGO**

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Chiefs, Headmen and sub-Headmen were neglected for seventeen years. Since Independence the Headmen and Sub-headmen have been demanding to be represented in Parliament to protect their rights and to prevent inhuman treatment, as stipulated in Article 8(6).

Honourable Deputy Speaker, it is the right time to put Namibia in order, to let politicians deal with political issues. Let the churches deal with the truth and gospel and let the Traditional Leaders deal with traditional matters. If we decentralise who to deal with what, then there will be less interference. Then Namibia will be the country of law and order, as long as everyone respects the rule of law and uphold the Namibian Constitution.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, there are also misinterpretation and misunderstanding of customs and laws of different traditional customs. Let the Ndonga's uphold their true customs and norms and let the Herero's and Kwanyama's have their true customs if we are here to respect, maintain, enjoy, practise and promote the culture, as long as it does not impeach upon the rights of others.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, let the elections in various Traditional Authorities be conducted according to the traditions of those ethnic groups and not to be done like in politics. Those who in their tradition vote, let them vote and those who nominate, let them nominate. Let those who still have Kings still nominate according to their customs. Let us not interfere with their customs, let Namibians respect Article 66 that the customary laws of Namibia were enforced from the date of Independence.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the move to prevent the Traditional Leaders to participate in politics and the tendency to underpay them is a true political move to weaken them. *Who is fooling who?* And the point to give less power to the Kings, Headmen and Sub-headmen is a deliberate political monopoly of power. The soldiers were given guns without bullets or given the national leaders' duty to administer the vast communal areas without being fully budgeted.

Let us prevent hardship and I propose to this House that the Chiefs, Headmen and sub-Headmen be given adequate salaries in order to administer effectively and to cater for their basic needs. They are in need of entertainment allowances, death cover, pension and full salary because they have families and they serve the

26 June 2007

**MOTION ON BENEFITS - TRADITIONAL LEADERS  
HON MOONGO**

community every day. Here I propose salaries for the Chiefs, senior Headmen, sub-Headmen and staff.

Chiefs must receive N\$15,000.00, senior Headmen N\$10,000.00, sub-Headmen N\$5,000.00, secretaries N\$7,000.00, staff N\$3,000.00. There are staff members who receive N\$500.00 in the Traditional Authorities.

With this request the Honourable Colleagues to uplift the living standards and to understand the role of Traditional Authorities which are our backbone.

With this I request your support.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I now put the Question, that the Motion be adopted. Any objection? The House is divided. Honourable Mutorwa?

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Comrade Deputy Speaker, I am rising on a point of seeking some information and clarification on a procedural matter. My understanding is that if at all the question is to be put, which the presiding officer must do, it is on the issue as to whether the Motion should be referred to the relevant Standing Committee or not and not on the substance of the Motion itself. That was my understanding and I would like to seek the presiding officer's guidance in this regard.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Honourable Minister. I think the Motion did not ask for a referral. He asked for support. I now put the Question, are there any objection? Objections. The House is divided. The Motion did not seek anything, just support and that we should adopt the Motion. That is all.

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26 June 2007

**MOTION ON BENEFITS - TRADITIONAL LEADERS  
HON MOONGO**

**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING:** Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker. This is a very important Motion and we listened to the response and at the end the response is not really telling us what the Motion is saying. In fact, it is budgeting, giving us how much we should give to these people. Can you read the Motion so that we know exactly what we are talking about?

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Let me read the Motion of Honourable Moongo: *“The need to adjust the benefits and allowance of the Traditional Leaders in an effort for them to fulfil their duties on the control and utilisation of communal lands as per Article 102(5) of the Communal Land Act.”* It is only the adjustment of the salaries of the Chiefs and the powers which he is demanding. If Honourable Moongo wanted to do something, he was supposed to table the written Motion for referral, but there is nothing. Then we are just delaying the issue here.

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, just as it was mentioned by Honourable Ndaitwah, that this is an important Motion, but we want to be informed what the Honourable Mover wants. Is he at this point saying this Motion must be referred to the Committee? If that is so, make an amendment and then we go for it, but if you want us to support by budgeting here, that is not on. Maybe there is something that he missed. If he wanted it to be referred to the Committee, that is in order.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Moongo, you have two options, table the Motion or support. Which one do you want?

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**HON MOONGO:** I think the Motion is very clear. It is simple and very clear, it requests an adjustment so that the Traditional Leaders can do their work effectively. As simple as that! I think the Colleagues understand the problems of the Headmen.

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26 June 2007

**MOTION ON BENEFITS - TRADITIONAL LEADERS  
HON MOONGO**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION:** On a Point of Information. I feel that we are not necessarily going to reject this very important Motion, but Honourable Moongo could be advised as to what to do with the Motion. If you refer it to the Committee, we support you. If you want us to support your idea, you have to move it. Honourable Moongo, we are not going to budget on the Floor, because once we accept the Motion as is, it has financial implications, but if you refer it to the relevant Committee, then it may have support. However if you do not refer it, we will reject it and then the House will be divided. If you want to save your Motion, act.

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**HON VENAANI:** On a Point of Information on this issue of budgeting in the House. The Motion is seeking for an adjustment and Honourable Moongo has come up with a proposal. The proposal is not saying we must budget on the Floor of the House, but we are saying, let us go and re-look at the adjustments of salaries for Traditional Leaders. If in principle people agree that an adjustment is needed, they must support the Motion.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I now put the Question that the Motion be adopted. The House is divided. Those Members in favour of the Motion, please rise. Those Members against, please rise? Those Members abstaining, please rise.

In favour - 7  
Against - 29  
Abstension - 1

The Motion is rejected. The Secretary will read the Third Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE ROLE OF INSURANCE  
COMPANIES AND WHETHER THEY SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE  
NATION**

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26 June 2007

**MOTION -ROLE OF INSURANCE COMPANIES  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** When this Debate was adjourned on Thursday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2007 by the Deputy Minister of Finance on behalf of the Minister of Finance, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Dienda, that the Motion be adopted. I now give the Floor to the Minister of Finance.

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am still trying to collect some useful information for the information of this House and I thought maybe it would be necessary to be allowed a bit more time to get this information and inform the House. I would like to seek the indulgence of the House that I am allowed to contribute next week, Tuesday.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Motion stands over until Tuesday, next week. The Secretary will read the Fourth Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION  
SYSTEM WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE DEPLORABLE GRADE  
10 AND 12 RESULTS AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS FOR THE FUTURE  
OF OUR SCHOOL DROPOUTS**

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** When this Debate was adjourned on Thursday, the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2007 by Honourable Tsudao Gurirab on behalf of Honourable Mudge, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Schimming-Chase that the Motion be adopted. I now give the Floor to Honourable Mudge.

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26 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON KAURA**

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, in the absence of anyone who wants to participate in the discussion, I would like to adjourn the Debate on behalf of Honourable Henk Mudge until the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2007.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Motion stands over until next week. The Secretary will read the Fifth Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE CURRENT PREVAILING  
DROUGHT SITUATION EXPERIENCED BY FARMERS IN THE  
COUNTRY**

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** When this Assembly adjourned on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> of June 2007, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Venaani, that the Motion be adopted. Honourable Kaura adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

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**HON KAURA:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I would like to make my contribution to the drought Motion tabled by Honourable Venaani.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, it is amply articulated that Namibia is confronted by a severe drought in many parts of our country and the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Dr Nickey Iyambo, has apprised us of all the mechanisms in place to address this problem. That is laudable and highly appreciated, but there are certain compelling reasons that are invoking us to share some thoughts with the Honourable Minister and this august House.

The Honourable Minister Dr Nickey Iyambo, said that assistance will be given to transport cattle to grazing areas but no fodder. I want to stand still at this non-provision of fodder, because I know the Government is quite averse to the provision of fodder after the Aminuis experience. However, Honourable Minister, *once bitten, twice shy*. That experience, should suffice to put all the mechanisms in place to prevent fraudulent activities from taking place. The whole country cannot be punished because of one bad experience.

Many affirmative action loan farmers have nowhere to go to take their cattle for available grazing, but the provision of fodder can sustain those cattle until

26 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON KAURA**

October, November in the hope that it will rain by then.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, some of our actions make us long for the fleshpots of Egypt. If the colonial Government could do both, that is providing fodder as well as transport to the available grazing, why can we not do it? You know, someone at one point said, "*if they did it, why can't we did it?*" (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** On a Point of Order. Is it allowed for a Member of this august House, a father to this Constitution, to speak in this House while my daddy went out to the Karas Region and spoke against Article 10 of the Namibian Constitution, to say that *it is only Ovambo's who are in the leadership*? Is it really allowed? I quote Article 10(2): "*No person may be discriminated against on the grounds of sex, race, colour, ethnic origin, religion, creed or social or economic status.*" Really, is that allowed, Comrade Deputy Speaker? I think my daddy needs to apologise to the Nation while he is the father to this Constitution. Daddy, this is your son and I ask my Daddy to apologise.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The son is asking the father to apologise. I did not hear the story.

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**HON KAURA:** No, the speech I made in the Karas Region has nothing to do with the drought Motion I am addressing now. The farmers of Kaoko, for example, who are farming east and north of Opuwo... (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Kaura, you made mention of fodder that has been given to the farmers during the colonial period and if they could do it, why the independent Namibian Government cannot do it. I think that is what you are inferring. Could you be 100% precise that the fodder you are referring to was given to all farmers across the breadth and length of this country, south to the north, east to the west?

26 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON KAURA**

Was that the practice? Because if that was so, then it was national. If it was not, it was on a sectional basis and that is not correct for an Independent Government representing all the farmers of Namibia. They must be treated equally.

If I am standing here and know that it is not going to be possible, I think it will not be correct for me to beat about the bush and I have to tell you the truth. Can you in any case state who got that subsidy?

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**HON KAURA:** In 1992 after Independence, the Government of the Republic of Namibia provided fodder and that is when it was misused. They inherited the practice during the colonial era and used it in the drought of 1992, but when fraudulent activities were discovered, they terminated the provision of fodder. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** That fodder was however given nationally?

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**HON KAURA:** It was given nationally. (Interjections). It was given nationally.

The farmers of Kaoko, for example, who are farming east and north of Opuwo are accommodated by King Taapopi of the Uukwaludhi area, but the people west and south of Opuwo have nowhere to go. The provision of fodder could assist them to save some animals up to October or November.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, after the tabling of this Motion I met some Opuwo residents who asked me to request the Minister of Environment and Tourism to consider putting up entry points or gates at areas that border the Kaoko communal area, so that the people can graze their cattle inside the game reserve during the day and take them out at night. Their argument is that conservancies have proliferated throughout Kaoko and the issue of poaching is a thing of the past.

26 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON KAURA**

Therefore, there shall be no danger that the people will poach inside the Etosha fence. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, on a point of correction. It would be wrong to allow this information going unchallenged, that we inherited the distribution of fodder to our farmers from the colonial regime, because it was stated by the Line Minister, the colonial regime was discriminatory, it was not distributing this fodder to all the farmers in this country and our Government in 1992 distributed this fodder according to the needs of the farmers throughout the country. It is therefore wrong to say we inherited the discriminatory system that they had.

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**HON KAURA:** The argument is that conservancies have proliferated throughout Kaoko and the whole issue of poaching is a thing of the past. Therefore, there shall be no danger that people will poach inside the Etosha. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** On a Point of Order, Comrade Deputy Speaker. Honourable Kaura, the drought situation is real and there are communities that are helping one another. Why did you choose only to mention King Taapopi of Uukwadludhi as the one who is helping the people from Okaoko? Is this really factually true in your own belief? Why are you doing that? If you do not know, then just do not say it.

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**HON KAURA:** Honourable Deputy Minister, I have the right to say what I know and you do not have to dictate to me to say something that I do not know.

26 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON KAURA**

Of course, one cannot say with one hundred percent certainty, but conservation patrols can be intensified wherever these gates are established. They can be opened every morning and closed at night.

I know, however, Honourable Deputy Speaker, that once one mentions anything about Etosha Game Reserve, everyone sees red, but Namibia is systematically turning into one huge game park. The fear of decimation of the game in Namibia is truly a thing of the past.

Therefore, it is a categorical imperative that we must keep all the options open and not to be imprisoned into fossilised perceptions of the past. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? If I understood the Honourable Member, he said that he was sent by the community to see the Minister of Environment and Tourism on the matter. I was now waiting to hear what has been the reaction of the Minister when you discussed with him, as you were asked by the community to discuss with the Minister concerned.

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**HON KAURA:** Given the fact that this Motion was on the Table here in Parliament, I decided to enlighten the whole august House, so that we all can be on the same wavelength.

Honourable Speaker, the area of Khorixas is drought-stricken. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** On a Point of Order. Comrade Deputy Speaker, we know this year the whole of Namibia has drought. In the North Chiefs Mungundi, Taapopi, Shoya and Mukulu came together to accommodate the people of Okaoko and then you are talking about Etosha. Even if you drive on the road from Kamanjab to Opuwo, there is no grazing. Even the animals in Etosha have no grazing. I

26 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON KAURA**

think it will be better if we talk about the whole Namibia. When you talk of one area, it is going to be a different thing.

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**HON KAURA:** It seems to me the Honourable Deputy Minister Muharukua has not been to Opuwo in recent days. She always goes to her farm in Outjo. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** On a Point of Order. All the time Mr Kaura is talking about my farm. Yes, I have a farm, I have cattle, I am rich! I am not a poor person and when I am talking about this, I am talking about some of the poor people. (Interjection)

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**HON KAURA:** Because you do not go to Opuwo.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** No, I am talking about things that I know. You are only talking about Taapopi. Why Taapopi, because you are not coming from there?

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**HON KAURA:** Her farm is not in Opuwo, it is in Outjo. Honourable Deputy Speaker, you are so rich, you do not go to Opuwo anymore.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the area of Khorixas is drought-stricken and hundreds of elephants are traversing the area of Grootberg, wreaking havoc. The poor people are pumping water for their livestock, but in the morning the reservoirs are empty, the elephants have drunk up all the water. If the elephants find the reservoirs empty, they destroy the reservoirs and pull out the pipes that take water to the reservoirs. This is a problem that must be addressed in earnest and the Government must at least provide diesel to these communities so that they can provide water to the elephants.

26 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON KAURA**

There are myriads of problems experienced during this year and we must rearrange all the variables so that we can come to the assistance of our people and save the beef and mutton industry which provides employment to 300 000 Namibians. If the agricultural sector is not treated with the seriousness it deserves, it will go down and that will lead to unemployment.

I hope the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry as well as Environment and Tourism will look at my proposal seriously because it is for the good of all the people of Namibia. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**

Honourable Kaura, I think we must try to help our farmers, particularly our farmers in the communal area. I would like, and I plead to Honourable Members here, that we should advise our people to reduce the number of animals on the field. Our people must now take their animals to the abattoirs while there is still time. I do not want to give people false hope, it is better to tell the truth for what it is. Let people reduce their animals on the field, take them to abattoirs, have a little money in their pocket and they can restock when the time allows. Let us not talk something that we cannot afford.

We are national leaders, there are hard decisions to be taken sometimes and this time, honestly speaking Honourable Kaura, I would have loved to do what you are saying, but I know it is not possible. Why should I speak here for the gallery, that that is what Government will attempt to do when I know it is not possible?

Let us advise our people to reduce their animals on the field and have some money.

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**HON KAURA:** I thank you, Honourable Minister. We are all prudent people and we want to act prudently, but the request from the people of Kaoko that they must be allowed to graze in the game fence during the day, is that too much to ask?

If a person has reduced his herd to below 60% of the carrying capacity of the farm, can that person not be assisted with fodder? That was done, that can be

26 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON VENAANI**

done and that can be done right now. Thank you very much.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Any further discussion. I revert the Floor to the Mover of the Motion, Honourable Venaani.

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, thank you very much. I want to thank all the Honourable Members who have participated positively in this very important Debate and I will touch on a few issues which were raised by Honourable Members during the Debate.

At the initial motivation of this Motion we thought the Motion was not necessary, but after discussion we all agreed that this issue of drought is quite a pertinent issue and with all due respect, I want to be very candid and I want to say the following to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture:

We are running a very infant agricultural industry in this country and one thing that is against us is the markets and predominantly the weather. So that situation is really problematic. We as a country should however also be in position to be able to assist this infant industry, quite very fragile industry that is one of the highest employment industries in this country, to keep it. When you start saying that people should sell their cattle, it is one side of it, but in the motivation of this Motion I was saying that if, for example, a person is selling his production cows, can we not have a system to subsidise that because it is important? If you tell people to sell their cows now, tomorrow they will not have cows to farm with and the industry would die. Therefore, if you subsidise it they will have something to restock. However if you are saying sell, and we must be very honest about the situation in rural areas. (Interjection). Reducing because of drought situation means that you reduce productivity. That is what you are doing in essence, because of drought you are reducing and, therefore, you are reducing productivity and we cannot fill our quotas that we so much want to fill.

I think that Cabinet should really feel that we want this industry to be supported and to find finance available to support Namibian agricultural producers during drought.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we have a situation in the South of the country where we have farmers who are told that first make an appointment with the



26 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON VENAANI**

abattoirs here in the country because we want to protect our jobs.

We must be honest and frank with one another, after the abattoirs have slaughtered it, it is going to the same South Africa that you are trying to stop others to stand in queues, and by the time that you have your time to go to the abattoir, your sheep have already fell out of the prime market. You have certain people who are running these abattoirs, that are running the institutions of power and saying, let us protect this industry.

If you however know that the country is suffering from a drought, why are holding farmers, saying that they must queue up for the abattoirs if you are saying they must reduce and they are reducing. Allow them to sell to markets that are available so that they can get the best prices for their animals, but when you are telling them to wait for your chance at the abattoirs and if you do not get a chance, then you have to export. Then you are disadvantaging farmers and is it hard to ask for us to open our gates so that farmers can sell their sheep to markets that are available to buy their products? We are doing a disservice to our farmers.

The issue of the examples that we mentioned of the Chief of Uukwaludhi, and other areas that are mentioned, I am also saying that if you look at the current capacity of such a Region, the number of cattle that have moved from Kunene to Omusati, even those that are assisting others should be assisted, because I tell you, if those cattle have to stand there from now until December, Omusati will be in a drought and they will face the very same consequences.

Therefore, I spoke of subsidising fodder. When I go to Agra, Government must give me a N\$10.00 or a N\$20.00 and we are not budgeting in this House. It is important to provide fodder to animals, because some of the animals would be able to survive provided that they are given fodder.

Many of our farmers, and especially in the communal areas, are not people that are really informed about the necessity of fodder, but if you can subsidise fodder and tell them that their cows might be able to survive provided that you give them fodder, why can we not do that? It is in the interest of our own markets.

*Honourable Kaura* gave the example of the Chiefs of Uukwaludhi, but those are not the only people who are assisting. We know that the Chiefs in Kavango are assisting some people from Ohangwena and it happens all over the country. However in that area you are talking about, especially the Uukwaludhi area, you

26 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON VENAANI**

are talking about more than two thousand head of cattle that are moved into that area.

I cannot see any other way out. Even if that assistance is so generous, I can tell you that they will also face the same consequences later in the year and I want them to be assisted.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, there is one issue which was raised on the Red Line. The veterinary Cordon Fence that is famously known as the Red Line is quite an emotional issue and I am very glad that the Minister has explained that we cannot open the fences now. But one thing we are failing to do, is that we are leaving the farmers at the mercy of Meatco – “*sell to Meatco or otherwise you go to Okapana.*” I do however not know why we cannot be able to market the meat that we have in the areas of the veterinary Cordon Fence to countries such as Angola. They are buying their meat from Uruguay and Paraguay. We are not selling our meat to DRC and we would continue to do a disservice to our farmers north of the Red Line if we do not also engage in these markets that are going to offer them something.

You are telling farmers to reduce their cattle. How much is one ox in Kavango? N\$1,600.00 if you get a good price, N\$1,600.00 for four year old ox. Go to Outjo or Steinhausen, one ox of four years costs N\$5,000.00 and if we do not enter new markets, how long do we think these farmers will make a contribution to the agricultural sector if their products do not have markets? We should do more in addressing that.

I am on record as saying that there is a need for us to move the Fence gradually, but there must be that will to move the Fence, to open up the markets and that issue should also continue to be an issue to our European buyers. Along with our packages we should also start negotiating that they must also look at the area if in ten years or twenty years' time we erect that Fence. It is true that for the last twenty years no disease has (Interjection). It does not matter, the line is not a deficit, it is a surplus.

One issue that is also at the very centre of our agricultural industry is the European market and I want to respond to ***Honourable Mudge***, that let us not convince ourselves that the European market is the only market that we have. It is not the only market that we have. It is the best lucrative market that we

26 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON VENAANI**

currently have, but it does not preclude us from trying to negotiate entrance into other markets.

Therefore, if these negotiations fail at the end of December, what are we going to do with our beef? It is also important for us as a country to try to venture into negotiations with other countries that can buy our products. (Interjection). I am not campaigning.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we as a country should try to assist our people. Of course, it is true as you are saying that due to competing needs we cannot, but I tell you, if I as a farmer or as a leader of this country advocate that, "*people, sell your cattle*", it is not the whole answer to the problem. It is not the whole answer to the problem, because if you tell people to sell, tomorrow we will be forced to stand there at the gates of South Africa and Botswana, trying to buy cattle to restock again.

Therefore, let us assist our farmers where we can and I think it is not too much to ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture to go back and assist people with fodder subsidies. Allow the sheep farmers to take their sheep unabatedly to markets that are available because you want them to reduce. Subsidise the farmers that are selling their production cows, it is in the interest of our own industry.

Cabinet should address this issue with a sense of trying to protect the market, not because we do not have money. However what do we do in the time of emergency and we have to address that emergency? Luckily we do not have drought in the whole country, we are talking about pockets in the country and there is nothing wrong, Honourable Minister, to articulate a position, saying that we can only assist the farmers that are in the Kunene area because they are hit by the drought and we are not going to assist farmers that are in the Khomas Region because their drought is not severe. It is not discriminatory when you say you do not have the problem that I have. We are not advocating for the whole country to be given fodder or every farmer should be given fodder, but we are talking about those people that are hit by the drought.

I want to address one issue and that is the question of bush encroachment and it was raised very eloquently by *Honourable Mbai*. I saw a report that was published recently on affirmative action farmers, that when they buy their farms they produce charcoal and they cut wood and so forth. Let us be honest and tell

26 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON VENAANI**

our people the truth. The truth of the matter is that when this country is losing N\$700 million per year because of bush encroachment. Therefore there is nothing technically wrong for farmers to produce charcoal if they are opening up more grazing. We should also support those farmers who intend to open up their land and make grazing available. If those people are producing charcoal either for energy or selling it abroad to England or wherever, it is in the interest of the agricultural industry. Therefore, the last Report that was in the paper, saying that affirmative action farmers that are producing charcoal or selling wood, are doing the wrong thing against the environment is not true. The bushes are too thick and many of our products are not utilising these thick bushes and we have to open them up in the interest of the industry.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, communal land management, rich farmers overstaying their welcome in communal areas. I agree in principle that someone has moved to commercial land, he must not be in the rural communities, but we must also be very honest, that our cattle also have a tradition of extended families. You could have 500 cattle but it belongs to 500 people. If I take 200 to the farm, it does not mean that the 300 that I left in the communal area are mine, because there are also dependents who are depending on these cattle. The farmers that are exploiting are in the minority, but many people leave their cattle in the communal areas after they went to commercial areas because the cattle do not belong to them. It belongs to the uncles and aunts or whoever. Those are some of the problems that we have. (Interjections). These are not tricks.

I also want to address the issue that was raised by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, that the Government is subsidising one dollar and Meatco fifty cents.

It is not working, the subsidy is not enough to make any dent and we have to improve it. That you know as the Minister of Agriculture.

This Motion is really a genuine national concern that wants to protect the industry, the very fragile industry and I plead to all the Members of Cabinet to support this Motion, so that Cabinet can go back and re-look at the situation. We have not said do a, b, c, it is a proposal, go and look at the proposal and come back with something tangible in the interest of this industry.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, with these few remarks, I thank you.

26 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION**  
**HON DR N IYAMBO/HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Honourable Member. I now put the Question that the Motion be adopted. The Motion is just requesting the Government to impose measure in assisting farmers with subsidies for animals and humans in some parts of the country. That is what the Motion is seeking, so that the Government can impose measures in assisting farmers with food subsidies for animals and human consumption in some parts of the country.

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, what you read is not what stands here on the Order Paper. I have no problem if this House takes note of what stands on the Order Paper. I hope I have the right one, I do not know which one you have.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** What he said at the end of his motivation is what he was seeking.

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I will go along if this House can take note of the Motion. That is fine.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Are we in agreement, Honourable Venaani, with what the Honourable Minister is saying, that we take note?

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, all I ask is that we consider assisting farmers with fodder and food to those families and citizens hit by the drought. So does the Motion read.

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, the problem that we sometimes face with these Motions is not that the issues that they seek to address are not important or that we are in disagreement that there is a need to strengthen efforts to address those issues, it is what is sought through those Motions that is a problem. In the first instance, we do not recognise what is being done, we actually do not identify the gaps in the programmes that are on the ground and maybe ask that we look at possibilities of strengthening that. We

26 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

come with *ad hoc* recommendations that just say the Government should do this and that. The problem that I have is that, the Government has to do a whole lot of other things. Are we now saying that, if we take a decision in this Parliament, that issue would take precedence over the other issues that we have to address, or are we saying Government should just add it to the list of other issues that it has to address? Why do we think that we have to say that Government should address the issue of fodder, but we did not say Government should address the issue of access to health care services, for example? Does that mean that we are saying that that which we did not mention here in the Motion is less important and we are now re-prioritising our activities? That is really the concern that we have.

If we could agree to say there is a situation that is cause for concern and that there is a need that Government ensures that it is in a position to address this looming crisis, then I think that would be acceptable to everybody. However to just come and single out one thing and say Government should do that, I do not really know whether that is the best way that we want to go about things.

Maybe the Honourable Member can try to rephrase the Motion and then we will all be in agreement, because we are all equally concerned and then we will go and do the best that we can to address the situation.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, should I adjourn and then we continue tomorrow? Honourable Minister.

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**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Comrade Deputy Speaker, there was a delegation of farmers from Karibib Constituency who came here the beginning of this month to see the Prime Minister regarding the drought. The Prime Minister also received a letter from Daures Constituency and many other constituencies. The Office of the Prime Minister constituted a Committee, led by the Permanent Secretary Uandjarakana and line ministries, including Lands, Agriculture, Environment, etcetera. The delegation went to Karibib Constituency, Daures Constituency, they are now in Caprivi Region and they are assessing the whole country. They have driven all over the country to see the situation of drought. Therefore, the Government is already seized with the matter and that is why I think it is only for us to take note because the Government is already seized with the matter. We only take note. But if we say the Government

26 June 2007

**MOTION ON DROUGHT SITUATION  
HON EKANDJO**

must do something, the Government is already in the process of doing that. Therefore, we take note.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Venaani, how do you consider that taking note?

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, it is procedure....(Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Fine, you are standing by your Motion. The House stands adjourned to tomorrow 14:30 in terms of Rule 90.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2007.06.27 AT 14:30**