

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 Ulenja	<i>(Party Leader)</i>

DTA OF NAMIBIA

Mr J De Waal	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>
Mr K Kaura	<i>(Party Leader)</i>

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) – Resigned on 18 April 2007*
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 Booys *(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 Iilonga *(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 Tjiriane (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)

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
19 FEBRUARY 2008
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: I wish to confirm that today, 19 February 2008, His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, will officially open the Seventh Session of the Fourth Parliament of the Republic of Namibia.

As required by convention and practice, I now suspend the business of the House to go and invite His Excellency to the Chamber. Please remain standing as I walk out until the entourage enters the Chamber.

BUSINESS SUSPENDED

BUSINESS RESUMED

OFFICIAL OPENING

HON SPEAKER: His Excellency, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, the President of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency Dr Sam Nujoma, first President and Father of the Namibian Nation, Right Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Comrade Asser Kapere, Chairman of the National Council, Chief Justice Judge President and Justices, Members of Parliament, Esteemed Spouses, Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Invited Guests, Service Chiefs, Compatriots and Friends.

Once again we are gathered in this August Chamber of elected representatives of the people. This is an annual reunion of the three Branches of State – Executive, Legislature and Judiciary.

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**OFFICIAL OPENING
HON SPEAKER**

The President of the Republic is here, the Justices in their colourful robes are here, Members of both Houses of Parliament, representing different Political Parties are here and not least, the public is here too.

As we come together on this day, we remember those who have passed on during the past year, others who are suffering and need healing and we welcome the newborns. Life and change continue. We should be grateful and count our blessings for yet another moment in history to serve the people and to do so as their servants, not as masters above them. After all, democracy is a Government of the people, by the people and for the people.

As one great Statesman eloquently said: "*The ear of the leader must ring with the voices of the people.*" All of us will do well by seeing to it that what we think, say and do as defenders of the State will have empowering impact on the well being of our people and for the stability of our Republic.

The Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary are assigned separate jurisdictions in the Constitution, but it joins them through interlocking mandates to work together for the good of the Nation as well as for individual citizens.

Checks and balances between these pioneer authorities of the State serve to ensure a balance, rule of law and accountable Government. Government, Parliament and the Courts share a common cause to promote stability, national reconciliation and creation of socio-economic opportunities for all Namibians. But we can achieve these things only by first eliminating social disparities, practices of exclusion and corruption in our Republic.

A politics of transition and succession come with challenges. Lately Africa's woes seem to have no end. Innocent men, women and children are dying. There is no end in sight. This is bad news, which cannot continue forever. It must not be treated like business as usual. No African can escape the blame. What is lacking is political will and concerted action by all of us, because Africa is bleeding and crying out for help. People want bread and butter, not brandishing of machetes and bullets shot through their bodies and killing them just for being different.

Politics inspires the youth when a cause is invincible and without scandals. When political bickering and acts of violence, based on ethnicity, become the way, humans approach the brim of anarchy and mayhem. This makes everyone

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**OFFICIAL OPENING
HON SPEAKER**

of us accomplices and losers. There is high degree of suffering and sense of hopelessness. But for this we cannot today blame outsiders or history, that blame sounds hollow under the present circumstances.

Just as I was on my way to assume this responsibility, I read an interview on the back page of the *Newsweek*, dated 18 February 2008. The interview was with Kofi Annan, the former Secretary General of the United Nations and this is what he says in part:

“So what is it with Africa here? I posed this question in Rwanda after the genocide. What is it in our society that makes us periodically to turn on each other? Not only do we turn on each other, but then we blame the outside. I said this is a cancer from within that we need to fix.”

Democratic elections are the heart and the pulse of a free people. Elections empower the people to make informed choices about leaders and Political Parties. Political opponents are not supposed to be enemies, they are only competitors who are marketing their ideas and policy alternatives on the minds of voters for the ballot box.

Political pluralism, including cultural and ethnic diversity, are inherent characteristics of constitutional democracy. They are useful instruments for helping to advance the ideas of unity, reconciliation, fairness and transparency.

Ours is a noble duty to continue striving for common values, citizens’ constitutional rights and accompanying civic responsibilities, mutual trust as well as ensuring resolution of disputes through dialogue and the court of law.

I hope and pray that the whole of this eventful year 2008 and the next election year, 2009, will find Namibia in a good form and a compassionate mode of tolerance. As we continue building our Nation, agree to disagree peacefully and serving all our people without fear, favour or prejudice. Doing that will make us winners yet again.

African renaissance still remains an authentic inspiration, but it needs true believers to ensure that its mission will not end up a mere forlorn mirage.

Excellency, our President, since we last met you have moved on and up and now combining both the powers of the State and of the SWAPO Party. We warmly

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**OPENING ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

congratulate you and extend our full support and cooperation. Perhaps I should say, Excellency, we commiserate with you. You have an eminent team of capable co-workers at the Party Headquarters. About them later on at an appropriate occasion.

At the same time we recognise the President's presence here of Comrade Dr Sam Nujoma, our first President and Father of the Namibian Nation. We welcome you, Comrade, and salute you for your brilliant legacy and outstanding service to our people and Africa.

On that pleasant note, I now have once again the distinct honour and personal delight, on behalf of Parliament, kindly to invite you, Comrade President to address the Joint Session of Parliament and declare the Seventh Session of the Fourth Parliament officially open. Your Excellency.

OPENING ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT POHAMBA

HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBA: Chairperson, Honourable Members, Honourable Theo-Ben Gurirab, Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable Asser Kapere, Chairperson of the National Council, Dr Sam Nujoma, Founding President of the Republic of Namibia and the Father of the Nation, Right Honourable Nahas Angula, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia, Honourable Dr Hage Geingob, First Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia, Your Honour Peter Shivute, Chief Justice of the Republic of Namibia, Honourable Petrus Damaseb, the Judge President, Honourable Members of Parliament, Your Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Distinguished Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Our gathering here today is in keeping with Namibia's constitutional provisions and the democratic traditions according to which our Republic is governed. It is, indeed, a solemn occasion when the three organs of the State come together for a State function such as this one.

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HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBBA

I am informed that a variety of radio and television programmes were broadcast to popularise the opening of the Seventh Session of the Fourth Parliament. This

is a practical and a welcome effort to inform the wider public about the mandate and work of our Parliament. It is a highly recommendable initiative, indeed.

Honourable Members, ladies and gentlemen, I congratulate Parliament for including school children from different Regions of the country to be part of the programme. I was, indeed, pleased to see their colourful presence in the welcoming line. I am encouraging to continue nurturing and inculcating the value of traditions of democracy and constitutionalism in all our citizens with a special focus on our youth.

The Official Opening of the Seventh Session of the Fourth Parliament is being held under the theme, “Citizens’ Right and Responsibilities in a Living Parliament” and maybe the concepts encapsulated in this theme are profound. They are profound because they capture the essence of our democratic tradition as we strive to strengthen our young democracy and enhance participatory governance and democracy in our country.

In a free and democratic society such as ours, Parliament is not a preserve of elected lawmakers only, it is an assembly where citizens can come to witness the lawmaking process. A living Parliament is an institution where citizens are welcome to make their voices heard in legislative matters through public hearings and other outreach programmes. A living Parliament is one that is accessible to all including people with disability. Indeed, it is a Parliament that is transparent, honest and efficient.

The concept of a living Parliament calls for constructive, in-depth and well-informed Debates by the elected lawmakers on all matters that are tabled for discussion and debate. It’s a Parliament that carries out its constitutional mandate within the parameters of the doctrines of the separation of powers and checks and balances.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, democracy has been defined as a Government from the people, for the people and by the people. Herein lies the significance of citizens’ right and responsibility in a living Parliament and, indeed, in a democracy. A Government by the people, for the people presupposes that the citizens must play a central role in shaping their democracy. It is the

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HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBHA**

responsibility of all citizens to nurture our democracy so that it can grow deeper roots. It is our collective responsibility to mould a democracy that is uniquely Namibian, informed and shaped by our shared traditions and historical experiences as a people who endured many years of oppression, yet rose together in unity to defeat the tyranny of apartheid and colonialism.

A living Parliament gives expression to a living Constitution from which all organs of the State derive their respective mandate and authority. This is further highlighted by the fact that it is during this month that we commemorate our Constitution Day.

As citizens in a democratic State, our duty and responsibility is to cultivate an unshakeable sense of tolerance and peaceful coexistence. We should live our lives guided by the desire to ensure that our country is not consumed by violence or civil strife as has happened elsewhere in the world. Our citizens should always exercise their democratic rights in a peaceful manner that fosters the growth of our democratic ideals. This will enable our Nation to safeguard the peace and stability that prevails in our country today. A living Parliament should be at the centre of these endeavours.

It is, therefore, my pleasure to be part of this occasion marking the Official Opening of the Seventh Session of the Fourth Parliament of the Republic of Namibia.

The year 2007 witnessed the increased legislative activities in Parliament, resulting in the enactment of new laws. These include:

- The Labour Act;
- Value Added Tax Amendment Act;
- Appropriation Act;
- Electricity Act;
- Companies Amendment Act;
- Medicines and Related Substances Control Amendment Act;
- Environmental Management Act;
- Motor Vehicle Accident Fund Act;
- Income Tax Amendment Act;
- War Veterans Act; and
- Affirmative Action Amendment Act.

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HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA

These laws are aimed at further consolidating our gains towards the social and economic development in our country. They are intended to improve the levels of efficiency and service delivery by putting in place appropriate measures as well as administrative and regulatory mechanisms.

Through its work our Parliament continues to promote our national interest by ratifying and acceding to international agreements. Our country stands to benefit from the implementation of these bilateral and multilateral legal instruments.

In the previous session our Parliament ratified the following international agreements:

- The Memorandum of Understanding on the Development and Management of Trans-Kalahari Corridor;
- The Treaty between Namibia and China on the Extradition;
- The Multilateral Agreement between the Governments of Angola, Comoro, Madagascar, Mozambique and South Africa on Coordination on Maritime Search and Rescue Centre;
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability and it's Optional Protocol;
- The International Convention on the Unification of Certain Rules of Law relating to Bills of Lading of 1924 and the Protocols of 1968 and 1979;
- The Agreement between the Government of Mauritius and the Republic of Namibia on the Mutual Exemption of Visa Requirements; and
- The Accession to the Association of Diamond Producers.

These agreements have now become part and parcel of our laws and statutes. As such, Namibia and her citizens are now bound by their provisions.

During the course of this new session Parliament will have a hectic schedule to consider many pieces of legislation. It is also expected to ratify international agreements and conventions. These include:

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- The Public Office-Bearers Remuneration and Benefit Commission Amendment Bill;
- Sectional Titles Bill;
- Road Traffic and Transport Amendment Bill;
- Criminal Procedure Amendment Bill;
- The Namibia Board of Trade Bill;
- Architectural and Quantity Surveying Bill;
- Chemical Weapons Convention Bill;
- National Youth Council Bill;
- Namibian Constitution Second Amendment Bill.

I must point out here that there will be thorough consultations with relevant stakeholders before this Bill is tabled in this House and then:

- The National Planning and the Construction Industry Council Bill;
- The State Finance Bill;
- Prevention of Organised Crime Amendment Bill;
- The Industrial Property Bill;
- The Trade in Wildlife Bill; and
- The Armed Terrorism Bill.

I would like to commend our Members of Parliament, under the able leadership of the Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly and the Chairperson of the National Council for the efforts you have made to make our Parliament more effective and productive.

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HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

For democracy to take root in our society, we as political leaders and policy-makers need to involve the citizenry in the policy-making process. It is only fitting and necessary that the participation of the general public in the legislative process is encouraged.

It is pleasing that our Parliament has embraced the utilisation of information and communications technology with the improved website. Our Parliamentarians and the administrative staff have access to the internet and related facilities to assist them in executing their daily duties. A constituents channel and a parliamentary studio have also been introduced to foster communication between the seat of Parliament and other parts of the country. The popular Parliament Bus continues to visit different parts of Namibia to provide information and educate our communities, especially those in the rural areas.

Another outreach initiative is our Parliament's participation at trade fairs and agricultural shows in the country to exhibit educational materials to the public.

The schools project has been introduced whereby the Parliament Bus visits schools to inform and educate learners about parliamentary activities.

These outreach activities are commendable and should be expanded further.

I would like, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, once again to wish all the Honourable Members of Parliament a fruitful and successful new session of Parliament. I have no doubt that you will harness your collective wisdom to find solutions to issues of national importance and public interest that will come before you during this session.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, it is now my distinct honour to declare the Seventh Session of the Fourth Parliament of the Republic of Namibia officially open. Long live the Republic of Namibia!

HON SPEAKER: Your Excellency, the President, allow me once again to thank you very much for your important and instructive opening address and for declaring open the Seventh Session of the Fourth Parliament. I now take this opportunity to request my Colleague, the Honourable Chairman of the National

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**VOTE OF THANKS
HON KAPERRE**

Council, Honourable Asser Kapere, to kindly move the vote of thanks on behalf of the Parliament.

VOTE OF THANKS

HON CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL: Your Excellency, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia, Your Excellency, Comrade Dr Sam Shafishuna Nujoma, Father of the Nation and Founding President of the Republic of Namibia, Hon Speaker of the National Assembly, Comrade Dr Theo-Ben Gurirab and Mrs Guriras, Right Hon. Prime Minister, Comrade Nahas Angula, Hon Deputy Prime Minister, Comrade Dr Libertina Amadhila, Your Lordships, the Chief Justice, Peter Shivute and Judge President Petrus Damaseb, Distinguished Honourable Members of Parliament, Hon. Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Court, Distinguished Ombudsman of the Republic of Namibia, Mr John Walters, Chief of the Namibian Defence Force, Lieutenant General Martin Shali, Major General of the Namibian Police, Deputy Inspector General James Tjivikua, Commissioner of Prison Services Evaristus Shikongo, Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, my permanent friend and partner, Comrade Rev Maria Kapere, Distinguished Government Officials, Distinguished Invited Guests, Members of the Media, Ladies and Gentlemen, Fellow Namibians.

Today marks yet another milestone in the memoirs of the Namibian Parliament, as we witness the official opening of the 7th Session of the 4th Namibian Parliament by His Excellency, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia.

Hence, I am profoundly grateful and honoured to present the vote of thanks to our beloved President on behalf of the Namibian Parliament.

Comrade Speaker, Sir, firstly let me commence by congratulating His Excellency the President, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba on his election as the President of the SWAPO Party at the recent SWAPO Party Congress. This is clear testimony of the trust that people have in your splendid leadership ability. The Members of

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**VOTE OF THANKS
HON KAPERRE**

Parliament and the people of Namibia wish you continued wisdom as you strive to uphold the hopes and aspirations of our people.

Your Excellencies, distinguished guests, I am sure you will agree that keeping the hopes of a Nation alive is no menial task. I also trust you shall further acknowledge that President Pohamba had done this well. Comrade President, rest assured, the Parliament, the Speaker and I remain at your disposal as you lead Namibia to the fore of the Nations of the world.

Your Excellency, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, allow me to invoke the lyrics of the popular song, and I quote: “Hifikepunye Pohamba ndjira dhipi wayenda natwe tu yendemo,” which, particularly to the youth of our country symbolizes the route you took from Namibia into exile and back. However, the Namibian Parliamentarians attach a different connotation to the song, as their interest is the route you took from Parliament to where you are today.

Comrade Speaker, Sir, secondly, I congratulate His Excellency, the President for his encouraging, inspirational, touching and articulate message to Parliament this afternoon.

Comrade President, you touched on very significant issues pertaining to political, economic and socio-cultural issues, all of which has an influence on the activities and decisions of Parliament.

Your Excellency, Comrade Pohamba, I further express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for your outstanding ability to steer this Nation in a democratic manner by upholding the Supreme Law of our country through the consolidation of the effective functioning of the three branches of the State.

Parliament sincerely appreciate Your Excellency’s reminder to us today of our duty to uphold and give meaning to our Independence by ensuring that all Namibians enjoy a dignified and prosperous life.

The Speaker and I, on behalf of the Parliamentarians, distinguished invited guests and, indeed, on behalf of the entire Namibian Nation, profoundly thank you, Your Excellency, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba for your ongoing firm and well-guided crusade towards the upliftment of the living standards of the Namibian people. Your clarion call for the effective and prompt implementation of the National Development Plan Three is well received by Parliament.

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**VOTE OF THANKS
HON KAPERRE**

Your Excellency, Comrade President, we, the Parliamentarians commit our full support to your vision to maintain peace, stability, democracy and the socio-economic and cultural development of our people, most importantly in the rural areas.

Further, Parliament echoes your commitment to be responsive to our people's immediate needs, such as Government's response to the current natural disasters and your continuous emphasis on the importance of the education and health sectors, to mention but a few.

Also, today we are blessed by the presence of His Excellency, the Father of the Nation and Founding President of the Republic of Namibia, Dr Sam Shafishuna Nujoma. Your Excellency, Comrade Nujoma, we thank you for your continuous support on issues of great significance, which brings positive change in the lives of the Namibian people. We feel graced with your esteemed presence this afternoon and wish you good health and renewed strength. We will always salute you for having been a brave, committed, exemplary, and unwavering leader, both during the liberation struggle and in a free, independent and democratic Namibia. Comrade Father of the Nation, we will certainly continue to tap from your fatherly wisdom.

Indeed, the Speaker and I wish to thank you all for honouring our invitation to celebrate this ceremonious event, which symbolizes the beginning of another chapter on the ongoing work of the Namibian Parliament.

At this juncture, let me place on record our heartfelt gratitude to Your Lordships, Chief Justice Peter Shivute and Judge President Petrus Damaseb and the Supreme and High Court Judges, who continue to play a critical role in Namibia's enduring democracy and rule of law. Your contributions are indeed invaluable and appreciated.

We also acknowledge Lieutenant General Shali, Commissioner Shikongo, Inspector General Tjivikua whose attendance adds much flair to this event.

Further, I thank you Your Excellencies, High Commissioners, Ambassadors and Members of the Diplomatic Corps for gracing this event with your esteemed presence. Your continuous support to Namibia in realizing its development agenda, is well received and valued.

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**VOTE OF THANKS
HON KAPERRE**

Your Excellency, Comrade President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, this event would not have been as colourful and as spirited, if it was not for the Members of the Namibia Security Services, the National Brass Band, cultural groups, the school children and the hard work of the Parliamentary staff. Thank you for your contribution to the success of the Official Opening of Parliament.

In conclusion, I would now like to invite you to join the Speaker and myself in celebrating this momentous event with an official reception in the Parliament gardens. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank my Colleague, the Chairman of the National Council for his brilliant address. You intimated to me earlier that you were going to sing a popular song. At this juncture I would like to inform the House that I am inviting the Sergeant-at-Arms to lead the way out of the Chamber. The Chairman and I will accompany His Excellency the President and I kindly ask the Colleagues to rise and remain standing until I return.

Before I call on the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House until the date he knows, I want to reiterate the invitation extended to one and all by the Chairman of the National Council to join the festivities that await us, including some culinary variety in the Parliament Gardens.

On that happy note I now ask the Prime Minister to adjourn the House.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, before I make the decisive move, may I take this opportunity to welcome all the Honourable Members back to Parliament and to wish you a happy and prosperous New Year. As we heard from our President, we are talking about a living Parliament and the living Parliament means starting on time, starting with a quorum and debating issues only in the interest of the people.

Having said that, may I now move that we adjourn until next Tuesday, the 26th of February 2008 and meet here at 14:30. I so Move.

THE HOUSE ADJOURNED AT 15:30 UNTIL 2008.02.26 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
26 FEBRUARY 2008
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

HON SPEAKER: On the 12 December 2007 while this august House was on recess, we learnt with sadness about the passing on of Mrs Ricardi //Naobes, the mother of Honourable Justus //Garoëb. On behalf of the Assembly I would like to express our deepest sympathy and condolences to Honourable Chief //Garoëb and his family.

I am also told that yesterday, 23 February 2008, was the birthday of the United Democratic Front (UDF). We wish the Party members a happy birthday.

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN 2007**

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, in terms of Section 6(3) of the Ombudsman Act, No. 7 of 1990, I lay upon the Table Annual Report 2006 of the Office of the Ombudsman.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

26 February 2008

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Right Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Members , fellow citizens, the Fourth Parliament commenced its business in 2005, with a upbeat celebration of a seamless transition in national leadership, euphoria for a new beginning and a better future for our country and people and awareness of public spending.

On the 19th of February 2008, the 7th Session of the 4th Parliament put the repeated emphasis on “*The Citizens’ Rights and Responsibilities in a Living Parliament*”. It also reiterated greater concern about Africa’s unceasing woes, bloodshed, darkness and a vicious re-running of ethnic cleansing and dirty politics.

I am in this boiler Chamber with you all, Honourable Colleagues on both sides of the dividing line. My plea is, let us never fail to remember that the people matter the most in our daily activities as Members of Parliament.

Often, wittingly or unwittingly, personal ambition and scrambling for public space tend to make us forget where the buck really stops. We concentrate on persons rather than on issues. Public debate should be informative and be service-oriented. Many social and policy challenges continue to preoccupy our Government, our Parliament our Judiciary and our people all the time.

The last recess in 2007, like the previous ones, have left on the Table a full plate of unfinished business. Think of education, healthcare, with HIV/AIDS in the lead, income disparities, hardcore poverty, youth unemployment, corruption, gender imbalance, needs of the people with disabilities and the aged, neglect and abuse of children. The list goes on and on.

If Namibia is going to meet the deadlines of Millennium Development Goals, Vision 2030 and other national priorities of employment, poverty, ownership equity and skills deficit, our country is clearly found wanting, at this stage. We read about global economic slowdown and recession. Are we ready for all these threats?

This is a mere synopsis of ongoing development challenges before the National Assembly. During this sitting, the House cannot avoid paying urgent attention to the near and real crises about the effects of previous drought and current damages caused by floods, energy crunch, climate change or global warming and increased manifestations of organised crime and domestic violence.

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SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

I need not say more except to pray and keep hope alive that these and other policy issues must be the pressing concerns that will dominate the debates in the House at all times. We would want to be saving lives and preserving our precious constitutional democracy and accountable Government.

Namibia is blessed with abundant resources. We can make real and speedy difference in our people's lives and circumstances. It took others less endowed to succeed. Transformation, however, demands mind-change, courage, discipline and hard work to make poverty and underdevelopment things of the past and embrace prosperity and happiness for all. Let us celebrate our heritage and yet use it as a powerful agent for change and rebirth in Namibia.

Last week Tuesday, I promised something which is my duty to deliver now. Congratulations and best wishes are in order for Honourable Comrade Hage G. Geingob, Honourable Comrade Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana and Comrade Nangolo Mbumba for their promotions and re-deployments at the SWAPO Party Headquarters. The same will be done at an appropriate time for the minority Parties in the National Assembly after they too have gone through their internal re-arrangements and elect new office-bearers.

Honourable Members, by way of notification, I received a letter of resignation dated 18 December 2007 from Honourable Chief Kuaima Riruako of NUDO in terms of Article 48 Sub-Article (1) (c) of the Namibian Constitution with effect from the 1st of February 2008. Once my Office receives a letter from NUDO designating a replacement, the House will be informed accordingly.

Lastly, I want to state with pleasure and in sincerity that I am truly delighted to see you all, Honourable Members, back in your favourite seats. I welcome you back. Good luck and let us go for it!

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

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
RT HON ANGULA / HON LUCAS / HON H ANGULA / HON DINYANDO**

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT 2006/2007 OF
THE ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION**

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the 2006/2007 Annual Report of the Anti-Corruption Commission. Read it very properly, your name might be in there. I so Move.

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT 2006/2007 OF
THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Annual Report 2006/2007 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Deputy Minister table the Report? Honourable Helmut Angula, welcome back to the House.

**TABLING: REPORT ON NATIONAL ACCOUNT
BY THE NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

HON H ANGULA: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Report on National Account 1996 by the National Planning Commission.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON DINYANDO / HON KAAPANDA**

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT 2006/2007 OF
THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING:

I lay upon Table, the 2006/2007 Annual Report of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Deputy Minister table the Report. Any further Reports and Papers? Minister Kaapanda.

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORTS OF ROADS AUTHORITY,
TELECOM NAMIBIA AND NAMIBIA PORTS AUTHORITY**

HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:

Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Annual Reports of the Roads Authority and Telecom Namibia for the years 2005/2006.

I also lay upon the Table the 2005 Annual Report of the Namibia Ports Authority. I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Any further Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Honourable Viljoen.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON VILJOEN**

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1:

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 6th of March 2008, I shall ask the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry the following questions:

A question on the Hardap flood area was asked in November 2007. The Honourable Minister gave a full report with an indication of future planning by NamWater and other stakeholders. In light of the fact that people are already busy to vacate the flood area:

1. Is the Honourable Minister satisfied that the situation is under control?
 2. Is there a possibility to speed up the implementation of the proposed short term measures to deal with this problem?
-

QUESTION 2:

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 6th of March 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Labour and Social Welfare the following questions:

It is the responsibility of any Government to make employment for its citizens a priority. If this is the policy of the Namibian Government, can the Honourable Minister explain:

1. Why it is necessary for Namibian companies to compete with 25 construction companies from the Far East to whom tenders are being awarded by the Namibian Government?
2. Is the lowest price the most important criteria for awarding tenders?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON DIENDA**

3. In January 2007 the Namibian employees for the aforementioned foreign companies submitted complaints to your Ministry regarding their dissatisfaction with their working conditions. Why was nothing done to rectify the problem?
 4. Are the accusations of the Namibian employees of these foreign companies accurate that their working conditions and benefits are contravening the Namibian Labour Law?
 5. How are you going to rectify this problem?
-

QUESTION 3:

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 6th of March 2008, I shall ask the Hon. Minister of Justice and Attorney-General the following:

It is apparent from my own observations and that of others that many people who try to use the Maintenance Act, Act 9 of 2003 experience that many maintenance officers are not well informed on the essence of the law. Some maintenance officers are unhelpful to women and men who seek maintenance for their children.

The Maintenance Act of 2003, paragraph 39, reads as follows: *“Any person who disobeys a court order by failing to make a particular payment in accordance with a maintenance order commits an offence and is liable to a fine which does not exceed N\$4,000.00.*

Despite this well-set Maintenance Act, men and women are still in arrears up to N\$10,000.00 for maintenance payments. Nothing happens to them, innocent children are suffering while their fathers or their mothers are enjoying their luxury lifestyles.

Honourable Speaker, I therefore ask the Minister the following questions:

1. What kind of initial and in-service training is provided to maintenance officers?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON DIENDA**

2. Who in the Ministry of Justice is responsible for keeping records of the services provided to the public by the maintenance officers and can complaints from the public about poor services also be reported to such office directly?
3. Can the Minister please provide details on the kind of supervision exercised over the work of maintenance officers:
 - (a) Is the work of maintenance officers ever personally observed by supervisory officials;
 - (b) Do supervisory officials ever check case files?
 - (c) Do supervisory officials ever interview people who have approached the maintenance court for assistance:
 - (d) Does any form of supervision take place at all?
4. What is the minimum salary notch for maintenance officers and prosecutors who serve members of the public?
5. The Maintenance Act in Section 8(4) provides that the Ministry must take all reasonable steps to obtain one maintenance investigator for each maintenance court.
 - (a) How many maintenance investigators have been appointed in the whole country? For how many members of the population is each one responsible?
 - (b) If no maintenance investigators have been appointed or if insufficient numbers of maintenance investigators have been appointed, what is the reason for it?
 - (c) Are the reports of the maintenance investigators available to the wider public and what is being done on the recommendations, if at all?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON DIENDA**

QUESTION 4:

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, I also give Notice that on Thursday, the 6th of March 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services the following:

As the Minister might have read in the printed media regarding women claiming that abortions have been done on them without their consent:

- (a) Does the Ministry have any policy regarding pregnant women who are HIV/AIDS positive?
- (b) Is it not illegal to perform any surgery procedure, including abortions, without the written consent of the patient?
- (c) If these allegations are true, what does the Minister plan to do about it?

I so Move.

QUESTION 5:

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, I also give Notice that on Thursday, the 6th of March 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services:

As I have reported, Honourable Minister, during the Budget Debate of 2007 regarding the parking area at the Katutura Hospital, I would like to raise the issue again:

Security lamps have burned out some years ago and no maintenance has been done on it until now. The burglary of cars has become the norm at the Katutura Hospital.

- (a) What are the responsibilities of all those policemen and women hanging around inside the Katutura Hospital?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON DIENDA**

(b) When will the bulbs be replaced with new ones?

I so Move.

QUESTION 6:

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 6th of March 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services the following:

People infected and affected with HIV/AIDS are acting as counsellors and doing home-based care in their respective communities without any compensation.

What are the possibilities to compensate these people who are doing care work through the Government programmes?

I so Move.

QUESTION 7:

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 6th of March 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services the following:

It was reported in the newspapers that a baby of 3 days old died in the Katutura Hospital due to alleged negligence of the staff on duty.

1. Was a Commission of Inquiry set up to investigate the matter and when is the report expected?
2. Will the Minister inform the Nation about the outcome of the investigation in both the printed media, the radio stations and on television?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MOONGO**

3. How did the Government assist the bereaved family with respect to counselling?
-

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Questions?
Honourable Moongo.

QUESTION 8:

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 28th of February 2008, I shall ask the Hon. Minister of Safety and Security the following:

1. Is it true that the programmes of community police volunteers in Namibia are going to be terminated?
 2. If yes, how are you going to control high escalating crime?
 3. How many community police volunteers were enrolled so far?
 4. How many has left the programme since then?
 5. Is it true members are enrolled in the programme on the grounds of nepotism and favouritism? Will you please explain?
-

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Question?
Honourable Gurirab.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON GURIRAB**

QUESTION 9:

HON GURIRAB: Honourable Speaker, I would first like to welcome back the Comrades from Omuthiya. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 6th of March 2008, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following:

1. Whether the disciplinary hearings of the five staff members involved in the rotten food scandal in Caprivi two years ago have now been completed and what steps, if any, have been taken against the officials involved?
 2. What steps, if any, have been taken against the Governor involved following the conclusion of the investigation and disciplinary cases against the officials?
 3. What measures, if any, has the Government put in place to prevent a recurrence of similar waste of drought relief food now and in the future?
-

QUESTION 10:

HON GURIRAB: Honourable Speaker, on the same day I shall ask the Minister of Education, the Honourable Nangolo Mbumba, the following:

Which one of the two is the Government policy on readmission of Grade 10 learners to schools: Is it the one advanced by President Pohamba at the SWAPO rally in Walvis Bay or is it the one advanced by the Under-Secretary of Formal Education Alfred Ilukena to the media?

I so Move.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON GURIRAB**

QUESTION 11:

HON GURIRAB: Honourable Speaker I give Notice that on Thursday, the 6th of March 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry:

What, if anything, has the Government done to prevent a recurrence of the 2006 disastrous floods in Mariental?

I shall further ask, apart from Government, which other instances are responsible to ensure that the dangers of flooding in Mariental are addressed?

Why does it take more than two (2) years to clear the reeds to help prevent flooding?

I so Move.

QUESTION 12:

HON GURIRAB: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 6th of March 2009, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Education:

1. Whether he is aware that some lecturers at the University of Namibia (UNAM) have received letters amounting to “gagging orders” owing to them being leaders of Political Parties.
2. Is the Minister aware that leaders of SWAPO also have positions as lecturers or researchers at UNAM without receiving similar letters?
3. Is he aware that those measures at UNAM are akin to the draconian measures of days gone by?
4. Is he further aware that our institutions of higher learning are unique in the democratic world with this kind of nonsensical decree?
5. Does he intend to do anything to correct this?

I so Move.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON TJIHUIKO**

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Questions?
Honourable Tjihuiko?

QUESTION 13:

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, good afternoon Colleagues, welcome back. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 6th of March 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development the following question:

1. Would the Honourable Minister confirm what was reported in *The Namibian* dated the 13th February 2008 that the Government and the Ruling Party, SWAPO Party are engaged in dirty tricks to rob Chief Katjambia Tjambiru her Chieftainship, because she is not a SWAPO member?
2. Is it true as was also reported in the paper that the Minister and Deputy Minister have been have been at work for the last two years to try and smuggle in a SWAPO member and a son of a half-sister of the Chief?
3. Would the Honourable Minister confirm or deny that some time last year (2007), the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development was engaged in bringing in a gentleman from Opuwo to Windhoek at Government expenses with the intention to recognise him?
4. In December 2001, seven (7) years ago, three Judges of the High Court ruled in the case of Chief Kuaima Riruako and 39 Herero Chiefs that the process of official recognition of the 40 Herero Chiefs should start afresh.
5. What happened, Honourable Minister, with this process? How many of the 39 plus Chief Kuaima Riruako and non-SWAPO Herero leaders have been recognised to date?

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the question?
Honourable Venaani.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON VENAANI**

QUESTION 14:

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Sir. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 6th of March 2008, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following:

Recently the Government unveiled the 200 million Dollar drought aid scheme after the country has received good rains. May the Prime Minister answer the following:

1. Will farmers affected by the last drought benefit from the scheme through the submission of proof of their loss of animals or receipts or other invoices for feed purchased for their animals to survive.
2. What category of farmers will benefit from this drought relief aid, communal or commercial or both?
3. Which communities are going to receive food aid and would communities living in urban centres qualify under this scheme?
4. How would the food aid programme ensure the fair distribution and not to allow food rotting, as it was the case in the past?

I so Move.

QUESTION 15:

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I further give Notice that I shall ask the Minister of Education the following:

1. How many children around our country are estimated to be out of primary and secondary schools due to poverty and other related problems?
2. How many unschooled children of farm labourers are estimated to be in the country and can the Minister provide a Regional breakdown?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON VENAANI**

3. How many of these children that are out of schools belong to the San community groups?
 4. How does the Ministry envisage to address these children that are currently out of schools?
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QUESTION 16:

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 6th of March 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development the following:

1. How many houses were constructed by the National Housing Enterprise (NHE) during the last two Financial Years?
 2. How many applicants have applied for houses throughout the country during the last Financial Year and how many applicants did receive their houses?
 3. How does this entity envisage to improve the speed of housing delivery in the country?
 4. What cheaper building materials has this entity discovered to improve low building costs to consumers?
-

QUESTION 17:

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 6th of March 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Works, Transport and Communication the following:

The Northern Railway Line has seen its first phase completed.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

1. What was the actual cost spent on the construction of the railway line?
2. How much cargo in volumes is currently transported on the railway line?
3. Has the railway line eased the pressure that was envisaged on our road networks or are our roads still busier than before?
4. How viable is this project and how much funds do we need to spend on the second phase of the project?

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the questions?
Honourable Schimming-Chase.

QUESTION 18:

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Mr Speaker, Sir, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 6th of March 2008 I shall ask the Hon. Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, the following questions:

The Namibian of the 21st of January this year reported that Namfisa conducted a forensic audit of the capital portfolio of GIPF and that its representative announced that the result of the audit will not be made public.

1. In view of that, Honourable Minister, is the Honourable Minister aware of the audit and if the answer is in the affirmative, has her Ministry received a copy of the said audit?
2. If not, is the Ministry making any efforts to obtain the said report?
3. Does the Minister agree with Namfisa that the audit must remain a secret?
4. Since hundreds of millions of Namibian Dollars in bad debt seems to be the issue that created the necessity for an audit, can the Honourable

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

Minister ensure that the House receives a copy of the said forensic audit for an open and transparent debate in this House?

5. Can the Honourable Minister inform Namfisa that GIPF monies come not only from the civil servants whose salaries are paid from tax monies, but that the Government itself as the employer pays a certain contribution to their pensions also from tax monies, which have to be accounted for in this House which is the only organ that has the authority to pass the Appropriation Bill.
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QUESTION 19:

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: I further give Notice that on Thursday, the 6th of March 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Justice and Attorney-General, Honourable Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana, the following questions:

It was reported in the *The Namibian* newspaper that the Honourable Minister addressed a SWAPO public rally in the North during which the Honourable Minister is reported as saying: *“That the leaders of the newly formed RDP are responsible for the loss of the ODC millions.”*

1. Is this true and is this properly reported?
2. I have asked repeatedly during the past year for a report of what happened to these millions and the Honourable Minister replied that the investigations have reached a sensitive stage, preventing her from answering these questions. If the reports are true, does this mean that the Honourable Minister prefers to report to SWAPO rallies instead of to this House which has the oversight function?
3. If this statement is true, can the Honourable Minister please inform the House when this information was received and when it ceased to be sensitive.
4. Was this during the time when the leaders of the RDP were still members of SWAPO and under its protection or after the formation of the RDP?

26 February 2008

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS/MOTIONS
HON TJOMBE/MOONGO**

5. When does the Honourable Minister and Attorney-General intend to give a report on this matter to this august House?
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HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the question?
Honourable Tjombe?

QUESTION 20:

HON TJOMBE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 6th of March 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development the following questions:

1. /Â ñGomes Okombahe in Dâures Constituency and Atsâs (Otjimbingwe) in Karibib Constituency both in Erongo Region have been proclaimed for more than ten years as settlement areas. When will your Ministry declare these two areas as such so that the settlement area structures can become operative?
 2. The abovementioned process is now long overdue. Will it not be appropriate that your Ministry proclaims and declare the two areas as Villages?
 3. Could the Honourable Minister give reasons to this august House why the declaration process is being delayed, because in some other Regions similar settlements have long since been declared as Villages.
-

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the questions? Any further Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Honourable Moongo.

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON MOONGO**

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON MOONGO: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on the 7th of March 2008, I shall Move –

That this Assembly debates and accepts the Motion to provide additional party funding for any by-election in Namibia.

HON MOONGO: I further give Notice that on the 6th of March 2008 I shall Move –

That this Assembly discusses adjustment and considers the salaries for chiefs, headmen, sub-headmen and adequate salaries for the staff members in order to fulfil traditional and community work.

HON MOONGO: I further give Notice that on the 5th of March 2008 I shall Move –

That this Assembly debates and accepts the Motion to allocate funds to strengthen the security of the country so that every road block in Namibia has shade against the sun and rain with modern toilets.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Motions? Any further Notice of Motions? Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase.

26 February 2008

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 7th of March 2008, I shall Move –

That this House debates the ongoing educational crisis with special reference to the future of the Grade 10 dropouts, with the aim of seeking national and lasting solutions to this ongoing national crisis in education and how it affects the youth of Namibia and the country as a whole. I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? None. This being the first sitting of the commencement of the serious business of the House, we have not had an opportunity to prepare any Order Papers since we didn't have any indications one way or the other from Honourable Members. That being the case,

I now ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister to kindly adjourn the House until tomorrow.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I Move that we adjourn until tomorrow.

THE HOUSE ADJOURNS A 15:35 UNTIL 2008.02.27 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
27 FEBRUARY 2008
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Minister of Mines and Energy.

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT 2006/2007 OF
THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND ENERGY**

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I lay upon the Table the 2006/2007 Annual Report of the Ministry of Mines and Energy.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Table the Report. Honourable Minister of Finance.

TABLING: REPORTS OF AUDITOR-GENERAL

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I lay upon the Table Reports of the Auditor General on the accounts of the following:

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON HOFFMANN**

1. Namibia Press Agency for the Financial Year ended March 31, 2007;
2. Motor Vehicle Accident Fund for the Financial Year ended March 31 2007;
3. Agronomic Board for the Financial Year ended March 31, 2007;
4. Namibia Tourism Board for the Financial Year ended March 31, 2007;
5. Meat Board of Namibia for the Financial Year ended March 31, 2006;
6. Municipality of Grootfontein for the Financial Year ended June 30, 2006;
7. Village Council of Aroab for the Financial Year ended June 20, 2006.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Table the Reports. Other Reports and Papers?

HON HOFFMANN: Honourable Deputy Speaker, before I lay upon the Table the Report of the CPA Namibia Branch Committee on the 53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference held in New Delhi, India from the 21st to the 30th of September 2007, I would first like to make a short briefing to the House on what transpired at the Conference.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, last year from the 21st to the 30th September 2007 I was part of the CPA Namibia Branch delegation to the 53rd CPA Conference held in New Delhi, India. The delegation was led by the Chairman of the National Council, Honourable Asser Kapere and other Members of the delegation were Honourable Ida Hoffmann, (National Assembly), Honourable Jurie Viljoen (National Assembly), Honourable Hilma Nicanor (National Council) and Honourable Willem Appolus (National Council).

A total of 170 Parliaments and Legislatures were represented at the 53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference by approximately 800 Members, officials and accompanying persons, as well as by representatives of a

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON HOFFMANN**

number of international agencies. The Conference included the two-day Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference of Members from Small Countries, the latter of which was renamed in New Delhi as the Small Branches Conference, a one-day Conference of Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians and meetings of the Society of Clerks-at-the Table, as well as meetings of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Executive Committee, its Working Party, Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Steering Committee and the CPA General Assembly. The meetings were held in the Vigyan Bhawan Conference Centre and were hosted by the Parliament of India.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the Conference discussed two broad subjects, the *environment* and *parliamentary reform*, as delegates sought to identify successful environmental policies from other jurisdictions and new ways to improve the parliamentary scrutiny of those policies and executive performance in all areas of Government. The summaries of these discussions are reported in the Report that I am tabling.

Included in the Report are plenary discussions of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures and a controversial parliamentary reform that is being debated in India, recalling MPs whose voters feel should not serve out their full terms. The plenary discussion also focused on a particularly poignant subject, *human trafficking*. Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, as I have indicated at the beginning, the Report that I am tabling includes summaries of the main points of agreement and disagreement during the meetings, as well as the opening ceremony speeches and addresses to delegates by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and Commonwealth Secretaries-General.

With these remarks, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I now move to lay upon the Table the Report of the CPA Namibia Branch Committee.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Report is just for information, that is why she is just giving a summary of subjects discussed in the Conference. I think this is the way we should be doing it if we go for parliamentary work and submitting a Report. Thank you.

Further Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 21:

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 6th of March 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, the following questions:

1. In view of the reports worldwide of a looming economic crisis or a recession and warnings of the same in South Africa, can the Honourable Minister please brief this House as to this matter, its possible effects on our economy and what measures her Ministry is taking to minimise, if at all possible, the negative effects to our economy.
 2. In view of the continuous increase in commodity prices across the board, would the Honourable Minister be prepared to limit the mark-up or profits on products by businesses, as was the case years ago when it was limited to thirty-three and a third percent?
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QUESTION 22:

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: I further give Notice, that on Thursday, the 6th of March 2008, I shall ask the Minister of Mines and Energy, Honourable Erkki Nghimtina, the following questions:

1. In view of the energy crisis in South Africa and its implications for Namibia, can the Honourable Minister provide this august House and the Nation at large with a ministerial statement dealing with all the aspects of the energy crisis?
2. Can the Honourable Minister also inform the House regarding what benefits, if any, the Government assistance running into millions to the Zimbabwean energy sector will be enjoyed by the Namibian people?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON DIENDA**

3. Are there any plans in your Ministry to look at alternative energy sources, for example wind and solar energy, in order to make Namibia less vulnerable and dependent on energy from other countries?
-

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further Notice of Questions?

QUESTION 23:

HON DIENDA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 6th of March 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Education the following questions:

The age discriminatory primary school entry requirement that a learner must be 6 years old when applying for Grade 1 and becoming 7 years in Grade 1 is a concern for a lot of parents. There is a difference between a child who is school-ready and the child who is age-ready to start Grade 1. A child who is age-ready might not be school-ready and needs to be taken up in a special education class, which has been phased out in most of our schools, whereas a 6-year old who is school ready is not permitted to do so.

Is there any way that the Minister can adjust this decision and re-look into the definition of school readiness in order to allow school as well as age-readiness where applicable?

QUESTION 24:

HON DIENDA: I also give Notice that on Thursday, the 6th of March 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Education the following:

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HON DIENDA**

The re-entry of girl children who dropped out of school due to pregnancy and the need to care for the baby is still a challenge for the Ministry. One of the Millennium Development Goals to be achieved by 2015 is to empower women and men and promote equality between women and men.

Poverty and inequality will continue to have a female face if these challenges are not addressed. Currently our education policy on this discriminatory practice is that a girl must stay at home for one year after giving birth to look after the baby, whereas the boy who is the father is allowed to continue with his education.

Can the Honourable Minister please look into the following?

1. If a girl can prove that someone will look after the baby, the girl will be allowed to continue with her education without interruption, as is the case with a working mother.
2. Most girls will find it difficult to come back to school while they are serious with their education after losing one year. Punishment like this will only hamper the education of the mother. Are we therefore punishing the girl to harm her or punishing her to grow?

QUESTION 25:

HON DIENDA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I also give Notice that on Thursday, the 6th of March 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Education the following:

Qualified teachers are roaming the streets while a lot of vacancies exist in the country. Can the Minister please provide details regarding the following:

1. Does the Minister have any form of follow-up with teachers training colleges and UNAM regarding the placement of graduates in public schools?
2. Are applicants who are not successful for positions advertised considered for other positions at other schools?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON DIENDA**

3. How are complaints of teachers being handled regarding corrupt practices when teachers and management are appointed?
 4. Is it true that approximately 300 Nigerian teachers are coming to Namibia?
 5. If the answer is in the affirmative, why are well-qualified Science and Mathematics teachers not allowed to teach at our schools even if they are already in the country?
-

QUESTION 26:

HON DIENDA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I also give Notice that on Thursday, the 6th of March 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Education the following:

What is the possibility to encourage school boards to introduce feeding programmes in schools for the orphans and vulnerable children to be fed during school hours? This will not only help children to be more focused at school, but can also lead to a lower percentage of school dropouts due to poverty.

QUESTION 27:

HON DIENDA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I also give Notice that on Thursday, the 6th of March 2008, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following:

1. What are the criteria for selecting people who work for the Electoral Commission during elections?
2. People living with disabilities and who are HIV/AIDS positive are not given preference for such vacancies. Why?
3. Fulltime staff within the different Ministries are being selected to work for the Electoral Commission during elections. What is the remuneration?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON DIENDA**

Why can the unemployed youth and people living with disabilities not be considered for such positions?

4. Different types of elections took place during the years. If it is a matter of experience, why not use these small elections to give them the experience?
5. Training is being given constantly by the Electoral Commission, why can others with no experience not be given such an opportunity?
6. The Electoral Commission states in its Annual Report that it sends to us that they send letters to Honourable Councillors to submit names of suitable persons to be appointed as voter education officers.
 - (a) Do they provide names of people who are not their Party members?
 - (b) What happens in the case of Parties that do not have Councillors?

QUESTION 28:

HON DIENDA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I also give Notice that on Thursday, the 6th of March 2008, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following:

The history of Namibia starts right as one enters Namibia by plane. The Hosea Kutako Airport is the first impression that tourists gain as they enter Namibia. Honourable Prime Minister, tourists and visitors would like to know more about Hosea Kutako, but there is no information about him at the airport building where his name is displayed.

The statue about him at the Parliament Gardens is very beautiful, but we also need one at the Hosea Kutako Airport with his biography. What are the possibilities to enlighten others about the Hosea Kutako Airport?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON DIENDA**

QUESTION 29:

HON DIENDA: I give Notice that on Thursday, the 6th of March 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development the following:

During the 2007 Budget Debate I had reported of money from the Build-Together Project in Karasburg that was put in a fixed deposit account of the Town Council.

- (a) What did the Minister do regarding this issue?
 - (b) Who gave the Town Clerk the permission to do such an investment if the money was meant to build houses for the low-income group?
 - (c) What steps will the Minister take against those who have approved such an investment to be made?
 - (d) When will the money be given to the beneficiaries?
 - (e) Can money still be approved for such a project if the previous monies were not spent?
 - (f) What will happen to the interest received on this money?
 - (g) For how long must the beneficiaries stay in shacks while their money is gaining interest for no reason?
-

QUESTION 30:

HON DIENDA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I also give Notice that on Thursday, the 6th of March 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development the following:

A Motion of Honourable Ben Ulenga was adopted in this House without any other reference to a Committee for further investigations or for the relevant

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON DIENDA**

Minister to respond on the way ahead. I do not want this issue to die a natural death without proper guidance by this Honourable House.

Pensioners are being evicted from their houses due to outstanding debts owed by them to the municipality for rates and taxes. Pensioners are currently getting an amount of N\$370 per month from the Government. Rates and taxes in Windhoek alone are N\$395 per month, more than the pension. This means that the Government pension which they receive is lower than the living standard of these people. Food, shelter, water and electricity, just to mention a few, are not yet paid.

In view of this background, I would therefore like to ask the Minister the following questions:

- (a) Can pensioners not be exempted from paying municipal rates and taxes?
- (b) Why can the outstanding debts owed by the pensioners not be written off and amnesty be given to them to start on a clean slate?
- (c) Registration of the Deed of Transfer by pensioners be cancelled completely and the house be put in their names?

QUESTION 31:

HON DIENDA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 6th of March 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development the following:

It has become a tendency of municipalities, town councils and village councils to put critical work on tender, like cleaning of the streets, etcetera. These are permanent positions within the municipalities, but yet they prefer to make use of tenders to take away their responsibilities. Most of the time big companies that got the tenders do not pay the employees for the job they have done or they simply do not do it at all and the municipalities do not play a supervisory role, as long as it is not their responsibility anymore.

- (a) Is it a cost-saving way of doing things rather than giving services to the people?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON DIENDA**

- (b) Why can the different municipalities not employ these people permanently?
 - (c) Is it not a form of contract labour and in contradiction with the Labour Act?
-

QUESTION 32:

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 6th of March 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development the following:

Street names in Namibia have become an embarrassment for many Namibians. In towns like Lüderitz you will not find a single street name in the residential area called Benguela Township. People have to rely on shebeens and the police for directions if they are visiting the town.

- 1. What is the policy of the Ministry of Local Government regarding street names for the whole country?
 - 2. Who is responsible for the naming of streets and the display of it?
 - 3. How can the public be involved in naming streets in their respective areas?
-

QUESTION 33:

HON DIENDA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 6th of March 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Labour and Social Welfare the following:

Labour inspectors seem to be a huge problem for the Namibian working people. Labour issues are being solved through *toyi-toyi*, which in most cases seems to be unnecessary for a small population like Namibia whose economy is so small. In the light of this, can the Honourable Minister please explain the following:

- 1. How many labour inspectors do we have in all thirteen Regions?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON DIENDA**

2. What kind of ongoing training is provided to them?
 3. Who is supervising them and how often is it done?
 4. Where can complaints from the public about poor service by labour inspectors be reported without intimidation and how long must they wait for their answer?
-

QUESTION 34:

HON DIENDA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 6th of March 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Labour and Social Welfare the following:

The development of Namibian workers can only be inclusive if it is in line with the demands of the labour market. Can the Minister please inform the House about the following:

1. How often is the research done?
 2. How wide are the findings of the research distributed?
 3. How are the findings used for the introduction of relevant courses at tertiary education and other institutions?
 4. How often are life-skills teachers informed in order to enhance the career guidance at schools?
-

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Table the Questions, Honourable Member.
Honourable Tjihuiko.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON TJIHUIKO**

Question 35:

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 6th of March 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry the following questions:

During 2003 a small stock marketing scheme was introduced as an alternative to 15% levy on the export of sheep to South Africa.

It was also stated that the principle on which the scheme was based on minimum State interference, no disturbances to the free market system and that the playing field between the seller and producer be levelled.

1. Based on that expressed commitment by the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and others, can the Honourable Minister inform this august House as to whether this basic principle has been adhered to and whether the two actors are happy, namely that producers are selling at the prices determined by a free market system and the buyers are buying at the prices they are prepared to pay?
2. Can the Honourable Minister confirm or deny that a report by an independent consultant has clearly indicated that abovementioned scheme did not have the desired effect and the result originally intended for.
3. Would the Honourable Minister confirm or deny that the current situation in the market favour the abattoirs, allowing them to buy at the prices they want to pay, but forcing producers to sell at a price that was determined by the State?
4. Why is it that the Namibian Government in general and your Ministry, in particular, is opposed to the introduction of fixed export levy per unit as opposed to the restrictive export ratio?
5. Honourable Minister, do you not think that the best or most suitable solution is to ensure equitable distribution of benefits and liabilities between the producers and abattoirs?
6. After having introduced a scheme that favours one group, is it true, Honourable Minister, that the meeting of three Permanent Secretaries, the

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON GURIRAB**

7. Permanent Secretary of the Ministries of Agriculture, Trade and Finance, decided and made a recommendation that the two parties should resolve their differences through negotiations, while one group is favoured by the State?
8. Honourable Minister, do you not think that before any decision was made, the playing field be levelled by withdrawing the export restriction so that producers are allowed to sell at the price that they want to sell and the abattoirs to buy at the prices they are prepared to pay, while discussions by the two groups are continuing to resolve the differences between them, in other words, allowing the free market forces to determine fair prices for both?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Table the Questions. Honourable Gurirab.

QUESTION 36:

HON GURIRAB: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 6th of March 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development the following:

1. Whether there is a vacancy for the position of Regional Councillor for the Tobias Hainyeko Constituency in the Khomas Region.
2. If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, whether the Electoral Commission has been advised accordingly?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Table the Question. I will now allow Honourable Moongo to put his Oral Question, but he should follow the procedure, Rule 82, that the Question should be very short and to the point.

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**ORAL QUESTION
HON MOONGO**

ORAL QUESTION

HON MOONGO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would like to ask a question to the Prime Minister of the Government of Namibia to guide the House and the entire country on the crisis and the intimidation in elections around the North, Omuthiya and other parts. I would like him to inform us, we have rules we committed ourselves to obey and to uphold the Constitution. We have Article 17 and we have a Code of Conduct which was signed by all Parties and the intimidation is causing loss of life.

I would like to know whether the Party is causing an embarrassment to the Namibian Government on international level will be prohibited to participate in the forthcoming election, if this is the case. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I now call upon the Right Honourable Prime Minister to answer to the Oral Question.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, may I draw the attention of the Honourable Member to Article 17 of the Namibian Constitution and also to Article 21 of the Namibian Constitution?

As he rightly said, each participating Party to the elections has agreed to the Code of Conduct of the Electoral Commission and I believe that is also the case in the situation of the local elections at Omuthiya gwi pundi.

If, as he alleged, there are political intimidations... (Interjection)

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**REPLY TO ORAL QUESTION
RT HON ANGULA**

HON MEMBER: You mean you do not know?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: No, I do not know, I am not there, I am here in Windhoek. He is alleging that there are political intimidations, if such things are happening, then it should be reported to the police and the police will investigate and identify the culprits. I therefore advise the Honourable Member to contact the Namibian Police and report such cases with accurate information – when the intimidation took place, what time, at what spot and who were the suspects and the police will have the lead to investigate. The Namibian Police are there to do their job and I am quite sure that if those alleged intimidations are reported, they will be investigating accordingly. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, that was the Oral Questions for today. Notice of Motions? Message from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? I would like to invite the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House until the 4th of March 2008.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, may I Move that we adjourn this Session and resume on the 4th the March 2008.

HOUSE ADJOURNED AT 16:25 UNTIL 2008.03.04 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
04 MARCH 2008
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

OATH/AFFIRMATION BY NEW MEMBERS

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, Your Lordship Chief Justice of the Republic of Namibia, vacancies have occurred in the National Assembly as a result of the resignation of Chief Kuaima Riruako of NUDO and Mr Jeremiah Nambinga of the SWAPO Party.

In terms of Article 48(2) of the Constitution, NUDO has re-nominated Chief Kuaima Riruako to fulfil the vacancy in the Assembly. In terms of the same article, the SWAPO Party has nominated Ms Eunice Ipinge to fill the vacancy.

I now call upon the Chief Justice, His Honour Peter Shivute, to administer the oath/affirmation to Chief Riruako and Ms Ipinge. I direct the Chief Whips to escort the two into the House.

CHIEF JUSTICE SHIVUTE: Administers the oath.

HON SPEAKER: I now declare Chief Kuaima Riruako and Ms Eunice Ipinge as duly elected Members of the National Assembly. Congratulations and please take your seats.

Chief Justice, this House is once again very grateful for your commitment and service to this Nation that you have been exercising so selflessly for a long time

04 March 2008

**TABLING: REPORTS AND PAPERS
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

now. I know that you do have other commitments and thus will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort you. Thank you very much, Chief Justice.

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

TABLING: REPORTS OF AUDITOR-GENERAL

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Report of the Auditor General on the accounts of the following:

- (a) Municipality of Walvis Bay for the Financial Year ended June 30, 2007;
- (b) Municipality of Swakopmund for the Financial Year ended June 30, 2007;
- (c) Municipality of Windhoek for the Financial Year ended June 30, 2004;
- (d) Municipality of Karasburg for the Financial Year ended June 30, 2007;
- (e) Municipality of Mariental for the Financial Year ended June 30, 2007;
- (f) Municipality of Mariental for the Financial Year ended June 30, 2007;
- (g) Municipality of Otjiwarongo for the Financial Year ended June 30, 2005;
- (h) Municipality of Henties Bay for the Financial Year ended June 30, 2005;
- (i) Village Council of Leonardville for the Financial Year ended June 30, 2006; and
- (j) Regional Council of Omusati Region for the Financial Year ended March 31, 2002.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON KAURA**

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Reports? Other Reports and Papers? Minister Mutorwa.

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT 2006/2007
NATIONAL HERITAGE COUNCIL**

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. As per the provisions of Article 41 of the Namibian Constitution, I have the pleasure and duty to lay upon the Table of this Honourable House the Annual Report 2006/2007 of the National Heritage Council of Namibia for the Honourable Members' information, reference and use.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Report? Other Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Honourable Kaura.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 37:

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 13th of March 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services the following:

In the newspaper, *The Southern* of 3-9 February 2008 there was an article that read as follows:

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON VENAANI**

“AIDS scare prompts of ban of contraceptive as donated drug tests positive for HIV antibody. The Zambian Government has banned the use of Depo Provera, an injectable drug used to prevent pregnancy after a random test by a private clinic showed that the drug was contaminated with HIV virus that can lead to AIDS.”

1. Is the Minister aware of this occurrence in Zambia?
2. Do we get any donations of Depo Provera from the United States of America?
3. Who supplies the Ministry with Depo Provera?
4. Is the Depo Provera used in Namibia safe or does it have the potential of being contaminated by the HIV virus?

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Questions? Any further Notice of Questions? Honourable Venaani.

QUESTION 38:

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 13th of March 2008, I shall ask the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry the following:

1. Whether it is true or false that NamWater has currently N\$200 million in one of their call accounts?
2. If question 1 is in the affirmative, whether these funds have been generated through profits on water prices charged to the poor national citizens of the country?
3. May the Minister explain to the House as to how these funds were generated?

04 March 2008

NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON KUUGONGENGLWA-AMADHILA / HON KAURA

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Questions? Any further Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions?

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that tomorrow, Wednesday the 5th of March, I shall Move –

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to appropriate amounts of money to meet the financial requirements of the State during the Financial Year ending March 31, 2009.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table this very important Motion? Honourable Kaura.

HON KAURA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I look forward to an increase of old-age pension. I give Notice that on March 11, 2008, I shall Move –

That this Assembly discuss and implement with deliberate speed the provision of tractors to the regions that have the potential of becoming the bread basket of Namibia, namely the four O-regions – Oshikoto, Oshana, Ohangwena, Omusati – Kavango and Caprivi as well as the provision of pedigree bulls and rams to Caprivi, Kavango, Kaoko and the four O-regions. I so Move.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON MUNGUNDA**

HON SPEAKER: Any further Notices of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? Honourable Minister Mungunda.

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

HON MINISTER OF GENDER AND CHILD WELFARE: Comrade Speaker, Members of this august House, Namibia is again celebrating the International Women's Day on the 8th of March under the theme, "*Financing for Gender Equality, Economic Empowerment of Women is the key to eradicate gender-based violence, HIV/AIDS and poverty.*" This is the national theme for all the countries worldwide which is coming through the UN.

For nearly a hundred years now women all over the world have been observing the International Women's Day. Though Namibian women used to celebrate the 8th of March in exile, as an independent country Namibia only started celebrating the day after Independence.

The 8th of March is the day when women celebrate their struggles and achievements every year. They also look forward to the manifestation of their vision of women's full equality, economic empowerment and promising opportunities. Although we call it a women's day, this day belongs to everybody.

Comrade Speaker, allow me to just tell a little story concerning women issues joined by men, because I would like to invite all the men to join us.

We need to mainstream gender equality and the plight of women is also a human rights issue and, therefore, the Nation's issue. Comrade Speaker, in the 1980's the SWAPO Party Women's Council of Mariental stood up to demonstrate against the bucket system. We marched with the full buckets on our heads to the Bantu Municipality there, headed by the white people. After a big clash with the white officials and the Koevoets with rubber bullets, Mr Meyer who is still there at the municipality now, very old, agreed to see the Women's Council in a

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON MUNGUNDA**

meeting, but two men, late Comrade Samuel Mungunda and Comrade Lukas, who is now a Town Councillor in Mariental, joined us in the meeting and they took over the meeting, even calling the white official, the Mayer, "*Comrade Meyer.*" Then he said, "*is this not a meeting for the women?*" Then they said they were transport officers.

Even if you can come as transport officers on Saturday to join us in the celebration of Women's Day, you are more than welcome because you are a very good vehicle to take the issues of women further.

There are no women issues that at the same time do not affect the whole society. If we take violence against women and children as an example, violence affects everybody. We have to eradicate it otherwise we shall end up in a violent society where everybody feels threatened.

Statistics tell us that more than half of the population of Namibia are women. Besides this fact, we do not know how much of the National Budget benefits women. In the same vein, statistics shows that poverty has a female face, women are the poorest of the poor. These are our mothers, wives and sisters who work hard, day and night to take care of the rest of society. Mostly women are involved in social services that are not usually remunerated. On the other hand, very few programmes and projects are developed with the aim of eliminating poverty and diseases among women and girls.

Most women in Namibia are not economically independent, they have no access to affordable and safe child-care facilities, especially in the remote areas. Violence against women and children is still on the increase in our country. For sure, we know that the development of Namibia cannot be accelerated if women are not brought in the mainstream of the economy.

Strong indications are that the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), for which we are signatories, will not be met by 2015 and especially those Millennium Development Goals that have a direct bearing on women and children. We emphasise that proper financing for gender issues or gender Budgeting is key in addressing HIV/AIDS, poverty, health issues, economic development, gender-based violence, in fact all areas of human endeavours.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON MUNGUNDA**

The Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, on behalf of the SWAPO Party Government, is therefore calling upon all Companies in Namibia to support women endeavours and invest in their advancement through entrepreneurship.

In order to address the problem of poverty, diseases and unemployment among a large number of women, there is a need to empower women through SMEs, financing projects that are aimed at empowering women self-help projects, community-based development projects, reinforcement of women in business programmes, providing information on business especially to rural women and by financing for gender equality in order to address the income disparities that exist between men and women.

Women should be allowed an opportunity to make linkages with financial credit institutions such as banks that are providing business counselling and capacity building to emerging and existing women entrepreneurs.

In furthering gender equality in the Institutions, we think it is your corporate responsibility to recruit and retain the performing females who are talented to sell and promote your products and services. In this way you are empowering them to be on their own in the future. We call upon the corporate world to also invest in the education of promising girls by giving bursaries or grants, even soft loans, where necessary to enable them to further their studies.

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare is calling upon the public and private sector, civil society, the media, etcetera, to take leadership in supporting International Women's Day.

For us as Government it is an appropriate and important opportunity to address social, economic and political barriers as well as achievements made by women.

Tertiary institutions, we call upon you to participate and showcase your best practices or important courses which promote women that they might not be aware of. We would like to see you involved as you are the think tanks of Namibia and want to see your innovative ideas in practice in a new Namibia and your plans to transform them from theory to practice.

The whole society, churches included, are called upon to make this day a success. This is a day that is celebrated in all Regions. In Windhoek the day will be celebrated in style at the Zoo Park in the centre of Windhoek. Women are going

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON MUNGUNDA**

to exhibit their business products or services. We call upon the public out there to come and celebrate and also support the women's businesses and even to see what they can offer and network with them. Who knows, something that you wanted a long time ago and don't know where to find it, you might find it there.

The Ministry reaches out to strengthen public-private partnership. The following categories will exhibit on how to harmonise and unite the Nation towards active participation and implementation for economic empowerment of women.

The keynote speaker will be Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and all financial institutions, like the banks and the guarantee scheme, all of them are invited and they will have information packs.

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, the United Nations Information Centre, Friendly Haven, a women's organisation, International Women's Forum, Association of Diplomatic Spouses, Ministry of Trade and Industry will also put up information stands. Products will be displayed by women entrepreneurs and the Harlem traditional products as well as products from the After school Centre which are products made by the parents of the vulnerable children on street to help them to uplift their living conditions.

We will also have exhibitors from other Regions as well as the Khomas Region by industries under NGOs, like the Victory Women which empowers infected and affected families, Women Solidarity, which is for gender-based violence and also Godisha which deals with events management. It will be a total of 33 exhibitors.

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare also provides grants to the rural people in manufacturing, gardening, catering, tourism, etcetera in all Regions for the annual event. The activity will be shown on television on a few outstanding projects, for income generating programme assisted by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare. When we look at the limited Budget for income generating projects, let me quickly just give you a broad view on financial support or grants which we gave since 2003 up the Financial Year 2008.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON MUNGUNDA**

Financial Years	No. Of Projects Funded	Amount
2003/2004	164	N\$1,292,000.00
2004/2005	127	N\$1,330,310.00
2005/2006	136	N\$ 775,896.00
2006/2007	75	N\$1,043,262.29
2007/2008	85	N\$ 841,300.00
Total	587	N\$5,302,768.29

This bring us to a total over the five years of 587 projects and it also includes men and it was to the tune of N\$5,302,768.

Comrade Speaker, in conclusion, since the theme for this year is *"Financing for Gender Equality"* equality, economic empowerment of women as the key to eradicate gender-based violence, HIV/AIDS and poverty. We emphasise the importance of financing for gender equality because most of the problems that women and girls in our society face, such as gender-based violence, domestic violence, unemployment and poverty, among others, are caused by gender inequality. It helps stakeholders to develop and implement programmes better aimed at empowering women and eliminating poverty among women and the girl child.

Dear Members, Comrade Speaker, we will appreciate your presence for this good cause. Poverty reduction amongst our communities is our collective vision as servants and leaders of this Nation. The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare wishes the whole Nation a great day

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full of memorable activities that will build our nation. May God bless the women of Namibia.

HON SPEAKER: And men too. Any further Ministerial Statements? None. That is what we have for today.

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I welcome back Honourable Riruako who made a U-turn and hope that he is going to enrich this House with his wisdom. On that note I Move that we adjourn until tomorrow, 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:15 UNTIL 2008.03.05 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
05 MARCH 2008
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Any Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers?

TABLING: REPORTS OF AUDITOR-GENERAL

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table the Reports of the Auditor-General on the accounts of the following:

- (a) Town Council of Khorixas for the Financial Years ended 30 June 2002, 2003 and 2004;
 - (b) Town Council of Khorixas for the Financial Years ended 30 June 2005 and 2006;
 - (c) Village Council of Uis for the Financial Years ended 30 June 2003, 2004 and 2005; and
 - (d) Regional Council of the Omusati Region for the Financial Years ended 31 March 2003, 2004 and 2005.
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HON SPEAKER: Any further Reports and Papers? Any Ministerial Statements? The First Notice of Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Finance. Does the Honourable Minister move that the Bill be now introduced?

**INTRODUCTION
AND FIRST READING: APPROPRIATION BILL**

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds? Any objections? Agreed to. Will the Honourable Member please table the Bill? The Secretary will now read the Bill a First Time.

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister Move that the Bill be now read a Second Time?

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

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HON SPEAKER: Who seconds? The Honourable Minister has the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. The current Financial Year is coming to a close, and I am honoured to table the Budget for the 2008/09 Financial Year and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework covering the period 2008/09 to 2010/11.

For the past three years we managed to significantly improve revenue streams, which resulted in surpluses. These gains in turn allowed us to reduce our debt stock. We are now in a position to expand the Budget significantly, while at the same time remaining macro-economically sound.

During the period of positive Budget balances, we have not only reduced debt, but we have also enhanced investment in *pro-poor, pro-growth* activities.

The fact that we managed to grow our economy in spite of externally induced negative factors, such as high oil prices, high food prices and more recently, a significant depreciation of our currency against major currencies, is proof of robustness in our approach.

Honourable Speaker, His Excellency, President Hifikepunye Pohamba, said in his statement on the occasion of the first Cabinet Meeting for this year that: *“In order to ensure sustainability and long-term viability, implementing agencies are required to sustain their involvement over a long term.”* We have indeed accepted macro-economic sustainability as the overriding policy directive which by now is firmly in place.

It is, however, equally important to ensure that macro-economic sustainability is translated into programmes and activities which result into tangible benefits for our people.

The recent SWAPO Party Congress re-emphasised the Ruling Party's commitment to remain a people centred movement. Its resolutions focus on improved qualitative and quantitative outcomes in the education sector, accelerated economic growth translated into improved and equitable wealth distribution, affordable and reliable health services, enhanced food security, value

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addition of and beneficiation to our natural resources, and last but not least, improved welfare for Namibians.

The SWAPO Party Government has shown its steadfastness in fulfilling these expressed needs of our people. These needs and aspirations of our people are embodied in Vision 2030 and in our development plans and guided us in setting the priorities under this Medium Term Expenditure Framework.

Honourable Speaker, let me now move to the priorities of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework.

This Medium Term Expenditure Framework is another bold attempt to move our country towards the realisation of Vision 2030. We will embark upon a major expenditure programme designed to protect the poor, to stimulate growth and create additional work opportunities. Our Budget strategy is summed up by three focal areas:

- To improve the social safety net to relieve poverty, particularly in rural areas;
- To foster human resource development through better health and education;
- To invest in improving competitiveness of our economy and promoting its growth with new jobs.

To improve welfare of vulnerable groups, we have set aside substantial resources to increase social grants and improve coverage to all OVCs, pensioners and veterans. We are also providing significant resources to mitigate the effects of natural disasters. The special programmes for vulnerable, marginalised communities is also strengthened and expanded to reach all marginalised communities.

To foster human resource development we continue to dedicate the major share of our resources to education and health to ensure that our people have access to quality and affordable education and health services.

We are also investing heavily in infrastructure development to secure existing service delivery and attract new investments.

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We are providing resources to schemes in agriculture, aquaculture and tourism in order to optimise the potential for job creation and accelerated growth and we are supporting the development of entrepreneurship and private sector development by improving access to financing for SMEs and industrial programmes. Interventions which aim at improving our economic productivity and competitiveness are also improved.

Rural development is to be supported by broadening access to basic utilities and infrastructure, with its emphasis on labour-intensive solutions.

Governance and law enforcement agencies are also supported with additional resources to maintain law and order and to step up the fight against corruption.

I shall return to these priorities in greater detail later in my address when I discuss the expenditure outlook.

Economic Development and Outlook:

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Medium Term Expenditure Framework is informed by the domestic and international economic-developments to which I shall now turn.

Global economy:

Namibia is a small open economy. Global economic developments, therefore, have a profound impact on our country's economy and fiscal policy. Equally, our fiscal policy influences the performance of the economy and how it responds to external factors.

The world economy recorded a growth of 5% in 2006. Despite tight monetary conditions worldwide and the credit crunch caused by the US sub-prime market, the global economy continued to expand at the same rate of 5% during 2007. However, in most of the advanced economies, the spillover from the financial crisis in the US will continue in 2008. Consequently, world output growth for 2008 is estimated to decrease to 4.1%. However, the potential impact of the crisis on Africa appears to be limited.

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While there is no reason for gloom, these global developments may still affect Namibia. The possibility of slowing demand for commodities from advanced countries is posing some risk to our export industries.

Sub-Saharan Africa continued to improve its economic performance with overall growth projected to rise from 5.7% in 2006 to 6.8% in 2008. This accelerated growth is mainly driven by high oil prices and resulting high growth in oil producing countries and by high commodity prices. Further, structural reforms have eased the way for investors in doing business with many African countries, boosting economic diversification and growth.

Closer to home, South Africa has recorded an average GDP growth of 5% since 2003, but growth is expected to slow somewhat to 4% for 2008 and 4.3% for the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period.

The South African economy is affected adversely by electricity supply constraints. Secondly, high oil and food prices continue to exert inflationary pressures with inflation levels expected to settle at around 7% over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period. Spillover effects of this on our own economy are already being felt.

The global economic growth has had a positive impact on our economy, which could be optimised thanks to prudent macro-economic policies. GDP growth peaked at 6.6% in 2004. This positive growth performance continued in 2005 and 2006, albeit at more moderate levels of 4.8 and 4.1% respectively. For 2007, it is estimated to have settled at 4%.

This sustained growth was mainly due to favourable conditions for primary sector output, especially mining.

Performance of growth in the secondary sector was generally weak with the construction sub-sector being a positive exception growing on average by 12%.

The sub-sectors in the tertiary industries performed well overall, driven by the sub-sectors of transport and communication, financial intermediation and wholesale and retail trade and repairs.

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For 2008, growth is projected to accelerate to 4.7%, driven by an expected increase in primary output, especially mining, as well as the sectors of construction, transport and communication, tourism and financial services.

On average, GDP growth is expected to be around 5.2% over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period. It will reach a peak of 6.2% in 2010. The trend is mainly driven by the primary sector and by the positive economic impact of the World Cup and the African Cup of Nations to be held in South Africa and Angola respectively.

Despite the positive growth performance, unemployment continues to pose a serious challenge. Government is addressing the issue in numerous ways. On the supply side, education is to receive a boost from the Budget, including a strong component of vocational training that will help graduates to augment their employability. On the demand side, Government is investing heavily in those sectors with potential for employment creation, such as agriculture, tourism, fisheries, SME promotion and infrastructure development.

Balance of Payments:

The balance of payments is estimated to have a positive balance of N\$3.5 billion in 2007. This is a notable improvement compared to N\$1.1 billion in the previous year. The continued positive balance improved our foreign reserves.

However, high capital outflows persist contributing to the negative capital account. To reduce the outflow, a combination of measures has been introduced aimed at promoting investment opportunities and strengthening the regulatory framework.

Exchange Rate Developments:

Following a period of relatively stable exchange rates, the Namibia Dollar experienced a significant depreciation at the beginning of 2008. This followed depreciation of the Rand as a result of a slowdown in foreign portfolio investments in South Africa.

During 2007, inflation increased mainly as a result of high and volatile international oil prices and rising food prices. The annual average inflation of 2007 is estimated at 6.8 percent.

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In an effort to contain inflationary pressures, the Bank of Namibia increased the bank rate by a total of 150 basis points over the second half of 2007 to 10.5 percent. Consequently, inflation slowed down towards the end of 2007, but indications from the beginning of this year suggest that the upward pressure on prices is still imminent.

Policy Update:

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, Government is consistently developing its agenda of policy reforms to adapt to changing circumstances and optimise outcomes. These reforms include in particular the areas of public expenditure, taxation and the financial sector.

Regarding public expenditure, Accountability Reports outlining Budget implementation and performance of every Vote will be published for the first time this year. This is a milestone in Government efforts towards more accountability and transparency.

On the side of Budget management, public expenditure audits will be conducted that are aimed at ensuring value for money and that Line Ministries spend their money as appropriated. To that end the Ministry of Finance will step up enforcement of compliance with procedures and treasury instructions.

To provide more accountability for public spending, State-owned enterprises will be asked to publish information on their expenditures. This will provide a more complete overview of the scale and scope of public investment.

Performance of State-Owned Enterprises:

As announced last year, subsidies to parastatals are targeted to achieve specific outcomes. In the wake of programme Budgeting and its accompanied obligation on accountability and transparency, these entities are to be held responsible for non-performance.

Further, State-owned enterprises are encouraged to raise funds from the domestic capital market. Progress was achieved by bringing NamPower to the market last year, following the Road Fund Authority. More debt issuances are expected from NamPower as the corporation seeks to raise more funds for its extensive programme. Apart from facilitating access to the financial markets, this will also

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promote good governance in State-owned enterprises. We thus want to encourage State-owned enterprises to obtain a credit rating. NamPower was the first to receive a rating of 'BBB-', mirroring the good sovereign rating for Namibia.

Taxation:

Taxation continues to be the main source of public revenue. Government is intending to diversify and optimise its revenue sources from existing tax and non-tax sources.

For the Financial Year 2008/09 it is expected that 41 percent of total revenue will come from our shares of the SACU customs pool. Therefore, reforms at SACU, the creation of a SADC Customs Union and the free trade arrangements with economic blocs, such as the Economic Partnership Agreement between SADC and the EU, pose serious risks on revenue.

To compensate for these anticipated revenue losses, new income streams are investigated. The broadening of the domestic tax base and improved tax administration are envisaged to at least in part mitigate these losses. In addition, it is foreseen that increased trade volumes resultant from trade liberalisation could improve revenue through consumer-based taxes and with that offset losses.

The introduction of taxes on interest earning from Unit Trusts is an example of broadening the tax base. Apart from generating additional income, this measure also improves the equitability of our tax laws.

To further shore up compliance with the law, forensic tax audits were extended to Windhoek Region in October 2006 and will continue throughout 2008/09. The effect of these audits can be observed in the improved tax collections, especially on Income Tax and Value Added Tax. This exercise will be rolled out to other Regions until it covers the whole country. In parallel, the Ministry of Finance will launch awareness campaigns to inform taxpayers about their rights and obligations under the various tax laws.

The amendments to VAT and Income Tax Act also strengthen collections by closing loopholes used to avoid taxes and by reducing the cost of compliance.

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In accordance with requirements of the Southern African Customs Union, SACU Ministers of Finance agree on excise and equivalent customs duties on imported goods. The following percentage increases were implemented with effect from 20 February 2008:

Clear beer	-	7.0%
Unfortified wine	-	7.3%
Fortified wine	-	7.4%
Sparkling wine	-	9.9%
Spirits	-	11%
Alcoholic fruit beverages	-	7.0%
Cigarettes	-	10.8%
Cigarette tobacco	-	5.2%
Pipe tobacco	-	5.3%
Cigars	-	5.3%

Furthermore, *ad valorem* excises on some outdated sound recording and reproducing equipment and video games will be abolished with effect from 1 April 2008.

Tax policy as a tool for equitable wealth distribution:

The recent amendment to the Income Tax Act contained provisions aimed at tax relief for the lower income groups. The most significant is the increase of the threshold of taxable income from N\$24,000 to N\$36,000. The provision for withholding tax on interest earnings includes a reduction of the tax rate from 35% in 2008 to 10% effective from 1 April 2009.

Fiscal policy is also a means to promote private sector growth. Government is therefore finalising a report on the impact of the Taxation Incentive Scheme. This report will provide a basis for informed decisions on how best to use incentives to promote economic growth and employment creation.

Financial Sector Reforms:

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we shall propose amendments to the Banking Institutions Act of 1998 in order to align it with developments in the

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markets, including addressing the issue of limited competition in the banking sector and to strengthen supervision.

We also hope to finalise work on the Namfisa Amendment Bill during the course of the next Financial Year. The amendments seek to improve the supervision of the non-banking financial sector, enhance consumer protection through the creation of a Financial Ombuds' Office and generally modernise the legal framework to reflect the rapid developments and market needs in our financial services industry.

Following the passing of the Financial Intelligence Centre Act and establishment of the Financial Intelligence Centre, an Advisory Council was created. Draft Regulations that will complement the provisions of the Financial Intelligence Act are being finalised.

As announced last year, the amendments to Regulations 15 and 28 have been gazetted.

I understand that these amendments have caused concern amongst some industry members. However, I have full confidence that the retained savings will find an appropriate investment home in our country. In addition, the phased approach adopted in implementing these amendments should minimise any negative effects.

Broadening Access to Financial Services:

Following a successful pilot of a micro-finance scheme, a Micro-Finance Bank will soon be launched with the support of development partners in order to extend the coverage of affordable micro-lending to our people.

These efforts to broaden access to financial services will be supported by the launching of the Namibia Financial Sector Charter which is anticipated during 2008/09. By implementing the Charter, the financial sector demonstrates its willingness to adopt a broad-based approach to economic equality and transformation of the financial sector.

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Capital Market Developments:

We will support the development and diversification of our capital market through fiscal policy. Besides issuing sovereign debt instruments, Government will continue to encourage State-owned entities to enter the capital market to raise own funds.

Foreign Exchange Liberalisation:

As a continuation of the liberalisation measures announced last year, the Bank of Namibia will announce a number of exchange control reforms. These reforms are aimed at relaxing foreign diversification limits by institutional investors and also at streamlining administrative procedures.

Let me now turn to the outturn of the Budget of the Fiscal Year 2006/07.

On the revenue side, Government exceeded the estimates in the Budget. Total actual revenue collected in 2006/07 was N\$17.6 billion, compared to projections of N\$16.2 billion. This strong performance was mainly due to buoyant corporate tax collections, but other domestic tax categories also performed well, while non-tax revenue collected by the Ministries showed mixed results. Tax collection continues to be the backbone of Government revenue, of which it made up more than 90% during 2006/07.

Taxes on International Trade also performed stronger than expected, making up close to 40% of all revenue.

The Budget expenditure outturn for 2006/07 reflects an encouraging fiscal discipline, with expenditures exceeding Budget estimates by less than 1%. However, there is some variance at the Vote level, with some Ministries registering over-expenditures while others noted marginal under-spending.

The Development Budget experienced significant improvements in execution rate with expenditure reaching 97% of the allocation.

We shall introduce new measures in order to further improve the Budget implementation. Firstly, regular reports on the implementation of projects will be required from Ministries. This should allow to identify bottlenecks in a timely manner and to correct the problems as early as possible. Secondly, Ministries are

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urged to prepare their tender documents well before the new Financial Year. This will enable them to start with early implementation of projects after the Budget has been approved.

A more expanded public expenditure programme has enabled us to reach more Namibians with public services and consolidate further the success of the previous years. For example:

- ARV treatment was extended to 37,000 HIV patients, much higher than the target of 30,000. It is forecasted to reach 65,000 by 2008/09.
- An additional 383 classrooms have been provided since 2004. The number of enrolled pupils has continued to increase year-on-year.
- 3000 hectares of crop production land were under irrigation up from 2000 hectares in 2005/06.
- 356 kilometres of railway tracks and 486 kilometres of roads were built or rehabilitated.
- Government constructed and renovated business facilities in nine locations, which led to the creation of new businesses and with that, new jobs.

This list is not exhaustive but it is an example of how our programmes gradually improve the socio-economic situation in our country.

Budget Balance and Public Debt:

I am happy to announce that we could realise those achievements without compromising fiscal sustainability. In a turnaround from N\$85 million deficit in 2005/06, the Budget balance last year reached a surplus of N\$2.4 billion on the back of the improved revenue performance. This represents a significant increase on the surplus of N\$921 million estimated in the revised Budget.

Expressed as a percentage of GDP, the trend of fiscal consolidation over the past three years showcases systematic fiscal consolidation, with a deficit of 3.6% in 2004/05 reduced to 0.2% one year later, and finally turned into a surplus 4.8 percent in 2006/07. This surplus is being used to reduce debt, including the pre-payment of expensive foreign loans. Despite the positive fiscal outturn, total

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public debt continued to increase from N\$12.7 billion at 31 March 2006 to N\$3.6 billion at the end of 2006/07. The explanation for this is that additional debt was issued in order to build up the redemption account for the maturing bonds.

More importantly, debt grew more slowly than the economy. As a result, the public debt stock as a percentage of GDP declined from 30.6% at the beginning of the 2006/07 Financial Year to 28.3% in March 2007.

Contingent Liabilities:

Government's Contingent Liabilities increased from N\$3.5 billion in 2005/06 to N\$3.8 billion in 2006/07, but as a percentage of GDP, they registered a reduction from 8.9 to 8.6%, well below the set benchmark of 10%.

Revenue:

For the current Financial Year, preliminary indications see a further strengthening of Government's fiscal position.

Total revenue for 2007/08 is estimated to surpass Budget projections. As of December 2007, virtually all tax categories were exceeding estimates. The lion share of the increase in terms of value was attributed to income tax on individuals and non-mining companies, as well as VAT. Total revenue is projected to reach N\$19.5 billion by year-end, compared to N\$18.4 billion estimated under the Budget.

Expenditure:

Expenditure is projected to be on track. However, some savings are expected due to lower-than-expected interest payments following accelerated debt redemption.

As a consequence of the upward revision of tax revenue, the estimated Budget surplus of 1.1% of GDP is expected to turn out significantly higher at 3.3%.

Public Debt:

At the beginning of 2007/08, domestic debt stood at N\$13.4 billion, which was reduced to N\$11.7 billion by July 2007. This reduction is mainly due to redemption of the Government Bond GC07 in July last year and a gradual

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reduction in Treasury Bills. This means the fiscal target of total debt to stay below 25% of GDP had been achieved as of July 2007 for the first time in six years.

The benefits of low public debts come in the form of reduced debt servicing cost. It frees up resources to be spent on priorities.

Some recognition of Government's fiscal achievements came in September 2007, when Fitch credit rating assigned Namibia an investment grade rating of 'BBB-' for the third year running.

Fiscal Outlook:

On the back of considerable growth in SACU receipts in 2008/09 and upward revisions in various domestic tax categories, revenue is projected to increase by 14 percent compared to the 2007/08 Budget. It is expected to stand at N\$20.9 billion in 2008/09, followed by N\$21.8 billion in 2009/10 and N\$2.6 billion in 2010/11. As a percentage of GDP, revenues are expected to decrease steadily from 35.1 percent in 2008/09 to 32.3% in 2010/11.

International tax revenues from the SACU pool are forecasted to increase to N\$8.5 billion in 2008/09, after which there is some stagnation projected. This forecast is cautious, but given the uncertainty surrounding the outlook on the SACU pool, it is also fiscally prudent. The risks to Namibia's revenue from international trade comprise trade liberalisation, both within the region and globally through free trade arrangements with third parties.

The potential decline in revenues from the pool is being addressed not only by broadening the domestic tax base through alternative revenue streams, but also by improving customs takings. To that end, an in-depth analysis on border control and customs and excise collections will be conducted. In addition, modern customs scanners are being procured that will be deployed at strategic border posts.

Expenditure Outlook:

This Budget foresees one of the largest; expansions since Independence, accelerating Namibia's efforts to fight poverty, create employment and generate sustained economic growth.

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The main thrust of the Budget remains on combating persisting poverty and inequality in our country. The Government's approach is a concerted effort to improve the social safety net to the most vulnerable and to enhance the standards of basic services.

To this end, the old-age grants are increased by 21.6% to N\$450 per month, and coverage increased from around 150,000 last year to more than 180,000 by the end of 2010/11. These improvements translate into total spending of N\$2.3 billion over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. The coverage of grants of orphans and vulnerable children is expected to encompass all OVCs by 2009/10, amounting to a total allocation of N\$785 million. This will go a long way in enabling these children to obtain decent food, clothing and education, thereby helping them fulfilling their potential in our society. Our veterans will receive an increased monthly allowance of N\$2,000. This is not only to secure them against poverty, but it also constitutes recognition of their sacrifices for Namibia. Allocations in this regard over the medium term expenditure framework come to N\$512 million.

The Budget is also addressing the hardship caused by the recent natural disasters. Government has set aside N\$280 million for the upcoming Financial Year to provide large-scale relief for those affected by the droughts and floods.

Improving National Health:

Health will receive N\$6.4 billion over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period. 2008/09 alone will see an increase in health spending of 26% to N\$2.1 billion. On top of upgrading health infrastructure and equipment, Government is making additional resources available to ensure that adequate ambulances as well as outreach services are available. We are also increasing resources allocation to strengthen the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Education:

Allocations to education will be increased to N\$4.8 billion, or 23% of the total Budget. These funds are designed to address the persistent challenges in the sector. Over the three years period of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework the sector is allocated a total of N\$14 billion.

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This includes an extension of the Student Financial Assistance Fund in providing resources to expand the operations of the country's higher education institutions.

Government has further dedicated resources to give students who failed Grade 10 the opportunity to repeat, thereby reducing youth unemployment and ensuring employability into the labour market.

The National Youth Service is being expanded to provide training to an additional 1,000 recruits per year, which is further enhanced by investment schemes for trained youth. Similarly, provision has been made for a significant expansion of vocational education and training.

Rural Development:

Allocations to rural electrification have been beefed up to N\$178 million for the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period to accelerate rural on and off-grid electrification. In addition, the already substantial programme of rural road building, with its emphasis on labour-intensive solutions, is being expanded.

Additional funds have also been provided to improve the management and distribution of rural water supplies and to assist the poorest in meeting the cost of water. In the same vein, the inhumane bucket system is being phased out and replaced with more hygienic sanitation facilities.

Agriculture receives N\$ 3 billion over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period. The amount includes resources to put in place schemes to increase the knowledge and skills of small farmers. It also covers N\$360 million for irrigation infrastructure projects and technology improvements under the Green Scheme.

Alongside Government's activities, the balance sheet of the Agricultural Bank of Namibia is being strengthened with N\$100 million next Financial Year to enable it to continue support to private investment in agriculture projects. This brings the total capitalisation at Agribank to N\$250 million over this current Medium Term Expenditure Framework. Additional funds to the amount of N\$250 million have also been raised for the Bank from the African Development Bank.

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Productive Sectors:

Future economic and social development depends to a large extent on the private sector flourishing to produce the jobs and revenues that the country needs. Government's role in this regard is to ensure a conducive business environment. This includes direct interventions where private sector investment is not forthcoming.

To help improve productivity in our country, we are allocating resources for the establishment of a Productivity Unit to accelerate the process of moving to smarter working. These measures go along with setting up of a Competition Commission, a Bureau of Standards and promoting export.

The Development Bank of Namibia has succeeded in building an investment portfolio of some N\$300 million, creating or retaining some 4,500 jobs. To build on that success, Government is injecting a further N\$300 million in the Development Bank of Namibia's balance sheet of which a part is for small-scale projects and industrialisation.

The aviation industry is essential for tourism. Government is investing in the infrastructure by upgrading airport facilities and by enhancing the ability of the Civil Aviation Authority to ensure air safety. In line with that commitment to investing in growth in the industry, Government is providing further funds to the new business plan of Air Namibia to ensure the turnaround of this parastatal.

Provision of Infrastructure:

The challenge of providing adequate infrastructure to our vast, sparsely populated country remains formidable. A pressing issue that has taken prominence in our entire region is the security of electricity supply. NamPower will receive an additional N\$610 million to support infrastructural development for power generation and for back-up energy supply. The additional funds are aimed at tackling the energy crisis both in the short and long term.

Government is also investing in transport infrastructure. Vote 24, Transport and Communication, is to receive a total of N\$3.5 billion over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework, mainly for road and railway construction. Government is further strengthening the financial position of the Road Fund Administration

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with N\$300 million and assisting the recovery of the Road Contractor Company with a capital injection of N\$70 million in 2008/09.

To finance this ambitious programme of the Government, total development expenditure over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework will rise to almost N\$10 billion. That is more than double the amount spent for the three-year period 1004/05 to 2006/07.

This is supplemented by the concessional loans from international lenders, amounting to N\$5.5 billion over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. Projects to benefit from these funds include road and railway construction, the extension of the port of Walvis Bay, rural electrification, agriculture, education and upgrading of health infrastructure and I must say that we also expect support in the form of grants from our development partners.

Improving Public Service Delivery:

Providing Public Servants with the right toolkit for the job is part of improving service delivery. The establishment of the Namibian Institute of Public Administration and Management will help develop the analytical and management skills that are needed, while improvements in the functionality, availability and reliability of Government's IT systems will enable Public Servants to work more efficiently and productively.

The Office of the Auditor-General is making strides to address the audit backlog. Resources are being made available to help speed that process up and to enable the Office to expand the coverage of its performance audits.

Namibia's public service broadcaster, NBC, has been provided with additional funds to purchase new equipment.

To further enhance democratic principles, we are strengthening funding to Political Parties to enable them to communicate more effectively with the electorate. The work of the Standing Committees will also be enhanced to provide better participation and scrutiny of issues raised.

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Law and Order:

Government is committed to maintain law and order in the country and to protect our citizens. Resources have been made available to fast-track progress achieved in improving clearance rates for court cases.

Further, provision of N\$3.7 billion over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework has been made to increase the effectiveness of the fight against crime by improving police recruitment and specialised training and increasing mobility.

Following the request from the Parliament Committee of Defence and Security, Defence also receives a substantial additional allocation, mostly to cater for infrastructure maintenance, upgrading, operations and equipment.

The Anti-Corruption Commission receives increased funding of N\$60 million over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework for an expansion of the Commission's investigative activities to further curb corrupt practices.

Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration is provided with N\$443 million over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework to further invest in the success of improving its service delivery by updating the infrastructure that supports it.

Public Assets:

Resources are allocated to ensure that Government assets, including buildings, are properly maintained. The development of asset registers and changes in accounting for capital should help ensure that Government physical assets are properly managed.

Increased resources are also availed to support sports administration and improved sporting facilities as part of the country's preparations for the 2010 World Cup and Africa Cup of Nations.

To summarise our expenditure, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, total expenditure will rise to N\$22.5 billion, N\$21.7 billion and N\$21.9 billion for the three Medium Term Expenditure Framework years respectively. The slight decrease in 2009/10 is due to one-off payments for capitalisation to NamPower and the Road Fund Administration next year. As a share of GDP, expenditure is projected to peak at 37.7% in 2008/09 before moderating to 31.2% in 2010/11.

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The amount of additional funds allocated in this year's Budget is unprecedented. More than N\$9 billion have been added to the ceilings of the Financial Years 2008/09 and 2009/10. This was made possible by strong revenue growth and fiscal consolidation over the preceding two years.

Fiscal Targets:

Following the upward revision in both revenue and expenditure, the deficit of 1.1 percent of GDP projected in the last Medium Term Expenditure Framework for 2008/09 is now expected to increase to 2.7%. The 2009/10 deficit, on the other hand, is reduced to a balanced Budget. For 2010/11 a surplus of 1.1 percent or N\$768.8 million, has been programmed. This means that despite the expansionary Budget, the fiscal target of keeping the deficit below 3% of GDP on average over the MTEF has been fully adhered to.

Public debt, which is currently lower than targeted, is projected to rise towards the target and remain around there throughout the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period, with 24.8, 26.6 and 25.1% of GDP expected for the three years respectively. In terms of composition, domestic debt is expected to reduce from 16.7% in 2008/09 to 13.4% in 2010/11 as a share of GDP, while foreign debt is anticipated to rise from 8.3 to 11.9%.

While there is a strong expansion of foreign borrowing expected during the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period, Government is pursuing a strategy of pre-paying already contracted foreign loans with less favourable conditions. Existing cash reserves are committed to this strategy, which will result in a more cost-effective foreign loan portfolio.

In concluding, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to quote the Founding Father and Former President of our country, His Excellency Dr Sam Nujoma from the foreword of *"Namibia, A decade of Peace, Democracy and Prosperity, 1990-2000"*. He said: *"We believe that the success of our democracy and continued peace and tranquillity depend on our having a vibrant economy."* He goes on to say: *"Over the past ten years we have made significant gains in improving the quality of the life of Namibians and look forward to the future with confidence."*

The Medium Term Expenditure Framework before this House will take us to our 20th birthday as a Nation and it enables us to build on and consolidate the

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achievements of the past 17 years of Independence. We have built a solid foundation for a prosperous future. This Medium Term Expenditure Framework underpins the SWAPO Government's resolve to make Namibia a better place for all its citizens.

It carries a strong message of hope, because it ensures a vibrant economy that is anchored on sound macro-economic fundamentals. It is indeed confirmation that we are on the right path and that we have good reason to be confident and optimistic about our future.

Let me now close by expressing my appreciations to His Excellency President Pohamba and the Right Honourable Prime Minister for their guidance and support during the Budget formulation. I am also grateful to my Colleagues in Cabinet for their cooperation. And naturally, my thanks also go out to all the officials who provided the groundwork for preparing and compiling this Medium Term Expenditure Framework.

Last but not least, I want to thank the citizens of our beautiful country. You have shown great patience in the past when the belts had to be tightened to consolidate our public finances. We can now reap the fruits of our prudent fiscal management.

I herewith table the Appropriation Bill for 2008/09 and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework for the Financial Years 2008/09 to 2010/11 before this august House for consideration and approval.

HON SPEAKER: I congratulate the Minister of Finance for her usual excellent performance. I also congratulate her for having been globally selected as one of the 21 most powerful, influential and beautiful women in the world.

Any discussions?

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, I propose that the debate on the Budget be adjourned to Tuesday, the 18th of March.

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HON SPEAKER: Any objection? The Debate on the Budget stands adjourned until Tuesday, next week.

My Colleagues will join me in recognising the presence in the House of my Colleague, Ndugu Samuel Sitta, the Speaker of the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania. My Colleague has come for quick consultations, he will be departing to his country today.

That brings us to the end of the business scheduled for today. I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House until tomorrow.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I Move that we adjourn now and come back tomorrow at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNED AT 15:45 UNTIL 2008.03.06 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
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WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I am consulting, today being Thursday, but it also being a time when the Honourable Members are studying voluminous documents presented to you by the Ministry of Finance, whom I am thanking once again for the Budget, do we take questions today or defer them until you, Honourable Members, dispose of the Budget? What is the sense of the House? Right Honourable Prime Minister, Whips?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I propose we follow the procedure as normal.

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Minister of Foreign Affairs.

**TABLING: REPORT ON GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Comrade Speaker, I lay upon the Table the Report on the Debate of the General Assembly of the 62nd Session of the United Nations' General Assembly, which took place in New York from

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON HAUSIKU**

the 25th of September to the 3rd of October for the information of the Honourable Members.

TABLING: REPORT ON AU MINISTERIAL MEETING

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: I also lay upon the Table, Comrade Speaker, the Report of the AU Africa Diaspora Ministerial Meeting in Midrand, Johannesburg, South Africa which took place last year from 14–18 November 2007.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister please table the Report? Other Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Honourable Viljoen.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 39:

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 13 March 2008, I shall ask the Minister of Lands and Resettlement, Honourable Jerry Ekandjo, the following questions:

It was reported in the newspapers that the Minister urged Namibians at a rally at Eenhana not to trust the whites and Boers in this country because they are killers.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MBAI**

1. Are these allegations true?
2. If yes, who are the whites and Boers you are referring to? Are they the white Namibians living in this country?
3. Do you not think that a Minister embarking on such hate speech nearly two decades after Independence is an embarrassment for the Government, a disgrace for Namibia and a human being without integrity?

I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Question?
Honourable Mbai?

QUESTION 40:

HON MBAI: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 13th of March 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Works, Transport and Communication the following question:

Honourable Minister, in the first place, thank you very much for the regular maintenance of the road between Omaruru and Omatjete, Otjohorongo in the Daures Constituency. However, unfortunately there is no single bridge over the so many rivers in this area. The community, the police and the Ambulances are at times forced to take a detour through Okombahe to reach Omaruru for emergencies, especially during the rainy season. What does the Minister intend to do to rectify this situation?

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**NOMINATIONS TO STANDING COMMITTEES
HON SPEAKER**

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the question? Any further Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements?

**NOMINATIONS TO
STANDING COMMITTEES**

HON SPEAKER: I have to inform the Honourable Members that I have been informed by the SWAPO Party that Honourable Basson 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 Jeremiah Nambinga. Honourable Hoffmann has been elected as Vice-Chairperson of the same Standing Committee to fill the position which was formerly occupied by Honourable Basson.

I have also been informed by the SWAPO Party that Honourable Eunice Ipinge has been nominated to serve on the following Parliamentary Standing Committees:

1. Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security
2. Human Resources, Social and Community Development.

Furthermore, I have been informed by NUDO that Honourable Riruako has been nominated to serve on the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security. In terms of Rule 38(6) of the Standing Rules and Orders, I now declare these Members as duly appointed Members of the said Committees. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

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**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING BILL
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

**RECONSIDERATION: VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
AND TRAINING BILL**

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister move that the Assembly now reconsiders the Bill? It is moved that the Assembly goes into Committee and that I leave the Chair. Any objections? Agreed to.

The Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee will now take the Chair.

HON SIOKA takes the Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Committee has to consider the *Vocational Education and Training Bill*.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Thank you Honourable Chairperson. We are really confused. We have received these amendments now. Now, how do we go to Committee Stage? Do they not first get discussed in the Second Reading before we go to Committee Stage? We received this now, we are going to Committee Stage, we have not had the Second Reading.

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

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEES: The Bill has come from the National Council.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Be that as it may, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I cannot seriously as a lawmaker discuss something I have seen now and pass it. It does not make sense. Then we will have Amendments again next year.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member, I found the papers, you also received them, so you received it now when I went inside there. I could not have been given those documents before you people also received them.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: I did not say I received it now, we received it as we came into the House now. We have not had a chance to even look at it.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: We have to continue. Can I be assisted by the Prime Minister on this issue? Comrade Prime Minister, what are we to do with this issue?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: The Members do have some concerns, perhaps they want to study the amendments. I looked at them myself, some of them are just technical, nothing to do with the principle of the Bill and this Bill is overdue. It is a Bill to establish a National Training Authority, as you know and we have unemployed youth in the street who need skills and who need to be

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HON MBUMBA

trained, who need to go for vocational training and this Bill is key to that. I suggest that we go through the amendments and if there is an amendment where Members feel that they really need to think about it, then that can be adjourned until Tuesday.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Yes, let us go through the Bill first and wherever we have stumbling blocks, maybe we just refer it to next week Tuesday.

Clause 7 put.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Chairperson, in Clause 7, substitute the words “*staff member*” for the word “*employee*” in the opening paragraph of Sub-clause (4).

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 7, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 10 put.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Chairperson, in Clause 10, substitute the following Sub-clause for Clause 2:

“(2) The Minister, within thirty days of appointing a person as a member of the Board and with due regard to any directives laid down by the Council under Section 4 of the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Act, must enter into a written performance agreement with such member in compliance with Section 18 of that Act.”

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Amendment put and agreed to.

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Clause 10, agreed to as amended.

Clause 15 put.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Chairperson, in Clause 15, substitute the following heading... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Honourable Chairperson, I am terribly sorry to interfere, but I am afraid Clause 10, as amended, you put it but I don't think it was concluded because there was no discussion invited.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I asked, "*any further discussion*". I did ask, "*any further discussion, any objection, agreed to*", then I hammered. I am reading here, Comrade Minister. Thank you for your advice. Continue, Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Comrade Chairperson, in Clause 15(a), substitute the following heading for "*Committees of Boards*" with "*Councils and Committees of Boards.*"

(b) Substitute the following Sub-clause for Clause 1:

(1) The Board must establish -

(a) *the Standards, Assessment and Certification Council to advise the Board in the performance of its standards, assessment and certification setting functions.*

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(b) the National Training Council to assist the Board to control and administer the National Training Fund; and

(c) as Standing Committees of the Board such Industry Skills Committees as the Board considers appropriate, to assist the Board to meet the requirements for key industry sectors.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 15, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 18 put.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Chairperson, in Clause 18 substitute the following clause for Clause 18:

“Limitation of liability of members of Boards, Councils and Committees.

A member of the Board, a Council of the NTA or any Committee is not liable for anything done or omitted in good faith and not attributable to gross negligence during the exercise or performance of his/her powers or functions as members of the Board, Council or Committee in terms of or under this Act.”

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 18, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 19 put.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Chairperson, in Clause 19, substitute the following clause for Clause 19:

“Remuneration and Allowances: Members of Boards, Councils and Committees:

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1. The Minister must, with concurrence of the Minister responsible for Finance, determine the remuneration and allowances payable to members of the Board, a Council of the NTA and Committee subject to Section 22(1) of the State-Owned Enterprise Governance Act.

2. A member of the Board, a Council of the NTA and a Committee who is in fulltime service of the State, may not be paid any remuneration for allowance.”

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 19, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 20 put.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Chairperson, in Clause 20, substitute the following Sub-clause for Clause (1):

“The Board may in writing and subject to such conditions as the Board may determine, delegate any of its powers or assign any function to a Council of the NTA, a Committee of the NTA, a staff member of the NTA or any other competent person or body and may at any time revoke such delegation.”

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 20, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 21 put.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Chairperson, in Clause 20, substitute the word “*staff member*” for the word “*employees*” in Sub-clause (4).

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Amendment put and agreed to.

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Clause 21, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 24 put.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Chairperson, in Clause 24, add the following Sub-clause after Sub-clause (4), which will become Sub-clause (5):

“The Registrar of Deeds or any other person in charge of any other office where a register or a record is being kept of the ownership or entitlement to an asset or right referred to in Sub-clause (3)(b) must make such entries in or on any relevant register, title deeds or other document in his or her office or submit to him or her as may be necessary, to effect the transfer thereof to the Fund.”

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 24, as amended, put and agreed to.

Clause 37 put.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: In Clause 37, substitute the following Sub-clause for clause 3:

(3) The total amount of collection cost referred to in subsection (2) may not exceed such percentage as may be prescribed on the total amount of the levies collected by designated agents.”

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 37, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 47 put.

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HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Chairperson, in Clause 47, substitute the following Paragraphs for Paragraphs (e), (g) and (k) of Clause (1):

“(e) the registration and accreditation of vocational education and training providers and programmes, including the procedure, criteria and conditions applicable to their registration and accreditation;

(g) the registration and accreditation of assessors, including the procedures, criteria and conditions application to their registration and accreditation; and

(k) the governance and management of state-owned enterprises vocational training centres stipulated in Section 49(4).

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Thank you Comrade Chairperson, the last line in Section 49(iv) those words which followed are not reflected in the Amendment we were given.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Minister, do you have anything to say?

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: I would like to ask my Colleague to repeat what he said.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Comrade Chairperson, under Sub-clause (k) it starts with “*governance and management of State-owned vocational training centres contemplated in Section 49(iv)*” and it just ends there. However in the Honourable Minister’s

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Amendments, there are other words which follow which we do not have. That is what I allude to.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: I think by a typing error something may have been added to the Amendment. That one will be taken out, it is not applicable.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Can we defer that part. If that Sub-clause is not in full, then only (k) can be deferred and then they can bring the full Amendment. That is the advice and I think that is the procedure we follow.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: It will be cleared. He is saying that maybe it is just a typing error. Any further discussion? Any objection?

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 47, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 49 put.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Chairperson, clause 48 is transferred to the Schedule, but let us now go to Clause 49.

In 49(a), substitute the following Sub-clause for Sub-clause (2):

At the date of commencement of this Act, all assets, rights, liabilities and obligations of the Vocational Training Board evolved upon and vests in the NTA and the Registrar of Deeds or any other person in charge of any other office where a register or a record is being kept of the ownership or entitlement to an asset or right referred to in this subsection must make

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such entries in or on any relevant register, title deed or other documents in his or her office or submit to him or her, as may be necessary to effect the transfer thereof to NTA.

(b) Substitute the following Sub-clause for Sub-clause (3):

(3) All assets which at the date of commencement of this Act are owned or being utilised by -

(a) the Directorate Vocational Education and Training;

(b) the National Trade Testing Centre established in terms of Section 30 of the National Vocational Training Act;

(c) the NTA Project Management Unit;

(d) the State-owned vocational training centres stipulated in sub-section (4) are from that date devolved up and vested in the NTA and the Registrar of Deeds or any other person in charge of any other office where a register or record is being kept of the ownership of or entitlement to an asset or right referred to in this Sub-section must make such entries in or on any relevant register, title deeds or other document in his or her office or submitted to him or her as may be necessary to effect the transfer thereof to NTA;

(c) Substitute the following Clause for Clause (4):

“(4) The management and control of the state-owned vocational training centres registered in terms of Section 38 of the National Vocational Training Act are at the date of commencement of this Act devolved upon the NTA until such date -

(a) that centres are in the opinion of the Board able to be transformed by the Board into self-reliant vocational education and training providers;

(b) if they are not able to be transformed under paragraph (a), the operation and conducting thereof are determined by the Board and if -

(i) a State-owned vocational training centre is transformed into a vocational education and training provider, as contemplated in this Sub-

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section, all assets thereof remain the property of the NTA unless the Board determines otherwise.

(ii) the operation and conducting of a State-owned vocational training centre is terminated, as contemplated in this Sub-section, all assets thereof remain the property of NTA;" and

(e) Substitute the following Sub-clause for Sub-clause (5):

"(5) No transfer duty, stamp duty, fee or cost is payable in respect of the transfer of -

(a) any asset, right, liabilities or obligations from the Vocational Training Board to the NTA, or any asset which is owned or being utilised by the Directorate: Vocational Education and Training, the National Trade Testing Centre, the NTA Project Management Unit or any State-owned vocational training centre as contemplated in Sub-section (3)."

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 49, as amended, agreed to.

Schedule put.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Chairperson, the Schedule should be amended as follows in respect of the laws as specified in column 2 thereof:

- (a) Delete the phrase "Act No. 4 of 2006" in column 3 under Paragraph (a) in respect of the Namibia Qualification Act, 29 of 1996;
- (b) Substitute the abbreviation "NTA" for "NQA" in column 3 under Paragraph (b) in respect of the Namibia Qualification Act, 29 of 1996;
- (c) Delete the phrase "Act No. 4 of 2006" in column 3 under Paragraph (a) in respect of the Higher Education Act, 26 of 2003;

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- (d) Delete the phrase “*Act No. 4 of 2006*” in column 3 under Paragraph (c) in respect of the Higher Education Act, 26 of 2003.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Amendment put and agreed to.

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I shall report the Bill with Amendments.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED

Bill reported with Amendments.

HON SPEAKER: I was watching the proceedings from the backroom, I do not know what the status is of the suggestion made by the Deputy Minister of Labour. Has there been an exchange between the Minister and the Deputy Minister? Has that stood over or was that ignored, before I guide the House on what we do next. Honourable Minister, was that a typographical error?

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Comrade Speaker, I think there was something copied from another Clause. It will not affect the Bill, the Amendment remains as was proposed.

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**MOTION ON ROAD BLOCKS
HON MOONGO**

HON SPEAKER: Having considered the Amendments, the Assembly has now finally passed the Bill and therefore, concluded the business on this item. I shall now, in terms of Article 75(3) refer the Bill to the President to deal with it under Articles 56 and 64 of our Constitution.

The first Notice of Motion is the one of the Honourable Mr Moongo. Does the Honourable Minister move the Motion?

HON MOONGO: I Move the Motion.

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds the Motion? Any objection? Agreed to. Honourable Moongo has the Floor.

MOTION ON ROAD BLOCKS

HON MOONGO: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the liberation struggle was waged by all of us; by those who were inside and those who were in exile, therefore justice and law and order should be maintained by all law enforcement agencies equally, such as security police and members of the army and all individual community members.

What is the aim of the roadblocks? The main aim of the roadblocks is to protect lives, protect properties and the economy; to ensure safe driving, eradicate crime, minimise habitual criminals and apprehend syndicates.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the roadblocks provided with shades are few, such as Mururani and Oshivelo, both built during the past dispensation. We also need to provide shade at all roadblocks countrywide.

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MOTION ON ROAD BLOCKS
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA

The surplus monies from various Ministries can be used to construct shade at all roadblocks (if there is any), there is a lot of corrugated iron in the abandoned Koevoet camps which has not been used since Independence and it can be used to construct shade at roadblocks.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I call upon the Government to be serious and vigilant to safeguard and make sure life and properties of Namibians are protected. Therefore the Government must equip the law enforcement agencies with modern safety equipment and proper sanitation services at all points, such as good shade to protect them against rain, sun and wind. and to provide accommodation, weapons and adequate salaries and benefits for those who work at the roadblocks. Good toilets and police cells must be built at every roadblock, because sometimes when they apprehend criminals, they cannot be transported to police cells.

These services must meet the national and international standard services in the country.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, therefore I appeal to all Members of this august House to accept the non-political Motion unconditionally so that law and order can be fully maintained at roadblocks by the police who are faced with cold and harsh winds during wintertime and burned by the sun, which is not good for their health.

With this I ask the House to support the Motion.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I believe that this idea came to the Honourable Member well before the Budget was tabled in this House and I believe that now that we have the Budget on the Table of Parliament, which proposes allocations to various programmes of Government, including the one that is referred to in this Motion, it would be better if we discuss any need for

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**MOTION ON ROAD BLOCKS
HON MOONGO**

resource allocation to the various Votes of Government in the context of the Budget discussion.

I feel that pursuing this Motion in isolation from the Budget Debate would erode the value of the Debate and I would like to request the Honourable Member to consider withdrawing this Motion and see what we have proposed for allocation to the Vote of the Police. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for her contribution. Any further discussion? Does the Honourable Member wish to reply?

HON MOONGO: Thank you. Of course, if the Budget provides funds for shade to be erected at the roadblocks for the police who are really suffering due to the wind and sun, I would propose that we first hear from the Budget. I do however not want this issue to be dodged and then at the end nothing happens. No allocation of money has been proposed in the Budget of the Department of the Police, you are only dodging it. I still appeal to the Members to support the Motion.

HON SPEAKER: The Honourable Member has not had the opportunity to scrutinise the Budget about the shade and protection of our dear police officers. Why do you not consider withdrawing the Motion? You can always introduce it at an appropriate time if you are not satisfied by what you find in the Budget.

HON MOONGO: No, Honourable Speaker, I am sure this is a matter of politicking. There is nothing to construct police cells and proper toilets at roadblocks.

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MOTION ON ROAD BLOCKS
HON KAWANA / HON NANDI-NDAITWAH

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, when I listened to the motivation of the Honourable Minister of Finance yesterday, she did emphasise that additional financial resources were allocated to our Minister of Safety and Security and indeed, the proposal of the Honourable Member is commendable. We are here to cater for the welfare of our uniformed forces and as such, may I request the Honourable Member, if he does not want this Motion to be withdrawn, maybe to request him that this House just note the Motion. I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? I do not know what “*taking note of the Motion*” means. If there is no further contribution by the Members, I now put the Question that the Motion be adopted. Those Members in favour please rise. What the Honourable Member should have done was to withdraw the Motion and then reintroduce it. Otherwise the House has to decide either to adopt it or to reject it. Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. As it was mentioned, especially by the Minister of Presidential Affairs, we are all concerned with the welfare of our people. However at the same time we as Members of Parliament need to be sincere in ourselves. We are just starting a Financial Year, we are just starting the Budget and this is something that will require serious financial implications if we have to adopt it now.

Therefore, it would really help this Chamber if the Honourable Member could withdraw, introduce it again when we see how things are moving. Otherwise he might force us to vote against it, but with the clear understanding that we are not against the principle of protecting and providing better services to our people, but we are just concerned about taking a decision which we know will not be implemented because we do not have the money and if we do so, we will bring unnecessary expectations to our people.

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I really feel it will be fair for us to be realistic and not to be just politicising when we have just seen what has happened yesterday. I thought everything was done in good faith.

HON MOONGO: Mr Speaker, I made a proposal, that there are a lot of corrugated irons in many abandoned ex-Koevoet camps. We can use those. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Moongo, I do not find any Member in the House disagreeing with your intention. Those who have spoken said all of us share your concern for our uniformed officers. I am asking you, if the appeals made, including by the Chair, meet your pleasure, could you withdraw the Motion and should you find, after you have studied the documentation of the Ministry and you find that what you have called for has not been taken care of, then you could at an appropriate time introduce a motion and motivate it. If not, then the only alternative is that the Motion will be rejected and that will send the wrong message.

HON MOONGO: The materials are there already. Why do we have to reject the Motion if the materials are available? This is really an unforeseen rejection, the materials are there. What is wrong?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I adjourn the Motion until the 17th of April 2008.

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HON SPEAKER: The Motion stands adjourned until 17th April. The second Notice of Motion is one by the same Honourable Member, Honourable Moongo. Does the Honourable Member move the Motion?

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HON MOONGO: I Move the Motion.

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds the Motion? Any objection? Agreed to. The Honourable Member has the Floor.

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, democracy is an expensive exercise which needs much money and that is why very few countries can afford democracy in Africa. That is why many countries opted for a one-party system to avoid much spending and maintenance of democracy.

Namibia is a young country when it comes to democracy. The Namibian people do not consider first expenditure before they resign left and right from A, B to C, D Party. They do not consider that there is money involved if they resign. I, therefore, request this House to provide and consider additional funding for every by-election if Namibia wants a true democracy.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, some Namibian Parties are poor and they cannot afford to participate in the many by-elections which occur every year. By the way, how many by-elections were held since Independence without additional funding from the Government? There were more than thirty-five by-elections since Independence. Can you imagine? Which Party can afford such an amount of money?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Party funding money was meant to strengthen the Parties and democracy, it was not meant for deliberate emergency by-elections which occur every two months.

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Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the prolonged by-elections need special attention for additional funding if we mean true democracy and meaningful participation of small Parties in every by-election and to avoid that rich Political Parties monopolise by-elections, like SWAPO is doing now.

Let us reconsider the postponement of the election and the new proclaimed towns to be given additional funds for elections.

With this I request the full support from all Members for additional funds for by-elections. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable Minister Mbumba.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Speaker, I see in Namibia we have clear tendency to pre-empt the Budget speech of the only one person in each country, each year who is authorised to give a Budget speech, asking questions, what is going to be in the Budget and even some Colleagues who seem to have been in politics a long, long time. Just a few days before the Minister is supposed to present her Budget, everybody is making comments. How do you comment on something which has not yet been tabled and presented?

This Motion, this confused Motion, talking about by-election, in the first place no election in Namibia was ever conducted without the Government spending money on that election. At no time was the Directorate of Elections short of funds, short of transport, short of whatever is required for us to have a by-election or any election.

This one is a sneaky way of asking whether Political Parties should be given additional funds to fight elections, whether if somebody decided to establish his or her own Party or their own Party, should automatically be given money to fight elections. That cannot be logical.

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Therefore, when we take our own decisions to do whatever we intend to do, all legal, financial, administrative personnel consequences are on our shoulders and we cannot always come to Parliament and say, “give us more money for this, give us more money for a school, money for health, money for roads” and now money for anything you come up with.

Honourable Speaker, we already know as of yesterday that in terms of funding for the Directorate of Elections, additional funds are provided. In terms of Political Parties, we are giving over N\$17 million to Political Parties and yet this Motion was proposed in anticipation, so that the Mover of this submission can now take credit that somehow there was a transfer of thinking from him to her to act. We should not do things like this. Let us leave the financial management of the State and of the country in one Minister and one Ministry that is authorised by the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Namibia to do so. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister. Honourable Mushelenga.

HON P MUSHELENGA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I agree with what my Senior Colleague, Honourable Mbumba, has said, that this Motion seems to be mixing up things. Political Party funding is provided for Political Parties of Parliament to strengthen democracy. On the other hand the Honourable Member is requesting funding and insinuating that is because SWAPO monopolises elections – whatever that means.

I do not know whether the Honourable Member is implying that Parties should now be funded for election purposes and if this is the case, is it going to be applied to the parties in Parliament, as is currently the practice, or is it going to be another way of job creation by any individual who wants to break away from a Party in Parliament and form a Party to contest elections and get money? Is it financially sound to handle money in such a way?

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Suppose you have ten by-elections in a year, each contested by fifteen Parties, I really see a lot of ambiguities, a lot of unclear sentiments expressed in the Motion and I am afraid I cannot associate democratic support with such a Motion. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Member. Minister of Finance.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Unfortunately, I share in the concerns expressed by the Honourable Members on this side of the House about the Motion. I think that the Motion presents similar problems that are presented by the Motion that we agreed the Honourable Member should withdraw.

As indicated by Honourable Mbumba, the fact that our Constitution has specified how the State is to deploy funds of the State that are invested in the custody of the State, is to ensure that we make appropriate plans for the use of the State funds and we ensure that whatever programmes we adopt under the Appropriation Bill, we are going to have resources to implement and sustain them.

If we adopt a tradition where Parliament would without allowing the Executive an opportunity to scrutinise all the requests for expenditures, directly receive such proposals from Members of the House and pass resolutions committing the State to fund this or that, then we undermine the spirit of the constitutional provision.

That in principle is a problem. I see that there are many proposals that are brought to this House that seek for Parliament to agree that we should fund this and we should fund that, and I think in principle we should not agree to deviate from the spirit of the constitutional provision on how public funds are to be appropriated.

Having said that, I would like to say to the Honourable Member that the two aspects for which he seeks that Parliament should appropriate funds separately are the funding of Political Parties and the funding of the Directorate of Elections

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in order for them to ensure that by- elections take place without problems. However every year, every Political Party in this House is allocated funds under the Budget and we have agreed to a ceiling of 0,2% of the revenue of the State in the preceding year for that purpose.

If we agree to the proposal of Honourable Moongo, we actually put ourselves in a situation where we can exceed this limit that we have set, because if during the year we agreed already, as is the case in the proposal that is on the table now, that we should provide the maximum allocation that is provided, then if there is a by-election and we have to allocate additional funds, we will exceed that limit. And then there is the point that was raised by Honourable Mushelenga, if we might have three by-elections, we will have three additional Budgets. We are actually really disturbing the orderliness of public finance management and I think we just cannot agree to that.

Apart from the fact that we already fund Political Parties that are represented in Parliament annually, we also make annual provision on the Budget of the Directorate of Elections so that if there are by-elections to take place, there are some funds that are already put in place. If there are Village or Town Councils that will be created for which there would be a need to have elections, we also make Budgetary provision for that.

I, therefore do not really see the need for us to pass special resolutions to change the way we do things now. I think we are well served by the arrangements that are in place and I wish to plead with the Honourable Member once again to just relieve us of the burden of having to vote down this Motion by withdrawing the Motion. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister. Honourable Minister Pandeni.

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members. I think this Motion is undercover, maybe we do not see it. In the first place, it was already mentioned by the

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previous speakers that there has not been any year in which the Directorate of Elections, as the custodians of conducting democratic elections in our country, was not funded or under-funded. It is there already and the provision is there.

Secondly, there is a procedure for funding Political Parties following a specific system. The reason why I say this Motion is undercover, I remember there was an Honourable Member one time that was advocating to fund all Political Parties that are participating in elections in terms of their party agents and they have many party agents. They select them, Government is not involved. The question is, how do you do that? How do you do that? As there is a system that we have all agreed to in Parliament how Government should go about in funding Political Parties, let us stick to that system.

We are also aware of the past history that has shown in Namibia that at times Political Parties are based on families – husband and wife register as a Political Party and at the end of the day you will see only those two votes during elections.

I think this Motion is really not addressing the issues that we are here for. Firstly, if it seeks to address the funding of Political Parties, it is there, the Minister of Finance has indicated that Political Parties are funded even more than what they used to be funded.

If it wants to address the funding of Political Parties in Parliament, the provision is already there. If it wants to address the funding of the Directorate of Elections to enable them to conduct democratic elections, the provision is there. I think we are really engaged in a non-issue and I cannot see what it is that we are addressing here now.

Should it happen that this august House says yes, the question still remains how will we go along with it? What are we going to do? Which are these Parties that are intended or foreseen by the Honourable Member? It appears as if he knows how many people are resigning each day and how many by-elections. Comrade Speaker, I really think this Motion should not be supported at all.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I think Comrade Pandeni took some of my contributions to this Motion. I only wanted to say it was not Honourable Moongo who was moving the Motion for the Political Party agents to be funded, it was

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Honourable Kaura. I, therefore support Comrade Pandeni that this Motion is undercover. It is the same Motion, which was rejected in this House.

Therefore, I only want to say I reject this Motion and I want the House to be divided.

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I think we are just over-keen and one has almost nothing to say than what the other Colleagues have said already.

However, Comrade Speaker, you know, this House is a House of elected leaders and procedurally our people outside there know that it is this time of the year, specifically after the Minister of Finance has introduced the Budget, that we will sit down and analyse what is in this book and all the other books and discuss where there are shortcomings in the Budget and where is also some needed and so on. For future plans we could then say what we intend to see done in the future.

Comrade Speaker, we are sitting here, discussing this Motion of Honourable Moongo which is exactly on what the Minister of Finance has introduced yesterday and has requested us to study and think how we can contribute to the analysis of this Budget.

Comrade Speaker, I believe that the funding of Political Parties is a lump sum of money that is given to every Political Party based on the rules that they are paid on, and it is your responsibility to go and allocate those funds to activities, because by-elections is one of the activities of every Political Party and therefore you should maybe next time Budget and make a provision for contingency expenditures for by-elections in the amount provided for by the Minister of Finance in this Budget.

Please, we cannot come here and want to Budget, as the Minister of Finance has said, in Parliament, it doesn't work. It simply does not work. However one appreciates that if this Motion could be raised in your speech after you have analysed the Budget that has been presented, to make some recommendation for the future planning, because it is not a question of standing up, go and get the corrugated iron sheets.

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I want to ask you, Honourable Member, where you have seen the corrugated irons? (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I am just rising on a Point of Information and I am deeply sorry to say what I want to say right now. I have been listening to the arguments and the Honourable Colleagues on the other side of the aisle are persistently advancing a very dangerous argument, stating that Parliament cannot direct the Executive to expend money in this country. It can! We have seen countries and I can give you examples of countries where Parliament has the responsibility. It does not mean that if Parliament says, "*let us agree to do certain things*", that the Executive will tomorrow be obliged if there are no funds. However Parliament has the responsibility of agreeing on any matter, even of a financial nature. In this House we have that responsibility, it's our job to do so. If we direct the other side of the House to do certain things, then the Minister can come and say, because of this we have agreed on that, but the resources are not available.

To however advance an argument in this House saying that the Executive must first consider and Parliament not, that is a very wrong argument.

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, I hope the Floor is mine.

Comrade Speaker, yesterday there was an indication specifically in the Budget speech of the Minister of Finance with specific reference to the Report of the Parliamentary Committee on Defence and Security. For good planning purposes it was discussed here, nobody said it is wrong. It was referred to the Parliamentary Committee, the Parliamentary Committee went, they came back and they reported and the Minister has responded to that. Now this is what we are saying.

I recall that last year we had a Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs that had gone to our Missions and they have indicated in their reports some shortcomings and in this Budget we have by all means tried to provide for some of those shortfalls.

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RT HON ANGULA**

We are just saying the timing of this Motion is very wrong and that is on the basis of that, that it may not stand. Nobody can support something like this. In actual fact, the public out there is asking, what are these people discussing?

Comrade Speaker, thank you very much, maybe I will also move that in the interest of proper planning, this Motion be adjourned until April.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Comrade Speaker, this Motion was only perhaps relevant until yesterday. As from yesterday the Motion is redundant, because now it becomes anticipatory, anticipating the law which was introduced here yesterday and that law provides for the following, for the information of Honourable Moongo:

Financial Year	Assistance to Political Parties	Increased by
2008/2009	N\$17,7 million	N\$ 1,3 million
2009/2010	N\$23,7 million	± N\$ 5 million
2010/2011	N\$25,2 million	± N\$1.5 million

This Motion should therefore not anticipate the law we are going to debate. It actually borders on illegal, it was not supposed to be introduced in view of the law tabled in Parliament. I believe the law take precedence to motions and the motions are not supposed to anticipate the law.

Therefore, I think Honourable Moongo, just to be fair to your integrity and your respectability, honesty and everything, you would do better to withdraw this Motion and to wait for the Debate on the National Assembly allocation. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister. Honourable Kazenambo.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. This Motion is a sad one, is regrettable. As it has been mentioned here by the previous speaker, this Motion is begging for money for funding of Political Parties – straightforward, there are no two ways to it, and I could see the uneasiness with which Honourable Venaani is demonstrating and no matter how much Honourable Venaani and others spin doctors of the DTA, try to spin this Motion, this Motion is a sad one, it is a regrettable one. The timing of it is provocative. DTA cannot come here and beg for money while our people have just emerged from a very, very devastating drought where our people have lost their livestock.

DTA cannot come here in Parliament and beg for an increase of money while we are experiencing floods afflicting our people outside there. It is unethical on the part of DTA. It is very regrettable, it shows that they have no heart, in their politics there is no moral high ground whatsoever, no matter how much they can try to spin it.

There is a very, important point that I want to mention here. Political Parties should know that irrespective of how many millions and billions you may have in your coffers, if the people do not support you, you cannot make it. No matter how many millions and billions and trillions of Namibian Dollars can be pumped into Political Parties' coffers, if the Namibian people reject them, whether that money is originating from abroad, smuggled in whatever form, slush funds, they cannot help anybody.

I am sure that this Motion was motivated when the campaign was going on at Omuthiya, when people saw big rallies and supporters of SWAPO transporting members, people started thinking that the reason they could address only two people is because of lack of funding. No, you can have millions, you can put on your tie, you can drive big cars, but if your agenda does not appeal to the Namibian people, you will not. And ask the newcomers in the market, they are experiencing it the hard way.

Your millions do not change anything.

Therefore, this Motion is nothing but the DTA begging for money and how do you account for the money of your members which you are paid? If you don't

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have members then you won't have money. It is simple, it is a question of figures adding up and in this country your politics... (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: On a Point of Order. Honourable Speaker, I was trying to listen to the Honourable Colleague on the other side of the aisle, but the Honourable Minister is forgetting that SWAPO has been thriving on the advantage of incumbency, that you drive to rallies with Government vehicles, you ride to rallies aeroplanes. (Interjections). Even if it was in America, it would not be right, so do not tell us that the heavy subsidies that you are receiving are not helping you to go. If you have to go to a political rally with your Volvo with Government taxpayers' petrol and living in a hotel with Government money because you are a Minister and you have to be here, it is in the advantage of the Ruling Party and it is a general rule in the world that incumbency has its advantages and you are benefiting from those advantages.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member, continue.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much and for the sake of the public outside there and I said that I realised my Honourable Colleague's sentiment on the other side, becoming uneasy when this matter is being discussed, I said your spinning it here will not help anything. It is too late, it is a bad Motion, untimely Motion and the political environment in Namibia does not help it. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I would like to pose a small question to the Honourable Member. Honourable Kazenambo, do you believe Honourable

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Venaani when he said that SWAPO is thriving on the privileges of incumbency, given the fact that the DTA had slush funds during the elections that led to Independence and SWAPO was a national liberation movement, coming from the background of poverty and it still managed to thrash DTA thoroughly and all the other colonial powers' contact Parties that we found here and scored victory? Is that not true?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Comrade Minister, I agree with you and this is what I said earlier on, that votes and faithful Political Party support is not dependent on money. Our people used to say that "*we are going to eat **boerewors** at DTA rallies, but we are going to vote for SWAPO.*" (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: On a Point of Information. All of you have been criticising the *boerewors*, what do you do at your rallies? What do you do at your rallies? You are bringing catering companies to feed the people. That is what you are doing at your rallies. Therefore there is no problem giving food to your supporters, it is a social programme. If your Party has no social programme, it is your problem. We had a social programme to give food to the people and we still do give food to the people, it is no problem.

Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Gentleman on the other side is forgetting that it is a general practice all over the world that incumbency has its own advantages. It does not denote nor negate the fact that incumbent Governments can fall. Of course, in 1989 we had advantages more than you. Also do not forget that you got assistance, you got millions in assistance from the Soviet Union. Do not tell people that know these things. You received money from China!

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Venaani has made a very important point which I want to address. It is the point of incumbency vis-à-vis the usage of the resources, cars. There has been a misconception and deliberate distortions and misinformation outside there about the usage of ministerial cars.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: On a Point of Information. For the past 15 years there has been election observation in the SADC Region with observers from all over the world. In each and everyone of those elections, the advantage that derives from your incumbency has been mentioned as one of the major threats to democratic elections. Honourable Kazenambo can talk till the crows come home, it is not going to change it and I would ask Honourable Kazenambo, when it becomes as personal as his trying to put personal attacks on people, to remind him that these seats are as comfortable as those. Watch the next election, you will not be able to do what you have done, because the Johnny-come-lately know your tricks and they are going to use it like you used it. **Watch it!** We will be here! Watch it! *RDP gaan julle looi, want hulle ken julle tricks!* That is why you postponed the elections for the first time in history, you have never postponed elections before. (Interjections).

HON SPEAKER: I welcomed you back with nice words, Honourable Members, earlier when we commenced our work and because it was after a long break, I had expected that you had reflected on your integrity in this House. I was also under the impression that you had reflected on your duties in the House. That is why I said it came from my heart that I welcome you back and to see you in your usual places. You are all going back to the old habit. Let us stick to the motion and Deputy Minister try to stick to what you wanted to say.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: I do not know, maybe when you put facts, facts become personal attacks and if we are on a course of negation, the withering of the old and the coming in of the new, let destiny decide and it should decide within the procedures, not on wishful thinking.

I said that votes are not bought, people's faith and hearts and belief in a political organisation and representation cannot be bought with money, it cannot. Therefore, the additional funding of Political Parties, when people are claiming to attract an audience at rallies, it should not be decried for other factors and I do not see that I am attacking anybody by stating that point. It is a fact of life. In all democracies it is thrown around. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask my brother a question? Comrade Kazenambo, yes I know that there is a new Party. I want you to tell the nation out there that Andreas Shipanga was not from the North, Ben Ulenga was not from the North, they resigned from SWAPO.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Yes, I agree with you. Sticking to the Motion, I agree with what you were saying, both were in the North and politically they are ... (Interjections)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, please, the Deputy Minister has Floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: I was trying to explain the usage of Ministerial cars and other cars. These cars are not stolen

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and if these cars are violating any rule, I think it is incumbent upon the Members to state what rule is being violated. One, we have been taxed on these cars, for the usage, everybody is using them. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: Honourable Kazenambo, you are right, I am also aware that the Ministers are also paying a contribution to these vehicles as personal vehicles, but the million dollar question is, who fills the cars? You are just ordering the petrol from the Ministry.

And the other question of proving, all Governments in the world have played this card that you are playing, saying that “*prove beyond reasonable doubt.*” Hitler was saying it with the Nazis, “*prove it that the Jews are in concentration camps*” and we know the Holocaust. Do therefore not ride another horse of proving.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: I was stating a fact and I am very glad that Honourable Venaani is honest to admit that the Ministers and other ladies and gentlemen who are benefiting from this entitlement are also paying for it and the reason is that it is for private and official use – private and official use and for “private” there is nowhere where it states that I should not visit my mother’s village. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Petrol! That is the problem, that is where the problem lies.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: It is a very hypothetical question. (Intervention)

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HON TJIHUIKO: On a Point of Order. Honourable Speaker, I need to be guided here. I am looking at the Motion and to some extent I was also agreeing with what the Honourable Minister of Finance was saying. “*Debate and accept a Motion to provide additional funding for any by-election in Namibia.*” I was wondering whether it is funding to the Election Commission or is it additional funding on top of what the Political Parties are getting?

I believe that if we agree, instead of getting excited about nothing, if we can agree that we look at the Budget first, see what has been provided for and only then we can say, *yes, indeed, we need to make an additional provision for funding.* From the look of things of what we have now, I do not think we are getting anywhere, apart from the fact that we are getting excited. Whether you talk about vehicles of the Ministers, we are talking about those people from that side which I know that at the end of the day after the next election will be on this side, that is not the issue now. The issue is that let us look at what is in the Budget and then we talk about it.

HON SPEAKER: I thank Honourable Tjihuiko for the very enlightened contribution. Deputy Minister.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: It is typical and we are getting used to it and some of us have been used to it that mud is thrown on us by the other side and when we start washing this mud off, then our people are personally attacked, democracy is under attack or all these excuses. Let us therefore address the point.

I was on the issue of the usage of ministerial cars for the people who are outside there and the issue of petrol that is being mentioned here, it is part and parcel of the package. In fact, when I am driving a car I am expected to fill it. I do not drive it with water. The car is coming from the Government and the petrol is coming from the Government and the fact is that the Minister is paying for it. He was taxed and he made a contribution, it is not free of charge. That point must be

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underscored. There should be no misunderstanding and the usage of the plane and so on, these are assignments and it is part of their package.

If we have got problems, let us debate the package honestly and I am saying the Namibian people know, they are not blind. Anyway, that is that... (Interjection) Full-stop of what? Full-stop because it is hurting you?

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. Mr Speaker, what happened to this gentleman? What does he want to prove right? We know if the person is wrong, we don't talk about Government cars, that is not the issue. We are talking about which is more powerful. What are talking about? We want you to make sense and not to talk "he-ya-ya, he-ya-ya, he!" What is that? They do not make sense, all of them. Why do you want to listen to this? Why do you want to hear, "*he-ya-ya, ye-ya-he!*" (Song) Let us stop playing, please. It is not the way to do things.

I agree with you that I cannot force it and now let me say this, I heard the people talk about this, I did not come here with my wife, I have never been seen alongside my wife, even my son, even my cousin, I do not do that. (Interjection)

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: I am also your Cousin !

HON RIRUAKO: I know, but what happens is this, you are on your own, not with me. Some people somewhere here came with their wives as a Member of Parliament. I will try not to talk about that, it is another issue. Your wife is your wife. Honourable Kazenambo, the next time you are going to come with your wife, it will not be ethical. Well, if the public demanded for her as a professional, but not in Parliament. This must be avoided, as simple as that, you do not have to think about it. When your wife is here you must go out, when you are here, your wife must be out. As simple as that.

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

In conclusion, Comrade Speaker, really, what I am saying is that Political Parties must have an element of ethics in politics and begging here for funding of Political Parties should be out. Let us go and get funds from our members and from that money that is provided by the Government, let us not see the CoD-style where people are fighting over cheques. It is being done, they are taking one another to court and they thought I was going to mention it now, and that is why they are saying that I am being personal... (Intervention)

HON DIENDA: On a Point of Information. In the CoD there is democracy. We can take one another to court without being intimidated. There is democracy in the CoD, that we know that we can raise our voices, whether it is through the court or whether it is through stealing cheques, we have our say and our rights in the CoD.

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

Political Parties must be responsible. To hear an elected Member of Parliament saying that in their Party they can condone stealing of cheques, that is not an individual's money, it is my taxpayers' money, you do not need to steal it. You need to be responsible. You are stealing money in whose interest? To do what? To conduct *Braais* or what? (Intervention)

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: I know that Honourable Kazenambo has got many positive points. He is well read in many issues, as he says, but one I do not think that Honourable Kazenambo is a judge. Democracy says there is an Executive, to which you belong, a Legislature to which all of us belong and a Judiciary that deals with theft. Let the court decide who stole the cheque, you should not do it because when we start talking about cheques disappearing in SWAPO, it will be millions!

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Moenie krap waar dit nie jeuk nie, jy sal seerkry!

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Political Parties, whether SWAPO, CoD or any other Party that receives money from the Treasury, should not condone stealing of cheques and that is the point.

Again Government should not ever fund Parties for the sake of “*today I resign from SWAPO and I establish a Party and then I want funding.*” Can you imagine! (Intervention)

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: The Honourable Member swears every day that he would uphold and defend the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia. Article 22(e) of that Constitution says you can join a Party every day if you want to. How can you say it is not right? It is high time that you learn that is a Constitution which is the Supreme Law, not your views!

HON SPEAKER: Deputy Minister, can you resist disruptions and conclude what you wanted to say?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: I conclude by saying that Namibia, is not in terms of policy imposition but in terms of the political players, they should know that this country is a developing country with meagre resources and those who are in the political field should not exploit a constitutional provision by resigning from a Party in order for by-elections to be

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conducted. We must desist from that consciously in order to save money. I conclude.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Kawana.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I know of Honourable Members who want to take part in the Debate and I move that the Debate be adjourned to 9 April 2008. I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until 9th April. The third Notice of Motion is the one of the Honourable Mr Moongo. Does the Honourable Member move the Motion?

HON MOONGO: I apologise, I did not think all three Motions would be discussed today. I move that the Motion be adjourned until next week.

HON SPEAKER: The Motion stands adjourned by the Mover until next week. The fourth Notice of Motion is the one of Honourable Schimming-Chase. Does the Honourable Member move the Motion?

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HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Speaker, it was my understanding that in Standing Rules we discussed that every year when the Budget comes up, there are many Motions and many Bills being tabled and we cannot finish it. In view of that, Honourable Speaker, I will speak on the 9th of April on my Motion.

HON SPEAKER: The Motion is deferred until 9 April 2008. Before I ask the Deputy Prime Minister to adjourn the House, I have an announcement to make. It is an announcement by the Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration that Honourable Members are invited to attend the annual Budget workshop which will take place on Tuesday, 11 March 2008 at Safari Court Hotel. Registration starts at 08:30 and the workshop starts at 09:00. Members of the media are welcome to join the Honourable Members at the workshop.

On that note I ask the Deputy Prime Minister to adjourn the House until Tuesday, 11 March 2008.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Before I adjourn the House I want to greet all of you in the New Year. We do not have a medical kit here in the House, maybe I should ask permission from the Speaker that we have a medical kit standing by. People are not young and already the first day I could read the blood pressures shooting up and we do not want anybody to collapse. Elections are next year, please do not collapse before elections.

Having said that, allow me to propose the adjournment of the House until Tuesday, 11 March 2008.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:50 UNTIL 2008.03.11 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
11 MARCH 2008
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 41:

HON GERTZE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, 20 March 2008, I shall ask the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development the following questions:

1. What is the exact situation with the Village of Uis when it is said to have been either partly or wholly sold by Mr Albert Weitz to Mr Frans Madl who in turn also further sold portions of the village to another Mr Du Raan.
2. Will the Minister deny or confirm that Uis was allocated a capital subsidy of N\$1,170,000 for the Fiscal Year of 2007/08?
3. If the answer to point 2 is confirmed, what was the money used for if Uis is said to be private land?
4. Is the Minister aware that many residents of a portion in Uis have been told that the houses that they were and are still living in belong to Mr Frans Madl, as the land on which the houses were built was bought by him and that they were and still may be paying rent to Mr Madl. What is the situation with those residents now and what happens to the Village Council of Uis?
5. Can the Minister inform the House how it could happen that Namib Base Metals (Pty) Ltd or Portions 1, 2 and 3 of Uis town lands no. 215 in 1996, which is basically the whole of Uis was bought for a mere N\$240,000 and for example, 85 houses to other private citizens had an option held in 1990, 35 of which were subsequently bought from them by

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON GERTZE**

the Build-Together Programme and have all stakeholders even been consulted in this case?

6. Will the Minister agree with me that there is a need for extreme urgency in that the community of Uis and the investors who would have wanted to invest in Uis are denied development opportunities by this prolonged and silent state of affairs that continues to haunt this village.
7. What is the Village Council of Uis expected to do in terms of the general socio-economic development when the prime land of Farm Uis town lands no. 215 over which it is supposed to exercise jurisdiction is now alienated and left for scramble?
8. Can the Minister also inform this Honourable House of the whereabouts of Messrs Frans Madl, Du Raan and a certain Albert Weitz who is originally and consistently being cited in the Uis sales saga even before Mr Madl came into the picture?
9. Can the Minister also enlighten this Honourable House as to the content and whereabouts of the original contract, the basis on which the original Imcor Tin (Pty) Ltd had acquired the rights to operate property in and/or around Uis and the Minister further shares with this Honourable House what has and should have happened to Uis and its community when mining operations ceased at Uis?
10. Can the Minister establish and enlighten the National Assembly on what terms the mining concession agreements are based and what the likely situation would be in future for proclaimed settlements, villages and towns, such as Arandis which perhaps is already sold or Rosh Pinah, to mention a few, where the mining companies are in charge of land and infrastructural developmental activities.
11. Will the Minister finally agree with me that Government has allowed Uis to be bought by individuals who tricked Government through sweet talk and false promises of development which they never honoured and will the Government ever be able to restore the right to land to the people of Uis?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON GERTZE**

QUESTION 42:

HON GERTZE: I give Notice that on Thursday, the 20th of March 2008, I shall ask the Minister of Health and Social Services the following:

Honourable Minister, before I put the question, I would like to congratulate you and the Ministry and the staff, headed by the Permanent Secretary, for the face-lifting exercise at the Windhoek Central Hospital.

Honourable Minister, I am sure that you are aware of the numerous somewhat magical advertisements under classified ads that frequent our local dailies of which the trend goes as follows: “*Dr Chikanka or traditional doctor, Dr Zali, Dr Munza*” and it goes on to say “*he can treat and solve all the problems, such as financial problems, business attractions, love affairs, penis enlargements, court cases, employment, exams, man power, pregnancy problems*” and so on.

Honourable Minister, our people face real health and socio-economic hardships due to poverty and unemployment, much of which leads to other social pathologies and such easy attractions like these advertisements can quickly draw our people’s attention into situations that can lead to serious consequences.

Recently a young man has been sentenced to 30 years in prison after he murdered his young girlfriend because he ostensibly found herbs in her underwear and under his pillow and which he took for witchcraft and then he decided to kill her.

Can the Honourable Minister tell this Honourable House whether these said doctors, most of whom appear to be foreign and without me being labelled as xenophobic or even being maybe bewitched, comply with the prescribed regulations of your Ministry and if they are really able to heal our people from a medicinal or perhaps a magical point of view?

QUESTION 43:

HON GERTZE: I give Notice that on Thursday, 20 March 2008, I shall ask the Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration as follows:

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NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON MUTORWA

1. Do these said “*doctors*” about whom I have just asked the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services possess work permits? If yes, on what basis would they have applied for work permits and are they recognised, legally registered and legitimately allowed to mislead the Namibian public by even tampering with lawful institutions such as the Court of Law in Namibia?
2. If they have “*no work permits*”, what does your Ministry plan to do about this?

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Questions? Any further Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Any Notices of Motions?

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I give Notice that tomorrow, Wednesday, 12 March 2008, I shall Move –

That this Assembly ratifies the African Youth Charter.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Motion? Honourable Booyis?

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

HON BOOYS: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I Move without Notice that leave of absence, due to his own illness, be granted to the Minister of Safety and Security, Honourable Peter Tsheehama, until the 31st of March 2008.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR A IYAMBO**

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: PHYTOPLANKTON
BOOM ALONG NAMIBIAN COAST**

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:
Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, I have a very short Ministerial Statement to make.

For the last two or three days, Honourable Speaker, there have been concerns expressed by so many Colleagues from Parliament as well as from the public with respect to the recent environmental issues at sea, particularly with respect to the observed dying of some creatures at sea, particularly crayfish or rock lobster. I think it is important that I brief this Honourable House on what exactly is happening at sea at the moment with respect to the dying of those species that have been observed.

Honourable Speaker, the reason is mainly because of a very, very low oxygen in shallow waters – I am trying to simplify my terms – mainly between the south of Walvis Bay and Henties Bay in shallow waters. It is mainly oxygen that is low. I would like to attempt to give some reasons why that is happening.

Honourable Speaker, at sea we have a two major food component. One is the plant and the other one is a small animal. The plant one is what we call the phytoplankton, small animals that are consumed by fish, microscopic animals and the other one the zooplankton, small animals.

The problem herein is with respect to the phytoplankton, the zooplankton that causes the red tide, what we call the “*bloom algae*”, these animals bloom and you see more of them. That is what is being experienced at the moment at the coast, where we have many of these microscopic plants.

These animals live mainly in shallow waters and at the surface, the upper layer of the water. Currently this algae bloom started to develop from middle February in the central part of the country, scientifically known as *Ceratium furca*.

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HON DR A IYAMBO**

The dominant specie Honourable Speaker, of this algae bloom is a dinoflagellate. That is the algae that is causing the problem at the moment. This alga, even though the fish in the shallow waters are dying, is not toxic to humans. That is not a problem. What it is doing is depleting, removing the oxygen from the water and leading to the death of these creatures.

If you look at the water at the moment, you find that the colour has changed a little bit reddish. That is what we call the “*red tide*”. This phytoplankton, a small plant, their pigments have concentrated and multiplied and that is what you see as the red tide.

Although the other species are not a problem for consumption, I would advise that the filters feeders, those who are picked up from the sea, I am referring here to things like oysters, mussels at sea, just you will find those are feeders concentrate everything that you find squeezed out the water and that can be toxic sometimes, so I advice that we do not consume too much of the filter feeders that one finds just lying at sea.

What has happened, Honourable Speaker, is that the upwelling that took place a few days ago, that is the mixing that takes place, at the bottom of the sea the water was very cold and it started with what we call thermo climb, mixing the turning of the winds and those blooms, they raise to the top of the sea. As they to die and sink to the bottom of the sea. These blooms or plants remove the oxygen from the sea as they go to the bottom, decaying or being destroyed by the bacteria, producing a lot of carbon dioxide which removes the oxygen from the water, leading to the death of these creatures, the crayfish and invertebrates.

The animals that died include mainly the rock suckers, this is not a bad word, it is how those fish are called, the rock suckers, as well as the rock fish, the eels, which some people are saying there are snakes coming out of the sea, no, they are just eels, they are even tasty and very good for consumption, red bait, the sharks, the small sharks, we call them shy sharks, very small ones and rock lobster and this is mainly because of the depletion of oxygen in the lower part of the sea.

With respect to the mortality, how much fish has died, these are not commercial species. Let me make that clear, it is not commercial species, the commercial ones are in deeper waters. It is not possible at this point in time to quantify the mortality, how much in volume fish has died.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR A IYAMBO**

The rock lobster tried to move into some wave action. That is why many people were complaining that they have seen the animals trying to run away. That is normal, they are trying to get to the waves to push them back into the sea to get some oxygen.

At the moment the fisheries inspectors and the scientific component of our staff have collected half a ton of rock lobsters only around Swakopmund, but if you include south of Walvis Bay as well as to Henties Bay, it is likely to be even more than that. What we have been able to pick up is half a ton and those have been put into the Aquarium in Swakopmund and when the condition returns to normality, they will be released back into the water.

Satellite imagery shows that the bloom occurs from the south of Walvis Bay up to Möwe Bay, but where it continues is really Walvis Bay to Henties Bay. From there it is more localised and in a discontinued fashion.

With respect to Lüderitz, when people are harvesting commercially, we do not use the area between Walvis Bay up to Henties Bay. That is not used for any commercial purposes. The crayfish or rock lobster for commercial purposes are only around Lüderitz, Concession Island, around the Mercury Islands whereas south of Walvis Bay these are not for commercial purposes. However this has part of a whole environmental change, global warming, but normally it happens, only that it takes many people by surprise. It is not toxic, but I caution people not to consume too many feeders. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister for that very useful information. The question, however, remains Honourable Minister, given our tradition of helping ourselves to fish when the *oshanas* come, whether we should advise the people at the coast to help themselves to this fish? Is it edible?

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Honourable Speaker, all the species, hake, monk, pilchard, mackerel, shark, the big ones from the deep sea are all safe, not even affected. There is nothing toxic, it is only that the water does not have enough oxygen.

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HON MOONGO**

They have therefore suffocated.

With respect to the crayfish that are dead at the moment (Interjection) and they will not live again, they are not toxic. That one can consume. The ones I am cautioning on are things like oyster's, mussels, those that have shells. They have meat inside, but what they do, they grab for everything. They grab at the sand and all the chemicals they can have, close it up and if you have the bloom, it can be attached to the meat and then if it is heavily concentrated, it can cause some discomfort to the public. Everything is safe, Honourable Speaker, enjoy yourself.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Minister. Any further Ministerial Statements? The first Notice of Motion is the one of the Honourable Moongo. Does the Honourable Member move the Motion?

HON MOONGO: I Move the Motion.

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds? Any objection? Agreed to. The Honourable Member has the Floor.

**ADJUSTMENT OF SALARIES OF
TRADITIONAL LEADERS**

HON MOONGO: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is an appropriate time to hear this Motion with the Samaritan and liberation spirit the contribution and sacrifice done by our traditional leaders, such as Mandume, Hosea Kutako, Ipumbu Nehale and Clemens Kapuuu – their blood waters our freedom.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the war fought by our chiefs during their time was bitter and tough. Their blood and the blood of their forces was a true contribution to Independence. They fought for the true liberation of Namibia, they fought for equal opportunities and equal pay for equal jobs to be maintained

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and that person shall be discriminated against on the grounds of ethnic origin or socio-economic status, such as to give smaller ones of N\$2,000 to Namibian Kings and N\$1,600 to senior headmen and not even a single dollar to sub-headmen. They have heavy duties and functions towards their communities every day such as to administer and execute customary law, perform traditional ceremonies, promote affirmative action in the community, to assist the police in preventing crime, listening to disputes and adjudicate cases in the community, to mention only a few.

How can they do all this without a proper salary? This is abolishing of Act 10 to discriminate against the traditional leaders socially or economic status. They are in need of full salaries, vehicles, funeral benefits, medical aid and other social benefits, to be living in a decent way and to be dealt with as leaders in a decent manner and not to be buried as simple community members.

The Government gives coffins for elderly people, thank you for that, but what about the kings, headmen and sub-headmen, the traditional leaders? Let them also be covered.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is a mockery, insult and disrespect to give a chief or headman money drawn from the pocket, like you give to a foreigner or a kid. Leaders and chiefs of Namibia are entitled to the full rights, to all benefits and funeral cover. They are not supposed to accept such embarrassment like beggars. What is wrong with giving the legislation, that will provide them with some advancement to avoid an imbalance? Give adequate salary to those who have been disadvantaged in the past, as stipulated in Article 33.

They are leaders like you, they cannot be buried in simple, ordinary coffins like those for the elderly. Please, change the system, they are paid below the human standard, even the war veterans were counted and given N\$2,000 without any duty. They are not happy with the N\$2,000 and I want a lump sum money to be given even to those who have passed away and not only those alive today.

What about our chiefs, senior headman and nothing for sub-headmen? At the present time the salary structure is as low as follows: The chiefs get N\$2,000, senior headmen N\$1,680 per month, headmen N\$1,400, staff, even those who have qualifications from higher institutions, they all get the same N\$1,200.

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HON MOONGO**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to avoid questions, what do you propose? I, therefore, propose chiefs to have N\$15,000, senior headmen N\$10,000, headmen N\$5,000 and sub-headmen and staff members from N\$4,000, depending on the qualifications.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the peace and security we have in the communities today is a result of proper administration by chiefs, headmen and sub-headmen. They cannot fulfil their duties on their feet. The time to advance them has come, the traditional leaders should enjoy the fruits of Independence. They have big families to take care of, their families have not benefited from the fruits of Namibia since Independence.

Mr Speaker, it was an embarrassment at many funerals, like at the funeral, of late King Shelungu that there were no decent coffins. Chief Munyuku Nguvauva and the second Vice-Chairman of the House of Traditional Leaders passed away recently and we are informed through reliable sources that Government assisted the families during the burial of the late chief. What about the coffins and death cover for the bereaved families?

I am also informed that all the members of the House of Traditional Leaders.... (Interjections). Yes, the families have been struggling to have decent coffins, but you assisted only in foodstuff and so on. They are Namibian people, they are entitled to the right to have a decent burial and they have to have death cover like you.

I am also informed that all members of the House of Traditional Leaders have no benefits of any kind – medical cover, death cover, etcetera. I appeal to the Government to review this matter, including their salaries, as a matter of priority. I request the House to reconsider and a portion of the Contingent Fund in the current Budget and adjust and consider salaries for the fellow traditional leaders, sub-headmen and staff.

I also propose that we refer the Motion to the relevant Committee after the Debate to reconsider and come up with a proper adjustment. I, therefore, move an unopposed Motion to consider the benefits, allowances and salaries of traditional leaders, including their staff, to be referred to the Standing Committee on Constitution and Legal Affairs for further scrutiny and report back to the House. I so Move.

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RT HON ANGULA

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Any further discussion? Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. The Motion by Honourable Moongo is a very important motion. It talks about the welfare of our traditional leaders, people who are doing a great job in our communities. We fully agree that they need to be recognised.

However, Honourable Moongo, as usual, wants to use this Motion for political mileage.

HON KAURA: So what? He is a politician.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: He is a politician but you should not exploit other people for your own survival. You should not exploit our chiefs for your own survival. Chiefs are respected people. If Honourable Moongo was sincerely concerned about the welfare of the chiefs, he could have gone to the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, he could have engaged the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development to find out whether the Minister will consider to Budget enough money in order to pay our traditional leaders. He did not do that, so procedurally he is wrong. You cannot come and make a Budget in Parliament. You cannot come and make a Budget in Parliament, it is unacceptable.

HON KAURA: May I ask the Honourable Prime Minister a question? Right Honourable Prime Minister, in this time where everybody is a suspect, if Honourable Moongo goes to the Honourable Minister Pandeni, do you not think Honourable Pandeni would be suspected and be fired like Kanime.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: First of all, let us not talk about serious things in a joking manner. If Kanime is fired, I do not know. However, Kanime has

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been indeed in a very important institution of democracy. The best thing you can do, since the Electoral Commission of Namibia falls under Parliament, is for you to call the chairman to a special meeting to come and explain himself. But please, that institution is too important for democracy to be a subject of jokes, please. (Interjection). I am talking about the Electoral Commission of Namibia, it is a very serious institution of democracy and we should not ridicule it. Please, as a mature politician and you decide that the Electoral Commission of Namibia would fall under Parliament, summon the chairman of the Commission so that you can get the right information before you make judgments which might be wrong. Please, I appeal to you my fellow brother, that that institution cannot be a subject of ridicule. Otherwise the public will not respect that institution and it needs to be respected.

Honourable Moongo, I was saying that you cannot come and Budget in Parliament, it is never done and it does not serve the purpose, especially when you raise expectations of respected people like traditional leaders. We should not. All of us fall under one or other Traditional Authority and we must respect those people and we should not make them subjects of political manoeuvring, as you are trying to do.

Instead of allowing the Debate to take place, he already moved that the Motion should go to the Committee, to create really serious expectations because the Committee will now go to the Regions and talk to the traditional leaders, and of course the traditional leaders will say, "*yes, that is good.*" Then it comes here and we have no money to give to them. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: On a Point of Information. I am terribly sorry to disturb the Right Honourable Prime Minister, but I think the Right Honourable Prime Minister is technically going astray, because the Mover of the Motion has moved that after the Debate, this Motion should go to a Committee. He is not saying that he is just moving a motion and now it should go to a committee. He says after we have concluded the Debate, so that this Motion does not die a natural death, it moves to a technical Committee. I think that is more serious. Having done that, he is just proving that it is a very important issue and it must be delegated to a technical Committee that should look at it and come up with a proposal. Perhaps his proposals of the amounts might be too high, but he is saying that there is a

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need for us to re-look at the issue and I think that is the procedure of this House and he was right by doing to.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I know what politics Honourable Moongo is playing. He wants to force the House into a division. This is what he is trying to do, so that people are seen by the chiefs as not supporting. That is what we are talking about, the procedures.

HON KAURA: Who are those people who are seen by the chiefs as not supporting?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: No, we are talking about the procedures, that you cannot Budget in Parliament and the best thing he could have done is to go to the Minister concerned and to encourage him as Honourable Kaura has done. He went to the Minister concerned to encourage her to add to my old aged colleagues' pension. That is the good procedure.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Honourable Prime Minister, may I ask a question? Comrade Prime Minister, do you not think that we have opened a Pandora's Box by, in the first place, having decided to pay money to the Traditional Authorities and as a result we have created a situation where there is an endless mushrooming of new chieftainships and Houses of Chiefs just in order to get access to this money? (Interjections). In Tanzania after Independence there was a policy that they were left to work for themselves and it never created any problem. Now we have involved ourselves and every time there is a mushrooming of new chieftainships because they want to have access to this money. Do you not think that was a wrong decision?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: First of all we have to look at the whole institution. There are Parties here who depend upon the goodwill of chiefs. That is why they go and create chiefs.

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HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister a question? Right Honourable Prime Minister, do you recall that at the last SWAPO rally in the Omusati Region where His Excellency, the President was saying the traditional leaders should not be involved in politics, yet while he was making that statement, practically all the traditional leaders of the North were sitting behind him. Is that the policy that you are advocating? (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: All with SWAPO scarves!

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Like in the Public Service there are rules which were passed by this House in order to regulate the governance of the country. A chief belongs to everyone of that particular community. Whether you are a communist, whether you are a capitalist, whether you are a fascist, the chief is your chief. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: And racist?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Racists are not allowed. There is a need, therefore, for chiefs to maintain a certain measure of objectivity. That is what the President was saying, let us be the chiefs of everybody.

If you become a chief and you have a political position, that is why Honourable Kuaima Riruako is not interested in this and he is enjoying a nap, he is not interested ... (Intervention)

HON GURIRAB: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. May I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister whether he is aware that a meeting was recently held in Omuthiya by headmen who instructed voters to vote for SWAPO and not for their Political Parties?

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I am not aware of that, but I believe the headmen know which Party has maintained peace and stability in this country for the last 18 years and they want that peace and stability to continue for another 18 years so that they can give fatherly advice or motherly advice.

Anyway, to come back to the question of chiefs, I was saying that there are Parties that survive on the goodwill of chiefs and these Parties go around and create chiefs all the time. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I was actually trying to look at the Motion itself, what the Motion was really trying to address. My understanding was that the Motion was looking at the well-being of the traditional leaders. We are talking about traditional leaders elected or appointed by those specific communities to represent the interests of those specific communities.

When we are talking about the well-being of Traditional Leaders, we are not talking about any Political Party, we are talking about Traditional Leaders. Even those who have recently been appointed at political congresses are political leaders as far as those Political Parties are concerned. But the issue here is simple: Do we agree that the well-being of the structures of the traditional leaders have been looked after? That is the first one.

The question that I want to put to the Right Honourable Prime Minister is that when you are saying that there are Political Parties that are depending on Traditional Leaders, are you trying to say that these Traditional Leaders, even though they should not be participating fully in politics, should not have their democratic right to belong to Political Parties of their own choice?

As mentioned by the Right Honourable Prime Minister, that the chiefs have been telling their people to keep the tradition and peace by voting for SWAPO, is it wrong for the other traditional leaders to say, in order for us to keep better peace, it is better to belong to a specific Political Party? What is actually your problem with the Motion?

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Tjiuiko, it helps to listen very carefully. I said at the very beginning that we have no problem with the motion, that we have no problem with the content of the motion, it is the procedure used. The procedure which Honourable Moongo is using is basically just in the tradition of DTA to invent a chief. That is the tradition of DTA: “*Go to Kakuru Kouje, find a Chief there. Go to Aminuis, find a Chief there. Go to whatever place, find a Chief there.*” Now the chiefs have deserted the DTA and now they have to invent other chiefs. That is the problem and this Motion is about invented Chiefs. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Information. In my Otjikaoko Himba language, when you come to your neighbour and beat the children there, you want to beat each other, and when the people are talking of the people from Okaoko, they are not referring to Kakuru Kouje, they are talking about me. Why all the time talk about Kakuru Kouje? The Kakuru Kouje Traditional Authority followed procedures like anybody else. I know that the people who mentioned Kakurau Kouje here had gone to Kaoko, organising the people who are recognised the Government to make a demonstration against Kakuru Kouje here, to support Katjambua. You said the Government is chasing somebody away here, now you want to organise the Okaoko people to be against the Government or what? What do you want to do, Kaura?

HON KAURA: May I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister a question? Honourable Prime Minister, are you aware of the fact that the Kakuru Kouje Traditional Authority applied for recognition after the proclamation of Act 17 of 1995 and collectively with 46 Herero traditional leaders they were rejected? Then someone went behind and told the Chiefs of Kakuru Kouje, “*if you withdraw from the 46, we will recognise you*” and they withdrew and immediately Ukoruavi was recognised because he joined SWAPO. Are you aware of that?

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: The Motion is not talking about Kakuru Kouje, the Motion is talking about all the chiefs and I am saying that it is a tradition and a political programme of DTA to invent chiefs. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Information. When we are talking the truth we can tell the nation the truth. Kakuru Kouje in Kaoko met with Tjavara, a Chief belonging to the DTA, and Tjavara was recognised by the SWAPO Government. The SWAPO Government pay the people from the other parties. That is why Ukuruavi withdrew the case, not because of somebody in there and then followed Tjavara. The Otjozondjupa Traditional Authority, Omaruru, all the chiefs were not SWAPO by then, but they were recognised. They were NPF.

HON SPEAKER: The Deputy Minister rose on a Point of Order, the Right Honourable Prime Minister still has the Floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: No, I said SWAPO is telling the truth, that is why all the Chiefs who were under the DTA today are not under the DTA anymore, because the DTA is telling lies to the Nation. I thank you.

HON DR GEINGOB: May I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister a question? Comrade Prime Minister, daily we hear from the opposition parties in the papers and so on, that in this country people are free to join any Political Party, so guaranteed by the Constitution. Now all of a sudden in this Honourable House people are being questioned for having joined SWAPO apparently. You see, whenever somebody is for SWAPO, freedom does not exist, choice does not exist. When it is for the Opposition, they can shout, there is freedom for them, they can cry, there is freedom for that. They can join any Party and we say yes. Now why are these people questioning only SWAPO?

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Yes, my Senior Leader, I was trying to come back on that in relation to Honourable Tjihuiko, to say that chiefs are free to join any Political Party. We are also saying... (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: As you noticed, Honourable Members, we have actually run past the time for tea-break but we only have one more Motion still on the Order Paper. With your concurrence we will continue.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: No, I was rounding off by saying that chiefs are free to join, like any other citizens...(Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: My Learned Colleague, Honourable Hage Geingob, said something and he can do better than that. You can do better than what you said. I did not think that you could come up with that.

Mr Speaker, I am not here to influence other people to join my Political Party in order to obtain something. I am not here to encourage other people to break away from other Political Parties, but the message, the content of my speech is what persuades them. That is all. I do not have to say you must be this way or that way, it is the version, it is the content of my speech that is persuading them. You have however learned about people whom I thought could come up with something better than that.

Mr Speaker, I cannot interest people to join SWAPO in order to be recognised, that is not my version, it is outdated to me. You can convince the person if you tell them the truth.

HON SPEAKER: You were posing a question, Chief.

HON RIRUAKO: I do not have to ask a question, I am talking. My Colleague is still talking about people joining...(Interjections). That is the RDP version. I told him to go to hell, to come out with the truth first.

HON SPEAKER: Watch the language.

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HON RIRUAKO: I am sorry about that. Now people are still stuck to the RDP version, that makes me wonder for we are supposed to come up with something new, something attractive, something that you can tell the people how to do their business, but not that kind of version.

HON SPEAKER: I revert the Floor back to the Prime Minister.

HON RIRUAKO: I may say, my Prime Minister, I thought that the wrong thing in this House, for a long time, is the discrimination of your own people, I mean it in the professional way of doing things, but I did not think that you can come short of that. Please do away with the injury to the people, "*join SWAPO in order to be recognised.*" That is not the way how to do it. Tell them the goodness, the better way of life, how can you accept them and tell them the truth. Tell them and convince them, that is the way I do it, let us go and campaign together one day so that you can see how I persuade people. Then you can learn more than what you say now.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I would like to say that SWAPO and its Government is fully sympathetic to the social plight of our traditional leaders. Resources permitting, SWAPO and its Government will do its best to meet their social needs. However, I would like to advise this House to respect our chiefs and not make them a political football, as Honourable Moongo is trying to do. Let us respect our chiefs and all the chiefs, all the *Gao-aob*, like *Gao-aob* //Garoëb, my chief. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Pandeni.

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members. Just for the information of this august House, last year the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural

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Development has increased the allowance of traditional leaders that are recognised, from the Chairperson of the Council of Traditional Leaders, the Deputy Chairperson of the Council of Traditional Leaders, the various chiefs of the recognised Traditional Authorities, senior councillors...(Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: May I ask a question to the Honourable Minister? Are these chiefs performing correctly? We do not see their job, we do not see their way of doing things. They must come up with something that will also be known by the whole society, but not only you and the Government-of-the-day. They have to be professional people, there is a kind of quality which they are supposed to have.

HON SPEAKER: Yes Chief, the Minister is starting to explain that. Minister continue.

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. Maybe I should just inform the Honourable Chief Riruako that indeed what we are busy with right now is to restructure the way our traditional chiefs are structured, but I just want to indicate that last year we gave an increase up to the secretary.

We are talking about a very sensitive issue here, I reported here how much they received. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: On a Point of Information. I just want to comment that it is rather unethical for a sub-headman to raise an issue of conflict of interest in this House and because the sub-headman is well aware that his days are numbered. I remember very well when these new Political Party was formed he was jubilant, he was happy and saying, "*SWAPO, after the congress you are going to be like the CoD*", but the truth of the matter is, Honourable Moongo, you have dug your own grave. You should remember this is your last session in Parliament.

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The unethical issue which I want to raise is the question that you are trying to determine your own conditions of service and benefits when you go back to the Traditional Authority and that I consider as unethical. Thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. I was saying, we are dealing with a very sensitive issue, which issue needs all of us to apply our minds because one way or the other we belong to the very same traditional chiefs. These are our leaders at the traditional level.

If you look at the Traditional Authorities Act (Act No. 25 of 2000), it specifically gives directives as to how the Minister should deal with the allowances paid to traditional leaders, very, very specific. It indicates that each recognised traditional community, from the chief to the six senior councillors, six other councillors and then the secretary are the ones to be paid. That is in the Act and the Act was passed here in Parliament.

I must also indicate that if you look at the reality of our Traditional Authorities, you find that apart from those who are given assistance by the Government of the Republic of Namibia, there are many traditional leaders up to the headmen and name them. I would have expected Honourable Moongo to be very serious with this matter.

Last year he moved the same Motion after he had heard that indeed the traditional leaders have received an increment, then he brought it up here in order to sound like *yes, you are given increment because of me*. I just want to indicate that if you were serious, Honourable Moongo, you could have really linked up with our office. Now that we are busy looking at the restructuring of the traditional leaders, the Honourable Chief has indicated that they don't see what they are doing, indeed the traditional leaders are doing a very wonderful job, there is no doubt about it.

I am however saying that if we get into this matter just for the sake of disinformation, if you look at the Ondonga Traditional Community and if you look at the leadership down there, you are talking about many people. So we

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need to get these suggestions so that we are able to apply them to the reality on the ground rather than to come to Parliament and then wanting to force Parliament to decide.

I also want to indicate that Honourable Moongo went ahead to give an unopposed Motion which said that this issue is to be referred to a Committee. I thought the sensitivity and the seriousness of this matter requires a decision to be taken by us and I do not know how he wants to limit that decision to himself.

I am appealing to him that during the Debate of Vote 17 ... (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Read the Rules!

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** I know, I have read the Rules, I am talking about the reality that if this decision is to be taken, it would be helpful that the House participates. That is also a democratic decision.

I am appealing that during the Debate of Vote 17, Honourable Moongo is free to make proposals and suggestions. We will definitely take it up and look into them, but not at this stage. For your information, we have already submitted our Budget and how do you expect this Minister to go and effect whatever you are changing. It should also be in consultation with the Ministry of Finance.

I am suggesting that you use the appropriate channels available to enable us to look into the matter. The issue is very, very important, but the manner in which we are doing it might not be very helpful to us.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for his contribution. Honourable Dienda.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, if there is nobody else, I would like to adjourn the Debate until tomorrow.

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HON DR A IYAMBO / HON VENAANI**

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Iyambo.

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I think based on what Honourable Pandeni just said, a very clear programme, a very clear strategy, a very clear law, very specific and he also referred to some opportunistic tendencies. He did not explain but I tend to agree with what he is saying.

Comrade Speaker, mine is now on a procedural matter. We hear from the Opposition that the Motion is moved to be unopposed after the discussion. How can we discuss and once we are through with discussion, it is unopposed as if we have already discussed it? Unopposed, whatever it means.

HON SPEAKER: That part you leave to the Speaker.

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Honourable Speaker, we are not clear what it is at the moment. Is it unopposed now or is it unopposed after discussion and what do we oppose after discussion? Just clarity, Honourable Speaker, as it is not clear.

HON SPEAKER: I was going to do that after I have exhausted the list. Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. It was not my intention to take the Floor in this Debate, but I have listened to the Right Honourable Prime Minister, who has deserted the Debate probably due to other important engagements and I want to air a few sentiments in this very important Debate.

I think Honourable Moongo has been on record airing his concerns and our Party's concern over the role and the recognition of the role of traditional leaders and to be compensated with something that is commensurate with their important role, as we all agree. The Ruling Party is also agreeing with us that one, we

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respect traditional leaders and two, that their role should be commensurate with something better than the current peanuts that they are receiving.

Now, the Ruling Party has one tendency and rightly or wrongly, every time when the Opposition is advising, when the Opposition is giving advice they are told they are trying to make cheap political points.

Honourable Speaker for the last fifteen years, Honourable Members, our Party has been advocating for the Grade 10 repeats, but this is an issue that you are boasting about in the Budget. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask a question? Thank you for accepting my question. Honourable Venaani, you correctly mentioned that the SWAPO Party Government recognises the chiefs, they recognise the important role they play in society, but the problem is, when are you going to stop this mushrooming of traditional chiefs? We need to put a stop to that somewhere, because as the Right Honourable Prime Minister mentioned a short while ago, he said some Political Parties survive on the invention of traditional chiefs and that is the truth. That is how you keep on surviving.

It was confirmed here by Honourable Kaura himself that he has a list of 48 Traditional Authorities to be recognised by the Government. Every time we must reinvent a traditional community. The question is that we have to stop that and then we recognise the Traditional Authorities who are doing a commendable job within their own communities. We should not, if the people go and settle in a small village there, suddenly invent a chief.

HON VENAANI: The reason why I have taken part in this Debate is because of that question and understanding that my Senior Colleague on the other side of the Isle, really does not understand the traditional complexities of communities south of the red line, there is a big divide between a perception north of the red line and south of the red line. It is because of the colonial powers and the divide-and-rule tactics that they implemented south of the red line. (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: May I ask my cousin a tiny question?

HON SPEAKER: The point is that he was answering the question.

HON VENAANI: On a very serious note, what happened after German colonisation in this country? The Damaras, for example – I am answering a question, Honourable Minister. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: We should follow the Rules. The question was put and the Honourable Member is trying to answer the question. We should allow him to do that first, unless if in his answer there is misunderstanding, then we take the Floor on a Point of Order. I appreciate questions are not questions, questions become statements, so it complicates the work of the Speaker but try to answer the question that was put.

HON VENAANI: Apartheid and colonisation have created what you called ‘*Reserves*’, homelands. I have an understanding that our Colleagues from the North are living in their own homogeneous areas, their chieftaincies have not been moved. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: On a Point of Order. Comrade Speaker, when the Honourable Member thinks of SWAPO, then he thinks of SWAPO north of the red line, because he says “*the Colleagues on the other side*”. Who is he educating? SWAPO is in every village. Who is he to come and tell us here about the Germans coming here, etcetera?

HON SPEAKER: Can we agree on both sides to get out of this quagmire

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where we are moving in a circle? I want us to progress forward step by step. You are moving in a circle. We are going to have a special workshop during this Session to review the Rules and Orders that we have step by step.

HON VENAANI: To be very brief on the matter that I was asked, I am not trying to educate you. Every time the Honourable Colleague, my father, thinks that he is the best defender of SWAPO, and every time that he tries to defend SWAPO he does it so wrong. I am not educating you about the south of the red line, but there is a divide. The way that my Brother Peya Mushelenga has been brought up in the North and the way that I was brought up south of the red line, there is a big divide about the Traditional Authorities and their roles. Even the current powers that are in the North are much more heavier than that of chiefs south of the red line.

I mean, a chief in Omuthiya can tell me to pay taxes and a chief in my area cannot ask me to pay any tax. He just cannot do that. Yours allocate land to people and that is why I am saying there is a north and south divide over the Traditional Authority issue.

The creation of 46 traditional leaders that applied under Chief Riruako was the creation of the Odendaal Plan that created reserves – Otjohorongo, Okamatapati, Otjituuo. There are 46 reserves. Otjituuo, Okamatapati, Count them! All these chiefs have different clans, they came from different clans. (Interjections). Caprivi is different, it is homogeneous. Listen to me people.

HON SPEAKER: One speaker at a time!

HON VENAANI: I am surprised that some of the Colleagues are surprised that chiefs south of the red line do not have the powers that are in the North. Of course we know these things. Therefore, the mere fact that we have 46 chiefs, I agree with the view expressed by the Government, saying that 46 chiefs of a community with such a population are too many. I agree, but the creation was not artificial, it is the creation of colonisation and the Odendaal Plan. (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a Point of Information. I think Honourable Venaani is losing the power of communication, the power of language to distort realities. Distorting reality in what sense? The thesis of homogeneity being advanced by Honourable Venaani in respect of other ethnic groups in Namibia, like he says in Caprivi there is homogeneity *vis-à-vis* the Herero tribe virtually says nothing.

Anyway, I am saying it is a distortion of reality because a clinical composition in Caprivi and clinical composition is identical in many tribes in Namibia. If you go to the Owambo-speaking Namibians, you will find their ethnological composition is not far from the Herero. You find the Uukwadhudi, you find the Ngandjera, you find the Kwanyama. If you go to the Caprivi you will find the Subia, you will find the Mafwe, the list goes on. If you come to the Herero, you will find the Mbanderu, you will find the Zemba. If you go to the Damaras, you will find Damaras in Omaheke and the Damaras in central Khorixas or whatever, there is no homogeneity. Go to the south, you will find the Namas of Witbooi, you will find the Swartbooi and the list goes on. Even if you go to the Germans and the Afrikaners ...(Intervention)

HON MEMBER: Culturally homogeneous.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Cultural homogeneity in what sense? And that is no attack on anybody, but the thesis can sociologically not stand the test.

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, may I ask Honourable Venaani a question?

HON SPEAKER: I appeal to the Honourable Members, questions are different from statements. When you ask a question, ask a question that the Honourable Member would be able to answer. If you want to make a statement, list your

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name, I will call you and you will have a much more substantive contribution to the discussion. That is the difference.

HON KAURA: I just want to find out from Honourable Venaani and in the process also Honourable Kazenambo, the returnees from Botswana that are resettled in the Eiseb Block as well as in Gam, do you mean they do not deserve to have chiefs or traditional leaders or would you call them a proliferation of traditional leadership?

HON VENAANI: You have just answered the question. Let me come to the thrust of my argument, the cultural homogeneity that I am talking about and Honourable Kazenambo, you are a Son of Kavikunua. Kavikunua was buried here. There were people controlling Windhoek, Nama and Herero chiefs that were living here. This was not just an urban centre, it was a rural area inhabited by chiefs and traditional authorities. Today the person who... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: On a Point of Directives and Information. Comrade Speaker, the problem I have with Honourable Venaani is that his perception is totally wrong. Wrong in the sense and I do not want to cite my father. You see, you have a Namibian community who were born in Botswana and Angola because of the war situation. They have their families here. Late Chief Nguvauva the II nominated, because it is unheard of for a chief to be elected, and even though he was born in Botswana (interjection). No listen, I want to take you in the right direction. Listen! Then he came and he took the responsibility here as a leader. We did not say because he is born there he cannot be a leader here.

Now Honourable Kaura said that no, you now want to say that those Hereros from Botswana who are settled at Gam must not have their own leaders. My dear, what type of leadership is that? What about those working in Oranjemund? Must they have their own leaders and those at Ondangwa to have their own leaders? That is the whole perception we have to change, Honourable Venaani, because it cannot help you if each village has an *ombara*. Where have you heard of such a thing? If you come to Ongandjera you are part of that *ombara*, but you can be a headman.

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You want to cause confusion amongst the Hereros and you must stop that thing.

HON VENAANI: He is talking about the perception. The perception that he is advancing is so confusing. The very first Herero leader was elected, the very first Maharero was elected as commander-in-chief of the Hereros. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Honourable Speaker, may I ask a question to Honourable Venaani? Honourable Venaani, I just want to understand you correctly about what you said happened with the Herero traditional leadership. Obviously after the Germans and beyond the Odendaal Plan things have changed, the mushrooming of chiefs is a result of that.

Now, even if that is the case, since we are dealing with tradition as it were, which one should we now follow? Should we go with the very traditions as it were that should be followed or should we now leave that tradition and adopt what has been brought about by the Germans and the Odendaal Plan. It is a question of the mushrooming of Chiefs, I think. (Interjection). I am not asking the Honourable Member, I am asking the question to the person. Do we follow the tradition as it were or do we follow the tradition that came up as a result of colonialism? If you can help us on that one.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I do not know whether it is a Point of Information or asking for assistance, I am now at a loss, because the Order Paper refers to a Motion motivated by Honourable Moongo, calling for discussions on the adjustments and salaries of chiefs and headmen. Now, I know that in this House we sometimes refer to other issues just to demonstrate points that we want to make on the point that is on the Table, but now this Debate has been going on just about the recognition of chiefs and it is really becoming a problem. Can we return to the issue that is on the Table, please?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, you are 75% correct in what you are saying. What raises the problem is that it refers to traditional leaders. Therefore

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the questions, some right, some wrong, some misguided and all the rest arrive at the 25% where you are wrong, because the mere reference to traditional leaders, but you are 75% correct. Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: I want to come to the Motion, but let me just answer the question on which tradition we have to follow. Tradition is quite dynamic and never evolving, but let me tell you the tradition that I am talking about.

Before colonialism, before a white man came on the shores of this country, the Damaras were governing themselves, the Tjamuahas were governing themselves. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: How old were you?

HON VENAANI: If you do not know them, I know them, so listen.

HON SPEAKER: It would also help if you listen to one another. We are using a foreign language, it would help if we listen to one another.

HON VENAANI: Every clan was governing itself separately, every person was governing itself separately. Colonialism came, the divide and rule tactics were the order of the day and people were saying, "*no, the Namas are giving the Hereros a problem.*" And let me give you one example of the Namas just to finish this part.

You had the case between the Goliaths and the Isaaks. The Government asking, how can you have two chiefs divided by a river, but the Goliaths were never governed by the Isaaks and they will never be governed by the Isaaks, nor will the Isaaks historically and otherwise ever be governed by the other clan. Even if you impose it on them, it was never their tradition, it can never be their tradition.

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HON SPEAKER: I am not sure whether Venaani is correct in what he has said, but it is a kind of a problem, they all refer to traditional leaders, but is that what the motion is all about? Let us talk to the Motion. If you could as much as possible try to speak to the Motion.

HON VENAANI: I will leave it at that, Honourable Speaker. The argument is, you need to have a traditional area, a communal area in order to govern. If two people from different traditional communities are put by force, by colonialism, you want me to recognise one chief. (Interjection). If it is not your problem, you are still seized with the problem.

However, coming to the payment and the structures of the Traditional Authority... (Intervention)

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING, RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** May I ask Honourable Venaani a question? Honourable Venaani, just to demonstrate your knowledge on what you have now referred to, the Isaaks and Goliath, can you just tell us what traditional community are we talking about, because we are not talking about two communities? Can you just tell us which community you are referring to?

HON VENAANI: Honourable Minister, you have just recognised the Kakuru Kouje Traditional Authority and the Otjikaoko Traditional Authority. Which different communities do these two communities come from? They are all Himbas from the same area and you have recognised them! What are you talking about? Please do not confuse matters. You are the '*chief confuser*' of these traditional matters. Educate yourself! You are the '*chief confuser*' of these matters. I will not answer those questions. (Interjections)

HON SPEAKER: I want us to take a shallow breath please. Let us calm down. The Motion is on the Floor, let us address the Motion.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Basically what the Honourable Muharukua is saying is that the people have to understand what you were exchanging. Zeraua and Maharero are Hereros, are they not? And Honourable Venaani was trying to say, please explain it to your people. I think there is a lot of confusion in this House and I do not know whether Honourable Muharukua has her own people. I just felt that this confusion should not be left in the House.

HON SPEAKER: There can be no confusion in the House as long as I preside, there is confusion on the part of the Honourable Members who take the Floor. That is the difference. If you speak on the Motion, everyone will speak from the same page, but if we speak about things that are outside of the Motion, then it is an invitation to confusion and somehow Honourable Members would want this House to one day, if we set time aside, to discuss matters ethnic and tribal on their own merit.

HON VENAANI: The confusion you are talking about is the Khao Kham community. (Interjections) No, you cannot educate me on these matters, you are the '*chief confuser*'.

Honourable Speaker, coming to the importance of the salary structures of traditional leaders, and I am addressing the problem, I think the motion is addressing the recognised traditional leaders, those who are currently serving as official traditional leaders.

I agree with some of the sentiments raised by the other side of the aisle that probably resources do not permit to cover what Honourable Moongo is proposing, but let me just try to elucidate one point that people are going astray on the powers of this House, that this House cannot debate such issues, as we are told, *that any issue of financial nature cannot be debated under the functions and powers of this House*. (Interjection)

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: No, we cannot take a decision.

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HON VENAANI: The Constitution of our Republic under Article 63(2)(c) says: *“To take such steps as it considers expedient to uphold and defend this Constitution and the laws of Namibia and to advance the objectives of Namibian Independence.”* This Constitution can take any steps to advance those goals.

For example, if it was not the Budget period and we had a crisis of the war veterans... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Order. I have good news and the good news is, all Honourable Members of this august House are invited to attend the Kakuru Kouje inauguration on the 21st of March. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: We thank the Deputy Minister for the invitation.

HON VENAANI: Every cat is a good cat as long as it catches the mice. Now this particular cat has exposed herself on her interest in this matter, but be it as it may.

I am advancing one point in conclusion, Honourable Speaker, I agree that it is very difficult for us to Budget in this House. On that we have an agreement. Do however not argue that this House cannot bring matters of financial nature to this House. Then you erode the credibility and the importance of Parliament. Parliament is the House that talks about people's problems and people's problems, mind you, are financial. Public service delivery are financial issues. Thus when we bring issues of financial nature to this House at any time, we are obliged by the Namibian Constitution to do so in the interest of our citizenry.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, the war veterans are now receiving N\$2,000 and it is a good thing, a good gesture and I support the gesture, but we know some of the chiefs are the ones who created these war veterans-to-be. They are the ones who facilitated these war veterans to be war veterans today, but you do not want the chief to earn N\$2,000. And when the proportion of the war veterans would go up to N\$8,000 and when Honourable Moongo is advancing N\$8,000 for traditional chiefs, it is a problem, it is a political gimmick, it is a political point that we want to achieve.

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We are honest, it is our Party's conviction that there is a need to re-look at the financial matters of traditional leaders, and it does not say that if we agree to take this matter to a technical committee that the Executive does not also have the right to advise this House that there are no funds. Do however not say we should not argue, we should not bring this Debate here, we should have private discussions with Minister on issues that are important. We should have public discussions, we are public representatives, we should have public discussions in the interest of the public and we will continue doing so now and forever. I support the Motion.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I see the importance of this Motion by Honourable Moongo and therefore I want this Motion to be adjourned to the 18th of March 2008 so that we discuss it thoroughly. I move it as an unopposed Motion.

HON SPEAKER: I still have the names of Chief Riruako, Deputy Minister Kazenambo and the Minister of Finance. But may I advise the Honourable Members that when they press the button their name is recorded and when they press it again, their names are deleted.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Speaker, speaking about the salaries of those who are working according to the virtues I heard from the outset, I do most of the job but they get the money out of what I have done and what I am doing every day.

To embark on theories of how much they must be paid is something else, but if it comes to the job, who does the job better than the others? I go to every traditional leader who needs me. When I go to Ovamboland I ask them, people who are traditional leaders should confine themselves to that, it is the only job that they do and they talk about their salaries. What is that? I am not recognised, but what I do is beyond that, whether you want it or not.

Let us sit down together and find a way... (Interjection). No, I am not considering that. If I go there, they are going to keep quiet and some of them are

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on their own. I go there sometimes for ceremonial affairs. Go ahead with your questions. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: I do not want to disturb your maiden speech. Honourable Chief, I am just asking your good self, do you support the Motion of Honourable Moongo or not, because you look here instead of pointing to Moongo, the Mover of the Motion. Are you supporting it or not?

HON RIRUAKO: I was called back here to lead them and do lead them, but not just confining myself to Hereros. He knows about it. I go there, I know the chief in the area but I went to the kingdom house...(Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON RIRUAKO: I am answering now, you must stop. At times I am invited to Chief Kauluma's house and I have to go to him and he knows who I am and I know who he is.

We are talking about money, my money is worth something – job plus the money. Job plus the money, performance plus the money. For me these go together. We have to go into Safari Hotel and talk and talk and then, what do you about those talks? How much and how far have they advised you? That is another question.

Mr Speaker, I am here to educate where I see it is not caring for...(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a point of order. With due respect to Honourable Riruako...(Interjection)

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HON RIRUAKO: I am a chief. I am your chief too.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Since I was not born here and before I came here I have never known Honourable Riruako to be a chief, because where I was born he was never the recognised chief and he was never the chief of my clan and he is not my chief and he will never be my chief. He is an Honourable Politician who can enter this Parliament today and tomorrow he is out and that is what I have known him for, for that circus.

Anyway, the Honourable Member of Parliament cannot sit here and belittle Traditional Authorities that are recognised by the Government of the Republic of Namibia, representing different communities (Interjection) and I am lecturing you and in fact I am not addressing you, but I am addressing this House, that this is a House of Representatives and on a Point of Order, Honourable Riruako is out of order to come and present himself here as if he is the chief of all chiefs in Namibia. He may be a chief of his followers, but he is not a chief of all chiefs.

HON RIRUAKO: Let the House know about you now. I am from Ombandi where you say you are from, but not from the youngest, from the eldest ones of Ombandi. It is where you belong, underneath my feet.

HON SPEAKER: It does not mean violence, does it?

HON RIRUAKO: Not violence. You know, I know about you and you know about me. You call yourself you are from Kavikunua and I am from the blood of Kavikunua the same mother where you belong. If you belong somewhere else, yes! (Interjection). I know he is a Namibian citizens. I am related to Tjamuaha from my mother, she is a sister to Tjamuaha from my grandfather, then you call yourself you are from the royal blood. I want to put you where you belong.

Mr Speaker, he is my brother, they searched for fourteen days to know who I am, they listened, all of them. (Interjection). It is not by force, you forced yourself upon them, not me.

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Mr Speaker, traditional leaders have to recognise each other, but I was not forced on the Hereros, I was well elected by the Hereros as a whole.

HON MEMBER: When?

HON RIRUAKO: You cannot ask me “when”, read your history.
(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask the Honourable Chief a question? My question is just a tiny question. I wanted to know from the Honourable Chief, since you returned to Parliament, when are you going to make your maiden speech or is this one the maiden speech?

HON SPEAKER: You do not need to answer that, Chief. Continue.

HON RIRUAKO: I may say this, when you become a leader, you must respect yourself and respect others and if you equalise yourself with others, you must take their footsteps too. Equality is something for all of us want, but if you are not fitting in those positions, remove yourself from them.

Mr Speaker, this House is a House of talking, but it is tactical talking. We are watched by thousands and we also have to watch them and respect them while they are talking and not to dishonour them or be disrespectful. They are there to listen to us and they are there to guide us where we are wrong, not on our own as a House. This is a humane dignified House.

Mr Speaker, respect for one another is something that can take us somewhere but not to disrespect one another. I was asking for recognition for how many years? Eighteen. I got N\$2,000, N\$4,000, what does that mean? It is what they attach to any section of respect, it is not an exercise of the power you need. It is not just merely money issues. Money must be attached to certain qualities, these two must be combined. We have to learn about that.

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We know the process well, but we have to sit down as politicians but not to yell at one another, but to sit down in a closed room where we are going to execute our rights and talk about the issue of our needs. I hope my words have gone where it belongs.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I also did not think there would be any need for a contribution from myself, I thought that we would agree on the appropriate way to handle this matter, but it seems that that would not happen. I now therefore feel obliged to share a few thoughts on this very important topic, specifically in support of what has been said by the Prime Minister and a number of other Members of Parliament, especially on this part of the House.

I would however start off by saying, of course, what the Prime Minister has also said, that we are all appreciative of the good efforts that are made by our traditional leaders to ensure good governance of our country and the promotion of the development of our communities and we feel that, given the important work that they do, they are deserving of every support that the State and every Namibian could render to them to enable them to do more of this most valuable work that they do for our community.

However it is important that we distinguish between what it is what the Honourable Member is asking for in principle and what it is that we have been doing as of now and the Honourable Member seems not to be just asking that we should strengthen what we already have, he seems to be asking for a complete departure from what we are doing now, to replace what we are doing now with something else.

As far as I know, support from the Government to the Traditional Authorities is provided in the form of allowances that are provided to traditional leaders and assistance, as per the agreement between the Government and the Council, and as specified in the relevant laws of our State and we do not provide salaries. However, Honourable Moongo is now asking both for an adjustment, I do not know to what, I assume to these allowances and also the introduction of salaries.

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If the Honourable Member indeed intends to ask for salaries to be introduced for Traditional Authority, what the Honourable Member is asking for is that these traditional leaders should become civil servants, employed by the State and subject to the Public Service Act and the regulations thereof, including the restrictions that are applied by these laws and regulations on civil servants, including the age limit at which a person may continue to be a member of the civil service and the restrictions when it comes to involvement in political activities for those civil servants that are in managerial positions and I do not suppose that the Honourable Member really wants that, that the Honourable Member really wants a Traditional Authority to be summoned by a Permanent Secretary to be subjected to a disciplinary hearing because they have acted in a manner that is not commensurate with what is expected of a civil servant. I am sure that is not what the Honourable Member wants us to do here.

If the Honourable Member agrees that that is not what he is asking for, then he would do himself and the rest of us a favour to just agree to follow the advice that has been given by the Honourable Line Minister that since the Government already does provide support to Traditional Authorities in the form of allowances, let us wait until it is time to discuss the Vote of the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development and if we wish, we can even raise these things during the general debate. Let us however not insist on discussing this issue in the way that was proposed by Honourable Moongo, because this will just create more problems for us rather than solve them.

I think it is also really important to say that we cannot say that recognition of the contribution of traditional leaders can only be determined in terms of whether the Government pays salaries to these Traditional Authorities or not. We cannot say that and if we do, then that would be tantamount, in my view, to political blackmailing and that is part of the reason why we say that Honourable Members who actually introduce these matters in the manner that they do, are doing so for purposes of scoring cheap political votes, because you know that it is not correct.

This is so because we already do give support to Traditional Authorities, as I have indicated, but this is not in the form of salaries. So, if we really want to talk about strengthening support, we can talk about strengthening the support that we already give, instead of coming with completely new proposals that have a lot of implications that we may not have thought about.

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Secondly, the Government, in addition to this allowance that we give to traditional leaders, also have made a commitment, and is living up to that commitment, to support the establishment and the operation of Traditional Courts. This is a commitment that translates into a lot of costs for the State.

It is also important to note that there is a variety of stakeholders with whom the Government engages in development of our country and whose contribution we equally value apart from traditional chiefs and these other stakeholders are not salaried by the State and they include the religious leaders whose organisations have been at the forefront of community development, especially during the period when we did not have a national Government and we were subjected to occupation by a foreign Government. It was the churches that were providing educational and health services especially in the areas where the majority of our people who come from the African population of this country, live. Up to today the churches are still important stakeholders in development. They are not salaried, their leaders are not salaried by the State, they do not as organisations receive subsidies from the Government, but we do not come here and blackmail the Government that unless we introduce salaries for them, we do not recognise what they are doing. We do not do that.

In spite of the fact that we do not salary these stakeholders, we do support the efforts that they make, that is why we give subsidies to Church Schools, we give subsidies to Hospitals of the Churches and we even give subsidies to Private Schools because we do recognise that these are important efforts and they need to be supported because they benefit all of us and they add value to the development effort of our country. But we cannot say that we should salary everybody. I think that that is unreasonable.

I will not be tempted to deviate from the subject on the table and respond to some of the comments that were made by some of the Honourable Members, because I am convinced that some of these comments were made quite knowing that they are not correct and they were made for the purpose that the Honourable Members do not want to acknowledge, and that is just to score cheap political votes – and that probably includes the Honourable Member who now feels obliged to say something. (Intervention)

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HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I do not know if she was talking to me or somebody else. May I ask the Honourable Minister of Finance a question, please? The Honourable Minister has just mentioned that we have leaders who have been contributing and who are contributing right now to the social welfare of our people, for instances the Churches, who are not being salaried by the State. It is true, it is not wrong, nobody has doubted that. My question is: Is it wrong for somebody to come up and say what the Government is doing right now, which we appreciate, giving a little bit to traditional leaders, needs to be improved given the fact that the social condition is increasing? Traditional leaders are not surviving on what they are getting from the State. Is it wrong to ask the State for that?

The second question: If the Motion asks for improvement of the conditions of traditional leaders, it means by implication that the traditional leaders will be compared with the civil servants. My understanding of the Motion was simply that it will be done within the Act, the Traditional Authorities Act. We do not need to use the Public Service Act. (Interjections). It is a question.

We all know that the traditional leaders are not getting salaries, they are getting allowances. We are professionals, we cannot just insist on a terminology that we know may have been used wrongly. Let us look at the content and importance of the Motion.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I will attempt to answer the questions of the Honourable Member if he allows me to and he does not interrupt me.

No, it is not wrong to ask for an improvement in the support that is provided and we have said that repeatedly. Almost every speaker that stood up to contribute to the Debate said there is nothing in principle wrong with that request. But we have said to the Honourable Member there is something wrong with the way that he is pursuing the matter and that is why we have advised that he should abandon the approach and allow the issue to be addressed in the correct manner, using the correct approach. We have said that.

If the Honourable Member would just agree and withdraw that, the Honourable Minister has even proposed that when it comes to the general Debate or the discussion of the Vote, where we actually have an allocation for the allowances to Traditional Authorities, we can then discuss that issue. We have said that. Then

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it would also be within the proper context, because we are now looking at the total revenue of the State, we are looking at the other priorities, how all these resources are distributed to the various priorities and then we can all discuss whether or not we are able to accommodate these proposals in the manner in which they are put. Whether that is done now or later, the issue would at least be looked at and addressed in a systematic way. That is what we are saying. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. I do understand what the Honourable Minister means, but what I want to say is this: Some traditional leaders can get some subsidies, some help from the Government, certain donations, they are allowed to receive that somewhere from the other side of the world. This happens quite often. If that is the case and you also provide for such allocations, who can say you are doing wrong? I thank you.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I am sure that the Honourable Chief will also benefit from the information I am trying to provide. I wanted to just add by saying that we are also aware of the fact that Government does, every now and then, adjust whatever support we provide to the stakeholders or to the vulnerable members of our communities whenever resources allow. We do know that and we know that that does not happen just because the Opposition asks for it. It happens because as a Government we continuously analyse the situation and we identify the need for adjustment and we do carry out those adjustments when resources enable us to.

I know that sometimes the Honourable Members come here just to request these things, knowing that even if they are not addressed at that point in time, eventually one day they will be addressed and then they can get up and say, “*yes, we are the ones that proposed that.*” I think that is now the cheap politicking that we talk about when we say that the Opposition does that.

However, when you say that the Traditional Authority should be salaried, then you are definitely proposing that they should become staff members of the State and if that is not what the Honourable Member wants to say, it is important that that is clarified so that no one would continue raising this issue.

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Finally I just want to comment on the point that was raised by my Colleague there, who is interjecting at the back there, who said that we on this side are saying that Parliament cannot discuss issues of national interest. That was nicely manipulated, the way that only they can, nicely manipulated to really make us look guilty, but no one said that this House cannot discuss issues of national interest. What we said is that we cannot circumvent procedures that we have put in place for arriving at certain decisions. We can come here and discuss whatever we want, so long as we will not come here and say, *“increase the salaries or change the allowances of the traditional leaders into salaries and set it at N\$15,000,”* like the Honourable Member states, because that is not just discussing the issues, that is committing the State to specific expenditures, which cannot be done outside of the context of the Budget. That is what we are saying and you know it, Honourable Member.

Therefore, because of these problems that are presented by this approach, I would like to join those who called on the Honourable Member to just withdraw this Motion and not to do what would be tantamount to playing with the feelings of the Traditional Authority by making it look like he is the only one in this House and his Party is the only one that cares about the conditions in which the traditional leaders are operating and that the Ruling Party does not care and that is why it cannot agree to what has been proposed. All of us do care, but we have to adhere to the procedures that we have put in place, especially given the fact that the resources that are available to us are meagre and strained way beyond the needs that face us as a Nation. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for her contribution. Honourable Kazenambo.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. Allow me to also make my contribution to the Motion tabled by Honourable Moongo on the welfare of traditional leaders.

I will echo what my Minister has pronounced himself on, the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development on the welfare of traditional leaders that this matter – and I will stick to the word ‘matter’,

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because if I say 'issue', my Mother Nora Schimming-Chase will correct me. This matter, on a serious note, is receiving attention because last year there was a meeting of Traditional Leaders where this specific matter of the welfare of the Traditional Leaders was intensively discussed and the report of the Traditional Leaders on the pronouncement of this is being finalised.

The Minister has also pointed out here that the Ministry is busy considering the restructuring of the matter surrounding the Traditional Authorities. That means that at the ministerial level and at the Council of Traditional Leaders the welfare of traditional leaders has been under consideration and as it was said by the Minister and the Minister of Finance, this matter is also contained in the Appropriation Bill under discussion. Therefore, I join those who have said that this Motion could be accommodated under the specific Vote.

If it is for the sake of the usual politicking, surely the traditional leaders and their followers and subjects, including perhaps all of us sitting in this House because we hail from clan traditional leaders and that overall all traditional leaders are our leaders, I know very well that they themselves know the conditions in which they lived before Independence and the conditions they live in post-independent Namibia in many respects, including also the conditions and living conditions of their subjects. They know them.

Therefore, this matter cannot be subjected to politicking for the sake of scoring political points.

HON MEMBER: How scoring?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Scoring is scoring even if you have missed the score. That is why I used the word 'score'. Whether you have scored, is for the public out there to judge. That is my pronouncement on the matter of traditional leaders, especially their welfare.

Related and linked to this subject, let me address some of the political undertones that are sometimes linked to the subject of traditional leaders whenever it is being discussed in this House. In the same vein, let me also tackle the tendency not only in this august House, but the tendency outside there, the tendency of

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profiling, the tendency of trying to paint especially this side of the House as if we are not politically tolerant, as if we are not adhering to democratic norms and democratic standards and democratic culture.

Even though SWAPO is the Ruling Party, the representatives of SWAPO in this House and the representatives of SWAPO outside this House were elected just like the members of the Opposition were elected. We also have our fundamental human rights, we are also entitled to our liberties just like everybody is entitled to their liberties in this country as provided for in the Constitution. It does not mean that if we are members or representatives of the Ruling Party that takes away our freedom of expression, or rights and obligations outside there or in this House. We have all the rights just like anybody, and the people sometimes trample on our rights, but then they take cover, including the Honourable Gentleman. He is really distorting, manipulating, using his law to try to distort. Apparently he is busy grooming himself in that line and I respect him because he is a student of law. I am not here to judge our student, students are judged by professors whether they are competent students or not. He is studying law, I will recognise that and I encourage the Honourable Member to study law, but that is not the point.

The point is that democracy is not selective, democracy is not only meant for the Opposition, democracy is applicable and meant for all of us, members of the Ruling Party and members of the Opposition. We have seen a systematic demonising and typical profiling in our media who wants to silence us. Because SWAPO enjoys the popular support, therefore it must be demonised by profiling its members that their Debates in this House have low standards, simply because SWAPO objects to the half-baked Motions that are pushed in this House, designed to score cheap political points. When we pronounce ourselves on that, therefore the profiling media have selected a few Members of Parliament that when we talk, we are systematically being positioned as if we are being unreasonable, we are people who shout, among them Kazenambo, among them Honourable Ekandjo.

It was interesting that when the people were howling here, Honourable Members were howling in this House – and maybe it is not a parliamentary word, let me withdraw it before the Speaker reprimands me – when some Members were yelling from the other side of the House last week, to the typical bias of the media, they were not quoted. It is only because of profiling and demonisation of SWAPO members who are used to that. It is a psycho that is always used in

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order to present certain people as being unreasonable and certain Parties, as if today the SWAPO Party is a threat to democracy. No, we are not going to be shied away and we are not going to be cowards and bound by that. We are fully elected Members, we are here to participate on national issues. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask a question? I agree with you that certain Members in this House are being demonised and being profiled and I just want to stress to my young brother that you should not be afraid. We are here, we are elected Members. We have been elected by our people and we will continue to defend their interests and we are going to speak the truth without fear or favour. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, Honourable Nujoma, that is what I was really emphasising and thank you for echoing that.

We are not going to be cowards or we are not going to submit ourselves to intimidation by the people who are intolerant by nature and who are intolerant themselves. We know of countries where Government Parties are intolerant, there prisons are full of political prisoners. (Interjection).

HON SPEAKER: I hope the Honourable Deputy Minister will find a way to say something about the Motion. At some point you would want to say something about the Motion.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I am saying, with due respect to the Honourable Speaker, I have already echoed my support of the position that the Ministry is busy and this Vote will also be discussed. I am however addressing sentiments that were thrown... (intervention)

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HON KAZENAMBO**

HON SPEAKER: You are denying the other Honourable Members an opportunity. We are discussing the Motion. If you have no problem with the Motion, I think you have made your contribution.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Honourable Speaker, on the issue of the Motion, there are traditional leaders outside there who are say that we are not doing anything or that their values and their contributions are not felt. It has unfortunately been a tendency in this august House, when we discuss a Motion like this one on traditional leaders, whereby some traditional leaders are always attacked.

Like Honourable Venaani has said, perhaps when we deal with matters of traditional leaders, sometimes we understand them from different perspectives because of our diverse cultural backgrounds. It is really sometimes painful when, and perhaps even when we speak the language here on matters of traditional leaders, my Brother sitting next to me here, because I have been sitting in this House, referring to matters outside this House but hitting on certain traditional leaders who are not here but who are being attacked. With due respect, the quality of the job, be it traditional matters, be it political matters, be it economic matters, the input and output can be measured. The impact on the entire society is something else, but the input will be known by those who make that input. The effect and impact of that input is something else to be measured how it permeates in the entire society and that can be a subject for another discussion.

Whether the input in traditional matters, those traditional leaders perhaps whose inputs are being measured, that is not important here or it is not worth it, the subjects of those traditional leaders, the reason that they are subjects, they are appreciating it and recognise it.

Thus, for those who are following those traditional leaders, if it comes to their welfare, we will be more than happy for their welfare to be considered under this Vote or under another discussion. Whoever makes an input for his subjects and his society will benefit from that, let those traditional leaders go ahead.

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**MOTION ON TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON SPEAKER**

Honourable Speaker, within the concept of traditional matters some of us have been profiled and I quite often my being born in Botswana and having traditional leaders from Botswana comes from people like Honourable Riruako, Honourable Kaura has also mentioned that my parents are in Botswana and so on. Let me address this issue ... (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Deputy Minister, that is not what the Motion is about. You had ample time as you were responding to that. I would not honour your intention to dwell on that. It will take us further away from what we should consider here. If you are done, I want to thank you for your contribution.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: In conclusion, Honourable Venaani raised a very pertinent matter about the composition of traditional leadership, how it was constituted within the clans of the Herero and Honourable Venaani, tradition is something you know very well and perhaps the Speaker is trying to help us and maybe let me agree with him, because if we can discuss the issue of the composition and link it to the Odendaal and the Bantustan and the German colonisation, perhaps it will be another subject. However in honouring what the Speaker is preventing me from doing, your contribution was laced with dispersion, prejudice and I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank you very much. There are two proposals, one from Honourable Dienda and Honourable Ilonga, to defer the consideration of the Motion to a different time. I will call on them in the order in which they inscribed. I however want to say the following:

The Motion as it is on the blue order paper. The so-called unopposed Motion is a non-starter Motion. There is no such nomenclature in the Rules about unopposed Motion. What is provided for in our Rules is a "Motion without Notice" and that is allowed. However because of its nature, it must be an unopposed motion that is not likely going to provoke a discussion and in order to avoid that, the Mover would ensure that an unopposed Motion would not become a Motion. It has to be about the kind of information that the Deputy Minister of Gender equality and Child Welfare made, inviting us to attend a certain event, you can either attend it

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**MOTION ON PROVISION OF TRACTORS
HON KAURA**

or not attend it or it has to be about some information that is relevant to either the Motion or something to that effect. That is why I did not call for secondment or objection of Honourable Member's move. We do not have a creature called '*unopposed Motion*.' Therefore this was destruction of Government property.

The Honourable Member will have an opportunity, when the discussion is done, to propose something else. Suggestions were made here, for the withdrawal of the Motion. But the underlying thing from the Speaker's side, listening carefully to the contributions, is that nobody is opposed. The Prime Minister said he was not opposed to the idea of the Motion, the Minister of Finance said she is not opposed to the idea of the Motion, but it is the manner in which the idea of adjustment, the salaries and so on, issues that could be brought up in a different way than the manner in which the Honourable Moongo has brought them up. Those things could be considered when we get to that stage and the Honourable Member can, therefore, reflect on whether he would at some stage introduce a "Motion without Notice". But for now this is a non-Motion. Honourable Dienda. The adjournment would be on this one.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, I would like to adjourn until the 18th of April.

HON SPEAKER: Anybody prior to the 18th? If not, then the consideration of this Motion stands adjourned until 18 April 2008. The Second Notice of Motion is the one of Honourable Kaura. Does Honourable Kaura move the Motion?

**MOTION ON PROVISION OF TRACTORS
TO COMMUNAL FARMERS**

HON KAURA: I Move the Motion.

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds the Motion? Any objection? Agreed to. Honourable Kaura has the Floor.

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**MOTION ON PROVISION OF TRACTORS
HON KAURA**

HON KAURA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I am amazed at how all of a sudden the SWAPO Party Government is implementing all the things advocated, begged and preached over the last eighteen years conscientiously.

I have talked about the poor health situation in our hospitals and His Excellency, President Pohamba spoke out against the behaviour of Katutura Hospital officials, where a 3-day old baby died without serious attention after a snake bite at the Katutura Hospital.

Honourable Speaker, I have advocated the restoration of partnership between the Groote Schuur Hospital in South Africa and our medical facilities. At last the SWAPO Party Government has seen the need eighteen years after Independence to restore that relationship. I hope what I am advocating now will not be implemented posthumously after my death, but immediately.

Honourable Speaker, prior to Independence, during the infamous colonial era, tractors were provided by the colonial Government to the Northern regions for ploughing. Ironically, after Independence the SWAPO Party people's Government abolished that practice and gave tractors to civil servants to plough the fields and to make the poor peasants pay for the ploughing. Many of these tractors are nowhere to be seen and our poor people have reverted back to hoeing their fields or to use oxen during the 21st century under the SWAPO Party people's Government.

Some Honourable Members of the SWAPO Party people's Government must not implement programmes by way of a knee-jerk reaction. All of a sudden the Grade 10 failures are being allowed back to school without proper planning. I have advocated this issue for the last thirteen years, but now that RDP has come on the scene, the SWAPO Party is so nervous that they are falling all over themselves. Honourable Mungunda, nothing is forever. You can "oh yeah" as much as you want, the chickens have finally come home to roost.

During the by-election of Rundu Rural West I talked of tractors and the provision of pedigree bulls to the areas of Kaoko, the four O Regions Kavango and Caprivi. Merely three weeks later it was reported in the news media that some tractors are coming from Japan.

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HON KAURA**

Two weeks ago I saw Honourable Dr Nickey Iyambo handing out bulls and rams to communal farmers in the Omusati Region. I said, “*right on brother.*”

Honourable Speaker, we talk of the Green Scheme but we do nothing to make this a reality. Our people continue to be subsistence farmers because the Government is building white elephants, like the railway line to the North, while the people need tractors to make Namibia self-sufficient in food production and to accelerate the Green Scheme so that we can feed our weaners at our own feedlots locally in order to get at the proverbial value addition to our meat products. However, millions are spent on white elephants like Air Namibia, the State House and the railway line to the North.

I think this Government has learnt handsomely from the former Communist countries: “*Keep them poor and they will keep voting for you.*” I think that is the essence of the SWAPO Party Manifesto, “*keep them poor and they will keep voting for you.*”

Honourable Speaker, I do not want to belabour this issue because it is categorical imperative that this House must recommend the provision of tractors with deliberate speed to the Kavango, Caprivi and the four O-Regions. The tractors were there but they were removed by the brilliant SWAPO Party people’s Government.

Below the red line, already in the 1950’s Afrikaner bulls were provided to communal farmers in order to inject new blood into the cattle of communal farmers. Today communal farmers below the red line are having agricultural shows in areas such as Okamatapati, Okondjatu, Otjinene, Aminuis and so on, and those animals are qualitatively at *par* with those that are displayed at the Windhoek or Grootfontein Agricultural Shows.

Therefore, it is time for the communal areas beyond the red line to be afforded the same opportunities so that they can come on board and live out the true spirit of One Namibia, One Nation and equal economic opportunities for all.

With those remarks I move, that this House deliberate and implement this Motion with deliberate speed. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

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MOTION ON PROVISION OF TRACTORS
HON EKANDJO

HON SPEAKER: I thank Honourable Kaura for his motivation. Any further discussion? Dr N Iyambo.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Speaker, considering the time and that I want to hit the Honourable Member and hit him hard, I want to postpone this Debate. (Interjections)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Lands.

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members. I just want to put the record straight, the South African Government never provided tractors. The South African racist colonial Government never provided tractors to Namibian farmers in the communal area. This must be on the record.

Secondly, the railway line, I think the Honourable Member knows, is to link Namibia with Angola and SADC countries. This is a known fact. Thus, the Honourable Member must not just come here and make propaganda and say it is a white elephant. That is not the case. The railway line will contribute to the economic development of the SADC Region. These are the two points I wanted to make clear. (Interjections). It is a SADC project.

The Honourable former so-called Deputy Minister of Justice in the puppet Government should not come here and make propaganda.

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Honourable Speaker, I want to ask the Honourable Member a question. Comrade Ekandjo, is it allowed that we allow a Honourable Member from that side to be the spokesperson of a Party that is not represented in Parliament?

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Comrade Speaker, I just want to put the record straight, South Africa never, ever provided tractors and

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HON NUJOMA

maybe it should be taken to the Standing Committee of Rules and Orders, that if somebody is telling untruths and there is no intervention, maybe we can look into the Rules and Orders to see what we can do in future. Thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: My view is that unless an Honourable Member is saying something that violates the Constitution and the laws of the land, those are the bottom lines. If an Honourable Member in this House, in a Motion or in a statement, does not contravene the letter and spirit of the Constitution or the letter and spirit of the laws of the Republic of Namibia, then that is not an issue on which I should rule him out of order. However of course, Honourable Minister, you have ample opportunity to take the Floor tomorrow in for the House to inform the public out there, so that they would have the information to judge for themselves between what the Honourable Kaura has said and what you are going to say when providing the correct information. That is the way it should be done. Honourable Kaura has not violated the Constitution, he has not violated any laws, nor am I aware and if I discover that it was a violation of our Rules, then I will come back tomorrow and say so. Any further contributions? Honourable Nujoma.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I have listened attentively to the motivation of Honourable Kaura and I just want to comment and put in perspective the untruth which he has mentioned here.

In the first place he mentioned that during the colonial time South Africa was providing tractors to the North and to Kavango and all those Regions. What I know myself and what experience has taught us is that the tractors – perhaps Mr Kaura is confused – he is referring to is the Casspirs of the South African Boers. Those are the tractors the Boers were using to destroy the mahangu fields of our grandmothers, of our fathers and our mothers. What are you telling us? My grandmother, Kuku gwa Kondo, was beaten by the Koevoets in that field. (Interjection). No, what you are telling us, you just referred to Jerry that he was in Kavango. He was never, he was in Okahandja, he was not in the North before. (Interjection). Where were you? You were in Government in Windhoek here, you didn't know what the Boers were doing. You were the Deputy Minister of Justice, so they were telling you untruths. The real tractors which were there are

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HON NUJOMA

the bulldozers and the Casspirs which were destroying the mahangu fields of our own people with the full support of yourself, Honourable Kaura. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: I want Honourable Nujoma to answer me, that those tractors Honourable Kaura mentioned that were given to the people in Kavango and the North, maybe Honourable Kaura can tell us who were given those tractors if it is not the Casspirs you mentioned?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Ilonga, I agree with you, he must tell us to whom those tractors were given, how many were they and in which villages they were deployed. You must come with the statistics. I am happy to tell the Honourable Kaura that I am the Deputy Minister of Justice today. You were the '*Deputy Minister of Injustice*' then.

Therefore it is very important Honourable Kaura that when you take the Floor in this Honourable House, you should tell this Nation the truth. You should not deliberately mislead our people for cheap political points. (Interjections). We gave you the Floor, we gave you the opportunity and we have listened to you. Now you do not want to give me the Floor. That is a demonstration of lack of tolerance for which you are demonising us today that we are intolerant. Here in a simple Debate about the truth you are intolerant. Honourable Speaker, I thank you, when the time is right I will continue. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Deputy Minister now, Honourable Deputy Minister of yesteryears, even if we disagree we continue to be Honourable Members. We refer to each other as Honourable Members. I call on the Deputy Prime Minister to adjourn the House until the 12th of March 2008.

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HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: On the note of the request for a ceasefire between the two Deputy Ministers of Justice, may I propose that we adjourn until tomorrow 14:30. I so Move.

THE HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2008.03.12 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
12 MARCH 2008
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? The Notice of the Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture. Does the Honourable Minister move the Motion?

RATIFICATION: AFRICAN YOUTH CHARTER

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: I Move the Motion.

HON SPEAKER: Seconded by? Any objections? Agreed to. The Honourable Minister has the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly.

I have the pleasant duty to motivate in this august House, the arguments and reasons why Namibia's National Assembly should urgently and, hopefully, unanimously ratify the African Youth Charter, in terms of the relevant provisions of Article 63(2)(e) of the Namibian Constitution, which articulates one of the many functions and powers of our National Assembly as follows: *"to agree to the ratification of or accession to international agreements, which have been negotiated and signed in terms of Article 32(3) hereof."*

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Comrade Speaker, in summary, the facts and the reasons could be motivated as follows:

- The African Union Constitutive Act as adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the then Members States of the then OAU, on 11 July 2000, in Lomé, the capital of Togo, and the African Union's Strategic Plan 2007-2015 give due priority to youth development and empowerment on the continent and in respective Member States of the African Union.
- The aforementioned document and Namibia's Youth Policy clearly underscore the importance of youth participation and involvement in the development of our country and, indeed, the development of our continent.
- To give substance to this commitment to the development of the African Youth, the African Union developed a policy framework in the form of the African Youth Charter.
- The African Youth Charter prescribes freedoms, rights, obligations and responsibilities to the African Union Member States as well as to the youth themselves, for their own development.
- Furthermore, the Charter articulates and underlines the rights, duties and freedoms of the youth. It does also ensure the constructive involvement of the youth in the development agenda of Africa, the development agendas of their own States and their effective participation in the debates and decision-making processes in the development of the African Continent.
- In short, the Charter sets a framework to enable policy-makers to mainstream Youth issues in all development policies and programmes.
- Undoubtedly, the Charter provides a legal basis for ensuring youth presence and participation in Government structures and forums at national, regional and continental levels.
- I must state that the process of developing the Charter was participatory and took into account the voices of the youth themselves from all over the continent of Africa and the Diaspora.

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HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

- This particular document, the African Youth Charter, was approved by African Ministers in charge of the youth in May 2006 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and adopted by African Union Heads of State and Government as a legal framework of action for African Youth at their meeting which was held in Banjul, the capital city of Gambia on the 2nd of July 2006.
- At their recent meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which meeting took place from 12–15 February 2008, African Ministers in charge of youth, amongst others, resolved that all efforts be made to accelerate the signature, ratification and implementation of the African Youth Charter during this year 2008, which year has been designated by the African Union as **The Year of the African Youth**. The Namibian Cabinet, at its meeting on the 4th of March 2008, endorsed the African Youth Charter and authorised this Minister, currently responsible for youth affairs in our country, to table and motivate the Charter in this august House – the task that I am now fulfilling.

From everything said so far, the picture and message must be clear and that is that all institutions, stakeholders and authorities that matter and that have a direct mandate and duty to deal with this particular matter, have already made their inputs into this particular document. This institution, the National Assembly, therefore, is now kindly asked to make its own inputs in terms of discussing and debating this document and then to ratify it, so that it eventually becomes part and parcel of Namibia's national laws.

Honourable Speaker, I am done now, and request the Honourable Members to debate the document and unanimously agree to its ratification. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister for his impressive motivation. Any further discussion?

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I rise to support the Honourable Minister of Youth and to accede to his request for the ratification of this very important Charter. However, Honourable Speaker, there are issues I think that need re-emphasising, because the Charter does make reference to laws and practices in the various African countries which may differ.

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For that purpose, Honourable Speaker, I would like to refer to Article 2 of the Charter which very clearly says that every young person shall be entitled to the enjoyments of the rights and freedoms recognised and guaranteed in this Charter irrespective of race, ethnic group, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national and social origin, fortune, birth or other status.

Honourable Speaker, we know that in Namibia youth organisations have been treated differently based on their political affiliation. Once we endorse or ratify this Charter, it is in terms of international law to become part not only of our legislation, but also in terms of our behaviour. I thus find that Article 2 to be of extreme importance.

Article 5, Honourable Speaker, again talks about freedom of association and states: *“Every young person shall have the right to free association and freedom of peaceful assembly in conformity with the law.”*

Quite recently, Honourable Speaker, you yourself, His Excellency the President and many others have called upon the Nation to consider that it is necessary for people to associate freely and without intimidation and so this becomes very important.

Honourable Speaker, Article 9 is the one I especially welcome because it is a very gender sensitive article and under Article 9(2), we are committing ourselves that we shall ensure that young men and young women will enjoy equal rights to own property. We know what happens in many cases when the husband dies, what happens to property for the wife that remains and since we say that the youth will be everybody up to the age of 35, obviously some of them would be married.

Honourable Speaker, again under Article 10, it says: *“Every young person shall have the right to social, economic, political and cultural development with due regard to their freedom and identity and an equal enjoyment of the common heritage of mankind.”*

Under Article 11 it states under (1): *“Every young person shall have the right to participate in all spheres of society.”*

And for me of special importance, Honourable Speaker, is education as contained under Article 13. Under Article 13 it says: *“Every young person shall have the*

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right to education of good quality, the value of multiple forms of education, including formal, non-formal, informal, distance learning and lifelong learning to meet the diverse needs of young people.”

It says that: “*The education of young people shall be directed to the promotion and holistic development of the young persons’ cognitive and creative and emotional abilities to their full potential.*” This is what Paolo Freire also talks about when he talks about “*education for liberation.*”

Honourable Speaker, I can thus go through this whole document, through the whole Charter. The Charter is in keeping with the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, it is in keeping with all the promises that all the Political Parties make to the youth at all times, so I support this wholeheartedly and I appeal to all of us that once adopted, it should not become a piece of paper, but it should become an active document for us to use in the treatment of youth. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for her contribution. Honourable Nambahu.

HON NAMBAHU: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. I rise to make my humble contribution and register my support for the tabling of this very important document.

My attention was called to Article 26, that these are the responsibilities of the youth. Time and again we complain about our youngsters not being responsible and this Charter, in my humble view, will go a long way actually in bringing our youth into the realm of what their responsibilities are. It actually goes further by spelling out the points that it advocates for people to call their attention and responsibilities to.

I wholeheartedly support especially the points where they are talking about the youth promoting patriotism and unity and cohesion of Africa. I think it is a very good spirit and everything should be done to see to it that the spirit and letter in which this article was drafted is actually implemented.

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In general terms I wish to echo the words of the Minister while presenting, elaborating and motivating the document, by saying that all the stakeholders, all the mechanisms, all the Ministries, agencies and organisations that have responsibilities toward the implementation of programmes that have to do with the development of the youth and their well being, actually come up with strategies towards the domestication of this law and subsidiary legislation in implementing what is the letter and spirit stipulated by this Charter and come up with our own charter with target outputs and programmes that are going to make the implementation thereof meaningful.

Another point that I want to make reference to is the one of the right to recreation and leisure. Time and again we complain that our youth are engaged only in negative activities, engaged in the abuse of alcohol and all the other, but if you go to rural areas, for example, what options and what choices do people actually have in terms of recreation?

If a teacher in Okongo or somewhere teaches and after hours needs to recharge his batteries so that he tomorrow comes up fresh to school, what is there to recharge those batteries? I do not want to answer that question. What are the places that he can go to? I do not want to answer that question. What are the options? I do not want to answer that question.

Honestly, these are the things that people should look up and I think all the agencies that are responsible for the implementation thereof should apply their minds creatively and come up with programmes which will cater for the recreational and leisure needs of our young people in the rural areas.

With these probably many words, I wholeheartedly support the Charter. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I want to start with a quotation of Catharine the Great who once said, *"I blame softly and praise loudly"* and I want to loudly praise the Minister, the Cabinet of this Republic, the Head of State for having gone through all the motions to try to get this document to this House for ratification.

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HON VENAANI**

All of us agree that this is a very important international instrument that would advance the socio-economic standards and the welfare of young people and the youth and we all know that being a youth is only a transit process, not a static process. I am sure the Right Honourable Prime Minister was probably at a time also a youth member and many other Members of this House. Therefore youthfulness is part of humanity because all of us have to go through it.

Honourable Speaker, I want to draw the attention of this House to Article 14 that speaks about poverty eradication and socio-economic development of the young people or the youth. I feel this article is very important and our country should at the time reflect on how we are engaged with programmes that are advancing the socio-economic needs of young people in this country. I want to be on record saying that most of the time young people are so much so on the receiving end when it comes to accessing credit from financial institutions because they have no collateral. Many of their ideas have been hamstrung, because they cannot find access to finance and I think we as a country should really try to interrogate the question of access to finance by young people in this country so that they can prosper in the socio-economic standards.

Not so long ago on a Sunday there was a programme on Carte Blanche where we saw a young South African scientist venturing into rockets and those Members who have watched the programme should have been really impressed about an African child, a young African person who has just recently matriculated and has rubbed shoulders with people who have gone to the moon, because of his research and work he is doing in the area of science.

It is important for us to make sure that we create that safety belt, because you train somebody at a vocational training centre to do welding, but the next morning after you have trained this person, he must create a living and if there is no company that wants to hire him, he must be given access to credit in order to start a welding company to help farmers or to help whoever needs his services.

I want us to really look at the question of the socio-economic problems and the hardships being experienced by young people in our country.

Lastly, Honourable Speaker, Article 17 of the Charter speaks about peace and security. I have told two or three Colleagues in this House about my experience not so long ago in our neighbouring SADC country, DRC. If one look at many conflicts - recently in Kenya, Cote d' Ivoire, Dafur, Rwanda, Burundi, DRC and

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so forth – it is young people that are being used as soldiers, child soldiers, fourteen and younger.

I remember at a place called Bunjimai in the DRC where I met a young child, probably twelve, at an open market and this young boy asked me for money and obviously he noticed that I was a foreigner and not a citizen of the country. Then I said I do not have money and my translator was translating what the boy was saying and he was probably thirteen, fourteen. This young boy says: *“It has been long time since I have not killed anyone, in fact I am smelling a human being’s blood.”* My translator told me, *“no please, just give him a dollar, he is one of those people that were trained and he will probably just create problems.”* (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Suddenly you had money!

HON VENAANI: Well, suddenly I had money. This is a young African child and many of them are confronted by this and are victims of these conflicts that are not created by them. If you look at the Liberia and Sierra Leone conflicts, it is young people that were used as buffers and child soldiers.

Therefore, this Article is very important to make sure that we respect the rights of young people, that they are not just pushed into conflicts just because warlords and those who have their own dirty ambitions are misusing their powers and run to these young people to be soldiers. So I think this Charter will address that serious problem that confronts many young people in those conflict-stricken areas on our continent.

Of course, I want to echo the sentiments raised by the previous speakers that this Charter should not only be an instrument that we ratify, we must also make sure that our domestic legislation conforms to many of the requirements of this Charter so that we improve the lives of the youth in this country and on the African Continent as a whole.

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

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HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. Honourable Gurirab.

HON GURIRAB: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I rise to say only two things. Firstly, to express our support for the speedy ratification of the Charter and secondly, to say that once we have done that, the commitments that we undertake in terms of the Charter, become part of our domestic legislation and the many rights which are contained in the Charter before us, so many of them are already contained in our national instruments, chiefly in the Constitution of our country.

Honourable Speaker, the point I wish to make is that once we undertake these commitments, many of which are rights to all our youth, we would demand the implementation of the undertakings which we commit ourselves today to and it is for that reason that I want to make reference to three of the articles in the Charter in front of us.

The first one is Article 7 which my Colleague has already made reference to. If you look at Article 13.1, it reads: *“Every young person shall have the right”* – and the accent is on the word *“right”* – *“to education of good quality.”* And I also want to read subsection 4 of the same Article, 4(a) and (b). It reads: *“State Parties shall take all appropriate measures with a view to achieve the full realisation of this right and shall in particular, (a) provide free and compulsory basic education and take steps to minimise the indirect cost of education.”*

In this Chamber we have had long discussions both on the quality of the education and this indirect cost. My Colleague one day in the last session had introduced a Motion on some of the indirect costs, like school fees.

What we are undertaking here is to ensure that we shall minimise those indirect costs, which prohibit or hinder some of the communities and children to come to school.

The next one is (b) which reads: *“Make all forms of secondary education more readily available and accessible by all possible means, including progressively free.”* I think in terms of that we are committing ourselves to an undertaking, committing ourselves to move such a right for our young people. I am thus particularly interested in this one where we are saying that we commit ourselves

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to making all forms of secondary education more readily available and accessible by all means, including progressively free. I am sure most of us agree that one of the key challenges in our country is that of a lack of skills and if we want our younger people to acquire skills, we have to ensure that as many of our young people remain at school, complete education and acquire the necessary skills to help towards the development of our country.

Honourable Speaker, the next article I wish to make reference to is Article 15 in terms of which we commit ourselves to make sustainable livelihoods for our young people. My Colleague who has spoken before me has eloquently spoken about it, that the totality of our efforts as a State and Government must be to help our young people to help themselves that they do not perpetually stand at the soup kitchen of the State, but that we empower them to help themselves.

In terms of Article 15.1 it reads: *“Every young person shall have the right to gainful employment.”* Now we are undertaking that right, we are saying today at the end of this session we shall approve committing ourselves to this Charter and that we shall establish that right of our young people and of course, they say that the proof of the pudding is in the eating, that we shall ensure that we put all the necessary measures and resources in place that we implement Article 15.1 so that all our young people can have gainful employment.

Honourable Speaker, I make reference to Article 16 which talks about health. Again it says: *“Every young person shall have the right to enjoy the best attainable state of physical, mental and spiritual health.”* I do not want to talk about the state of our facilities for now, I will keep that Debate for next week when we shall talk about that at length. However, for now we are committing ourselves to establishing that right for all young people.

I also want to read Sub-clause (2)(a) which commits the States to making available *“equitable and ready access to medical assistance and health care, especially”* – and this is a challenge for us – *“in rural and poor urban areas, with an emphasis on the development of primary health care.”*

Once we ratify this Charter this afternoon, we would have established those rights. Next week we will be talking about the state of our facilities and whether indeed we have the facilities to implement the rights that we are committing ourselves to.

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Honourable Speaker, we support the rapid ratification of the Charter. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution.
Honourable Deputy Minister Iilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:
Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I rise to make my contribution to support the African Youth Charter, and to join those who have already spoken before me and supported the Motion.

Many articles were mentioned by the previous speakers, but I do not want us as elderly people and politicians to look at them in isolation. We must link them to Article 26, the responsibilities of our youth in Africa as well as outside Africa, but here we are particularly talking about Africa.

Comrade Speaker, there is always a tendency, that whenever a good point or policy arises from any document, the Opposition always comes with things that are not there. We have a National Youth Council, it was established by all youth from different Political Parties or organisations.

Democracy must go hand-in-hand with what we are preaching as the majority. If you find that the majority of the youth voted for Honourable !Nawases-Taeyele, as an example, even if he/she belongs to a certain Political Party. That is the wish and this is what we every day fight against. I want us to be guided by this very important Charter.

The Charter, under Article 26, gives the responsibility to our youth to have that respect in order for them to work and fight against discrimination. The best weapon they have in their hands is to unite themselves. If they unite, then no one can divide them either politically or by region, but when they stand up facing the idea of developing Africa as a continent, they stand as the African youth.

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When we stood up to fight for the liberation of our motherland, this thing of tribalism was not there. We were standing as youth, we did not even know each other's names unless we came from the same village.

After Independence we, the elderly, the politicians, were spoiling our youth. Let us use this Charter to educate our youth on their responsibilities. There is a very important point I want to quote in Article 26(b). This is to protect and work for family life and cohesion, not like now when you look at our youth. They are completely out of the cohesion, that pride of saying, "*I am an African.*" Therefore that is one responsibility. Then the other responsibility is to fully respect their parents and elders and assist them any time in case of need in the context of the positive African value. Those are the realities we must educate our youth on.

There is one thing we really need to look at, that if our youth behave according to those responsibilities, then honestly speaking, we will find no problem of developing this country.

On the question of Article 15, on education, I have just come from Asia, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore, and in 1994 they were almost on the same level we are, but they started to monitor, evaluate and even went deeper to make an impact evaluation. They made an evaluation of what they trade and what they are able to implement. They found that instead of the students being given prime information, they just give them second or third-hand information. It is exactly the same with our economics students in Namibia. Go there, take the books on which they are trained, they are trained not to be self-innovators, because they are only taught about supply and demand and then if you want to develop your country, you devalue your currency so that the people will come to buy your products. They give you less and you are going to give more and you will never be in a position to pay back those loans.

This is here in one of these articles. How are we going to revamp our education to create scientists? I am not against medical doctors, you find them operating, but let us have other doctors. Why do we not have engineers, those who can manufacture something? It is because the education we are given is third-hand and we need to change that and really take the challenge of having bio-scientists and do not make bio-scientist your directors. This is the mistake we do in Africa, we higher a person than you end up making him/her a director and then he/she has becomes part of the management cadre and he/she no more gets to do what he

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or she was initially supposed to do. We really need to look at all those things. I see we are on the right track to improve and revamp all those things.

In conclusion, Comrade Speaker, our youth should participate fully as citizens of their country. What I have seen in Malaysia and Singapore is that they send their learners to every corner of the world, but these youth were trained and come back home, as they were taught their responsibilities from home. That African value cannot be gained at school level, it starts at home. Then when the person goes to school, he or she already knows how to respect an elder person, be it biological or not. That is how we were brought up. If we were not brought up that way, we could not have liberated this country. We would have been like paper blown by the wind from East to West and back again. This is how we must really use this Charter to train and remind our youth that they have responsibilities for their continent.

The last example I give is of NWR which has a very high academic level. These young people really made an effort to develop that entity which is the only asset we have to bring to an international level. That is a challenge to other youth and we have to expose them, let them make a mistake and we ask them to correct their mistake through doing the work and then lastly, they must fight against corruption.

Thank you Comrade Speaker, that was my contribution to this very important African Youth Charter and I support the ratification of the Charter.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Deputy Minister for his constructive contribution. Chief Ankama.

HON DR ANKAMA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I rise to support this very important African Youth Charter.

In the first instance, this very important Charter is a sign of the African Governments harmonising the activities of the African youth, the African States trying to commit themselves to the way the African youth should be brought up.

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I would like to restrict myself to two articles, namely Article 13 on education and skills development, that in actual fact we should see the youth as innovative people once their innate skills are stimulated.

Youth are good designers and they can easily invent or discover new things, new ways of doing things. Therefore, this is a great commitment that we are ratifying today or that we are charting up, committing our youth to become well productive citizens, because as one speaker correctly said the youth are people in transition from childhood to adulthood and should they be given a proper guidance, they would become useful products of any given country.

In terms of education and skills development, yes, Africa has experienced a lot of problems economically, knowing very well where we are from, but then currently we are boasting of our Independence, it is the youth who participated in the liberations struggle for our Independence, including our own of Namibia.

Now, the youth of yesterday and the youth of today should have a vision. What we are therefore saying here is, this Charter, should it be given ample support, it will definitely give or reward our youth to have that ample chance to contribute immensely to the development of our countries.

Skills development, for example, there were youth who were unable or who by one or another way did not get a chance to go through formal education. Now these youth could be given practical courses, for example to do woodworking. Not getting a chance to go to school does not mean that one is stupid or is incapable, but once a person is given a practical course in his or her own interest, that person would be able to do well probably even to coming to an extent of perfection, perfecting certain practices.

Therefore, courses are very important so that we can take these people off of the street, give them something to do, let them know how to plant or how to create their own wood, how to make their own houses of bricks or whatever it is.

I think the Ministry responsible for our youth in our country is doing very well with limited resources. (Interjection). You are also doing well, it is just that you do not have much resources. Should you be given full resources, of course this we can talk about during the Budget Debate, but I think it is a matter of resources and preparing ourselves in a manner that we will be able to empower our youth.

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That goes hand-in-hand with Article 27 of popularisation of the Charter, that once this Charter is ratified, we need to popularise it. We should make sure that the youth is aware about this, that every youth is taking part...(Intervention)

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:14 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

HON SPEAKER: The House shall resume. Chief Ankama had the Floor.

HON DR ANKAMA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Before the break I was just underlining the point of the popularisation of the Charter.

It is of vital importance that we popularise the activities and programmes outlined in the articles of the African Youth Charter to our youth within the country, so that our youth are also clear of what is expected from them. Once we put the youth at a page where they are clear, we are likely not to have problems.

I was speaking about skills development in terms of education but should, for example, we have the youth engaged in a debate, for example that is responsive to natural problems, like the flood that we have at the moment or any sort of that kind, then we will have no problems, because the youth will be there at all times. I said the youth are very innovative, once you put them into the gear, they will put the rest on their own.

Currently they have problems related to crime, for example, because when the youth are idle, they are likely to invent something else of their own, but once you engage them in something, then they will take the lead.

With these few words, Comrade Speaker, I would like to support this very important African Youth Charter and I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank you for your contribution. Deputy Minister Nujoma.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker, at the outset I would like to express my full support to the Youth Charter and to thank the Honourable Minister for tabling this important Charter and I will urge the Members to ratify this important document speedily.

Comrade Speaker, I am also happy that this Charter affords the inalienable rights as provided for in the international human rights instruments, particularly the Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1975 and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as well as the rights as provided for in the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and also that the Charter is in conformity with our own Constitution, particularly Chapter 3 which provides for fundamental rights and freedoms.

Comrade Speaker, I think it is important and I agree with all the previous speakers that this Charter does not only provide for rights, so many rights, but it also provides for responsibilities and my Colleagues have dwelled on that and I am happy that these rights are emphasised here so that we give our youth not only rights, but responsibilities as well – the right to preserve our culture, to look after the elderly and to partake in the economic development of the country.

What I have in mind here, Comrade Speaker, I just wanted to emphasise on Chapter 17 where in Article 1(b) they say: *“to institute a mechanism to promote a culture of peace and tolerance among the young people that discourages their participation in acts of violence, terrorism, xenophobia, racial discrimination, gender-based discrimination, foreign occupation and trafficking in arms and drugs.”* All these evils are enumerated here and I also want to refer to an incident where our youth should be vigilant.

Just recently there was an incident at the University of Bloemfontein in South Africa where four young students and one presumably from Namibia, urinated in the food which is given to the workers and they laced the food with different kinds of concoctions. When these people ate the food they started vomiting and it was terrible. apparently the tape came out and there was an international uproar about the activities of these youth and the other one apparently is also based here in Windhoek. It is therefore important that we educate our youth and apparently the culture of discrimination and also to victimise the other cultural groups is still persisting in the minds of our compatriots and it is important that we educate them as well, in particular the Political Parties.

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As we see now, SWAPO is always being accused of instigating violence at political rallies, but the true fact of the matter is that some of these unguided youth from the other Political Parties, I was at a SWAPO rally in Omuthiya, I was in Walvis Bay and we have seen these guys wearing their T-shirts, coming through to the other rally where SWAPO is holding their own peaceful meetings and trying to instigate violence.

Comrade Speaker, I just wanted to highlight this so that we educate our youth to be the front-runners of promoting and protecting our peace and stability. Thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Deputy Minister. Honourable Kaura.

HON KAURA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, firstly on Article 22, I need the assistance of the Honourable Minister Mutorwa and maybe other fellow pedagogists like the Right Honourable Prime Minister and Dr Ojo. It reads like this: *“Young people shall have the right to rest and leisure and to engage in play and recreational activities that are part of a ‘health’ lifestyle.* (Interjections) but here it is health lifestyle’. Would there be a possibility of correcting that or would it go into the world like that?

Honourable Speaker, under Article 22, girls and young women: *“State Parties acknowledge the need to eliminate discrimination against girls and young women according to obligations stipulated in various international, regional and national human rights conventions and instruments designed to protect and promote women’s rights in this regard”* and it goes on. Read together with Article 25: *“Elimination of harmful social and cultural practices: State Parties shall take all appropriate steps to eliminate harmful social and cultural practices that affect the welfare and dignity of youth in particular.”*

My problem is that here in Namibia and on the African Continent, given the diversity of cultural backgrounds and religious backgrounds, there are certain things that are considered normal in some cultures or in some religious practices. How that is going to be addressed by this Charter I do not know. For example, juvenile marriages are rife even here in Namibia. Children under the age of sixteen here in Namibia are getting married to old men the age of the Right Honourable Prime Minister and these men are not even charged with statutory

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rape and it is happening right here in Namibia. I hope the Deputy Minister of Justice will do something about this... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING: With due respect, may I ask the Honourable Member a question? On the point of young girls marrying older people in Namibia, I want to find out if the Honourable Member remembers a case which was widely published in Namibia where there was this old man who wanted to marry a child under seventeen. When he went to try to marry her, then he was informed that cannot be done, it is illegal and then he came to my office as the Minister of Women Affairs and Child Welfare to ask permission, which I referred him to the law. He ended up withdrawing and apologising publicly to the Nation. Are you aware of that law?

HON KAURA: I am operating within the ambit of the law. I know the law does not allow that, but nevertheless these things take place where young children are getting married right here in Namibia and I wonder what we are going to do to prevent this from happening and especially during this period with the scourge of HIV/AIDS these practices endanger the lives of these young ladies. Polygamy in Namibia and on the African Continent is a normal accepted practice. What is this Charter going to do to eliminate polygamy or prevent that from happening?

I was reading an article of a young lady who got lost in Belgium for two days, who is campaigning there against female circumcision. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question? From listening to what you have just said, it seems you have information about a certain elderly person married to a very, very young tender-aged girl. Have you ever reported that incident to the law enforcement agencies so that that person could be dealt with and also to be a lesson to others, so that we stop these things? If you do not do that, they will continue.

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HON KAURA: You know, at this point in time it is too late to report, but I know that even Honourable Muharukua knows that these things take place regularly in the area where Honourable Muharukua and I come from, the area of the Kunene Region there in Kaoko. These are things that are happening daily and she also knows about it and she is in that Ministry, so maybe she will do something about it. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Comrade Speaker, yes the thing is there, but not for the young girl to be married by the old people. The men, like you Honourable Kaura, say you do not want to go to the old women, Honourable Kaura said you cannot come to Muharukua because she is not strong, you want to go to the new things. Our young girls do not like it, that is why sometimes they hang themselves because of those men. That is the thing which is not good for them, even for me. I thank you.

HON KAURA: Will my Honourable Cousin dispute the fact that when she got married she was also under-aged and she did not hang herself?

Honourable Speaker, we read an article, maybe the day before yesterday or so, where one young lady from Somalia got lost in Belgium. She is campaigning against female circumcision. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Genital mutilation.

HON KAURA: Genital mutilation and this is happening culturally all over Africa and this Charter is for Africa. Is this going to apply to some of those countries where genital mutilation is taking place? Would that apply to all parts of the African Union?

Recently or two years ago we read where a young lady in Nigeria violated Sharia Law and she was going to be stoned to death, but the whole world came up protesting against something like that. Whether it was ever executed or not, I do not know. These are some of the things that are happening on our continent and

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we have this Charter but these things continue. Would they ever be prevented?
(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Order. I would like to fill in the former "*Deputy Minister of Injustice*", that the law itself is mostly detected where people younger than eighteen are forced into marriages or even if they agree to marry an elder person or a person older than twenty-one years. However, there are cases in certain traditional customs that, because the girls are dropping out of schools because they were impregnated at fifteen years and instead of going for the common law marriage, they do it in the customary law marriage in a traditional way. There are such cases and as Honourable Kaura is rightly referring, Namibia is not isolated. We have the SADC Gender Protocol and we also have the SIDO intervention where this issue of female genital mutilation and young girls getting married and also impregnated are on the UN level, on the AU level and there are some frameworks and mechanisms in place. It is crosscutting, so this is taken care of, as you are rightly concerned about that sector on the girl-child. The girl-child is taken care of properly through the juvenile justice programmes. Therefore it is a concern, but Namibia has also signed up to certain protocols to join in for the protection of the girl-child.

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, I am only raising these questions because we are living in a society on the African Continent where these things are being practised daily and I am just wondering how the Charter will address this.
(Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: I listened to both sides, but I want to raise a question. Honourable Kaura, may I ask you a question? People are talking about old cultures, but I do not know why my Neighbour here keeps quiet about this issue. Honourable Paul Kruger married at the age of thirteen and his wife was also thirteen. Go to your books.

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HON SPEAKER: Can you repeat that Chief? Who got married?

HON RIRUAKO: Paul Kruger was thirteen and the wife thirteen. Now, you are talking about fifteen, sixteen, I do not know, that is too much. I wanted to make sure that all the cultures are involved in this matter, but my Neighbour kept quiet about this.

HON KAURA: Mahatma Ghandi got married at the age of sixteen to Madam Kasturbai who was thirteen years old. That I know, but I did not know about Paul Kruger.

What I am struggling with, I am not opposed to the Charter but I am only wondering about the implementation in practice of this Charter, whether it will really help with these issues, but regardless of all that ... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Kaura, do you not think, when you look at this whole document coming from the whole of Africa and Diaspora, is made because these experiences happen in Africa and we are now given this sort of document to make sure that we look at these issues because they are pertinent in many African countries, so that we can try and do something about them? The Charter does not say we must go and change things today, but it is, in my opinion, giving us ideas and opinions to say we have many of these things happening in our countries, we must put a stop to them. I think that is the idea of this document. Do you not think so?

HON KAURA: The idea of the document is correct, does this mean we should not be cognisant of the problems that we are confronted with and be conscious of these problems so that we can face them head-on. This is why I am raising these issues and I am in no opposition to the Charter but we must be cognisant of these problems that are facing us right here in Namibia. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank Honourable Kaura for his contribution. Honourable Dienda.

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HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, as was said by the Deputy Prime Minister, there is a concern and I just want to know, first of all: The National Youth Policy of Namibia of 2001, the first one, was amended in 2006. The first one was talking about the age of fifteen to thirty-five years old and the Amendment of 2006 was talking about fifteen to thirty years old, so there is now a gap of five years. In the African Charter it is thirty-five years old and in our national policy it is thirty years old.

My concern is, how will we accommodate the age gap, how will we accommodate the youth of Namibia who are accommodated in the Charter but not in our policy? I mean when will it be when we have additional funds available because we did not Budget for those boys and girls older than thirty years. That is my first concern.

Secondly, did the Minister take into consideration our programmes to ensure that they are in line with the development programmes of this Charter?

And then on page 40, Article 26, the responsibilities of the youth were explained to us there, but what about the accountability, the way they behave? There is nothing said about what will happen to the youth who misbehave.

Then on page 28 of the Charter we address the issue of HIV/AIDS. I am really concerned because I feel that the youth must spearhead the HIV/AIDS programmes because they are the people who are currently dying from HIV/AIDS and not those who are sixty and seventy years old, it is the youth, those people of the ages between fifteen to thirty-five. Therefore, if the youth can be in the forefront in addressing these HIV/AIDS issues, that might be helpful. It is not good for someone who is eighty years old to be on a poster and talk about HIV/AIDS and whatever. It will not make sense to the youth, but for the youth to address these issues, it will make sense.

And then on page 28: *“The youth to institute comprehensive programmes, including legislative steps, to prevent unsafe abortions.”* It means that after we have signed this Charter, we must not be shocked when our youth will come with laws to legalise abortion in this country, because we have signed the Charter, they must make sure that unsafe abortions must be prevented. With that, Honourable Speaker, this is my concerns. Thank you.

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HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for hr contribution. Dr Amweelo.

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. First I would like to thank Honourable Mutorwa, the Minister and his Deputy, for bringing this very important Charter, the African Youth Charter and I fully support the ratification of this Charter.

Comrade Speaker, I want to refer the Honourable Minister to Article 13 with regard to education and skills development. I know some Colleagues have already touched on this, but I will touch on it in another way.

Comrade Speaker, I would like to speak on the hidden potential of the youth. Two years ago I was at a trade fair at Ongwediva and I saw young boys who created vehicles and some have created helicopters and I read an article that in one African country where a young person created a helicopter and it was flying. One can therefore see that there is potential in Africa and in Namibia among our young people and the problem that I want to touch on is that we all know that each one has different talents. We all have different talents.

Therefore, the problem here, Comrade Speaker, is that the potential and talents of our young people are sometimes not identified and it is our duty and responsibility and that of the Ministry to help to identify the potential of the young people in order to maximise their potential and talents, so that they can develop this country. This is very important.

Secondly, with regard to the training. We all want to go to University and Polytechnic, but in many countries the University and polytechnic are not very important. Vocational training is very important because there the young person will learn how to do the job physically, how to repair vehicles, how to construct buildings. Therefore, if you have studied at a vocational centre, you will not sleep on the street, you will get a job that day. I understand that we really need to encourage our young people to go to vocational training centres because this is very important in order for our young people to be equipped with the knowledge and the skills. (Intervention)

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HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I want to ask the Honourable Member a question. You are talking about the importance of vocational training. Are you just talking about it in general or you could be more specific to the Charter, because if you look at what is required in the Charter and the conditions in Namibia, it does not tally because most of the people cannot go to vocational training, they are being dumped on the streets. Are you just generalising it or are you now being specific?

HON DR AMWEELO: I thank you very much. Comrade Speaker, I am very serious on this issue, I am talking about vocational training centres and schools to be extended in our country so that our young people can be trained in those centres. There they are going to learn how to do the job and that is why I am saying it is very, very important and we need to help our young people, encourage them so that they can attend these vocational training schools.

As I have said, our young people have potential and let me tell you one story.
(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Information, the public outside there will get the wrong information that young people in Namibia are dumped in the streets. It is not true that young people in Namibia are dumped in the streets, we have vocational centres around the country with limited open space, just like in the other education centres. Thus for the Honourable Member to stand in this House and say that young people are dumped in the street is not true, Namibians should not believe that political crap.

HON SPEAKER: Deputy Minister, did I hear you correctly? There are no instances of young babies, children being dumped in the streets by the parents and relatives?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: No, Comrade Speaker, I am correcting ... (Intervention)

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HON SPEAKER: I am not disputing, I just want to understand. Is that what you are saying?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: No, Honourable Speaker, I am correcting the information that came onto the Floor here, when Honourable Tjihiuko said that the situation in Namibia will not change because the youth are dumped.

HON SPEAKER: Maybe you should use another opportunity when Honourable Tjihiuko has the Floor and then remind of what he had said previously.

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. I was saying that I want to tell you a short story, a very short one. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERAN AFFAIRS: On a Point of Order. I am trying to seek some kind of guidance from the Chair. I was sitting here, trying to visualise what is happening and I thought from the Order Paper we are asked to ratify a international document and I was of the opinion that under these circumstances, when we are asked to ratify a document, we look at the document, that is the type of document that we can ratify or not in terms of the substance, in terms of what it contains and we address the issues as they are in the document, whether this is the type of document we can live with and our Parliament can ratify it and it becomes a law. What I have been listening to for the last few hours is that we are not discussing the document and I think we are out of order, although that is not for me to say, it is for the Speaker, because I think the topic is to discuss whether this is a document that we can ratify or not.

HON SPEAKER: This House has a constitutional mandate that before it considers any instrument that has legal implications, Members have the right to

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discuss it and in his statement the Minister actually said that much, the House must deliberate on this document. It has not happened yet, for understandable reasons, this House even has the mandate to refuse to ratify. Of course, in the course of politicians making points, there has been a tendency that because we are talking about youth, all kinds of examples, not very much germane to the text, has been raised. But the exercise that is going on is quite within the authority of this House.

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you very much. I am talking under Article 13 with regard to education, I am there. I was saying that Colleagues, we really need to help our youth to identify their talents, but I was saying that before I come to that point, there certain road contractors and they wanted to construct a road to certain areas, to a certain village, for example, and you know that you need to clear the bushes, etcetera, and only then you start constructing the road. On the way there was a very big statue and that statue was made of clay and they moved it. Then once they started removing it, it fell down. Beneath the clay it was made of gold but that statue has been there for many years and nobody recognised that beneath is gold.

That is why I am saying that our young people have hidden potential that we need to identify and help them so that they can maximise their potential. Thank you very much, I fully support the ratification.

HON SPEAKER: Chief Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Mr Speaker, we are emerging from what you are saying, but at the same time we hear all the time and we cannot erase it from a human mind. We are dealing with a global social problem. I repeat, global social problem and that is that you cannot teach a person to change his attitude, habits and approach. (Interjection). I am not talking about what you are saying and you are playing with your own life in your hands and put some fire on it sometimes. I am not here to talk about nonsense and if you are serious, you will listen to what I am saying. That is part one.

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Part two: Teach the person how to change his attitude towards any habit. I begin with sexual habit, you have to control it, you have to discipline yourself and if you do not, what will it help to tell him or to tell her, “*change your attitude towards that and that.*” You have to change your inner thoughts in order to be yourself. As long as your inner thought is just doing what it is doing without being stopped, there are no options for you. (Interjection). I am not here to destroy people, I am here to construct their attitude.

A fine approach to a person who has been lost, is to tell the man who could not solve his own behaviour, one, your sexual habit, two – I did not say you, I said your. In Africa we have our own way of doing things. What the elder does you may not do, what the elders talk, you adhere to those principles, but you bypass, that’s Africa.

Now, these human affections in the entire world have become a global social problem. It is something that you cannot just push aside. Face it in the reality of life. Teach your children not to do that and that. I had those things, but I am not here to beat her or to beat you..(Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Are you not being a bit too far from the subject? Speak to the subject.

HON RIRUAKO: I speak to the commoners now. You cannot teach other people to do what you want. Begin from home to outside, your habits must be controlled and the young people are supposed to listen to you from home, not with a stick, with visions and directions. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: The sjambok!

HON RIRUAKO: No, sjambok does not mean anything. You can sjambok all of them, but you could not get what you want.

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This is the way how to handle a person like you. You do not have to teach them ... (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Who is 'you'?

HON RIRUAKO: I do not embark on jokes. If you are joking, most of them are losing minds. Yes, of course, I am not here to tell you who are. The way you do is the way you are. Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Member must behave like a human being in this House. This is not a chatting house, a joking house, it is a talking house but it must make sense and common sense must be known, that you are talking common sense. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: May I ask a question? Can the Honourable Chief remember one verse in the Bible which says: *"There is the land and I want you to produce and produce enough people."*

HON RIRUAKO: I agree with you that there is a land for you to produce, but that has now created a problem to the production. Those days there were no decisions, those days they travelled with a coat and you put it down, nowadays everything is just around the corner, therefore you must be disciplined. As simple as that.

You cannot create things which are going to give you problems that you cannot overcome, therefore you must be disciplined, Honourable Moongo. That is the name of the game. The habit is a human desire, but some people are maniacs and you cannot discipline them, it is an inborn habit, but even an inborn habit, you must also know yourself that I am overdoing it, I must reserve my character and behaviour. That is really how to behave. Teach yourself in order to honour yourself what you want to be and if you embark on another way, you are in hell.

This goes to where the shoes fit and the habit that posses you. That position is there but you must destroy it, tell your heart to change and find another direction.

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There are many ways to kill the cat, but do not allow yourself to be destroyed by yourself and your habits. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Chief for his contribution. Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. In fact, the reason for my contribution is just to support the African Youth Charter. I do not think there is anything that is contravening our laws or Constitution, it is very much a document one could support.

There are two things that we may need to look at that Honourable Dienda has just mentioned, the age difference, the abortion part and apart from that, these are the things that we should leave with the responsible Minister to look at it.

I however believe that supporting the Charter or ratifying the Charter is not good enough. We should also look at the implementation of the Charter. It is not good enough to ratify it and shelve it, forget about it. It is very important for us as lawmakers to make sure that the charters that we are ratifying in this House are being implemented.

In order for us to implement the Charters, we should also look at our programmes and the way we are doing our things. If we look at Article 3, it talks about freedom of movement of the young people. They should not be restricted, they should have that freedom to move. Within their own cultures, within the laws of the land. The Africans should not confuse that, that we have the freedom to move, therefore nobody else will tell me what time I must come back home? Nobody should tell me that I should wash the dishes. The right of movement means that what you want to do should be within the laws, the cultural laws and the laws of the Republic of Namibia.

If you look at Article 6, freedom of thought, of course one should be able to be guided, but the moment we start trying to dictate to the thinking of the young people, *“think like me, do the things that I want you to do, that you are free”*, then we are interfering with their conscience and they have to think for themselves. (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: May I put a question? Honourable Tjihuiko, you started somewhere and now you came up with what the youth must just be allowed to do. Do you agree with me, for you, Honourable Tjihuiko, to sit in this House is because you were brought up in the line of being told, “*do not do this, do this*” and you followed it and therefore you are a disciplined person. Do you now want your child just to go astray?

HON TJIHUIKO: No, the Honourable Deputy Minister did not get me, that is exactly what I was saying. I was saying our kids should behave within our laws, not only the constitutional laws, they should also, they should also consider the culture, the background which they are coming from. That is what I was saying, so we are together. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, may I ask Honourable Tjihuiko a question? I just want to find out, for example if you give a child proper guidance and counselling, would you construe that as violating the freedom of thought of that child or is it permissible to provide guidance and counselling to a child?

HON TJIHUIKO: I think there is a difference between misusing and guiding. If you are guiding a child in a manner that is acceptable to each and every reasonable human being, that would be guidance, but if you start guiding that child by beating him up to the point that he has marks all over his body, I do not think that is a form of guidance. It really depends on the person. The type of guidance that I am talking about is the one where you could stand up and beat your child with fists, to the extent that they have marks over their bodies.

If you are however doing it in a manner that is permissible, that will be acceptable. You do not beat them up, you try to guide them. But of course, when we are guiding our kids today, we should also consider the factors that are around them. We grew up in a certain specific corner, in one specific tribal group. Today’s kids are exposed, they are not thinking like us. Therefore, when we are trying to discipline our kids, we should also consider that these are not the kids

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that are being brought up in Okakarara, not knowing that there is a South in this country.

I think these are the things that we as parents should also consider when we take action against our kids. It is not that they are misbehaving, but they are brought up in a broader and have a greater exposure than ourselves and I think they would be different from somebody of my age to the extent that a child of seventeen or sixteen should think like I was thinking when I was seventeen a couple of years ago. I think this is the point that I am trying to make. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Tjihuiko, may I ask you a small question? My question is about the doctrine of relativism when it comes to values. Do you not think that in fact our children are so confused because they do not know where they belong? That is why they end up doing all sorts of things we do not approve of. Thank you.

HON TJIHUIKO: Right Honourable Prime Minister, I do not agree with you there. It is true and that is where the challenge comes in, it is where we are being challenged as parents to ...(Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. Allow me to say something, it is information. The confusion comes in when we do not teach our history to our children, we teach them European history, Asian history. Their background is provided by us. That is where the confusion comes from. We do not talk about our heritage, we do not talk about our background. We have been taken by the so-called civilisation and we have forgotten about our existence. That is where the confusion comes from. It is a two-way stream, you cannot confuse your son, where he comes from, where he is going, who he is. He knows about George II, George V, he knows about that history but not about his own background.

HON TJIHUIKO: Article 10 talks about development ...(Intervention)

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HON KAURA: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? The Honourable Member was saying that the perception of young people today that are exposed to certain things in their environment, would not be like those children or us who grew up in Okakarara. I just want to find out from the Honourable Member, did you detect the fact that our young people have lost the shame of failing in school? They are no longer ashamed to fail in school and how would one bring back those values into our young people to feel it is wrong, it is shameful to fail, with these new perceptions that they can just go haywire and do as they please?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Kaura, the point that I am trying to touch on is, whether our kids have lost moral responsibility, whether they are failing at school, whether they are not ashamed of failing schools, it is our responsibility as parents. The responsibility of a child starts before he goes to school. It is our responsibility to face it, to take the bull by the horns. We should not shift it to somebody else, we should also not be ashamed of what our kids are doing and that is the reason we are not acting, because we are ashamed of standing up to face it.

What I am saying is that I challenge ourselves, that let us stand up, instead of returning our kids to school to be disciplined, let us start at home. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I agree fully with what you are saying, but are you sure that parentage is stronger than peer group pressure? And having asked that question, how old is your eldest child?

HON TJIHUIKO: I am a grandfather. I am trying to understand the argument because my strong conviction is that the way our kids are behaving today, of course they have a better exposure, they are sitting in our sitting rooms and communicating with somebody sitting in Washington DC. It is true, they are watching the American movies, they ought to be different from the way we were thinking, the way we behaved and our parents at that particular moment also had certain problems with us and they developed a mechanism of trying to get ourselves in the right direction.

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Therefore my argument is that yes, indeed, the rights of children, as stipulated in the Charter, are commendable, but they should be done within the framework of the law of the land and the community and cultural background of that specific kid. That is my argument. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Speaker, I think I have a duty to correct one impression being created and that is that our learners of today are not ashamed to fail or to under-perform. To make such a blanket statement would be unfair to those students who are studying so hard, who are doing better than you have ever done in school. There are students who are really working hard. (Interjection)

HON KAURA: And yet they fail, the dropouts.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: No, we are talking about those who pass, who do well, who go to do degrees we could not have done, your and my generation. (Interjection)

HON KAURA: We were ashamed to fail, that is why we passed.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Yes, then we cannot say that present students are not ashamed of failing. There are those who are doing poorly because of other social backgrounds, rural area, level of education of the parents and so on. There are students who are really doing well. All I am saying is that we should not have a blanket statement that all the learners somehow are not doing their very best in order to pass.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Minister, I do not want us to be diverted into discussing the education results, I am trying to concentrate on the Charter because as I have said, I support it and I am looking at how best we can link the Charter that we have ratified with our own way of doing

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things and that is the only point that I am trying to highlight.

Let me look at the second-last page, let us look at Article 13, education and skills development. (Interjection). Of course, this is one of the principal areas where the Honourable Minister was talking about, it is an area where we sit back and say somebody ... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask a question? Honourable Tjihuiko, you know that during our meeting even last weekend when you were in Aminuis, you went to the school to invite the students to go to Aminuis to a meeting. Are you aware that those things caused the students to fail?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Minister, that is news to me, because in the party of NUDO we are very much aware of the fact that you should not interfere in the development of our young people. If you were given information to the effect that the three thousand Aminius residents who attended the NUDO meeting over the weekend were students, then check your facts.

The point I am trying to make here, Honourable Speaker, is that when you look at education and skills development of our kids, this is a critical part and it should not be linked with, *“you will be assisted to do a, b, c, if you belong to a certain Political Party.”* The schools development, the development of our young people should be assisted in a manner that they will development and have their own choices, not to be dictated in a way that they would start thinking that *“if I do not belong to Political Party B, then I am not going to get benefits.”* That is wrong and it should not be indulged. It should definitely be discouraged.

The last chapter, Chapter 23, is the last one that I want to touch on, girls and young women. *“States and Parties acknowledge the need to eliminate discrimination against girls and young women according to obligations stipulated in various international, regional and national human rights conventions.”* An instrument is signed to protect and promote women’s rights.

Yes, indeed, we have our own cultures, we have our own traditions, we have all these things. My thinking or my conviction is that we should do it within the law.

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If the laws of the Republic of Namibia, the laws that are going through this House, say that we should not marry a young lady of the age of below sixteen, then it is unlawful to do it and you should not try to justify it with cultures. That would be wrong and a person who is sitting out there, thinking that being a Herero and yesteryears my brother or sister got married to a fourteen year old, it is a common practice, go and do it, the person that is preaching that is providing the wrong information, because those people will be in trouble. You are breaking the law and you will be arrested and the law will deal with you. It is unlawful. There is therefore no way out to think that since our cultures in those years were allowing these things to happen, today you will be behind the doors, do it. It will be wrong and it will be unacceptable. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: The people who are doing what we want to prevent is the lawmakers here – fourteen-year old girl, fifteen-year old girl, sixteen-year old girl, seven-year old girl!

HON TJIHUIKO: In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, I wish to urge the responsible Ministry ...(Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Order. The Chief should withdraw, he was pointing fingers to SWAPO that we are doing that.

HON TJIHUIKO: In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, I just want to urge the responsible Ministry not to integrate the Charter with our laws, look at the problems that we have and try to implement it, because it is so important. I support the ratification.

HON SPEAKER: The next and the last speaker is Honourable Chief //Garoëb.

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HON //GAROËB: Thank you Mr Speaker, Sir. To my mind, if we ratify this Youth Charter in the absence of our own policy on youth, it means that this Charter will be binding on us. Such a Charter will be binding on us in the absence of our own youth policy.

What is not very clear to me is, what happens in the case where this Charter is contradicting our own laws, like this abortion thing? We have not legalised abortion in Namibia or did you in my absence? (Interjections).

HON SPEAKER: The Honourable Members are asking which page.

HON //GAROËB: Article 16, page 28. Here we are asked to “*institute comprehensive programmes, including legislative steps to prevent unsafe abortions.*” This means that if abortions are not unsafe, then it can be legalised. Do we accept it as is by ratifying the Youth Charter as is? That is my only question. Because if we do not have our own policy and this is the only policy ratified in this House, then definitely we cannot fight against that in a court of law. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Honourable Speaker, people should not confuse “*unsafe abortion*” and “*legal abortion*”. Unsafe abortion means that people get abortions through a healthy environment, it is not to say we need to legalise abortion. It just reads “*unsafe abortion.*” Thank you.

HON //GAROËB: Mr Speaker, Sir, to my mind, this paragraph is for the Governments that have legalised abortion, but us who have not legalised abortion and have ratified this Charter, cannot fight in a court of law...(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: On a Point of Information. We are dealing here with a Charter and a Charter is a very broad frame. In fact, I remember that when the Minister spoke, he said this Charter is to provide a frame

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for mainstreaming youth issues and in line with that, we are basically saying there are countries where abortion is legal, there are countries within the African Union where unsafe abortions are allowed and those countries will apply their own laws, to take out of this broad frame and apply to their own situation. Thus, ratification does not necessarily mean that everything in this document will apply to Namibia.

The second thing is that there is a line Ministry, everybody is referring to the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Culture, but it is mainstreaming. We as legislators will have to mainstream youth issues in our own Ministries. It is not just one Ministry that is going to do it because there is a breakdown for everything. Of course, Article 13 is the popular one because it is education, but there is everything in this Charter. Therefore all of us are implementers and we should look at a situation where we can bring youth, including changing the phrase, so that when we are talking, the youth will also identify with us. Maybe we need to bring people with jeans into the Parliament instead of men in suits all the time, so that the youth will also identify with the laws that we are implementing.

HON SPEAKER: Chief, before you take the Floor, we do not have the presence of the Attorney General, but we have lawyers around here, including the Right Honourable Prime Minister, when this Charter is going to be ratified, it is going to become part of our domestic laws. That is the whole purpose of ratification. We are domesticating this Charter to become part of our domestic jurisdiction. Therefore the point that Chief //Garöëb is asking is a very telling question. We are domesticating and making it part of our legal system.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: If it would help the Chief, the article he is referring to, Article 28(i), “*institute comprehensive programmes, including legislative steps, to prevent unsafe abortion.*” Therefore, there are comprehensive programmes we must undertake by way of family planning, health education, sex education and making sure that when our women are delivering, they are delivering under hygienic conditions. (Interjection)

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HON KAURA: That is not abortion.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Then it is saying, “*institute comprehensive programmes including legislation.*” This one is about legislation, whether we legalise abortion.

Now, here in Namibia, although abortion is not legal, there is a law where, with the help of two or three doctors, if the pregnancy is a threat to the life of the mother, the two doctors can help to institute abortion, a legal one, meaning being helped by the doctors. That is available, but we have not legalised abortion that today you get pregnant and without having any problem, you run to have an abortion. That is not what we are doing, but these are other steps we take if the mother’s health is compromised – high blood pressure and these things.

There are other countries, like Senegal, that have legalised abortion, so they are taking the whole of Africa. Those countries that legalised abortion is a different story for us, it is to take comprehensive other steps to make sure that ... (Interjection)

HON KAURA: This is not to legalise, it does not apply to us.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: That is what I am saying.

HON KAURA: It if forcing us to legalise now.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: No, it does not force us to legalise. (Interjection)

HON KAURA: By implication.

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HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: No, it says, “*take comprehensive...*”(Interjection)

HON KAURA: To legalise.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: They are saying “*including*”, we do not have to legalise. If you go to many African countries, the way women are delivering in such terrible conditions. “*Including*”, you take this and also others, that is how I understand it. We do not have legalised abortions, but we have abortions if the health of the mother is compromised.

Other countries have legalised, they say “*including legalise*” where they have legalised. It does not force us to legalise. (Intervention)

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: On a Point of Information. I think there was a statement earlier that there are some countries in Africa where unsafe abortions are allowed. I do not think we can say that, Honourable Deputy Minister. There is no country in Africa where unsafe abortions are allowed.

However, the point here is that if it states “*including unsafe abortions*”, that means that unsafe abortions are part of the Charter that we are ratifying because it says “*including*” and that is what “*including*” means. Thus, by inference it means if you include the banning of the unsafe abortions, you are in fact endorsing safe abortions.

What the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister is speaking about is even where abortion is illegal, termination of a pregnancy for medical and health reasons is everywhere accepted and it is not even referred to as abortion, it is referred to as termination of a pregnancy. Although it is *de facto* abortion, but because it wants to be legalised, they do not use that term, but what we are saying here and this is what the worry is about, the minute we adopt this today, it becomes part of our domestic law and that means that we have to amend our laws to fit in with the international agreements that we ratify. That is what we are talking about.

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HON //GAROËB: Honourable Speaker, I fully concur with the last speaker. We all know that in emergency cases doctors are allowed to... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker, my understanding of ratification is that when you ratify a certain convention, it becomes part of your law. The understanding is it becomes part of your law, but it is not effective if you have not domesticated it. You need to go a further step and domesticate it, give effect to it. That is what the law is. (Interjection)

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Chief Confuser.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: No, maybe you do not understand. (Intervention)

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: That is what I said.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: It is what you said? Yes, then that is what I am trying to say. I am just trying to make the Honourable Members understand that there are two steps to be taken. First you ratify and then you go for domestication. That is what the law is, that is the principle I wanted to explain.

HON //GAROËB: Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. I fully concur with the former speaker that ...(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Comrade Speaker, I am not a lawyer but when I read this Article 29 of this Charter it says: *“Nothing in this Charter shall be taken as minimising higher*

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standards and values contained in other relevant human rights instruments ratified by States concerned or rational law or policy of that State.” This one cannot minimise our law banning abortion. I am not a lawyer, but that is what it says. Read Article 29, Honourable Chief, it is taking care of our concern.

HON //GAROËB: Honourable Speaker, Sir, what I was about to say is that we accept that in emergency cases doctors are allowed to conduct abortions, but we believe that what the doctors do is to conduct legal and safe abortion, not unsafe abortion. That is why I believe that in the absence of our own law, if we ratify this Charter, and someday we land in a court of law and the advocate refers to this Charter which was ratified by us, then we will definitely have difficulty. I thank you.

HON MINISTER OF VETERAN AFFAIRS: I was just trying to look at this particular phrase, which is causing the problem. I do not feel that the wording of this particular paragraph by any obligations prevents a Government from taking measures to prevent abortion. It does not, but it says that even if you allow, it must not include an abortion which is unsafe. It does however not say that you cannot prevent abortion, it does not say so. Look at it very carefully.

HO SPEAKER: On that note, the House stands adjourned under Automatic Adjournment.

THE HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:48 UNTIL 2008:03:13 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
WINDHOEK
13 MARCH 2008**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

HON SPEAKER: I ask the Honourable Members to remain standing. Death is an unavoidable inevitability. It comes when it will, respecting no human calendars, nor life's boundaries. I ask Honourable Members to join me in observing a minute of silence or meditation in memory of our dear Colleague, Honourable Kala Reinhardt Gertze of the CoD. His sudden and premature death in the prime of his promising life is very cruel indeed.

Honourable Kala Reinhardt Gertze had so much to offer to our Parliament and to our Nation. We will sorely miss his transparent integrity, excellence and enduring humanity. The Parliament and I extend our heartfelt condolences and deep sympathy to the bereaved family, relatives, friends and his colleagues of the CoD. When funeral arrangements are sorted out we will be advised accordingly. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

The House observes a minute of silence.

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

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TABLING: REPORTS AND PAPERS
HON KAAPANDA

HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:

Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Annual Report 2005/06 of Namibia Post and Telecommunication Holdings Ltd.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Report? Any further Reports and Papers?

TABLING : DECISIONS AND DECLARATIONS
OF THE 10TH AU ASSEMBLY

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Comrade Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Decisions and Declarations of the 10th AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government which took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from the 31st January to the 2nd of February 2008.

TABLING : COMMONWEALTH CLIMATE
CHANGE ACTION PLAN

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: I similarly lay upon the Table the Commonwealth Climate Change Action Plan adopted during the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting held from the 23rd to the 25th of November 2007 in Kampala, Uganda.

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON HAUSIKU**

HON SPEAKER: Any further Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Comrade Speaker, I give Notice that on Tuesday, the 18th of March 2008, I shall Move –

That this Assembly ratifies the Amendment Statutes of the International Institutes to Democracy and Electoral Assistance. I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? Honourable Minister Mbumba.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT : GRADE 10 REPEATERS

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Allow me to join you in expressing our most profound sympathy to the Gertze family and to the leadership and membership of the CoD. Allow me just to read the statement on the Implementation Plan for the absorption of the 2007 Grade 10 repeaters and it reads as follows:

In accordance with the 4th SWAPO Party Congress Resolution No. 2 that calls on the SWAPO Party Government to derive strategies necessary to

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integrate the school dropouts in the main structure of the education, training and skills development systems and as a consequence of the popular demand by our citizens that the Grade 10 learners be given an opportunity to repeat, the Minister of Education made an announcement which way back to this effect and that announcement was echoed by His Excellency President Pohamba to allow repetition on Grade 10 by 2007 Grade 10 school-leavers who did not meet the minimum entry requirement for admission to Grade 11 this year.

In this vein, the Government of the Republic of Namibia considered this matter to be important and therefore, made available financial resources to the tune of N\$340 million to implement the directives for Grade 10 learners to repeat.

The implementation arrangement of the directive for learners to repeat has been done considering various options. All 2007 Grade 10 learners who were not admitted to Grade 11 in 2008 have been given an opportunity to repeat grade 10 this year on a fulltime basis, depending on the availability of space, furniture, textbooks, stationeries and other supplies. Learners who will repeat will be required to complete the full curriculum and write nine subjects at the end of the year like the rest of the Grade 10 learners. This also means that only their results at the end of this year will qualify them for admission to Grade 11 next year.

In implementing the directives, the Ministry has extended its operations to optimally utilise other institutions such as NAMCOL, Community Skills and Development Centres (COSDECs), Vocational Training Centres (VTCs), Skills Centres and Youth Centres. This was done in cognisance of the fact that there may be other learners who may choose not to repeat but choose to pursue their studies through NAMCOL, to complete either two or three subjects to meet the requirements and thus the Ministry shall assist these learners financially. By arrangement between NAMCOL and the Ministry, provision has been made for three or more additional hours of face-to-face tuition per subject per week, bringing the total contact number of hours per subject per week to five. In addition, the parental contribution of fees to NAMCOL per subject will be reduced to the 2007 rates at the expense of the Ministry.

It is important to stress that the Ministry of Education considers the importance of skills acquisition for these learners as well. In this regard, the Ministry has made 2000 spaces available for these learners to enter Vocational Training Centres, COSDECs, Skills Centres, Youth Centres this year. Learners opting for qualifications in technical skills at VTCs, COSDECs, Skills Centres will be

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admitted at the spaces available at Ondangwa, Eenhana, Rundu, Swakopmund, Opuwo, Katima Mulilo, Windhoek, Arandis, Tsumeb, Otjiwarongo, Okakarara and Omaruru and to include spaces that will be made available by the Namibia Training Authority.

The Ministry of Education is well aware that there are implications in the repetition of Grade 10 learners this year. Regional Offices have been informed to put in place vigorous measures, such as effective supervision, quality assurance measures, monitoring and control of time on tasks of learning situations at the schools. Measures are currently being put in place to make available physical and financial resources as well as other facilities to prepare for the increase in learner enrolment at Grade 11 and 12 in subsequent years.

The Ministry of Education wishes to inform learners, teachers and parents who have been given this opportunity and options to make meaningful use of them and all stakeholders should equally contribute to ensure that education in our schools take place as it should.

That is the end of the statement, Honourable Speaker, on this subject.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister for the important information to the House. Honourable Kaapanda.

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: AMNESTY ON OUTSTANDING
LICENCE FEES**

HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:
Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, as you may recall, in December 2007 I made an announcement following Cabinet's approval of a blanket amnesty to all vehicle owners' outstanding licence fees and penalties that have accrued over the years.

I want to take this opportunity to once again inform not only this august House

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but the entire Namibian Nation of the ongoing amnesty for the purpose of reminding those in arrears to make use of this opportunity.

Cabinet at its Ordinary Session on 11 December 2007 and Cabinet Decision No. 23/11 of the 12th month 2007/009 granted an approval for belated amnesty to vehicle owners who were in arrears due to various reasons, including failure to re-licence their vehicles entirely or to apply for deregistration of such vehicles for purpose of export or after they had fallen into permanent disuse.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, as you are all aware, my Ministry, through the Roads Authority, implemented a computerised vehicle registration system, commonly known as NaTIS in 1998 to replace the old manual system that was provided for under the Repealed Ordinance 30 of 1967.

Being a computerised system, NaTIS brought efficiency and versatility to the administration of both the Road Traffic Transportation Act that was passed in this very House in 1999 and its regulations promulgated in 2001.

With the system in place, it is now possible to keep track of all monies owed by vehicle owners and to impose monthly penalty fees in arrears in terms of current legal prescription.

Prior to the implementation of the system, it was virtually impossible to keep track of defaulters. As a result of this inability, a perception was unfortunately created that a motor vehicle was automatically deregistered once the owner stopped to pay licence fees. From the Ministry's analysis of the current situation, it is evident that this perception still exists despite our concerted effort to modernise the vehicle registration system.

It is against this background, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, that the Ministry has taken the stance to have the anomaly corrected once and for all.

Honourable Speaker, allow me at this point to reiterate and inform the entire Namibian Nation, particularly vehicle owners, that the obligation to inform the registering authority of any changes in the status of a motor vehicle rests with the vehicle owner to enable the registering authority to update the motor vehicle register, but also to prevent accumulation of licence fees and associated penalties for vehicles that have been stolen, exported or are no longer serviceable.

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For the records of the House, the amnesty covers a period of four months from the 1st of February 2008 to the 31st of May 2008 and the car vehicles owners whose debt accumulated prior to the 31st of December 2007.

All the aforementioned vehicle owners are required to visit the appropriate registering authority for the purpose of providing current information to the status of their vehicles whose licence fee has been outstanding. All the necessary arrangements are already in place at all registering authorities to handle these cases.

Coming June 2008, all who have failed to make use of this humanitarian gesture will receive a bill of all outstanding fees to date. At expiry of the amnesty period in June, stringent mechanisms will be put in place to prevent an occurrence of the problem. These measures will, among others, include institution of debt collection process against defaulters who keep ignoring friendly reminders sent to them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my plea to all affected vehicle owners is that, go to your respective registering authority as soon as possible if you have not done so. Do not wait, but go now. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for his statement. Any further Ministerial Statements? None. Question 1 is by Honourable Viljoen. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1:

HON VILJOEN: I put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:
Honourable Speaker, I agree with Honourable Viljoen that last time I made a

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comprehensive explanation of the situation that surrounded, and still today surrounds the flood in Mariental.

On the first question whether I am satisfied that the situation is under control, my response is: I am not satisfied that the situation is under control, but I am satisfied with the measures that we have taken to mitigate the flood.

Whether there is a possibility that the implementation that needs to be done can be implemented as soon as possible to deal with the problem, yes those ones I am satisfied with, but of course there is a need to explain to the Honourable Members and also to the public out there.

The issue around the dam and the flood in Mariental is that the catchment area of the dam in Mariental starts immediately south of Rehoboth. It is about 200 kilometres away and the measures that have now been put in place to calculate the amount of water that will come from that far-away 200 kilometres, those measures are now in place. Should the water start from south of Rehoboth, we can more or less accurately, at least 95 percent, be able to inform the residents in the town that within the next 14 hours there is a flood that is going to take place in and around Mariental as a result of the water that is coming from more than 200 kilometres away.

Should it however rain within the vicinity of the dam itself and immediately to the north-east of the town of Mariental, that gives us only 30 minutes before that amount of water flows into the dam and should the inflow of the water into the dam be more than what can be let out from the sluices, it is not possible to prevent a flood, taking into account that the sluices can release up to 500 cubic metres of water per second into the river without causing problems, but should there be a need to release more than that amount of water from the dam, or should there be additional water that would come from the north-east of the town, joining the river beyond the dam sluices and if that water will be above the volume of 500, then a flood cannot be avoided.

However, measures that have been put in place to detect the amount of water flowing into the dam plus the undertaking of spraying the reeds of the river, I informed the House last time that a tender has been issued, it was won by a company situated in Mariental itself and the company has now been preparing to order chemicals for killing the reeds. I am sure if they have not started, they are starting very soon.

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What has also been decided is that the dam must not be allowed to be full beyond 70% of capacity in order therefore, to be able to release an amount of water sufficient to be accommodated within the parameters of the river beyond the dam itself. If that exercise continues to be like that and an amount of water, more than what can be accommodated in the river, gets in, then we can safely say yes, the situation could be handled satisfactorily.

Take note, of course, if the amount of water from within the vicinity of the dam comes to join the river, then a flood cannot be prevented.

Therefore, Honourable Members, what happened in 2006, scientifically it has been said that even if the dam was empty, there was no possibility to prevent the flood from taking place in 2006.

Of course, it was said that NamWater people were too slow to allow the water to be released from the dam. We do not believe so because there is on record the warnings that have been given to people to be evacuated, but they refused. There is a record to that effect.

It is said that the reeds that are obstructing the flow of the water in the river were brought by the farming activities in the irrigation scheme in Mariental. That could be true, but it is also on record that people were warned never to build west of the railway. Therefore we have these situations that we have to deal with and all that we hope for is at least to be able to release the water as soon as the dam is 70% full, hoping that we will be able to release sufficient water and not more than what is coming into the dam. Then we will be able to handle that situation.

That is what we will continue doing in the short term and that the reeds this time will not be sprayed only once. Once spraying is done, the reeds will become dry and people will be allowed in to cut it, spraying will continue actually to kill the roots of the reeds themselves. That is what we will be doing in the short and medium term and then of course to increase the height of the wall 10.4 metres beyond what it is now. It is going to be a costly exercise, it is not something that is going to be done in three years, it will probably be done in years because we have to redo the whole wall, because the lifespan of the dam wall is also coming to an end. We have to do it as a whole.

Let us however hope that within those short and medium term plans that are in place, we will continue to manage the situation. As I speak now, the dam is 70%

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full. It was more than 70 yesterday, a lot of water was let out and that is the level that has been agreed on and not to let it go beyond that percentage. That amount of water will be sufficient to sustain the water requirements of the town and for the farming community.

In short that is what I would like to say. Of course, people are also asking compensation and I have earlier on indicated that the issue of compensation is very difficult to get into, although it is not up to me to make a final decision. I am very soon going to go for Cabinet for a decision to be made, but Honourable Members might have seen on their televisions what the situation looks like in the rest of the country as far as floods are concerned, therefore you cannot do it for one and leave the others. Whether there is a possibility for the Government to compensate all that we are seeing on our televisions, that is really beyond my responsibility and I guess Cabinet will have to make that kind of decision. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for his on-the-spot inspection and command of the facts. The problems are there but you are on top of the situation. Congratulations, Honourable Minister.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Minister, there is appreciation from people right through Namibia for the fact that you visited the area, they appreciate it and thank you very much for the good answer.

HON SPEAKER: Question 2 is one by the same Honourable Viljoen. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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HON !NARUSEB**

QUESTION 2:

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Sir. I would also like to register my own personal sincere condolences to Honourable Kala Gertze from Otjimbingwe and his immediate families and the members of the party that he belonged to.

Comrade Speaker, I rise to reply to several questions posed by Honourable Jurie Viljoen on the 28th of February 2008 and shall beg the indulgence of Honourable Viljoen that I shall lump the questions together. I will respond to questions 1 and 2 and then lump 3, 4 and 5 together.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare has no responsibility for the registration of companies or the granting of tenders. I, therefore, am not in a position to reply authoritatively to the questions. However, I am aware that the Tender Board Act (No. 16 of 1996) stipulates the procedures and criteria for the award of tenders.

I will, however, address the issue of the impact of labour law requirements on the awarding of tenders in my reply to the questions that I have just said I will lump together. I shall now address questions 3, 4 and 5.

The questions of Honourable Viljoen touch upon a very significant, if not serious, problem that is occupying considerable attention on the part of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and, indeed, the Government.

Last year, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare received complaints to the effect that several Chinese companies were not complying with the basic conditions of employment contained in the Labour Act No 6 of 1992 and with the minimum wage agreement applicable in the construction industry. These complaints came from several sources, including the Construction Industry Federation (CIF) and the Metal and Allied Workers Union (MANWU). As the Honourable Members may be aware, the CIF and MANWU negotiated a collective agreement that provides for minimum wages and other conditions of employment for employees employed by the Construction Industry Federation members. Pursuant to Section 70 of the Labour Act, No. 6 of 1992, we in the Ministry caused a notice that extends the terms of this agreement to all construction industry employers and employees to be gazetted.

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The Ministry further undertook an investigation. It held several consultations with the Construction Industry Federation, MANWU and representatives of the Chinese business. The Ministry also deployed labour inspectors to investigate the state of compliance with legal requirements in the entire construction industry. The investigation established that many employers, including two Chinese-owned companies, were complying with legal requirements. At the same time, however, the investigation revealed that a significant number of construction companies, both Namibian and Chinese companies, were not complying with the law.

The Ministry also took note of the relationship between non-compliance with labour standards and the awareness of Government tenders in the construction industry.

I at this point, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, would humbly like to call the attention of the Honourable Members to Section 111 of the Labour Act No. 6 of 1992 which provides, *inter alia*, in relevant parts that:

“... no contract for the provision to the State of goods or services shall be entered into with any employer, unless such employer has undertaken in writing to ensure that any employees employed by him or her for the purposes of... the provision of such goods or services , is employed subject to terms and conditions no less favourable than such terms and conditions prevailing for work of the same nature in the industry in question in the district in which such employees are employed or, if no such terms and conditions prevail, in the nearest appropriate district where such terms and conditions prevail.”

I note that the Ministry operates at present with only 38 labour inspectors countrywide. Although it has tabled a proposal with the Office of the Prime Minister to expand its labour inspectorate, its capacity to police the construction industry at present is restricted.

Against the aforementioned background, the Ministry is determined to find the best way to address the problem. It has intensified its efforts to do so since the beginning of this year.

To this end, I received a joint delegation of the Construction Industry Federation and MANWU last month, who complained that Government is awarding tenders to companies that do not comply with the labour laws, including Chinese companies. They allege that the Tender Board awards tenders regularly to

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construction industry contractors who do not adhere to the industry agreement and are thus able to submit lower tenders for Government work, based upon substandard wages and benefits.

They also alleged that construction tender awardees hire subcontractors who do not adhere to the industry agreement, to health and safety requirements or to legal requirements concerning dismissal of employees. I emphasise that these are only allegations at this stage. The Ministry is now looking into the accuracy of the matters alleged.

A few weeks ago, senior officials of the Ministry met with Chinese State-Owned construction companies operating in Namibia to discuss the complaints and further meetings are planned.

I had also scheduled a meeting with my colleagues, that is the Ministers of Works, Transport and Communication and of Finance in order to enable Government to approach the problem holistically. Unfortunately, the meeting had to be shifted because of an intervening urgent labour matter – and I am sure we all know what I am referring to, that is Ramatex – but it will be rescheduled as soon as possible.

As I said at the outset, the problem to which the Honourable Viljoen alludes is a serious and very significant one and an effective solution is required. I have now, hopefully, shared with the Honourable Members the steps that have been taken so far. However, this is still work in progress.

I will report further to Members of this august House upon the completion of the necessary investigations and consultations which are still ongoing at this date and I want to thank the Honourable Members for having listened to me. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister of Labour for his comprehensive answer.

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HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I thank the Minister and I believe that the whole issue is in good hands. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Question 3 is by Honourable Dienda. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

QUESTION 3:

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Comrade Speaker, on this sad occasion and sad day in our Parliament due to the passing away of one of us, I would like to tender my sincere condolences to Honourable Gertze's family and his Comrades in the CoD and all of us as Members of Parliament.

Comrade Speaker, having said so, I would like to ask the indulgence of the House that I give the response on the question next time.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister. The question stands over until next time. Question 4 is by Honourable Dienda. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

QUESTION 4:

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Honourable Speaker, it is a sad day for Parliament. Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, Ms Gertze is a Chief Registered Nurse in charge of the Psychiatric Department for Windhoek Central Hospital. Thus, as the Ministry, in particular the nursing

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staff and indeed myself, share the loss of her beloved close friend and husband. Indeed, we wish her and the entire family and his Party Colleagues strength during these trying times. May his soul rest in peace.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to respond to Honourable Dienda's question.

Comrade Speaker, I take note of the Honourable Member's question as one of the allegations to the Ministry of Health and Social Services, until proven otherwise. The Ministry will conduct its own investigation to determine the validity of these claims and proceed from there.

Honourable Members, while there is no specific policy on pregnant women who are HIV positive, the National Policy on Reproductive Health and the National Policy on HIV/AIDS govern the guidelines and practices of the Ministry. They are applicable irrespective of gender, HIV status or whether a woman is pregnant or not. In this regard, the termination of a pregnancy may only be considered under specific circumstances as stipulated in the Abortion and Sterilization Act, No. 2 of 1975, as amended by the Abortion and Sterilization Amendment Act, No. 18 of 1976.

There are four circumstances under which termination of pregnancy may be an option and I reiterate that because of the overarching applicability of these Acts, these conditions pertain equally to HIV-positive pregnant women. They include the following:

1. Where continued pregnancy endangers the life of the woman concerned or is a serious threat to her physical health;
2. Where the continued pregnancy constitutes a serious threat to the mental health of a woman concerned;
3. Where there is a serious risk that the child will suffer from physical or mental defect that would render them or her irreparably seriously handicapped;
4. Where the pregnancy is a result of unlawful carnal intercourse (rape or incest) or where the woman is mentally retarded.

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Further to this, I wish to refer the Honourable Member to the Ministry's guidelines that direct the procedures for termination of pregnancy in HIV-positive women. These guidelines clearly state that HIV-positivity is not a reason for termination of pregnancy; and that only where the pregnancy of a woman with advanced states of AIDS constitutes a serious threat to her physical health, may constitute consideration for termination of pregnancy and I am in reference to Circular 60 of 2005. Under Clause 13 of this circular it reads:

“HIV/AIDS and termination of pregnancy: On the basis of the provision of the Act, the following is noteworthy with regard to HIV/AIDS and pregnancy:

- 13.1 Differentiation is to be made between HIV-positivity of a pregnant woman on the one hand, and a pregnant woman with AIDS, on the other.
- 13.2 Only the pregnancy of a woman with advanced stages of AIDS and according to WHO in references to stages 3 and/or 4 may constitute a serious threat to her physical health. However, treatment of optimistic infections and ARV medication can eliminate or reduce that threat.

While prevention of mother-to-child transmission measures may reduce the risk of infection of the child, they cannot always be excluded. However, ARV treatment of the child can eliminate or

reduce the threat of serious irreparable future handicap or disability of the child. It must, therefore, at all times be appreciated that Anti-RetroViral Therapy and prevention of mother-to-child transmission services are now available in all the 13 Regions of Namibia.”

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, in any circumstances where an abortion may be considered, the following have to complied with:

- An application for termination of pregnancy is completed, certified and signed by the woman herself;
- The abovementioned permissible circumstances are asserted by a medical professional, verified by two other medical professionals and authorised by the Principal Medical Officer or Medical Superintendent.

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- And lastly, should an abortion be performed, a confidential report is to be submitted by the Principal Medical Officer or Medical Superintendent to the Permanent Secretary.

I thus confirm categorically that, indeed, as Honourable Dienda asserted, for any surgical procedure, patients or guardians are requested to give consent depending on the age of the patient and his or her psychological, social or emotional status. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for his reply. The House will rise for refreshments.

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

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

RECONSIDERATION : VETERANS BILL

SECRETARY: Reconsideration – Veterans Bill.

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Veterans Affairs move that the Assembly now reconsiders the Bill?

HON MINISTER OF VETERAN AFFAIRS: I so Move.

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HON SPEAKER: It is moved that the Assembly now goes into Committee and that I leave the Chair. Agreed to. The Chairperson will take the Chair.

HON SIOKA takes the Chair

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEES: The Committee has to consider the *Veterans Bill* [B.11-‘07].

Clause 1 put.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Thank you.

The National Council has proposed these Amendments:

Arrangements of the Sections: Substitute the following Paragraph for the Title of Part V:

“Registration of veterans and dependents of living or deceased veterans on provision of assistance and other benefits.”

Substitute the following Subtitle for Subtitles 27 and 28:

“Qualification for the registration as veterans or dependant of living or deceased Veteran and 28: Registration of veterans and dependents of living and deceased veterans.”

Likewise, the Title to Part V: Substitute the following Title for the Title to Part V:

“The Registration of Veterans and dependents of living or deceased veterans and provision of assistance and other benefits.”

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In Clause 1, substitute the following definition for the definition of “Applicant”:

“Applicant means in relation to an application for registration as a veteran or dependent of a living or deceased veteran: Any person who applies for such registration.

(b) in relation to any application for the grant of financial assistance or funding from the Fund, any registered veteran or dependent of a veteran who applied for such assistance or funding.”

Substitute the following definition for the definition “dependent”.

“Dependent in relation to the living or deceased veteran means:

- (a) Any child of such veteran;*
- (b) Any widow or widower of such a veteran;*
- (c) A person other than a person included in Paragraph (a) in respect of whom such veteran was at the time of his or her death legally liable for maintenance; or*
- (d) A person in respect of whom such veteran is or was at the time of his or her death not legally liable for maintenance, if in the opinion of the Board such person is or was at the time of death of a veteran in fact dependent on such veteran for maintenance.”*

Insert the following definition after the definition of “dependent”:

“Dependent of a veteran means: A dependent of deceased veteran.”

Substitute the following definition for the definition of “liberation struggle”:

“Liberation struggle means the political, diplomatic, military and underground struggle waged against colonialism, racism and apartheid, which struggle was waged in Namibia and other countries and resulted in the attainment of the Independence of Namibia on 21st March 1990.”

In the second line of the definition of “member of the liberation forces”, delete the word “liberation”.

Substitute the following definition for the definition of “registered dependent”:

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“Registered dependent means any person who has been registered as a dependent of a living or deceased veteran under Section 28.”

I so Move.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Table the Amendments, Honourable Minister. Any further discussions?

Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. With your permission I would like to ask the Honourable Minister just one question on Clause 1(2).

Substitute the following definition for the definition of dependent. The one that says substitute the following definition for the definition of dependent, Sub-Clause (2) of Clause 1 under (a), *“any child of such veteran.”* I just wanted to know, it is normal practice if one is something to children, there is an age limit. Is there any reason why it is not put in here, because a veteran, when the liberation struggle started, could have been eighty years old and have a sixty-five year old child? Would that child then by this definition be a dependent?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Let me give you the background. This particular thing, the dependent, is defined as it was said and that kind of limit is provided for in the body of the law. What the National Council is trying to achieve here is that we are really trying to bring the words *“living and deceased veteran”* in the sense that that is what is going on here. However the age is already determined elsewhere.

There is basically one principle and that is, the person who is to benefit is the veteran himself. That is the underlying principle. The veteran may however have dependents. The dependents that will be benefiting after his departure from what he was getting, if they were dependent on him. While he is alive he is being given everything like anybody else and he looks after his family.

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Why the Council thought we should mention this is that dependents of a living veteran may also benefit in other ways, but not necessarily financially. For example, they may be members of the Veterans

Association whether he is alive or dead. Therefore there are some things that he will get according to the law, both of them, but there are certain things that can only be given to the dependents of the deceased veteran to the extent that they have not reached a certain age. The age mentioned is eighteen in the body of the laws.

Unless there is a compelling reason why they should continue to benefit after the death even if they are eighteen, for example if he was at university and that person was actually kept in the University because of the help that was given, you cannot cut because the veteran has gone. You may at times try to phase that person out, but otherwise, if he is eighteen, then that is it.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: I would also like to have information on the procedure for registration of people who disappeared. What is the procedure? Will they be registered and what about the procedure for ex-detainees who were not convicted or not taken to court, who were only accused? What is the procedure for registration?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I do not think I can answer that one because what we are dealing with now are the Amendments that came from the National Council. The Bill was here, it was adopted by this House, all those questions were here.

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HON GURIRAB**

What I am doing is just to give you the Amendments that we have accepted as a Ministry which came from the National Council. I am afraid that one is not among the Amendments that came from the National Council.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I recognise Honourable Tsudao Gurirab.

HON GURIRAB: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Before I start, I must say I have problems dealing with the proposed Amendments because the way in which we normally touch them we have the parts which have been proposed bracketed, highlighted and etcetera and that is a problem for us to see what changes have been proposed.

For example, to start with the long Title, what is proposed is to substitute the long Title with a new one.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member, we are not yet at the long Title.

HON GURIRAB: The Minister has presented it. The Minister presented the long Title and Sections 27 and 28. I will come back to that and if you wish me to deal with Clause 1, I shall proceed to do so.

On arrangement of the Sections of the original Bill as approved here, on Part V, what is being proposed is to insert the dependents of living and deceased – I think that is the part which has been inserted in the Bill as originally adopted here.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, my argument is that the proposed insertion of “*deceased and living*” is superfluous, it does not add anything. I wish to take you to the definition of “veteran” and I read from the Bill as passed by this House. The definition of “veteran” says: “A veteran means a person who (a) was a member of the liberation forces; (b) consistently and persistently participate or engaged in any political, diplomatic or underground activity in furtherance of the liberation struggle; (c) owing to his or her participation in the liberation struggle was convicted whether in Namibia or

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elsewhere of any offence closely connected to the struggle and sentenced to imprisonment”, etcetera.

Now, if you were any of those, it means it is immaterial whether you are alive or dead, you will still be a veteran. My submission therefore is that whether it is here or other persons, the insertion of this “living and deceased” ... (Interjection). This refers to the veteran. Thus the insertion of that, whether we want to give benefits to the dependents of veterans, the veteran does not need to be alive for whatever we want to give to their dependants.

If you look at the definition of “veteran” and you want to give sweets to the dependents of veterans, you give them whether the veteran is alive or deceased. My argument is, it is superfluous to add this “deceased or living” and I wish to substitute the following Subtitles in Part V.

I think that observation will deal with what is being proposed under 27, on the registration of Veterans. That is on this Clause, that “living or deceased” does not add anything because we have catered for dependents of veterans. A veteran, once a veteran is a veteran, alive, dead, young, old.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I have mentioned above that the Amendments are necessary as they have to make a distinction between dependents of a living veteran and dependent of a deceased veteran. It is necessary to make this distinction because the Bill provides for the registration of veterans and dependents of veterans, both living and deceased veterans.

Therefore, whenever matters affecting dependents of both living and deceased veterans are encountered in this Bill, the Bill now refers to the living and deceased veteran. However, when it comes to the payment of assistance and the other benefits, the only beneficiaries are the dependents of the deceased veteran. Therefore, to be clear on this one, you have to cater for both of them because the Bill at one point has certain areas where both the dependents of living and deceased veterans can be encountered in the Bill. When it however comes to the benefits, it is only the dependents of the deceased veteran and so it goes. In order to make this distinction very clear, the National Council wanted to make this distinction and it actually clarifies this position.

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Not everywhere do the dependents of the veteran, either alive or deceased, get the same benefits. There are times that the benefits are only to the deceased veteran. The Bill is clear on that one. Therefore the definitions must also cater for the two and this is what the National Council was trying to do and I think it clarifies more.

HON GURIRAB: Honourable Chairperson, I wish to take you to the definitions. The definition in the Bill as passed by this House is: “A dependent in relation to a deceased”, but what is now being proposed is to add “living”. However the Bill that we have passed here read: “A dependent in relation to a deceased veteran means.” With the Amendments it will read: “A dependent in relation to a deceased or living veteran”. It is all the same, it defines a dependent as any child of such a veteran, any widower or widow of such a veteran, a person included in Paragraph (a) in respect of whom such a veteran was at the time of his or her death legally liable or a person in respect of whom the veteran was at the time of his or her death not legally liable for maintenance in the opinion of the Board at the time of the death of the veteran.

Section 28 deals with the registration and the definition of the registered veteran is: Means a person who was registered as a dependent on the Veterans Act in terms of Section 28. So Section 27 deals with the procedures to be registered, but the dependents are defined as a widow, as a child and etcetera. It goes on and it defines registration of veterans and dependents and etcetera. It is superfluous to make these distinctions. If you are a veteran as defined, you are a veteran.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I think I may sound like a broken record, because I am saying that this was done because the benefits are different, particularly the benefits that accrue are accruing to the dependents after the beneficiary is dead. That is why we are talking about a deceased veteran.

But there are certain things that both can enjoy in the meantime while even the person is alive and I gave you an example, for example being a member of the

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Association. To be more clear, it was thought that we have to bring this because the Bill is providing for both where appropriate.

HON GURIRAB: On Clause 1, I have made my point on the living and deceased and we will deal with it again when the Bill comes for Amendments. However on Clause 1(b), to say the last word on this, you will see that this thing is being treated inconsistently in the Bill. Sometimes the veteran is living and deceased, in other aspects they are simply veterans. It is inconsistent in the Bill with reference to Clause (1)(b). It says: “In relation to any application for the grant or financial assistance or funding from the Fund of veteran or dependent of a veteran who applies for such financial assistance.” You can therefore see that is different and it introduces an inconsistency.

But Section (3) of the same Clause 1 in the original that was passed here, Part 1 deals with definitions, now the proposal is to insert the following definition after the definition of “dependent” and it says: “A dependent of a veteran means a dependent of a deceased veteran.” Then the Amendments says it is a child of a veteran, it is a widow or widower, it is a person for whom you are responsible. It says add dependent of a veteran, which will mean it says: “Insert the following definition after the definition of “dependent”. We have a new one which says, “dependent of a veteran means the dependent of a deceased veteran”. It does not make sense, does it? Because we have split up veteran into two different things. We have created two categories of veterans. We have created a living and a deceased veteran. There we are saying a dependent of a veteran, which veteran? Does it mean the dependent of a deceased veteran? I am seeking your guidance.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I must say I did not get exactly where he was reading, if he can repeat himself?

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: He was reading Clause 1, the Amendments, the yellow paper, Clause 1(3).

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: And what is the problem with that?

HON GURIRAB: Honourable Chairperson, If you look at the definition of “dependent”, it says: “Dependent in relation to a deceased and living veteran means a child of such a veteran, a widow, a widower and a person for whose maintenance you were responsible.” Now we are being asked to add an additional category which will say a dependent of a veteran means the dependent of a deceased veteran.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Here you gave us Clause 3, there was some confusion that which word are we to use. You wanted consistency in the first Sub-clause. Then you came up to Clause 3, that is where you had the second question. Now you are again referring us back to the beginning. Can you come clear with your last question now?

HON GURIRAB: On the proposed insertion to the definition of dependent as it stands. For those Members of Parliament who have their Bills, the definition of a dependent is given, but we have been asked to agree that this be added to that definition, I am asking what is it that we are asked to add to the definition.

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HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Yes, I got it. I think what we are saying here is that there are substitutions that we are bringing in here in order to make clear that we are accommodating dependents, if I understood you properly, of veterans both living and deceased. We want to accommodate them to the extent that within the Bill itself at an appropriate time some benefits go only to those of deceased veterans.

However, the mere fact that in terms of benefits only the deceased veterans' dependents will benefit, that does not mean that a living veteran does not have dependents that may benefit in any other way except for the assistance that they will get at the death of the veteran. This is what it is all about. What I do not understand is where we are inserting anything that is confusing. I mean, the question itself is also confusing me, but I thought it was just to clarify that there are two categories of people when it comes to the assistance and that we are only assisting those of the deceased veteran. Therefore, it must be clear when we are going through the Bill. That is the whole thing that the National Council wanted and I think I understand it.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the way I understand the Honourable Member is as follows:

In Clause 1(2) the definition of dependent says in relation to a living veteran. That is a living veteran's dependents, but it also includes the deceased veteran's dependents, they are already defined or included in Section 2(a), (b), (c), (d). There are four. Section 3 is really redundant and immaterial, because this insertion does not serve any purpose. What does that mean? It says we must now insert, meaning include to that definition, saying that the dependents would also mean dependent of a deceased veteran. Now we have already defined that. Therefore, this insertion really does not serve any purpose. That is how I understand the Honourable Member and to me it makes sense because it is really a repetition.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I agree with what my Colleague said here but in order not to make things complicated, I think in Clause 3 there we should just add “*dependent of a veteran means a dependent of a living veteran and a deceased veteran.*” Then we have it all, a living and a deceased. That is all, just like in the definition.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Yes it is in number 2. Minister Konjore.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Comrade Chairperson, I would like to concur with Honourable Tsudao and the Honourable Deputy Minister, because in my reading as well, if we look at Clause 1(2), it defines the dependent, saying “*dependent in relation to a living or a deceased veteran means*” and then it follows. Now this 3 says:

“Insert the following definition after the definition of “dependent”: “Dependent of a veteran means a dependent of a deceased veteran.” Now what does the first one say? It says “living or deceased”. That is the same thing. Therefore, this one really does not play a role, that is our understanding and if we want to refer to benefits, it would be something different, but not the definition of a dependent as it stands. I thus agree with them. Thank you.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Now we have so many agreements, I agree on that one, I do not agree on this one, I would for compromise-sake, with your permission, have this particular one stand over and then we go with the rest.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, the Minister wants to get more information. This one will stand over. Any further discussions on Clause 1? Clause 1 stands over for more consultations.

Clause 2 put.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Substitute the following for Sub-clause (2):

“The Minister may,

- (a) subject to Subsection (3), give directions to the Board as to the minimum or maximum assistance or funding for a project in which a registered veteran or a dependent of a veteran is entitled to under this Act;*
- (b) the period to be taken into account in the granting of any assistance or funding for the project; or*
- (c) any matter to be taken into account in granting any assistance or funding for the project.”*

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any further discussions on Clause 2? Honourable Tsudao Gurirab.

HON GURIRAB: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, let me first make the point that as far as this Bill is concerned, it does not treat the dependents, this new 2 that has now been introduced, it does not treat the dependents of “living” veterans separately from other “*deceased*” veterans. I thought I should make that point at the outset.

As regards the Amendments being proposed, the original draft says the maximum or minimum assistance to which a registered veteran or funding for a project.

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Assistance includes anything, funding for a project, what he wants even for lunch. It is superfluous again, it does not add anything to the Bill and before I sit down again, if you look at the language in this Clause, it is inconsistent with the categories of living and deceased veterans which you have created.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: If you look, for example, at (a), it is not a question of the maximum and minimum assistance. The issue here is of funding for a project that was missing, it was not there. Because we are also extending this not only to other assistance but also funding of the projects, that is the whole idea.

If you look at (b), the issue of funding of the project is missing and that is what we are dealing with here. The third is the same thing, the funding of the project is what we are trying to bring in here. That is a very essential thing and that is what we are bringing in here.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any further discussion? None.

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 3 to 5 put.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS : In Clause 5, delete the word "*deceased*" wherever it occurs.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Table the Amendments. Any further discussions on Clause 5?

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HON GURIRAB: We agree, this is the only place where it is correct and consistent.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 5, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 6 put.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: In Subsection (1) delete the word “deceased”.

HON GURIRAB: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson, and this is where it is wrong. Let me read the original Bill, Clause 6(1):

“The Board may authorise payments from the Fund for the assistance to a registered veteran or a registered dependent of a deceased veteran.”

We are being asked to delete “deceased”. Therefore, the funds will only be given to dependents of your new category of “*living veterans*”. The same in respect of (d) of that Section. It says: “*The Board may authorise payments from the Fund for any assistance rendered to veterans or dependents of deceased veterans.*” Now we are deleting “deceased”. I do not think the intention is to discriminate against the dependents of deceased veterans, but with these Amendments that is what we will achieve.

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HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: The argument was that it is superfluous in the sense that within the definition it is already assumed that we are talking about a deceased veteran. Thus, whether you put it or not, it does not add anything because in the definition itself it means that when it comes to that type of action, you are only talking about a deceased veteran's dependent. Therefore it was felt that it does not serve any purpose.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any further discussion? None.

Clause 6, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 15 put.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: In Subsection (1), substitute the following Paragraph with Paragraph (g):

“(g) two representatives nominated by an organisation or association representing veterans and dependents of living or deceased veterans as recognised by the Minister in terms of Section 44.

In Subsection (2) substitute the words “veterans or dependents of living or deceased veterans” for the word “person”.

Substitute the following Subsection for Subsection (3):

“On the expiry of the period referred to in Subsection (2), the Minister may appoint as member of the Board two of the persons nominated in terms of that Subsection who, in the opinion of the Minister, possess the necessary expertise to represent the interests of the veterans and dependents of living and deceased veterans.”

Substitute the following Sub-clause for Sub-clause (4):

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“(4) *Where no nomination, as contemplated in Subsection (2) is made or persons so nominated for appointment do not satisfy the requirements of Subsection (3), the Minister may, despite the provisions of Subsection (1)(g) appoint two veterans or dependents of living or deceased veterans who in his or her opinion are capable of representing the interests of the veterans and dependents of living and deceased veterans as a member of the Board.*”

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Table the Amendments, Honourable Minister. Any further discussions?

Clause 15, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 22 put.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: In Clause 22, Sub-clause (1), substitute the following Paragraph for Paragraph (c):

“(c) *Determine applications for registration as veteran or dependent of living and deceased veteran.*”

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Table the Amendments, Honourable Minister. Any further discussions? None.

Clause 22, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 23 put.

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HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: In Subsection (1), substitute the following Paragraph for Paragraph (a):

“(a) an application for registration as a veteran or dependent of a living or deceased veteran.”

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Table the Amendment, Honourable Minister. Any further discussions?

Clause 23, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 27 put.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Substitute the following clause for Clause 27:

“Qualifications for registration as a veteran or dependent of a living or deceased veteran:

No person qualifies for registration as a veteran or dependent of a living or deceased veteran unless that person -

- (a) in the case of a veteran meets the requirements of a veteran as defined in Subsection (1);*
 - (b) in the case of a dependent of a living veteran, the veteran himself or herself meets the requirements of a veteran as defined in Section 1; or*
 - (c) in the case of a dependent of a deceased veteran, a deceased veteran himself or herself during his or her lifetime met the requirements of a veteran as defined in Section 1.*
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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Table the Amendments, Minister. Any further discussion?

Clause 27, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 28 put.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: In Subsection 28 substitute the following Title for the Title to Clause 28:

“Registration of veterans and dependents of living and deceased veterans.”

Substitute the following in Subsection (iv) or Subsection (i):

“(i) A person who wishes to be registered as a veteran or dependent of a living or deceased veteran must in the prescribed form and manner apply to the Board for registration.”

In Sub-clause (3), substitute the following Paragraph for Paragraph (a):

“If satisfied that the applicant meets the requirements of Section 27, grant the application and in the prescribed manner register the applicant as a veteran or dependent of a living or deceased veteran.”

CHAIRPERSON OF THW WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEES: Table the Amendments, Minister. Any further discussions?

Clause 28, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 30 put.

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HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Delete the word “*deceased*” where it appears in Subsections (1) and (2).

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Table the Amendment. Any further discussions?

Clause 30, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 35 put.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: In Clause 35, substitute the following Sub-clause for Sub-clause (1):

“(1) *The Minister may, after consultation with the Board, by regulation*

(a) *establish one or more projects or,*

(b) *stipulate the various economic sections in which projects may be established for the provision of benefits or assistance to or in respect of any veteran or dependent of veteran or any classes of veterans or dependents of veterans and may in like manner suspend or abolish such projects;*

In Sub-clause (2), delete the word “*deceased*”.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Table the Amendment, Honourable Minister. Any further discussions? None.

Clause 35, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 36 put.

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HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: In Clause 36, substitute the following Sub-clause for Sub-clause (1):

“(1) Any registered veteran and dependent of a veteran who wishes to obtain funding for a project must in the prescribed form and manner apply for such funding from the Fund.”

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Table the Amendment. Any further discussions? None.

Clause 36, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 39 put.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: In Clause 39, substitute the following Paragraph for Paragraph (a):

“(a) For the purpose of being registered as a veteran or a dependent of a living or deceased veteran or obtaining or retaining assistance, funding of a project or any other benefit from the Fund, makes any false statement or representation, knowing such statement or representation to be false or not believing it to be true.”

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Table the Amendment. Any further discussions? None.

Clause 39, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 40 put.

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HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: In Clause 40, in Subsection (1) substitute the following Paragraph for Paragraph (a):

“(a) An application for registration as a veteran or dependent of a living or deceased veteran.”

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Table the Amendment. Any further discussions on Clause 40? None.

Clause 40, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 44 put.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: In Clause 44,

1. Substitute the following Sub-clause for Sub-clause (1):

“(1) Veterans and dependents of living or deceased veterans may have an association or organisation for the purpose of representing their interest.”

2. Substitute the following Subsection for Subsection (2):

“(2) Where an association or organisation has been formed in terms of Subsection (2), members of the association or organisation may in the prescribed form and manner apply to the Minister for recognition of such association or organisation.”

3. In Subsection (3), substitute the following Paragraph for Paragraph (a):

“(a) The association or organisation is representative of such number of registered veterans and dependents of living or deceased veterans as may be prescribed.”

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Table the Amendment, Minister. Any further discussions? None.

Clause 44, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 46 put.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: In Clause 46, Subsection (1), substitute the following Paragraph for Paragraph (a):

“(a) The registration of veterans and dependents of living or deceased veterans generally or in the registration of veterans or dependents of veterans entitled to assistance or to benefit under any project;”

Delete the word “*deceased*” in Paragraph (f);

Substitute the following Paragraph for Paragraph (j):

“(j) The maintenance of records in respect of any assistance or benefits granted or paid to a veteran or dependent of a veteran under a project;”

Substitute the following Paragraph for Paragraph (p):

“(p) The information which may from time to time be required of any veteran or dependent of a living or deceased veteran.”

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Table the Amendment. Any further discussions? None.

Clause 46, as amended, agreed to.

Title put.

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HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Amendment to the Veterans Bill, that is now the Title:

Substitute the following Title for the Long Title of the Bill:

“To define the responsibility of the Minister in relation to the veterans’ affairs; to provide for the establishment of a Veterans Fund for the provision of assistance to the veterans and dependents of veterans; to provide for the registration of veterans and dependents of living and deceased veterans; to provide for the establishment of projects for the benefit of, and assistance to veterans and dependents of veterans; to provide for the integration of pension benefits of the veterans; to provide for the constitution and function of the Veterans Board and Veterans Appeal Board and to provide for matters incidental to or connected with the foregoing.”

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Table the Amendment. Any further discussions on the Long Title? None.

Title, as amended, agreed to.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEES: Before I report progress, let me ask the indulgence of the House if we could give permission to the Minister and his Colleagues to go and consult for five minutes and then we come and look at Clause 1 again, because next week is Budget time. Or do you agree that we delete Clause 1(3)?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Maybe with a pinch of salt, because I do not see any problem with it. However, now that we are in this dilemma and since you are saying there will be no time next week, I do not think it would do any harm to delete it. It does not really make so much difference to the Bill.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEES: That means Paragraph (3) is deleted.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: It is a question that we just add “*living and deceased*” and that is all, for the sake of consistency. It is just to add “*living and deceased*”, that is all.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Comrade Minister, what is your understanding now?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I would have gone for the consultations, but the time is too short.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Let us get assistance from the former Deputy Speaker.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Comrade Chairperson, our argument here is concerning this Sub-clause (3) which again defines a dependent of a deceased veteran separately, whilst in Sub-clause (2) the definition is for both dependent of a living or deceased veteran, the dependent is defined there, so why again define it by this insertion in (3) to say dependent of a veteran means a dependent of a deceased veteran, as if “dependent” does not mean the dependent of a living veteran. That is why we argue that it is just a repetition, it does not say much.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: There are two arguments now, because others are saying we should insert it. Comrade Minister, which one should we take?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: You are putting me in a very difficult situation. If we were not really pressed, I would have loved to consult and come back. Are we not going to have even half an hour during next week to do it properly? To do things haphazardly like this will not help anything.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES: Thank you very much, Comrade Minister, for rescuing the situation. This Clause will stand over to next week and I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED:

Progress reported and leave granted to sit again.

HON SPEAKER: The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

**RATIFICATION : AFRICAN YOUTH CHARTER
RESUMPTION OF DEBATE**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Ratification of the African Youth Charter.

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HON SPEAKER**

HON SPEAKER: Before I give the Floor to the Honourable Minister, I want to clarify some of the concerns raised yesterday between International law and National law, and I am going to respond to about four questions to clarify some of the misunderstandings that would read likely confusion.

The first is the relationship of International law and National law. The question is: ***Does international law change domestic legislation and if so, in what way?*** No, it does not change domestic legislation.

Two, ***does the ratification of Conventions, Protocols and Charters have material force a defect of amending existing legislation?*** Ratification is an act of giving official sanction or approval to a formal document such as a treaty, in this case the Charter. Article 144 of the Namibian Constitution deals with International law and states: *“Unless otherwise provided by this Constitution or Act of Parliament, the general rules of public international law and international agreements binding upon Namibia under this Constitution shall form part of the laws of Namibia.”*

An example is the Geneva Conventions Act 2003 (Act 15 of 2003). In line with our law, the provisions of the Geneva Conventions was made part of an Act of Parliament in Sections which are essential to make it part of Namibian law.

Three, ***how are Conventions, Protocols and Charters operationalised and whose responsibility is this?*** As an example, in 2 above it needs to be made part of the Namibian law. The line Ministry or Minister responsible for the legislation needs to make it part of the Namibian law by either amending the existing legislation or enacting new legislation.

Four, for example relating to abortion, it is prohibited in terms of national legislation. If safe abortions are allowed, does this contradict existing laws and the Constitution? Article 16 of the Charter provides that State Parties to undertake to pursue the full implementation of the right of youth to health. Sub-article (2), Subparagraph (ii) further states that: *“State Parties shall take legislative steps to prevent unsafe abortions.”* But Article 1 of the Charter states that: *“State Parties shall take the necessary steps in accordance with their constitutional processes to give effect to the provisions of the Charter.”*

The domestic laws and the Constitution of Namibia cannot be overtaken or replaced by International instruments and thus, unless Parliament changes the law

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regarding abortion, no International instrument can force a Sovereign State like Namibia to change its laws. I hope that has clarified the situation.

When the House adjourned in terms of Rule 90 yesterday, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture. Any further discussion? Does the Minister wish to reply?

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I would like to thank the Honourable Members who took the Floor yesterday to contribute to the discussions on the ratification of the African Youth Charter. I would like to thank all the Honourable Members of this House for your support.

Comrade Speaker, no controversies and/or disagreements in principle arose yesterday and I would like to thank you and your Office for clarifying the specific issue that provoked some discussions.

Comrade Speaker, all Honourable Members who participated emphasised the need to ensure that the programmes are put in place to enhance effective practical implementation of the Charter and I am sure by committing the Namibian State through its relevant Government institutions, both present and in the future, I am sure we will endeavour to uphold and to implement the provisions of this Charter for the benefit of our young people both in our country and on the continent.

Maybe I should just specifically respond or comment on one or two issues raised by Honourable Members.

Honourable Schimming-Chase made reference to the perception that at times it would appear as if some youth organisation are treated differently by the Government. Let me state the following:

The issue as to how Government would relate do the different youth organisation, the many youth organisation in the country arose already in 1993. That time Honourable Pendukeni Ithana was the Minister of Youth and I was the Deputy Minister then and after consultations with different stakeholders, it was agreed that it would be better, it would be good to have one national umbrella youth organisation to which the different youth organisations, be they political, cultural

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or social, would then on a voluntary basis affiliate or belong to, so that Government is then enabled to provide any assistance meant for the different youth organisation through such an umbrella youth organisation. Hence, Comrade Speaker, the coming into being of the National Youth Council of Namibia in 1994.

Different youth organisations are affiliated to the National Youth Council and their leadership are not appointed by Government, but the leadership of the National Youth Council are elected openly by the membership, meaning from the different youth organisations.

Very soon we shall bring to this Parliament the National Youth Council Bill to further strengthen the activities of the National Youth Council. Thus, if there is any perception – and I think there are some perceptions, as Honourable Schimming-Chase – we as leaders should just endeavour to ensure that through the National Youth Council the different youth organisation get their share.

I must state that I see in the National Youth Council the different youth organisations are working very well, like us here in the Parliament. In their Parliament there you will find youth organisations or leaders from different youth organisations and when it comes to pursuing matters affecting the youth, they do find common ground to work towards implementation of that specific agenda.

Honourable Dienda did raise the issue of the age. Our National Youth Policy defines this category as people between 16 and 30. The Charter categorise the youth as people between 15 and 35. The question was: What about those that do not fall under the category?

Let me state that when you look at this category of people that are characterised as youth in Namibia, you will find that the majority of them would be school-going children. Many, many of these young people are in schools and they do benefit through programmes that are provided in schools. Therefore the categorisation is really, as far as I am concerned, not meant to be applied in such a way that if you are not 16, you cannot participate in this programme. Hence in our policy here, for example, we say on Page 1: “*For practical reasons, youth activities will often need to embrace those children even below the age of 15 years.*” Therefore, we should not really be so concerned about these ages as such, they do benefit, they do participate in the different programmes.

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Then *Honourable Chief //Garoëb* did raise the issue that how would it be practically possible that we are ratifying the Youth Charter in the absence of a National Youth Policy and I remember, Honourable Speaker, that last year I did distribute in this House this document. We have a National Youth Policy in place and today I gave Honourable //Garoëb a copy.

Honourable Members, thank you very much for your support, I think the youth of Namibia will appreciate the gesture that their elected leaders have ratified this particular document. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for his reply and I now put the Question, that the Motion be adopted. Any objections? Agreed to.

There is going to be a service in honour of departed Honourable Kala Gertze at his residence. Honourable Dienda, just tell us where it is.

HON DIENDA: It is at Blekinsop Street, Windhoek North, No. 5, just near the Central Hospital at Bachbrect Post Office.

HON SPEAKER: It is at 19:00 tonight. On that note the House stands adjourned.

HOUSE ADJOURNED AT 17:45 UNTIL 2008.03.18 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
18 MARCH 2008
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, before I share with you some information, I would like to call on the Right Honourable Prime Minister to say a few words to us.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Sir. Honourable Members, on behalf of the SWAPO Party I regret to formally inform you that our dear Colleague, Honourable John Alfons Pandeni, the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, died in a car accident last Friday, the 14th of March 2008. The accident took place between the mining town of Kombat and Grootfontein around 7:30 in the morning.

Honourable Pandeni was on his way to the Caprivi Region on official business.

Honourable Members, though we are all at all times aware that the shadow of death is our permanent companion, when that shadow turns into a cloud of permanent separation, then we are left powerless, saddened and not with enough words to explain it.

However, we in SWAPO are comforted by the fact that late Pandeni was a veteran freedom fighter, a Robben Island graduate, a trade unionist and a political leader. His immense contributions to the building of a Nation are all there to be recognised by all. We, therefore, at the same time, as we mourn him, celebrate his achievements during his very short life. May his soul rest in internal peace.

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**TABLING: REPORTS OF AUDITOR GENERAL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

HON SPEAKER: May I ask the House to rise and observe a minute of silence?

The House observes a minute of silence.

I would further like to inform the Honourable House that due to the memorial service in honour of the late Reinhardt Kala Gertze, which will be held as from 14:00 tomorrow, 19 March 2008, the House will today rise until Tuesday, the 25th of March 2008. This also takes, as we have learned now, into consideration arrangements for the funeral of the late Honourable John Pandeni, Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development.

In light of this, there will be no session of the House on Thursday, 20 March, the day before Independence Celebrations. All Members are invited to attend the memorial service tomorrow, 14:00 in the Parliament Gardens.

Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers?

TABLING : REPORTS OF AUDITOR-GENERAL

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Reports of the Auditor-General on the accounts of:

1. The Agricultural Bank of Namibia; and
2. Namibia Development Corporation for the Financial Year ended March 31st, 2007 and
3. Mineral Development Fund for the Financial Year ended March 31st, 2005;
4. Town Council of Outapi for the Financial Year ended June 30th 2004 and 2005;

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON VILJOEN**

5. A Special Audit Report on the Non-submission of Financial Statements, Town Councils and Village Councils up to the Financial Year ended June 30th, 2007.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Reports?
Honourable Amathila.

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT 2006/07
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER**

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table the Annual Report 2006/07 of the Office of the Prime Minister.

HON SPEAKER: Any further Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions?
Honourable Viljoen.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 44:

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 27th of March 2007, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Justice the following questions:

1. Are there any laws, regulations or ordinance prohibiting a Namibian citizen to take an allegation of corruption by Parliament or any Parliamentary Committee or Cabinet or even the President of Namibia himself to the Ombudsman or the Anti-Corruption Commission?

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**RECONSIDERATION: VETERANS BILL
HON !NARUSEB**

2. Is there any law or other regulation that forbids the Ombudsman or Anti-Corruption Commission from taking any action against such alleged corruption?

I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Question? Any further Notice of Questions? None. Any Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RECONSIDERATION: VETERANS BILL
RESUMPTION**

SECRETARY: Resumption of reconsideration – *Veterans Bill*.

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Veterans Affairs move that the Assembly now reconsiders the Bill?

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Honourable Speaker, I would like to plead for your indulgence and the indulgence of the House to adjourn this item on behalf of the Minister responsible for Veterans Affairs until Tuesday, the 25th of March 2008. I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Any objection to that? Then the reconsideration of this Motion stands adjourned until the 25th March 2008. The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

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HON GURIRAB**

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE SECOND READING : APPROPRIATION
BILL**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – *Appropriation Bill.*

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, the 5th of March 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance that the Bill be now read a Second Time. Honourable Ulena adjourned the Debate and he or his Colleague has the Floor. Honourable Gurirab.

HON GURIRAB: Honourable Speaker, I rise to make brief comments on the Appropriation Bill for the Financial Year 2008/09. But Honourable Speaker, before I do so, permit me to say this:

Last week Friday we were in consultation on the Amendments to the Veterans Bill, the Bill which will cater for the interests of veterans and their dependents when my Cousin and Minister of Labour and Social Welfare the Honourable Alpheus !Naruseb received and shared with us the sad news of the passing on of late Minister Pandeni. Honourable Speaker, as veterans ourselves, we dip our revolutionary banner in honour of the veteran who has passed on. We extend our heartfelt condolences and sympathy to his Party, his Colleagues, his family, children and friends. Go well.

Honourable Speaker, our country has received bountiful rains this year, which is a welcome given last year's drought and the fact that more than two-thirds of our citizens depend on agriculture directly or indirectly.

However, this blessing of nature has also caused large-scale dislocation of communities and threaten to destroy livelihoods of citizens, their crops and beasts

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in the North-Central and North-Eastern parts of our country. We join His Excellency President Pohamba and Government in expressing our profound concern for the vicissitudes that visited upon our people in the affected areas. We support too His Excellency's declaration of a state of emergency in the affected areas and hope that the Authorities, with the intervention of both our own domestic partners and international community will ensure that everything is done to assist those affected.

Honourable Speaker, we are aware that funds are availed in the Budget under discussion to ameliorate some of the effects of the destruction following in the wake of the rains.

We will, however, count the full costs of the destruction only long after the rains have subsided. Already we know that individual households will dig deep into their pockets to rebuild homesteads and croplands, whilst millions of public infrastructure by way of roads, bridges, clinics and schools will require renovation and reconstruction.

Honourable Speaker, we welcome this year's Budget, but every Budget is a little story supported by figures.

The Minister's little story this year is the following, namely that she has extra cash because she received some of it via SACU; secondly that she was able to collect a substantial income, exceeding estimates by more than N\$1 billion in this regard.

Therefore, looking at her purse and partly with an eye on October next year, she has decided to bring Christmas forward by deciding to spend and spend. However, if you examine the Minister's Budget closely, it amounts to a case of giving a woman a fish every day, instead of teaching her to fish for herself. In other words, it is an expansive Budget but the priorities are the wrong ones.

Honourable Speaker, the narrative of the Minister this time around is no different from the one we already know, that is, as sectors, Education and Health will receive the highest allocation, this time round followed by Defence should Lesotho invade our country.

Honourable Speaker, we welcome the monies appropriated under the Development Budget for education because almost all of it is to increase capacity

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at primary and secondary schools – building schools in areas and constituencies where either they do not exist or where there are capacity constraints. However in so many areas of our country there appears to be more supply of facilities than the present demand. Only last Saturday I was in ~~≠Nu-≠Goaes~~ (that is Keetmanshoop for you) where there is a tug of war between the Namibian Institute of Management Training and the Regional Directorate of Education on the use of the disused facilities of the Suiderlig Hostel; and I am told that this facility was standing there for years unused. And following a directive by His Excellency that the south should look at a technical school, the Namibian Institute of Mining and Technology has expressed an interest in using this facility. I however understand Minister Mbumba's officials are not keen on this facility being used which has been standing there for years and years without being used.

Honourable Speaker, the Budget also makes welcome and long overdue provision for our institutions of higher learning, particularly the University of Namibia.

Despite all this, the single biggest drawback of our efforts at growth and development remains lack of skills. In this respect I say, go to any comparison, whether this is a report done by SADC on education and performance of education facilities in our country or in our region, whether it is the Global Competitiveness Report, whether it is IMF in terms of Article iv report, whether it is World Bank, whether it is the World Economic Forum, whether it is local employers, they all say in a chorus that our education system is a resounding failure. (Interjections). You must look at your websites.

Therefore, all the Government's efforts of the last eighteen years have amounted to piling up billions of good Witbooi dollars at the end of Independence Avenue and making a bonfire around which this Government dances to celebrate what it considers a success.

Parents, children, employers, Opposition Parties, Churches, almost everybody, knew that our education system was not delivering. But no, this Government needed foreign consultants to tell them. Thus now we have ETSIP which tells them what we already knew, that is, that our children's school reports are not a reflection of any competence acquired, but amount to little more than "*attendance certificates*."

Honourable Speaker, we support ETSIP. We are hopeful that it will turn around the disaster that our education is.

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Honourable Speaker, we also welcome the efforts being made to reverse the ludicrous Grade 10 policy and we have listened with great attention when the Minister of Education spoke last week in this House. The Grade 10 policy has been responsible for cutting short the opportunities of so many sixteen and seventeen year olds.

I cannot think of any country which has for eighteen years thrown out of school half of school-going children. I cannot think of any country, but we have done that for eighteen years in this country.

Honourable Speaker, the story is even grimmer than we pretend, for evidence is beginning to emerge that access to primary education is being reversed as a combined consequence of increasing orphans, resulting from the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and hidden school costs which affect the poorest of the poor.

One of these indirect costs is the school development fund, which is consistently and persistently being used to exclude the poorest of the poor. This was the concern raised by my Colleague, Honourable Dienda, when she tabled the Motion early this year in this Chamber, that the use of school development funds excludes the poorest of the poor.

The Development Budget states on page 309 that: *“HIV is the first cause of death and hospitalisation in Namibia.”*

As a consequence of that, 12% of Namibian children below fifteen years have lost one or both parents and 24% of households with at least one child orphaned. If the present trend continues, a third of child population or 10% of the total population of Namibia will most likely be orphans by 2010.

What then are our challenges collectively? Honourable Speaker, we submit that whilst we welcome an increase in allocation for OVCs in this Budget, our challenge must be to reduce the number of OVCs. It is an area in which we all as Namibians have a huge responsibility for, as a direct consequence of HIV/AIDS, life expectancy has already dropped from 63 years for females and 48 and 59 years for males in 1991, to 50 years for females and 58 years for males in the 2001 census.

We believe the new census figures will differ very little from these.

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Honourable Speaker, a further reversal in health indicators is the maternal mortality rate which increased from 271 per 100,000 live births in 1991 to 425 in 2006, the last year for which figures are available.

Honourable Speaker, child nutrition is still a major problem in Namibia. Eight years ago in the year 2000, 24% of Namibian children were stunted. This has now increased to 30%. I want to cite from a report issued, it is a supplement issued by UNICEF, a supplement to this year's State of the World's Children, the State of African Children Report, 2008 and they say:

“Child malnutrition is still a major impediment to child survival. Twenty-four percent of Namibian children under five years are stunted.”

This has increased to 30% in 2000, the last year for which figures are available.

“This means that one in three Namibian children under the age of five is not getting adequate nutrition and care to ensure proper growth and development.”

Honourable Speaker, we welcome the generous allocation to the Health Sector in this Budget, but by the recent admission of the responsible Minister, our health infrastructures are dilapidated and out of use.

At Independence our country inherited a highly unequal society. On this Government's watch this inequality has deepened and worsened.

Honourable Speaker, in sum then, the harvest of the last 18 years over which this Government presided, increased income inequality, a society which is marginally more sick, where more children die at birth and/or are malnourished with a dysfunctional education system, where more than 30% of Namibians are unemployed, where our cities and towns are enveloped by a world of shack dwellers. So much for this Government's pro-poor policies.

Honourable Speaker, when the Minister and I were in our first year at College, we were taught about factors of production – about labour, land, capital and entrepreneurship, those are the resources required for production.

Karl Marx referred to these as the *means of production*, which I find a more elegant term.

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Honourable Speaker, the ownership of the means of production and their distribution is the agent of development or growth, to use the Government's language.

Honourable Speaker, for growth to happen, it is true that we need foreign investment and technology, but this does not mean that our own citizens should forever remain as one of those factors of production, namely labour. Our Government's policies of the last two decades have singularly failed to empower the people of this country. They do not share in the riches embedded in the soil of this country. The land, as used in factors of production, encompasses all natural resources embedded in the land.

Take fish and marine resources of our country as an example. With foreign technology and skills it should be possible to create many jobs in the fisheries sector, to enable Namibians to be owners and shareholders in the fisheries sector. Before we started, I had a discussion with my friend, the Minister of Fisheries, and I was talking to him about Fishcor, I must declare a conflict of interest because my brother works for Fishcor and my brother and I had this discussion over Christmas in Lüderitz.

Honourable Speaker, the point I am making is that fish is a resource which is within the gift of Government and there is no reason why we should not be using Fishcor to create jobs. Not only to create jobs, but for Namibians to own shares in this sector directly. There is nothing which prevents us from allocating a sizeable quota to Fishcor. It is a State-Owned Enterprises and Namibians must be able to own shares both directly or indirectly by Fishcor being listed. Therefore there is no reason why we have not be doing it for eighteen years. There are the resources, we give it to others but not to ourselves. We want the resources others with the skills. I believe we can partner up to enable Namibians to own and participate in the resources and employment of our country.

Honourable Speaker, the Green Scheme, for its part, is still-born despite a considerable potential for development along the banks of Zambezi and Kavango Rivers. Despite Government's resettlement policy, the resettlement of beneficiaries is riddled with breathtaking incompetence and celebrated corruption for now.

Further, resettlement is not free from Government's renowned cronyism, nepotism and self-enrichment. Yet this Government still makes mention that

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among groups identified in the land policy to benefit in this Budget, are those mentioned in the original land policy which the Government had not done for the last eighteen years.

It is also the case that Government's resettlement policy has not added to material agricultural output, nor to household income security. Since Government, I understand, plans yet another Cabinet Retreat, let me remind them what they had resolved on land at the first of these many Retreats and I would like to cite what is called, *"Official Opening Statement and Report of the First Retreat of the Cabinet of the Republic of Namibia, 7-9 December 2000, Swakopmund."* I quote:

"Right of access to land is one of the key indicators of poverty." We agree. We can only implement our poverty eradication strategy effectively if we address the issue of land in the context of poverty. Most of our citizens in Namibia need land and I urge the Minister of Lands and Resettlement to establish a comprehensive database for those who need to be resettled by Government and accelerate the implementation of land reform and resettlement programme.

Resettled farmers should be assisted in terms of training, extension services and rangeland management, not to drop off people in the dead of night, some that went to Gobabis and believe that we have resettled them. It however says resettled farmers should be assisted in terms of training, extension services and rangeland management. Mechanisms must also be established for caution of those resettled by Government in the maintenance of the existing infrastructure on these farms. For now what happens is that you drop off people in the dead of night.

I also urge the Ministry to accelerate the zoning of land to determine suitable use of land in different parts of the country and establish mechanisms for monitoring the effective utilisation of land. Land that is not being effectively utilised must be repossessed by the State in accordance with the law and it ends by saying, *"we must also accelerate the finalisation of the Land Tax Bill"* – we have done that – *"and the Land Reform and Equity Fund Bill"*. This was said in December 2000 in Swakopmund.

We agree with much of what was resolved in Swakopmund in December 2000. I hope that for the next retreat to Swakopmund – and I do not know whether this time it's Usakos – that they will take cognisance of this.

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Honourable Speaker, despite the positive growth of the last couple of years, poverty remains pervasive and we must employ measures which will help Namibians to help themselves. It is for this reason that we welcome the proposed Micro-Finance Bank, but such a bank will only make sense if it does not duplicate the already existing Government schemes or what the commercial banks are doing.

Honourable Speaker, given the extent of inflationary pressures and the sharp rise in food prices, we were surprised that the Minister did not address the bracket creep. We believe the low-income earners should retain some of their taxed income to renovate their rooms, build that additional room or put down a deposit to buy a small car or indeed start a small business. That is teaching, them to catch the fish themselves instead of giving them the fish.

Honourable Speaker, we are mindful of the exposure of State Revenue to a single source, the Southern African Customs Union which contributes in this year's Budget about 41% of State Revenue. That is unhealthy and we appreciate that the Minister also appreciates that. The SADC Free Trade Area which is coming into force this year, we have the EPAs and we have the World Trade regime. All of these will put pressures on revenue which we earn by way of tariff.

Honourable Speaker, under these circumstances our long-term revenue sources surely must be revenues derived from domestic economic activity.

Honourable Speaker, we welcome the measures the Minister announced in respect of State-Owned Enterprises. We however remain concerned, about governance in general. I should know, speaking as a Member of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts where we annually receive Reports of Local Authorities and Regional Councils. The state of their accounts, and their lack of compliance with relevant legislation is such that if it were not so serious, we could recommend this to be part of a national circus for their grotesque antics. Legislation governing Local Authorities and Regional Councils require Central Government to act to put an end to this waste of poor ratepayer's monies, but Government has for its part adopted a monkey approach – *see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil!*

Honourable Speaker, Budgeting is about making choices. It is not only our health and road infrastructure which have reached a state of disrepair, but our criminal justice system is under serious strain and stress.

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We were, therefore, surprised that no additional funds were availed to address the backlog in our court system, invest in the training of our police and improve conditions of the police who are leaving in droves because of poor pay and generally bad working conditions.

Honourable Speaker, these are difficult challenges facing our country once we have consumed the fish given by the Minister of Finance this summer. We must educate, clothe and home our people. This can only happen on the back of a growing economy.

Honourable Speaker, let me conclude, by saying this: Many outside this House have rightly raised the need for Political Parties to account for funds appropriated through the national Budgets for the work of the Political Parties. We agree with this concern and it is in this regard that we look forward to a reporting system to be developed by the Parliament during this Fiscal Year for us to start reporting on the funds that we receive for our work.

I thank you, Honourable Speaker, and I must now leave for Gabon.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, let me from the onset say that we are asked to debate this Budget on a very sour note in the history of this Assembly, due to the passing away of our two Colleagues, namely the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, John Pandeni, and the late Kala Gertze and allow me, Honourable Speaker, to pay homage and tribute to both these Colleagues, and in particular the late John Pandeni and pass our sympathy and empathy to the family, both the nuclear and African extended family, to the Party he served and Colleagues who worked with him and also those of us who remember so vividly, who were so very politically conscious before Independence, how John Pandeni with the late Danny Tjongarero, Nico Bessinger, Jerry Ekandjo, Ngatjizeko, Alpheus !Naruseb, Hoebeb and many other Colleagues of those days were keeping SWAPO as a Party alive in this country

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and may we also extend our message of condolence to those friends and colleagues who worked with him during those formative years of our Republic.

Honourable Speaker, I agree with the previous speaker who said that the National Budget Debate, in any given society, is much more than figures that we receive or that are presented before us, but rather the policy choices we make towards attempting to effect change to our citizenry.

We are therefore asked to analyse those choices critically, whether they would be able to effect change to our ordinary citizenry.

Honourable Speaker, of course, it is true that our economy does not only work in isolation as a country, but it also has to take some global issues into account. At the global level – and I am probably saying this for posterity – there are two current Debates that I think are very important and for these not to pass our attention as legislators and policy-makers of our Republic, we should raise them, be it at national or international fora so that we can effect change to our ordinary citizenry.

One, there is a tendency that the western powers may think that the benefits they derive from globalisation, the consistent rise in living standards of their citizens, the opportunities they enjoy today, that would have been unimaginable to their grandparents, that because of these things and that trade is the greatest driver of prosperity, there are no choices to be made by them.

Honourable Speaker, we as poor Nations must persistently fight to end immoral subsidies in the developed world, that cripple developing Nations' economies by flooding us with cheap imports and preventing us from competing on a level playing field. It remains, in my opinion, completely counter-productive for the western world to be increasing aid with one hand, and then completely undermining it with the other with their subsidies.

I believe they must direct their minds towards free trade rather than the protectionism policies that they are pursuing. They need to ride on higher moral ground if they hope to match their rhetoric. The failure of Doha risks severe loss of momentum towards the global free economy. Its revival is, therefore, paramount.

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Secondly, Honourable Speaker, the current world powers are playing a very dangerous card of internationalism, that often sees themselves as blocs and heavily creating an aspersion as if wealth, knowledge, military might are still monopolies or duopolies of some.

These virtues of wealth, knowledge and military might are scattered around the globe and require a new approach to internationalism, as the reality is that the world centre of gravity is vastly shifting from the west to the south and the east, so power becomes more and more integrated and widely distributed.

Clyde Prestowitz, in his book titled *Three Billion New Capitalists* points out that China and India are emerging as major industrial powers at a rate that will see China as the world's greatest economy in 20 years and India taking over China's place in 40 to 50 years.

Therefore, the economic syndrome of "*us versus them*" by the current powers and the fear that they want to instil in policy-makers, especially on the African continent, telling us that we must fear China, we must fear India, is not going to work. We need a new approach and the world's current super powers need a new approach to accept that China, India, Brazil, South Africa and other emerging economies are just a reality, just as they have emerged a few decades ago. A new world approach should be paved as the paradox of globalisation demands the imperatives of sharing responsibilities and co-existence.

Honourable Speaker, turning to the National Budget of our Republic, Catherine the Great once said, "*I blame softly and praise loudly.*"

Let me from the onset proudly praise the good ingredients in our National Budget before coming to the critical areas that I think we should raise.

One, I remember not so long ago, a few years back visiting a friend in the Republic, he is a Minister, and they were talking about Budget procedures and what he revealed to me was quite shocking, that there are some Republics in the world that receive Budgets in suitcases. If the Minister of Transport says he wants to build four or five roads, he will get his money in a suitcase and go home.

However the ever transparent Budget information that we have received in these documents remains the hallmark of the Minister and her staff's

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success in handling public treasury in a transparent manner.

The achievement of two Budget surpluses through a combination of revenue enhancement and expenditure control and restraint is also a very positive sign. I have been on record blaming the Minister for not achieving her targets. Well done, Sister, you have tried to keep the public debt below the target of 25% of GDP.

Honourable Speaker, the complex and diverse challenges that confronts humanity in general and our citizenry, in particular, needs critical minds and open ears to reflect and listen to one another in order to find a common solution to these challenges.

Hence our focus during this Budget Debate should reflect our opinions towards certain policy pursuit and the timing of a certain policy that is being pursued.

It is a reality today that currently we are seeing, after the 1999 Budget, the largest muscled Budget on the expenditure side of an unprecedented 37.7% of GDP. That reflects on the Nation's needs and how it attempts to address them.

On SACU: We are aware that revenue from SACU is expected to reach a record high of close to N\$8.5 billion despite no formula adjustments being made, such as those seen in the previous year. The revenue of over 41% from this holy cow creates a jittery suspicion to our country: *“How long are we going to receive and depend on this important source of revenue?”* We see differences of approach of many SACU Member States in relation to the Economic Partnership Agreements with the EU nations. My question that I want to ask to the Minister is: Will SACU states still stick together and for how long are they going to stick together? Because during the last negotiations of EPAs we were seeing SACU moving on both sides of the divide. (Interjection) Both sides meaning signing and not signing.

The suggestion of the Minister to ask State-Owned Enterprises to raise funds from the domestic capital market is a welcome move. However,

while she is suggesting this noble advice, she is further dishing out hundred of millions to them. In my opinion, Honourable Speaker, it seems to me that the State-Owned Enterprise love the Treasury, like the old song of Dobey Grey that

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says, “*loving the easy way*”, getting their way easier than fighting for the capital market.

Honourable Speaker, we further need to examine the pattern and policy of giving these millions to State-Owned Enterprises, how effective are they and are we getting value for money? I am reminded by each and every State-Owned Enterprises, also serving in the important Committee of Public Accounts, that each Board Chairperson or Chief Executive Officer will tell you about a turnaround strategy. They have a turnaround strategy and they need this money to turn around, they have a business proposal, all these good things well and said, but we are not seeing the results of these turnaround strategies. I believe we should really start putting the heads of Board Chairpersons and Chief Executive Officers on the block. If you say you want to turn around the company in four years, do that in four years. If you do not, no bonus; do not give him the bonus. There is a inundation of bonuses and high salaries of Chief Executive Officers and General Managers whereas they are not effectively addressing the problems of their institutions.

The underperformance of many parastatals have become a matter of great concern. The issue of Corporate Governance is also a matter of great concern in our Republic. Although we have seen increase of some N\$41 million from the last Fiscal Year, we have seen that the State-Owned Enterprises are also giving their due, because they are failing to run these entities profitably. They are not bringing their due to the Government in terms of revenue and why are they not doing that? You have close to 49 State-Owned Enterprises, but less than 6 are giving back to the State.

Honourable Speaker, Government – and not to put the head of the Minister of Finance and Colleagues on the other side of the Isle on the block - has persistently pursued one argument that never sticks to this side of the House and that is that the reason why we are bailing out Air Namibia is because we want to maintain the tourists that are coming to

this country. It can never be true, the experts are not telling the truth and it is these consultants that you have left, right and centre. (Interjections)

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

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HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, just before we departed for tea-break, I was talking about Air Namibia and also advice that we are getting from our consultants.

Honourable Speaker, no man has ever failed in the world to justify his CV.
(Intervention)

HON DR GEINGOB: On a Point of Order, Comrade Speaker. May I ask the Young Man a question? Honourable Venaani, are you just opposed consultants even if they are local consultant? I thought you were opposed to foreign consultants, but the people who were appointed were local consultants from the previously disadvantaged group.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I was just coming to answer that question, that no man in this world can fail to justify a CV or a job that he does. Even if you appoint me to open the door to your bedroom and you start paying me, I will start justifying that it is an important job to let Honourable Geingob enter his house, *“that is why I opened this door, it is a very important job.”*

Now Honourable Speaker, we all know and this side of the House is aware that the aviation business is one of the most complex businesses in the world. If you take a company such as Qatar Airways, it is today flourishing because of subsidies that they received from Qatar for many years. Billions were pumped into that Airline, but Qatar can afford because they have sources. The Arabic countries can afford to keep the aviation industry floating, because they have the resources to do so.

Now our argument is: We need a slot between Gatwick, Frankfurt to Namibia to bring the tourists here, but we are saying, by having that need or that slot flying from Frankfurt and Gatwick to here, we are going to bail out and our argument is that we do not have the resources to keep the airline running because it is operating in a highly competitive industry.

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Our argument as laymen is that by trying to keep the airline going, is like trying to compete with the economy of Germany or France or Italy and you cannot, even if you want to.

Honourable Speaker, Air Namibia has just rented a Boeing from a particular company in the United States and I do not know whether ours is being repaired. Honourable Colleagues, jump into that plane today – I have just travelled with it from London to here – get onto that plane, you will never fly Air Namibia again. If you go in this *skoroskoro bird* and you want to keep competitiveness in the environment, you are joking! I can understand that it is probably one that we are able to afford, but no person who cares for his own life would want to fly in that bird. (Interjection). It is true, it is true!

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask my Young Brother a question? You are comparing Namibia to countries like Germany, France and those big industrialised countries, but are you aware that there are equally small countries, Budgetary-wise, who are doing extremely well? Number one, the Ethiopian Airlines have survived through the storms and today they are the most efficient and the most advanced airline in Africa and Kenya is another example, they have survived. We only need to look for ways and means as to how we can compete against these giants. But those small airlines are making money.

HON VENAANI: To attempt to argue that Air Kenya airline is a small airline is making a joke. The economies of scale...(Intervention)

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: On a Point of Order. The Kenya Airline, like Alitalia and many others have coach-sharing agreements with other airlines, because the bigger lines realised that they can no longer do it on their own. Alitalia has just joined a bigger airline. I do thus not think that what we are saying is that we should not fund Air Namibia, we are saying that the turnaround strategy should look at the possibility of coach-sharing and bringing down the price, because we are competing with LTU to bring tourists and we are competing with South African Airways to bring tourists and those are big

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companies. We should look at coach-sharing rather than constantly pumping in more money.

HON VENAANI: The Honourable Member just stole my speech, that is what I was coming to. (Interjections). If you argue that way, just check my Budget speeches over the last three years and what I have been saying. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: I have an issue with you when you say that airline is the worst, once you travel in it you might not get back. Let me tell you, travel with Air France, the best airline conditions, food and otherwise are the South African Airways and Air Namibia. Let us really be honest. I agree, yes, we are pumping in money, but when it comes to service, I am very proud of them, they have a very good service.

HON VENAANI: The Honourable Deputy Prime Minister is entitled to her opinion, but I am talking about the bird that we are leasing currently.

That one is worse and you cannot argue otherwise. The lights are not even working, it is worse. When you start justifying it, we can agree to disagree on this matter. I am talking about the one we are leasing. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: May I ask my Brother a small question, please? Before I ask my question, Honourable Speaker, I want to put my question in context. I do respect so much my brother Venaani in whatever he does, I also respect his intelligence as well as what I think he has for the national interest. I do respect that, Honourable Speaker and I hope I will continue respecting that.

With respect to what he is saying, that Air Namibia is a safety risk, is it not true that with what you have said, you are undermining our Airline, undermining our national interest both nationally and internationally. And if it is technically true

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what you are saying, will you be able to inform the House that you will stand up and really inform Air Namibia on the safety of the passengers, of ourselves and for the national interest? Will you be able to go and sit down and do that?

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I have spoken about the particular bird that we are currently leasing, that bird to me is not up to standard. (Interjection). Well, then all of us are not technically competent to represent the interests of the people of this country. Then you cannot talk about aviation, I cannot talk about it if you come with those arguments. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: On a Point of Information. Honourable Speaker, for the Honourable Member and the Nation, I do not want the Honourable Member to mislead the Nation. Namibia does not manufacture aeroplanes, we all buy them from the same factories, Air France, Air Namibia and any other airline. I personally received the two latest Airbuses that Air Namibia has received. They are very clean, new and they meet the same standards like the other Airlines that I have travelled with in Europe. It is not true that Air Namibia's aircrafts are risky because they have poor treatment. It is not true, I received them and I can challenge the Honourable Member here, we can bring NBC with the videos that they have taken and we can even go now and take photographs there for the Honourable Members here to see. It is not true and we should not entertain that in this House. Let us be proud of what we can afford and what we have and let us not start politicking here for whatever reason.

HON VENAANI: The Honourable Member just wasted my good time. I spoke about a leased Boeing because ours is under repair. That is what I was told. The one that we leased had problems and I am telling you and I am standing on those facts, whether you have received an old one or a new one, it's up to you, but I am standing on those facts, it is my right.

(Interjection). You are just justifying your CV, just as I was saying, just because you received them. (Intervention)

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HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: On a Point of Information, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Venaani has just said that, that leased aircraft has a problem. Can he inform us what problem technically and why the international aviation can allow an aircraft that has a technical problem to fly? Can he tell us why was it allowed to fly?

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, they are trying to push me into a particular corner and derail me from what I am saying. I am not talking about the aviation standards of flying, I am talking about comfort inside. It is important for tourists. If you go and rent a car from a company, you do not want a car whose inside looks like a *skoroskoro*. (Interjection). Come on, I have not spoken about the risk, I am talking about customers' impression on the bird. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. Honourable Venaani, there was nothing wrong with that plane. I know the plane you are talking about, which was parked at the Airport. However, there are certain requirements for a plane to fly, certain documentation which must be there in the plane and when the plane was hired, such documentation was missing and for the plane to fly, the requirement is that that documentation should be there because before take-off you have to go through the manual and check all the systems, whether they are working and that kind of thing. That was the only reason why that plane was parked at the Airport.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Prime Minister, I agree with you, I am talking about my experience in the bird, not the parked one. I did not even know that it is parked there because of the papers, I do not have that information. Thank you for elucidating my point that I am trying to raise.

Honourable Speaker, enough of the plight of Air Namibia, it is high time for our State-Owned Enterprises to shape-up and start making loans rather than loafing on the State coffers in hand-outs.

Regarding the pensions, I want to note that we support the allocation to the war veterans. We think it is important for allowing that to go to them. However, when it comes to the old-age pensions, the social pensions, we value the increase of 21.6%, but unfortunately the increase does not bring back the purchasing

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power of social pensions to what it was 14 years back, provided that inflation still remains below 7% as forecasted by the Ministry. The power of what they are receiving now – and I am not saying it, it is economists saying it – the power of what they are receiving now is the same power as fourteen years ago, just as a hundred thousand was one million in 1972. It is the same concept and the Honourable Minister of Finance ought to understand these things better.

Therefore, the increase does not actually mean that they are getting much more purchasing power, but the mere fact that there is an increase is a laudable effort, but we need to do more. That is what I am saying.

Honourable Speaker, the Minister in her Budget speech spoke of the good banking ratings that we are receiving and some of the companies are receiving and that is very laudable. My concern is our performance on the World Economic Forum Index and Africa Competitiveness Report, that our country is slipping on those reports and it is sending wrong signals to investors who would want to come and invest in our country. We must also try to address some of those shortcomings that are reflected in those reports for the betterment of our country.

One issue that I want to raise is the issue of the delays in registering businesses in this country. It is a matter of serious concern that we take 28 days to register a company and we need to reverse the situation.

(Interjection). You have the Budget, I am saying my say, that is the art of politics. You can have your way, I will have my say.

The N\$11 million to revitalise the Small Business Guarantee Trust is a welcome gesture and one just wants to caution that all must benefit from this scheme and not a few cartel.

Honourable Members, I want to congratulate the Government for the concerns and our proposal of so many years to make funds available for allowing Grade 10's to repeat and to be given a chance to have a future. That is a laudable exercise. (Interjection). Well, whether your congress takes ten years to listen to others is your problem, but in this House we have moved Motions and Motions on Grade 10 to repeat, if it takes you ten years to realise what we are saying, that

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is your problem. We however appreciate the fact that you have listened to what we have been saying.

The noteworthy improvement in the recognition of the importance of vocational training from N\$75 million to N\$134 million is also a very laudable gesture.

The surge in the Education and Health Votes is a positive sign in our Budget, but I want to caution with more money without critical programmes may not be the answer to these ailing areas. The increase of ARVs to infected patients is a further positive sign.

The implementation of the education is key to any economy that attempts to acquire a skilled labour force.

Honourable Speaker, let me turn my attention briefly to the allocation to the National Assembly and the National Council. (Interjection)

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Conflict of
interest!

HON VENAANI: There can be no conflict of interest if a Minister is allowed to motivate his Budget, surely I am allowed to criticise my Budget. Colleagues, we have seen a surge in the Office of the Prime Minister, the President's Office, offices that started at the same level as the National Assembly, but the current allocation to the National Assembly is a matter of serious concern. We have a serious lack of resources for Members of Parliament to do just a better service for the ordinary citizens of this country. Our Committees do not have enough resource persons and it is important that we really have to renegotiate the Budget of the National Assembly. I want to bemoan the fact that the National Assembly is not getting its due share.

Honourable Speaker, let me quote a very arrogant statement once made by a very arrogant General Moshe Dayan when he was asked why he used the same

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military route at the Golan Heights war. Moshe Dayan was asked, it seemed like he used the same route three times in the fifties, sixties and the seventies and when he was asked, why did he use the same tactic, he said – it is a very arrogant statement and I want the Speaker to pardon me for saying it – but he said “*Africans never learn and listen to history.*” Whether what he said is right or wrong is not for me to judge, but I know it was an arrogant statement.

Why am I using this very important quotation? Honourable Speaker, currently all emerging economies, especially in our region, are struggling with electricity shortages to keep up with the demand of our industries. Hence currently we are making *ad hoc* plans to try to address that shortage.

Honourable Speaker, we know so well that if we want to bring Namibia at Vision 2030 to be an industrialised Nation, we are going to be confronted with another equally important shortage that is even more key than power and that will be the challenge of having clean and available water to meet the demands within the next fifteen to twenty years. Yet our Budget and our society are not planning ahead for research capacity or even to start storing water to improve our underground tables. How are we prepared or should we first wait until the crisis level and then we will start doing something about it? I believe that Namibia is a very dry country and all of us know and if you want the mining industry to prosper, we need to do something about the water that is being released from the Hardap Dam every time it reaches the level of 70%. It is also high time that we should think about a dam below the other one, so that we can save those resources for industries and the underground water tables.

Climate change is also an issue that, unfortunately, is going to affect the ones that are not guilty and those countries which are releasing these huge emissions are not going to be affected so much, but how are we preparing the economies to address some of these issues?

Honourable Members, Honourable Speaker, I believe there is policy divide that exists between us and the Ruling Party, it is a fact that the Government of the day is not at all planning to downsize the large bloated civil service. While the Minister has not mention any pay rises for civil servants, the total bill is up by N\$1 billion, standing at N\$7.7 billion and 34% of total spending. (Interjection). You can argue differently. (Interjection). No, I am not against, all I am saying is every person has a right to defend.

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There is inherent complexities that exist in downsizing a civil service of a country such a Namibia that comes from the past that we have. However the mere fact that we are not able to prepare a master plan of how we want to downsize the civil service, to me – and I have said it during various interventions on the Budget Debate – that we need to do something about it. We cannot just stand idle and live with the bloated civil service.

The effect of this Budget lies on the implementation side, how effective and efficient is our public service. We need to change our culture of bureaucracy approach and create a mind shift as to how public servants use their valuable time in shopping malls, mid-breaks, people not at offices, not answering their phones and we really need to improve the public service.

The problem might not lie with the Budget, but might lie with the public service delivery. The problems that we have at the Ministry of Health are not scientific problems, but that it takes three days for someone to bring clean linen to a place, rather than an hour as it was supposed to be. That is a great challenge for us as a country and we really have to make serious efforts in addressing public service delivery.

Honourable Speaker, I have been on record and I will continue to be on record, over the years attacking the policy choices we made on our spending on defence. I have sympathy with the poor infrastructure at our Bases around our country, but as a matter of policy choice, I disagree with the choice of spending 4% of GDP on our military, on defence. (Interjection). It is McHenry Venaani's and DTA's position. I am just an emissary of him.

Honourable Colleagues, the Budget portion that we are spending on our military is probably the highest in the world, higher than the United States of America. (Interjections). Yes, it is higher, in terms of proportion they are not spending 4% of their GDP on defence. Yes, that is a reality. Check your facts, that is a reality. We are not saying it is comparable, Honourable Geingob. (Interjection). Everything that I say is wrong to you, that is why you sit on that side, that is why I sit on this side. Do not worry, the public will judge otherwise.

Honourable Speaker, I am a firm believer of spending resources where it will make a change. Now there is a need to have well-equipped armed forces, weapons, but when do you do it? Do you do it now while you have an unemployment rate of close to 36%? (Intervention)

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HON DR GEINGOB: On a Point of Order. Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Young Man and I work very hard in Committees and we do undertake trips in visiting the army barracks and police cells and there was such a mission which went around and made a Report and asked the Government to improve on the conditions in building barracks and so on. I think that has been done. Now are you opposed to your own Report?

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, with all due respect, that is one argument. The very same Chamber has presented a lot of Reports, but because of competing needs, those recommendations were not taken into account. We are talking about competing needs here. It is not that we do not need to spend money on Defence or improve our infrastructure or that we are fighting against our own Report, but is it the choice that we are making now, the correct choice or the wrong choice for the economy? I believe otherwise. Honourable Uutoni Nujoma can have his way, Honourable Venaani will have his say.

Honourable Speaker, I am aware of the 100 million reimbursement from the UN, it is good work that the military is doing in Liberia and various countries that we have engaged in peacekeeping operations and I want to thank the young men and women in uniform for what they have been doing.

The future and hope for the unemployed youth in this country I believe lies in the Green Scheme. I believe this opportunity is somewhat neglected. The Regions of Kavango and Caprivi, in particular possess untapped wealth that can be exploited to address unemployment and food security.

For as long as this country Namibia, our beloved country, cannot produce its own food to feed its own people, many Budgets may come and pass, but the litmus test of development is self-reliance.

Honourable Speaker, our tourism industry, and just in relation to Air Namibia: We have seen a decline of Budget allocations to the tourism industry and it is one key sector that has potential to bring changes and to create jobs. We have seen what the communal conservancies have been doing, but the Budget allocation leaves much to be desired.

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We have seen countries, Botswana, Kenya, are advertising their countries as a holiday destination and there is a need for us to beef up our performance in marketing and vending our country as a tourist destination. I would have believed that after the turmoil that has happened in Kenya that has attracted a lot of tourists, Namibia would have been *the* destination, but we are not doing enough on that score and I think more can be done to improve this sector and we will always support efforts to improve the industry.

Honourable Speaker, when it comes to trade, I think it is important for us to speedily legislate legislation that would open up the current strong white dominated private sector to all Namibians through acquiring shares in various established industries. I am aware that the Government with a Black Economic Empowerment Policy that they are crafting. I hope and wish that there will be speedy tabling of that policy so that we as legislators legislate, because when we talk about the high gini-coefficient of the rich and poor, we cannot only address it through other artificial means rather than take the bull by its horns and try to have a workable policy that can transform and improve the high gini-coefficient amongst our people.

Honourable Speaker, in conclusion, one would advise that Government should give more attention to areas of productivity, continue to do spending on health and education sectors, but with clear monitoring programmes and implementation policies.

I want to caution that during the next two years the President of this country, my Father and President of the country, that he does not appoint a new Minister without portfolio, because surely we are not here to support it. (Interjections). I am looking on this side of the House. My only job is to advise His Excellency, not to appoint any Minister without portfolio. The Colleagues are currently doing, let them remain, no Minister without portfolio.

Honourable Speaker, I am not talking about the prerogatives, he also welcomes advice. I wonder whether when you become President you will also listen to some advice because you never listen.

Honourable Speaker, Ministries and Agencies have done a good thing, and I must applaud it, that many of the Ministries have remained within their Budget ceilings and it is a laudable exercise, but many of you have not spent the money allocated to your Budgets. That is a worrisome fact especially when it comes to

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developmental projects. There is a need for you to spend the money you requested, because there is no need to request money that you are not going to use.

With these remarks, Honourable Speaker, I rest my case.

HON SPEAKER: I thank Honourable Venaani for his contribution. Honourable Kazenambo.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I have abandoned my speech after the distortions by Honourable Venaani. Before I speak, let me pay tribute to my Boss, the person with whom I worked closely since 1989 at the Maharero section in Central Katutura and for the past three years, after we were appointed together by His Excellency President Pohamba, I have worked with him and I owe a lot to him, because despite my character, we have parted without quarrelling, we have parted without disagreeing. (Interjection). A character of openness, a character of being allergic to suppression, a character of being allergic to hypocrisy, a character of being allergic to tribalism and regionalism. I have worked with him as a Brother, as a Comrade and as a working Colleague and I will say, may his soul rest in peace.

Let me also say that I pay tribute to Honourable Kala Gertze of CoD, a young Namibian who was intelligent, who could discuss issues seriously and openly and remained inspired whatever he has gone through, and that is participating in the liberation struggle. After presenting a serious topic on which you have perhaps differed from him, when you step outside he would extend a hand and greet you humanely. I therefore think as Namibians we should differ on issues, we should differ on addressing matters, but we should not disown one another. All of us belong to this earth and we must respect one another for that. May his soul rest in peace.

Coming to the Appropriation Bill, let me first and foremost commend the Minister, the Deputy Minister and her entire staff of the Ministry of

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Finance for a job well done, for a very commendable Budget distributing resources for people who are hungry. In a very, very poor but rich country like Namibia you do not say what you have given is enough, because in my culture we say, "*Omuhambuninua ka kuta*". Translated it means that if my father is controlling, (Intervention).

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Comrade Speaker, on a point of translation, basically what it means is, actually the actual word is "*Omuhinatjo ka rimauka*", basically when you do not have, whatever you are given you accept and basically because we Herero's are very *omaherero* based people and they stay in a *kalabash*, so if somebody is giving it to you out of a *kalabash*, you do not feel that he should poured more than he has given.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: But still I will say, "*Omuhambuninua ka kuta*", the one who is given is never satisfied or the recipient is never satisfied.

We who are receiving from the Ministry of Finance will always come up with wanting some more, so please bear with us.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, today I will not dwell much on the appropriations contained in the Budget, more so because for the past eighteen years Namibia has managed its macro-economic factors commendably. Our tariffs, our fiscal policy, our balance of payment, our taxation, on all these matters Namibia is really doing well and the macro-economic environment is friendly and it is doing well. Therefore, as contained in this document, as testified by investment in education, investment in health, investment in other matters, really, I will not dwell much on that and perhaps I will come to that when I will be contributing to specific details of the Budget.

I however want to address and concentrate mostly on one branch of economics which is linked to the macro-economic environment, and that is the micro environment as related to our Budget.

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Why am I discussing the micro economic factors of our country? It is because in the final analysis we are here dealing with Government economic sector, what money is going to be allocated to various Ministries and how those Ministries are going to spend that money. In many cases we confine ourselves to those economic factors and in many cases we discuss agencies like Air Namibia and so on.

If you however look closely, the big chunk of the money which is always allocated in this Budget ends up in the private sector. In many cases the money that we allocate here ends up flowing into the coffers of the private sector and I think it is about time, when we discuss Budget allocations, to seriously look into the composition of the Namibian private sector eighteen years into Independence. I think it is about time now – the composition of the private sector eighteen years into Namibia's Independence and we can discuss that seriously by considering the micro-economic environment – the industrialisation policy, the trade policy, the behaviour of the firms, whether our firms are operating in monopolistic ways, whether we have oligopolistic firms in this country, and other features in the micro-economic environment.

We see what are these features, how are they contributing to economic growth, how are they contributing to the redistribution of the economic resources in this country, how are they contributing to economic generation.

Back to the macro-economic factors, I think this country is doing well and Namibia must commend the Ministry of Finance, for that matter, for the instruments and regimes which they have put in place in collecting tax. Of course, when one is talking about collecting tax, I think that is where maybe Honourable Venaani was trying to hide, that maybe SWAPO is a Party of tax because of our socialist background and he could see the havoc of what he has advocated. What he would really like is to present himself as a capitalist – luxuries and a big farm, nice cars and so on. I am not attacking him personally, but the system. Perhaps he envies our socialist background but we have modernised it by having a mixed economy. We are balancing.

I however want to address something serious, Comrade Speaker. The structural economic inequality in this country needs to be addressed. If we are talking about economic groups and economic functions, we must really start scrutinising seriously who are the economic players in this country, how are they contributing

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to the growth of the economy and how are they contributing also to the expansion of the cake.

I am tempted – correctly or wrongly – to conclude that our economic field eighteen years into Independence is still not levelled. I am tempted to conclude that our micro-economic environment is such that it is a censored type of situation where market entry and market exit is really open to unscrupulous business players, rogue business players who come here falsely as investors, either milking our institutions through stealing hundreds of millions or through ODC and so on and then afterwards we realise this gentleman was not a serious business investor but a hardcore crook and it is because of his entry and his exit.

We end up with companies that are not taking us seriously, like the disaster which has just recently happened in the economic life of this country, the disaster of Ramatex. And this disaster is not the first one. Of course, we cannot blame Government for it, but it is our nature. (Interjection). The first one was the Pidico one and those Architects of those projects are today attacking the Government on their own failure. I do not want to go that way, do not force me to go there.

I am not saying this to blame the Government, I am not blaming the Government, I am not blaming anybody, but I am saying that we must learn from these sad experiences. I am not blaming anybody. These are sad experiences, very sad experiences indeed because they are affecting us all.

While our macro-economic side is so sound and perfect, we as a society must start, not as the Ruling Party alone but as the entire Namibian society, Namibian researchers, Namibian scholars, other stakeholders must start seriously debating and seriously scrutinising our micro-economic environment, our industrial policy and the way we are taken for a ride by some investors in the global business environment.

Honourable Speaker, during the liberation struggle we use to say that we are our own liberators, politically. And I still believe that economically we are our own liberators. Other people will help us, unless Namibians irrespective of Party affiliations or economic status, we should start in seriously regarding ourselves as our own economic liberators and promote self reliance.

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I am not advancing this argument influenced by xenophobic tendencies and I am not advancing this to advance protectionism. I know that we are operating in a global economy, we have international instruments and regimes that are compelling us to open up, to liberalise our economy. As much as we know those international or global trade regimes, we must also be realistic to the realities of this world, that everybody is here to promote his or her own interest. Companies are entering the Namibian market not to do us a favour or coming here in solidarity, first and foremost business companies are driven by profit maximisation. They are coming here to do business and they are here to do business for their parent companies at home and also to promote their economies at home. They are just harnessing in the global business environment.

We also know very well that companies, especially multi-national companies, have no loyalty to any Government around the world, they have no loyalty to any country, they have loyalty to their shareholders and therefore they participate in movement of capital in the global world and they are here to exploit the resources for their shareholders.

Therefore, when we are meeting investors, what I am saying is that we must be cautious, we must double check the background of these people. Namibia has come with all the incentives, the EPZs of this world, all workers' rights, we said "*just come*" because we need to develop the economy, we did everything, but our experiences are not so good and I am saying that we should learn from that.

Coming back again to linking this issue of micro-environment to the Budget, I want to say that really, small and medium Namibian companies are feeling the pinch. They are being crowded out of the market, be it in the tourism sector, be it in the farming sector, be it in the construction sector and sometimes all we talk about is the construction sector.

Sometimes I have mixed feelings when a white-owned Namibian company in the construction sector is complaining that the construction jobs are being taken by the Chinese or companies from Asia or foreign companies. I have mixed feelings that I really feel bad and I feel good at the same time, feeling bad in the sense that Namibian companies who are playing in the Namibian market, on many occasions play self-hate. By nature we hate one another and perhaps that is why you find that even in South Africa they are trying to copy them.

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The truth is that we need to advance a bit, because South African companies have realised that in this competitive global world, if you are a South African company, you need to tune up as South African blacks and whites because you are competing with an American company which is having a shareholding of blacks and whites or an Asian company, so we must start realising that.

Here we know we are all enemies. Our white brothers are using us as a window-dresser, but not as a serious shareholder. They will just use you to compete against the Chinese or Asian companies, but they will not push you to the level where you will really be an equal partner.

In that sense, when you are being squeezed out of the market by companies coming from abroad, perhaps subsidised by their Governments or having deep pockets from international companies abroad, you do not know whether you should support your Namibian company or you just let them feel the pinch because you are nowhere to be accommodated. This is the culture which we must also start addressing as Namibian companies.

This tendency is not only confined to construction alone. Even as a banker today – because I am a banker, I bank my salary – my money ends up in the financial institution. Even if you use a card ...(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask Honourable Kazenambo a tiny question? Honourable Kazenambo, my question is, this notion of local companies is a bit confusing to me, because if you look at most of the local companies here, they pretend to be local but in the true sense of the word they are foreign-owned. We have good examples of Standard Bank, Nedbank, we have good examples of Murray & Robberts, but when they go for tenders, they say they are local companies and then they are claiming that other foreign companies are taking away the jobs. How do we address such a situation, because in the true sense of the word this is also window-dressing; window-dressing in the sense that they say they are local Namibian companies, but in the true sense of the word they are not local companies.

We must look at the real, genuine Namibian companies with local shareholding and also a BEE-component. That is the question.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: The question and comment is noted. This is exactly what I am about to address and this is exactly my concern, that the money which is allocated in these Ministries end up in these companies, in the pockets of the private sector. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: I am so tempted to give a little information, because he is at that point of the local building companies. The information is that many of the so-called local companies are owned by our white brothers and you find that when you hire that company, the owner of the company brings one of our brown fellows who is the technical supervisor and our labourers and I can tell you that when you build this house, you will be lucky to see the owner of the company maybe three times. It seems that he himself does not know how to build and the labourers are not getting paid the worth for what they are doing. You pay, let us say, N\$30,000 or N\$40,000 and the top labourer gets N\$2,000 and it goes down, down, down.

Do you not think that with that information, that the Ministry of Trade and Industry or us must start looking at supporting our own black builders, so that they can come up with small companies of their own? If you go to my farm, my whole house was built by twelve labourers and one supervisor, a young coloured boy - an excellent job. The owner comes and he just looks around and he goes. He cannot even give them advice and he pays them so much. I was talking to the builders, I said, "why do you not put up a small company?" These guys can build by themselves, but the point is they have no management skills, they have no money, they cannot read the building plans. Let us therefore really put something in our own builders and not only complain.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: That is exactly what I was driving at and that is exactly what I am pointing out. The money Budgeted here always concentrates on the macro-economic environment. Yes, it is very important because that is where the core activities of Government are.

In many developing countries today, wherever you go, you are told of the newly industrialised countries, countries with the economies of Singapore and Hong

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Kong, they are praised as business models, but if you go into their history, the business environment and history of those countries, how did they develop? They developed because of certain Government policies.

Even America and Britain, as we are talking now, still have protection policies and that is why they are worried about the Chinese entering Africa, because they are a threat to their interests. However in developing countries we are told to open up, a person must enter your house, even your bedroom, but when you visit him or her, you will end up at the reception, you will not enter the bedroom. This is the tendency, this is how we are treated here. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, it is not on the score of the bedroom, but may I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Kazenambo, I love what you are saying but can I ask you a question? What is your view as a politician, a Minister, a Member of Parliament first and foremost, what is your view on the current existing contract that the Namibian Government has with the diamond conglomerate, De Beers? How do you view such a deal? Do you think there is a monopoly, can we expand on that deal, can we improve on it or what is your view on that deal?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: The Government negotiators are more competent than me, they are there, but I will address the principle and this principle is the one that I am addressing overall now.

I am not saying that I am addressing the principle specific to sectors, because if I can cut down sectors, I do not think that the Speaker will give me that luxury. (Intervention)

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HON SPEAKER: Try me. Try me.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Anyway, within the restriction of time, I was talking about the examples of the economies of Singapore and Hong Kong and all the Asian economies that are lumped as new industrialised economies.

When I was at primary school in Botswana, I used to read the geography of these countries and I used to see, with due respect to them, identities of kids suffering Kwashiorkor and so on, but they moved quickly. And who moved quickly? They were not aided by the western countries, begging hand in pocket like we are trying to do in this part of the world. What they did was not appreciated by the western masters, economic and political masters.

There are people who were in the diaspora, they were teaming up with the people in the diaspora, who started in America, who were based in America, who were based in Europe. These were the people who pumped money and technology in their own countries. That is business history. They started making new technology, manufacturing computers and everything else.

Even if you go into international business history, they will tell you that the Americans considered products from Asia as inferior products, they ran with that propaganda, that propaganda could not work. They have despised them not to hold privileges on Toyota, Toyota captured the market and so on. That is the history because they relied on themselves and the investors were forced. The problem which we are suffering from, is that we accept investors on their terms, not on our terms. This is the biggest problem and then we are hijacked by crooked fly-by-nights. We accept investors on their terms, not on our terms – on our terms that these are our natural resources and in today's technology, you do not need to buy an investor, you buy technology in the market. (Intervention)

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HON DR GEINGOB: On a Point of Order, while I am regretting that I am interrupting the flow of beautiful thoughts. You see, when we started here as an independent country, we were told about Asian Tigers and we were told about generous incentives you must give to investors so that you can attract them. Is this where we have gone wrong or what is it? That is what you are calling we are giving on their terms, because we are giving generous incentives, tax rates, whatever because we were told that is how we were supposed to start.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: My Senior Leader, let me say on that score that we were told half of the story. We were told to give incentives and we were compared to the Asian Tiger, but the people who were selling this cheap, half-baked story could not go further to tell us that many of these Asian countries are not democratic countries politically, they are dictators. They are dictators and I am not attacking anybody, it is in the history of international business. Many of them are not democracies... (Interjections). No, you are not flying to those countries any day, you like going there, so let us not joke with serious things.

There is nothing wrong with applying what others are applying, but the truth of the matter is that our cultures are not the same and there is a big difference business culture. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask my Brother a question? Honourable Kazenambo, the other problem which I see is that we, the developing countries, the poor countries, the Third World countries are too quick to ratify these very complicated conventions. We need to have a re-look at those things. We are told Comrade Ekanda has ratified all the ILO Conventions on the book. Comrade Esau is there, he ratified them and how can we be competitive in this world if we ratify everything and then we must give incentives and whatever to the workers. The western world knows that if we start on the role model of the Asian Tigers, as Comrade Kazenambo is saying now, Singapore or China or

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whatever, we are going to make headway and that is the truth. We are too quick to ratify. Let us not ratify these things anymore. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: The Deputy Minister of Justice has advised on non-ratification of conventions, I am not going to touch on that but what I want to say on a serious note is that the cultures of the Asian countries are different from ours and whether we like it or not, today, tomorrow and generations to come ...(Intervention)

HON DIENDA: On a Point of Information. The Deputy Minister of Justice was saying he is the Minister of Justice. When we were saying he confused us now with this ratifying everything, thank you for joining us on this side now.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: I was saying that our cultures will differ today, they differed yesterday, they will differ tomorrow and they will differ. Of course, I am aware of the melting pot of global cultures and convergence of markets and so on, that I appreciate. And I am saying this in the context of business, that countries and Nations – and if you go to *Competitive Advantage and the Wealth of Nations*, written by Adam Smith, the *gurus* of economics, Nations will remain as such, we will compete. In building our wealth and economies, it is given that we are going to compete.

Thus, agreeing to all agreements and contracts being pushed to us to sign in the name that people will develop us, it will not happen, we are our own political liberators, we must appreciate that we are all liberators, our people will help us to develop ourselves and we must reject this notion that we are not a developing country, you must beg and everybody must push a contract to you.

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I am not naïve that there are people who have capacity and technological advancement and everything, but what I am saying is that the true fact of the matter is that technology is purchased in the market today. We can use our money, diamonds and everything to hire technology and to hire consultants to whom we could dictate on our own terms to develop in the manner that we want, because even big countries like America are still buying skills from developing countries. Here you are given a young graduate from the university who does not know anything, he is placed there as a consultant, you are paying this person, we must realise that these kids who are being pushed from the university, does not know it all because he is coming from a foreign country. (Intervention)

HON KAIYAMO: I have been listening to the Colleague here and I got the impression that all the instruments of power we have been building up over the past few years are not being used. Who is to blame? We have been given the mandate by the voters, but we are not implementing this. We have a gender policy, we have a policy of affirmative action. Are we not to be blamed?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: From the start, Honourable Speaker, I appealed to this House and I appealed to everybody who is listening to me, I said I am not making my intervention with the intention to blame anybody, but all I am saying is to remind ourselves to re-look into the instruments we have, to re-look into the way we proceed forward, but not in a blaming manner. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask a question? Honourable Kazenambo, are you aware that when Namibia got its Independence we did not have doctors and engineers and that is why we are still under those people?

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: It is a very pertinent observation that you are making and while I agree with you, in a way I am tempted to disagree. It is very serious, to be honest. In this country we hear people talking about shortage of manpower, but we must admit that we are operating and we have modelled our economy and our economy is modelled and we expect to see what is realistically not in this environment. Can I qualify what I am saying?

If you go in the streets of Windhoek, the streets of Keetmanshoop, the streets of Katima Mulilo, the streets of Oshakati, the streets of Gobabis, every town across this country, you will find graduates from the University. You will find people with qualifications, either doctors from the Soviet Union, from Cuba, from UNAM, but I said earlier on that we have a self-hate tendency. What is coming from Namibia, what is coming from Africa is not good. It is a bad judgment, but we do not question something that is coming out of Europe, that is coming out of Asia.

I was a student in the UK, I met the most incompetent people, a person who could not read and write English in London. I could not believe it! (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: May I ask my Honourable Neighbour here a very tiny question? Honourable Kazenambo, I want you to quantify your statement of self-hate attitude or mentality. I am a Namibia, I am appointed as Chief Executive Officer of a specific parastatal, I have not been anywhere and the moment I am appointed, suddenly the rest of Namibian skills have dried up, then we start looking outside. The moment I leave, then I make the same statement, "*no, we need other people because there are no Namibians.*" I was given the opportunity as a Namibia, but I do not want to give an opportunity for Namibians to build capacity. Do you agree? I just wanted you to quantify your 'self-hate', that mentality.

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

Yes, looking down upon ourselves. You know, Dr Khama, one of the politicians in Botswana used to say that the best way of destroying a human being is to associate him with disaster. If you brainwash a person, you destroy the dignity, the self-belief, the self-acceptance of a human being. You have destroyed that person and he will believe everything that is happening under neo-colonialism is supposed to happen that way because you have destroyed his dignity, his assertiveness, his mindset, he cannot believe that he can manufacture anything and that is the best way of destroying a human being, to associate him with disaster, poverty and we still believe that poverty is meant from God, and even to start baking something he will be waiting on God in order to become rich. Thus, that is the psychology.

I am not saying this to offend the Christians, but the best way to destroy a person is to condition him in a certain mentality.

Within the line and the concept of what Honourable Tweya has said, I once asked a consultant and it is an African Kenyan consultant who is working at the World Bank at the moment: *“What is the problem with us? We produce graduates from University, some of our graduates are from Harvard, from Oxford, from the University of Cape Town, from the best Universities, but what is it that these fellows cannot do or their reports are not taken seriously?”* This friend of mine told me: *“Kazenambo, the whole game is just simple, it is a question of capacity.”*

When one consultant from the University of Berlin comes here to Namibia, we are all running around in our offices, providing an office for him, a computer for her, a car and everything and he linked to others in Berlin and the information is there. This person is capacitated, the capacity is there.

However if you are from here, you are a consultant with your degree, one time Madam Geingos said you graduate from university and you will walk with your envelope...(Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: I will give you a minute to wrap up.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: To wrap up, what I am saying is that we need capacity-building for our consultants and as the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister has said, capacity-building in the construction and building sector and we need to start eating our products. We produce mahangu, we produce vegetables, our vegetables are being exported to South Africa and resold here.

Let us start building capacity for our business people, let us open doors to hear them and also help them. And let us stop the insult where South Africa are now creating banks here and apparently it is Standard Bank Africa, FNB Africa. Africa of what? We must stop this hypocrisy and start being serious. When I must lose my card here, the logistics are still in South Africa in a technologically advanced world. This is unacceptable. I rest my case.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Chief Ankama.

HON DR ANKAMA: Honourable Speaker, could I adjourn the discussion until Tuesday next week?

HON SPEAKER: The Secretary will read the Third Order of the Day.

**MOTION ON ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS
RESUMPTION OF DEBATE**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on the provision of assistance to farmers in the Caprivi, Kavango, Kaoko and the four O-regions.

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MOTION ON ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS
HON NUJOMA

HON SPEAKER: The Honourable Deputy Minister of Justice had the Floor when the House adjourned and he may now continue.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker, I would also like to join my other Colleagues who have paid tribute to our two Colleagues and I would like at this particular sad moment to also express my condolences to late Honourable Pandeni's wife, the family and also the SWAPO colleagues. As we all know, Honourable Pandeni was an illustrious son of the Namibian liberation struggle. His credentials cannot be questioned by anybody, we all know what he has done for this country and for the future generations to come. It is indeed a sad day. Even though we are contributing in this House, we are missing him terribly and whenever I look on this side, the memories always come of our Honourable Colleague who has passed away.

I would also like to pay my tribute to Honourable Kala Gertze, he was also a freedom fighter. I have met him during the liberation struggle and also here. Although we differed politically, we all still had the interest to promote the interest of Namibia. May their souls rest in eternal peace.

Honourable Speaker, I was just about to conclude when I was talking about the two previous Ministers, the current Minister of Justice and the previous Deputy Minister of Justice of the previous dispensation.

Honourable Kaura, today I will be a little lenient, you are very much aware that Government has introduced a lot of programmes to assist the farmers in the North, in Omusati, Ohangwena, Oshikoto, Kavango, Caprivi, those who are in need of tractors.

I know that in the previous years these tractors were provided through institutions such as the NDC.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD

WELFARE: On a Point of Information. Honourable Kaura himself was only talking of the other six Regions, Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshikoto, Oshana, Kavango and Caprivi, those six in that corner there. Kaura talked about the Kaoko, but Kaoko is not a Region. There is no Kaoko Region, we have the

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**MOTION ON ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS
HON NUJOMA**

Kunene Region. What is the agenda of Honourable Kaura? Do not talk about this, it was in our time.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I was also referring to the Kunene Region, that the NDC had projects there and all these are a combination of factors to assist our farmers and I was also going to say that I am aware that in Kunene, Kavango and Caprivi and also in the North the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry has also contributed a lot of these pedigree bulls. I have seen on television when the Minister was handing over those bulls and rams to our needy farmers in Kavango and Caprivi to improve the quality of their herds there.

Just recently the Minister was also in Kunene where he delivered some of these quality rams and bulls to improve our stock and I am sure the Honourable Minister will elaborate further on that assistance to our needy farmers.

Honourable Speaker, I rest my case. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Deputy Minister for his contribution. That brings us to the end of the business scheduled for today. Honourable Kaura will have an opportunity to reply. For now the House stands adjourned until Tuesday, the 25th of March 2008 at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2008.03.25 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
25 MARCH 2008
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I have a request from the Right Honourable Prime Minister to, at this stage, accord him an opportunity on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Namibia, to say something to the House and to the Nation. Honourable Prime Minister.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, this morning, the 25th of March 2008, Namibia lost one of its founding fathers. He was a Member of the Constituent Assembly, he was also a Member of the Constituent Assembly's Drafting Committee for the Constitution of Namibia. He was the founder of the Ministry of Environment, Tourism and Wildlife, he in fact, was the Honourable Member who nominated the Honourable Dr Hage Geingob to be the Chairman of the Constituent Committee. He was a SWAPO-leader and activist, he was a member of the Central Committee of SWAPO. Honourable Members of the National Assembly, Comrade Nico Bessinger left us this morning. May his soul rest in peace. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I request the House to rise to observe a minute of silence.

The House observes a minute of silence.

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**REPORTS AND PAPERS
HON MUHARUKUA**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy for the year 2007 by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Deputy Minister table the Report? Any Notice of Questions?

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 45:

HON MOONGO: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 27th of March 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security the following:

It is a historic fact that Namibia received sound relations and unforgettable assistance from Angola, is it true that Angolan citizens are beaten up with sjambok when they draw water and buy commodities at Oshikango. When is this unconstitutional malpractice going to come to an end? When are the culprits going to be charged?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MOONGO**

QUESTION 46:

HON MOONGO: I further give Notice that on Thursday, 27 March 2008, I shall ask the Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration the following:

Is it true that foreigners get a tough time to obtain permanent resident documents in Namibia?

How many did get permanent documents during 2006 and 2007 from Angola?

What is the procedure for those who lived in Namibia before Independence? Do they get automatic permanent residence as was stipulated in the Namibian Constitution? Please explain.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Questions? Any further Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Honourable Kaapanda.

NOTICE OF MOTION

HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:
Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that tomorrow, the 26th of March 2008, I shall Move –

That this Assembly accedes to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping for Fishing Vessels' Personnel of 1995.

I so Move.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR AMATHILA**

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? Deputy Prime Minister.

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: FLOODS IN
NORTHERN AND NORTH-EASTERN NAMIBIA**

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, large parts of Southern Africa have been flooded this year. Namibia too has been affected by the worst flood occurrences. Since the beginning of this year, streams of rainwater literally invaded Northern and North-eastern Namibia. The affected Regions are Caprivi, Kavango, Omusati, Oshana and Oshikoto.

The flash floods are still on the increase, as fresh inflow of water is expected. As the water levels rise, more people are relocated in the shelters. Many schools are closing due to rising water levels. Clinics, roads, schools and other infrastructure will have to be rebuilt. The Government is hard at work to respond and mitigate the impact of the floods. The Directorate of Emergency Management in the Office of the Prime Minister has visited all the flooded areas, handing over much-needed goods, while relocating some flood victims to safer grounds.

A Provisional Assessment Report, dated 4–12 March 2008 was compiled by the Directorate Emergency Management Team, jointly with the United Nations and the Namibia Red Cross Society and is provided to all Honourable Members for your perusal.

The Report highlights the following:

- The total number of flood victims in the six regions are between 62,000 and 65,000 persons;

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR AMATHILA**

- The worst affected and relocated persons are approximately over 4,000 persons;
- The Budgetary requirement for food items over a three-month period is estimated to be in excess of N\$61,2 million.

The Report also contains important recommendations which will be dealt with at the appropriate levels as part of the longer-term solutions. However, we cannot at this stage give an estimate of the damage, since most areas are still under water. We must, however, begin to consider new areas to relocate communities. Towns, such as Oshakati, seem to be crowded for relocation. I am sure we will be able to find safe areas for the relocation of our people.

Many Namibians have gone deep in their pockets to assist their fellow Namibians who are displaced by the flood waters. I wish to express appreciation and thanks on behalf of the Government of Namibia to the numerous private sector companies and individuals that have contributed donations in cash and in kind to make the lives of the flood victims bearable. These donors have been generous in their donations and I know that their compassion has not gone unnoticed. I am informed that more companies and individuals are willing to make donations to aid the flood victims and this is very much welcomed. Almost every week I am receiving donations, whether in kind or in cash.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, many of the affected families will not be able to return to their homes and businesses due to the severity of damage caused to infrastructure. Moreover, the likelihood of low crop yields is very real. In this regard, thousands of farmers are losing their crops because everything they have planted is under water. Household food security is a major concern and the Government is working to ensure that no Namibian is without food in these Regions.

The Government response thus far is effective. Food items in excess of N\$221,000 has been supplied, while non-food items total over N\$5,3 million. Private sector donations in kind are in excess of N\$690,000, while cash donations are in excess of N\$1,13 million. These donations exclude the numerous donations in cash and in kind made by the private sector to the Namibia Red Cross and the Namibia Disaster Relief Fund, of which I am the Ambassador. The combined value of donations made to these two institutions exceed over N\$1 million mark.

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Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I wish to turn to matter of policy. Namibia has only known recurrent drought as our prime emergency and occasional floods in the Caprivi. However, we are now witnessing recurrent floods in Caprivi, while the northern Regions are experiencing the current devastating floods. These events cannot be viewed in isolation from the current realities of global warming and climate change. Their social and economic impact stands to cost the Government and society dearly. Even worse, the unimplicated impact of floods will only be known after the floods have receded. When that will happen we cannot promise. Right now it is still raining in the North and the floods are still rising on a daily basis. The price of inaction will be unbearable, so the Government and Namibians have to start thinking how we can deal with the threat to future generations.

While Namibia is a signatory to the Kyoto Protocol, we have not done enough at national level to raise public awareness and to mould proactive public policy initiatives in order to adapt, mitigate and respond effectively to the climate change phenomena.

My view is that the time has now come for us to move forward to urgently deliberate on the possible impact Namibia could face due to climate change. The Government and the Nation must know exactly how to adapt and mitigate the negative consequences of climate change. Such deliberations should also focus on what institutional arrangements must be made to meet the strategic objectives of mitigation and adaptation as aligned with the strategic goal of sustainable development.

In this regard, I urge the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, together with my Office, to deliberate with stakeholders and the public at large on climate change and to come up with tangible recommendations for the implementation.

Finally, I wish to call on the flood victims to remain courageous – as they are doing now – and to rest assured that the Government and the people are doing their best to meet their needs. The report will be distributed so that you can read the findings of the Emergency Team and the Red Cross which we took all over to look at the question of the floods. The costs and everything else is included in the Report.

Thank you very much, I thought I had better give some overview of the floods. The final Report will not come now, because we cannot give a final Report until

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we can see the damage to roads and bridges when the water has receded. Thank you very much for your attention.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Deputy Prime Minister for the informative update. Any questions? Honourable De Waal.

HON DE WAAL: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I am sorry for interrupting, but I just want to ask the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister. Of course, we support the work of the Government for the people who are suffering in the North, but what is really my concern at the moment is, what are we doing to look at the possibility of malaria, because if the water goes down and stands still, then the mosquitoes will be terrible this year. I am just wondering whether you have thought about that and if there is any action plan.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, may I also ask a question? The newspapers and the broadcasters of this country are always asking for assistance. When I open my computer, I see people asking for assistance for the flood victims. I wish to ask the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister whether all these effort are coordinated and everything that is received goes to the people in the North?

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, I just want to find out from the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, we have noticed that salty fish were distributed to the people as drought aid and knowing that our people, in particular black people, have a tendency of getting high blood pressure and salt contributes to high blood pressure, is it not possible to provide canned fish or beef instead of these salty fish which could also contribute to the deterioration of the health of our people?

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HON ULENGA / HON MUNGUNDA**

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, I very much appreciate the Ministerial Statement made by the Deputy Prime Minister with regard to the flood situation. My request, and I believe this would also be on behalf of many of us backbenchers here: It is one thing to receive a Report from your section of Government, but I would really like to request Government, seeing that Government officials and Government leaders go to all these places, using State resources and have a good look at the places, I have been trying to drive through flooded rivers and my car cannot get through. Will you please provide a proper vehicle to take this side of the House to go and have a look at the situation physically, so that we can support your efforts and when we debate here, know exactly what is happening. Please, let us go to the flood areas together and not just Government officials. I thank you.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:

Honourable Speaker, as was rightly mentioned by Honourable Ulenga, I was on other official business in the North and on Saturday afternoon decided to visit the flood victims. What I discovered is that there are 600 children without school and about 300 who need ECD and I tasked my officials to immediately make sure that they get the ECD teaching aids and then I will contact the Minister of Education.

Then also the other issue is the pregnant mothers. There were some pregnant mothers who gave birth at the hospital, but they were discharged the next day and it was very uncomfortable for the children and babies, but I told them to make a plan at the Women Centre which was built with prize money by the Deputy Prime Minister. This was the first Women Centre.

Just to flash back to the background history is always very important, our Deputy prime Minister won a prize when she was the Minister of Local Government and she did not use that prize for herself, she instead contacted the then Department of Women Affairs and with that money she built a Women Centre in Ongwediva. The Ministry has now built 9 sub-centres, so there is one in Ongwediva. I will also take it up immediately with the Deputy Minister of Health, because she also told me she will go there, especially for the pregnant mothers and the babies.

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When I went there, I saw the real situation for myself and some of the issues suggested by the Leader of the Official Opposition are very good. It is needed for us as leaders to go there and what I may not have discovered, somebody else can discover.

Otherwise it is well organised, there is control, they have everything there. It is just here and there that some do not have cooking facilities and that they need a central cooking area. However the food and everything is in order. They also complain that most of the children are suffering from fever and running stomachs and when they take them to the clinic, they have to line up and sometimes they do not have money to pay, because they were business women. I was concentrating on the *kapana* women and children, but because they were displaced, they cannot do business anymore. We as leaders really need to go and support our people.

I would also like to congratulate our President and the Government and especially the Deputy Prime Minister.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, if you peruse the Report you will be informed about most of your questions.

Having said that, let me start with malaria. Yes, right now when I was in Oshana the flood water was still flowing, so malaria was not an issue, but the Ministry of Health and Social Services is on standby. The only problem we have is in Ohangwena Region, particularly in Oshikango area, where we have cholera cases.

Of course, you have heard the complaints that we do not keep our business areas clean, so when the water came, cholera spread easily. I think the Ministry is also dealing with cholera there. However malaria is still not an issue. We have given them mosquito nets, but as you have seen yourself – and I closed my eyes when I saw it – the young people are using the mosquito nets to catch fish for their protein supplement. Thus, malaria is still fine, but I think it will be under control, the Ministry is aware of that.

Honourable Viljoen, you cannot run an emergency programme without coordination. It is well coordinated, the Governors themselves have started with

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the whole programme, people are relocated. For example, at Ongwediva Trade Centre the people are in tents, but I can tell you the Namibians are disciplined. Maybe some sugar will disappear here, but people are disciplined, people are looking after each other and all donations now go to the Governor of Oshana at Oshakati because we cannot drop food all over the place. When you come there, all the Governors of the affected Regions are there and I think everything is well controlled and there has not been any complaints so far. Therefore, we coordinate properly.

Each Region has its own Emergency Unit, so they are dealing properly with the donations, they do not disappear as in many other places where you have emergencies. Namibia is doing very well.

Honourable Kaura, Namibians must also learn to eat other things. The salted fish have to be soaked in water overnight or even a few hours and you clean it five times to remove the salt, and I can tell you it is very tasty. I have tasted it myself, they know how to cook it and it is good for protein. You cannot always give people tinned food because they do not taste well, but that fish is fantastic. You should go to West Africa, that is all they eat, the salted fish. The salt is to prevent the fish from going bad, but clean it five times until the salt is out. It is not that dangerous. The danger for high blood pressure is the weight some of us are putting on, so we must take care of our diets and not put on weight.

Honourable Ulenga, do you really need Government transport to go there? I think we can also contribute to the flood victims and use our own means to go and visit our own people. Do you want Government to give you planes or what? We are spending money in trying to assist the flood victims and we cannot give petrol to Members of Parliament who earn salaries to go and see their own brothers and sisters. You can organise a bus, each one pays N\$100 and you go and see, or hire a plane. I do not think Government should also be tasked to give money to people who are paid to go and see their own brothers and sisters in trouble. ***Honourable Mungunda*** has done it and I think we need to go and visit our people, to understand what we are talking about, because many times we are hearing it is only Oshakati, but you must go and see. We are not in a position to provide transport for you.

I think I have answered all the questions.

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HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

HON SPEAKER: Follow-up questions? Honourable Chase.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: I am rising not with a question, but a proposal. I discussed this with Honourable Kaiyamo last week and from what the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister said, if the 78 of us in this House each donates N\$1,000, it will be N\$78,000 which will go very far. I would like to propose that.

HON SPEAKER: It is a request for a good cause, voluntarily, it will go down well if we were to do it. You heard the Honourable Member. Deputy Minister of Home Affairs.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, on the Report that we received from the Deputy Prime Minister, I do not want it to sound as if Members do not want to contribute the proposed amount by Honourable Schimming-Chase. Some of us have already contributed in our own way. Let everybody do what he or she can do and not to be seen as if we do not want to contribute.

HON SPEAKER: Nobody is holding the gun to anybody's head. It is voluntary, keep on doing it, it is a good gesture and those who haven't done so, are urged to do so. Minister of Trade and Industry.

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT : RAMATEX

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. Allow me to make a Ministerial Statement in this august House on the developments at the Ramatex textile operation.

As it has been widely reported since the 5th of March 2008, Ramatex announced that the Board of the Ramatex Group of Companies in Malaysia has taken a decision to shut down all the Company's business operations in Namibia. The Company gave the Government and the Trade Unions a 30- day notice in terms of the Labour Act, during which period negotiations for the retrenchment packages for the workers will take place. This meant that the final closure of the company's operations in Namibia will be on the 5th of April 2008.

While businesses may be expected to cease operations if they are making losses or become bankrupt, Government, like the citizenry of Namibia, is dismayed by the abrupt manner in which Ramatex took and conveyed its decision to close down its business operations in the country. In particular, the Government condemns the way the Company conveyed its closure decision to its workers, namely by way of a lockout.

It is the position of the Government that Ramatex must live up to all its obligations, especially, but not limited to:

- Adherence to the procedures of business closure as laid out in the Namibian Companies Act and Labour Act, specifically as it pertains to winding-up of businesses and redundancy;
- Adequate compensation of its workers, both local and foreign, and other creditors in terms of the Labour Act and other applicable laws of the country as well as the Recognition Agreement entered into between the Company and the Trade Unions; and

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- The rehabilitation of sites where the Company has disposed the waste water from its textile operations in terms of the country's environmental policy and the applicable by-laws.

The Government has already communicated its position on the issues referred to above and others to the company in writing, upon receipt of the notice of the closure. As the guardian of the Laws of the Land and the rights of the citizenry, the Government will, in consultation with other stakeholders, namely the workers' representatives and the City of Windhoek, bring into action all the necessary legal and policy instruments to ensure that the company meets all its statutory and contractual obligations.

In keeping with our commitment to create conditions for attracting foreign investment as an important means particularly for job creation, the Government supported Ramatex's investment in an integrated textiles and garment manufacturing plant in Namibia way back in 2001. This support consisted of:

- Statutory tax-based incentives that are granted to any investor that engages in manufacturing for export in terms of the EPZ ACT (Act No. 9 of 1995 as amended);
- Economical tariffs for water, electricity and sewerage by the City of Windhoek for a limited period of three years;
- The provisioning of serviced land on which the company constructed its factory shells in the Otjomuise suburb;
- A waiver of wharf charges on the inward bound cargoes handled through the Port of Walvis Bay, mainly saw material imports; and
- Assistance with the training of Namibians in basic sewing skills in the inception years through the Windhoek Vocational Training College.

The Government and the City of Windhoek co-funded the cost of the levelling of the site and installing utility services on the Otjomuise site. Contrary to some Reports, the Government did not provide any direct funding to business operations of Ramatex, and its funding involvement is

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limited to the cost of levelling and servicing of the land. This land, together with the utility infrastructure thereon, remains the property of the City and the Government and can be availed for use by other employment-creating activities.

On its part, Ramatex undertook to create jobs and to erect and operate a plant that will treat and recycle waste water from its textiles dyeing operations. In 2004, the Company employed some 6,459 Namibians. While this was below the number projected in the Company's business plan, it is equally not an insignificant number, given the high unemployment rate in the country. The Company's operations also undoubtedly had some other positive effects in terms of the consumption of goods and especially services. Local providers of the following services have particularly benefited from doing business with Ramatex, they are water and electricity, transport and logistics, accounting, banking, security and insurance.

On the environment aspect, Ramatex installed an incomplete effluent treatment plant, which never became operational. Reports about the Company disposing of waste water in ways that posed danger to the environment led to pressure being exerted on the company to live up to its environmental obligations. This saw the suspension and closure of its dyeing operations, and eventually other textile operations namely, spinning and knitting. The environmental matters were mainly dealt with in terms of the Services Agreement that was entered into between Ramatex and the City of Windhoek.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is important to point out the following:

In May 2006, the representatives of the Board and management of Ramatex Berhad Malaysia, the holding or parent Company of the Namibian operations, visited Namibia to inform the Government of the continuous loss-making status of its businesses in the country, especially the textile-making component, citing a number of factors. The Company summed up these factors or problems as "*uncompetitive economic climate*" for its investment in Namibia. Some of the specific factors that the company cited were: "*unfriendly industrial environment, high labour rates with low productivity, high cost of physical infrastructure, transport, logistics and utilities and shifts in demand and adverse publicity overseas.*"

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In turn, the Company and the Government agreed that the Company will continue its operations and the two parties will, together with the local Labour Unions and other stakeholders, work out practical measures (turn-around strategy) to address any such identified constraints or challenges facing the Company, while also ensuring that the Company equally addresses its obligations in terms of the conditions of employment for its workers and the environment. The Government's commitment, efforts and goodwill in this regard were derived from one main aim, namely to safeguard and help create job opportunities for our people.

During the various communications that ensued between the Government and Ramatex as part of the agreed turn-around effort, the Government requested Ramatex to provide a 24-month notice of any intended closure or shut-out. The Company, however, opted for a 12-month notice period.

At this time, the operations of Ramatex were mainly limited to garment making, which was taking place under the trading name of Flamingo Garments (Pty) Ltd. At that time, but without prior notice to the Government, it was discovered that the Company had started dismantling or have dismantled most of the equipment at its dyeing and other textile operations. The Government, without hesitation, halted Ramatex from further dismantling and exporting machinery until it had clarified its intentions to Government and met its obligations to workers at the textile units and the State, such as payment of outstanding PAYE for its foreign workers.

In light of the above, arrangements were made with the Labour Unions for the transfer of the textile workers to the garment-making operations and the Company also subsequently paid its outstanding tax obligation in full as at the end of last year, 2007.

Notwithstanding the transparent and supportive manner in which the Government has dealt with Ramatex since inception, it nevertheless transpired that the Company may not have been completely honest and transparent in its dealings with the Government and the country in general. The manner in which it took a decision to dismantle and export machinery from its textile units and the recently announced complete closure of the remaining garment-making operations, testify to this effect.

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Noting that the Company's failure to erect the waste treatment plant, on the one hand, and in an effort to safeguard the jobs of Namibians who were employed at the textile operations, the Government in 2006 allocated a sum of N\$13 million to the City of Windhoek to work with Ramatex and a Government team in designing and setting up a proper waste water treatment plant. The treatment plant was meant to treat the waste water that will be discharged from the dyeing operations, and in anticipation that Ramatex would continue with its textile operations. The planned plant has, however, not yet been constructed mainly because the Company and the City could not agree on the price that the City will charge the Company for the treated water.

At the time that the waste water treatment plant initiative was being worked on, there were reported increased campaigns against the Company at home and abroad. While some of these campaigns served a valid purpose, they in some instances did so unfortunately at the expense of the Company and the jobs it provided. Undeniably and as it was widely reported, the negative publicity led to a loss of buyers' confidence. While the final outcome concerning Ramatex cannot all be attributable to the negative effects of these actions, it can also not be ignored that such actions potentially negatively affected the Company's business prospects.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Government, through the Office of the Right Honourable Prime Minister, is coordinating consultations and efforts that include the other stakeholders, namely the City of Windhoek and workers' representatives, aimed at ensuring that Ramatex honours all its obligations.

While it is implied by some sections of the Namibian civil society that Ramatex's investment is seemingly a matter for Government to deal with alone, it is my belief that this is the collective responsibility of us all, Government, civil society, business sector and labour, to create conditions for domestic and foreign direct investment as an important factor in our collective quest for socio-economic development through enhanced employment and business activity.

Our collective focus and commitment now and in future should be to create conditions and opportunities for employment of the affected work force and other unemployed compatriots and to harness our regional and global competitiveness as an investment location.

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In light of the following, therefore, I wish to call on the entire Namibian society not to relent in our collective commitment and continuous effort to provide the necessary support and facilitation to honest private sector initiatives, both domestic and foreign, that have the potential to contribute towards the realisation of our national development goals. In the same vein, private sector businesses, as responsible corporate citizens, must recognise and live up to their social and moral responsibilities to their workers and the country in which they do business.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank you for your attention.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister for his statement. Honourable Ulenga.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, I have a simple question to the Honourable Minister. Seeing that the writing was on the wall for quite some time with regards to the closure of Ramatex Malaysia Berhad (Pty) Limited, what steps, what precautionary measures did Government take specifically to mitigate against the resultant loss of jobs?

I remember about two or three years ago already when apparently Ramatex had specifically invited Government to come in with something. In the statement, Honourable Minister, you do not seem to be telling us specifically the mitigation measures of the loss of jobs that will result in the closure, as it has happened now. I thank you.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Minister, you mentioned two very important things in your statement, one of which is that you stated that it is the collective responsibility of all of us and you said we must look at employment creating activities. Hence my question:

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There is an English saying that says “*it is an ill wind that blows nobody any good*”, at least I think that we now have quite a formidable number of Namibians who are well-trained seamsters and seamstresses. I always wonder that we are still importing school uniforms, and I speak under correction, military and police uniforms from South Africa. Would this not be the golden opportunity to use the expertise and training of our people and turn that place into a place where we can provide all the uniforms that we need and stop importing it from South Africa? Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I like this space of our business, but it should be reserved for some technical questions. Obviously the Honourable Members have the privilege, sitting on the Opposition benches, to submit substantive questions that would require substantive replies from the Minister. Minister, you have those questions, they are allowed.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. If I may start with the question raised by *Honourable Ulenga*, if you listened carefully to what I was saying, the mitigation factors that he is referring to were mentioned in my statement and I referred to the turn-around strategy that was embarked upon by both Government and the Company. The Company had responsibilities to fulfil, Government had responsibilities to fulfil and both parties undertook and in fact did that.

For instance, I mentioned that Ramatex had the responsibility to pay the PAYE that was still owed from their side. We were supposed to provide resources for the waste water plant and I mentioned here that we provided N\$13 million to the City of Windhoek in order for the City, together with Ramatex, to find an amicable solution for the waste water plant. These were the decisions that were taken.

However during my statement I also mentioned that we actually insisted in our correspondence and meetings with Ramatex that in the event that they, for one or another reason, decide to shut down or close, they should give us 24 months

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notice. The main reason for that was to make sure that 24 months would be long enough to address all the issues that may be outstanding, whether it relates to Government, creditors, debtors or whether it relates to responsibilities *vis-à-vis* the workers. Ramatex actually did not agreed to the 24 months that we insisted, but to 12 months.

However of course, as I said, they were not very much honest. When they decided to close, they informed the Government within less than 24 hours in fact. That is what they did. How can you mitigate against somebody who is dishonest to that extent, even if the commitment was made in writing?

I want to thank *Honourable Chase*. The Government of Namibia and the Ministry of Trade and Industry, specifically, have been tasked with a mandate of securing investors into our country. That has been an ongoing process, we are doing that and we have in fact now intensified the search for investors in the textile sector. Therefore be assured that we are busy doing that.

Among the other options that we are looking at is also the local manufacturing of some of the products that you have just mentioned here. We are looking into that so that we can make use of the skills that have been developed and in that way produce these products locally instead of importing them. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister. Honourable Tjiriange.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: When I was listening to the Minister, I got the impression – I think I am correct – that the directors of this particular institution are in Malaysia. How are we going to make them to live up to their obligations and make them to honour whatever they should honour to the expectations of Government if they are not here?

Is there any way that we can keep those who are here from running away until they have met their obligations?

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Thank you, Honourable Senior Colleague. It is true that the Board Members of Ramatex Namibia are all in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. We have however been engaging them by meeting

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them through middle men, like we are doing right now. Negotiations with the workers' representatives have been ongoing and we are informed that the pay packages of some of the workers would already be paid into their accounts either today or tomorrow. Therefore, negotiations have been ongoing through legal persons.

With regard to whether they are meeting their responsibilities and obligations, we will do so within legal means. We will not be arresting or keeping any person, but just make sure that through legal means we will ensure that Ramatex meets its liabilities or commitments locally. Thank you.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I just wanted to ask the Honourable Minister a small question.

I understand that at the initial stage there was an agreement or understanding between Ramatex and Government, through the Ministry of Trade and Industry, as to how Ramatex is going to behave in the country.

Listening to the Honourable Minister, I am getting the impression that the Ministry of Trade knew that Ramatex was not meeting ...(Intervention)

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 14:45
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:18 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I just wanted to ask the Honourable Minister of Trade a few questions for clarity.

I understand that there was an initial agreement between the Ministry of Trade and Ramatex when they decided to invest in Namibia and on that basis , I

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understand that everything was supposed to have been in place, including a situation in which we are finding ourselves now.

Listening to the Honourable Minister, I got the impression that from the word go Ramatex did not meet or adhere to the agreement. The Minister mentioned that certain number of people were supposed to be employed, that was not met, round about 6,000 instead of 10,000 people.

I also understand from the Minister's statement that an environmental impact agreement was also not met. The twelve months was not met. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjihuiko please ask questions, do not debate the issue.

HON TJIHUIKO: What I wanted to ask the Honourable Minister: Did the Ministry of Trade only come to know about the situation at Ramatex 24 hours before closure or did they know about this situation based on the agenda that they signed?

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Honourable Speaker, I thought I made myself clear as to when we were informed about the closure of Ramatex. The Honourable Member had been a staff member of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, he talks about agreements that have been signed, that are in place and I hope he would inform this House as to where these agreements are. The agreement that I know, that we have been able to lay our hands on is the lease agreement between the City of Windhoek and Ramatex. There might have been an oral agreement, but the one in writing we could not find. However the notice that we got from Ramatex was Wednesday before they locked out the workers. Thank you very much.

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**RECONSIDERATION: VETERANS BILL
HON DR TJIRIANGE**

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for his reply. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

VETERANS BILL : RECONSIDERATION

SECRETARY: Reconsideration – *Veterans Bill*.

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Veterans Affairs move that the Assembly now reconsiders the Bill?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: The House shall go into Committee. Any secondment? Any objection? Agreed to. The Chairperson of the Whole House Committee will now take the Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Committee has to consider the *Veterans Bill* [B.1-‘07]. When progress was reported last Thursday, the 13th of March 2008, Clauses 2, 5, 6, 15, 22, 23, 27, 28,

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RECONSIDERATION: VETERANS BILL
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30, 35, 36, 39, 40, 44, 46 and the Title have been agreed to with Amendments. Clause 1 stood over. Paragraph 3 of the Amendment was under discussion.

Paragraph 3 of the Amendment put.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Honourable Chairperson, as you can recall from the deliberations of the last meeting, the House was adjourned for consultations so that the Ministry and those Members who have raised the issues could consult and come with a solution to this problem.

These consultations took place with all those who were concerned and the drafter were also involved in this plus the representative of the secretariat of this House.

An extensive explanation was given and at the end of all these deliberations it was clarified and everybody was happy and it was agreed that the Amendments could be accepted as they are. That is the result of our consultations. Therefore, what has been put over, was agreed that it could be agreed to as brought here by the National Council.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any further discussions? Honourable Tsudao Gurirab.

HON GURIRAB: I only want to confirm, Honourable Chairperson, that indeed we had these consultations and a thorough explanation was given of the Clause as it stands and that there was unanimity on this and we agree with the Clause as it stands.

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SECOND READING : APPROPRIATION BILL

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEES: Any further discussions?

Clause 1, as amended, put and agreed to.

I shall report the Bill with Amendment.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED

Bill reported with Amendment.

HON SPEAKER: Having considered the Amendments, the Assembly has now finally passed the Bill and therefore, concluded the business on this item. I shall now, in terms of Article 75(3) refer this Bill to the President to deal with it under Articles 56 and 64 of our Constitution. The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

**APPROPRIATION BILL : RESUMPTION OF
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SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – *Appropriation Bill.*

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, 18 March 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable Dr Ankama adjourned the Debate and I now give the Floor to the Honourable Member.

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HON DR ANKAMA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in this august House we have lost two fellow members in two days following each other, namely Honourable Kala Gertze, whom I have known as a friend and a hardworking Colleague for quite a number of years while we were working together at the University of Namibia as lecturers.

Secondly, we have also lost a Comrade, a fellow Unionist during the revitalisation of the NUNW and affiliated Unions in the late 1980s and a true patriotic Namibian who crossed rivers and jungles of both Namibia and Angola during the liberation struggle of this country.

Similarly, today we also lost, I understand, a leader, a nationalist, a revolutionary and a robust soldier of the times, namely Comrade Nico Bessinger.

Losing all these three Comrades, Honourable Kala Gertze, Comrade John Pandeni and Comrade Nico Bessinger, indeed, is a great loss and not only for us as individuals or as Parliament, but for the whole Nation. I therefore, would like to wish their souls well and happiness in the world there beyond our human understanding.

To start with, during this general Budget Debate, I would love to air my congratulations and best wishes to our visionary and mighty movement, SWAPO Party, for having conducted a resounding and successful Congress recently where the new national leadership was elected. Our conducts of maturity, vision and practice of upholding the principles of democracy, both in the Party and in the country, have not only consolidated the wishes and aspirations of the majority of the people in our country and the international community at large, but these have grounded the trust of people in the SWAPO Party to run this country's affairs on a thunderous democratic course.

Therefore, I am sending my best wishes to all the SWAPO Party leaders elected onto the top echelon, Central Committee and political bureau, a bulky success in all our accomplishments.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, and now, let me congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance, Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila for this well-articulated and considerate national finance exercise. I am doubt-free that the Finance Minister, together with staff and all other stakeholders, have just

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done the practicable to the formation of this Budget in the power within the range of limited resources.

Accentuating the ‘pro-poor’ concept started last year. The concept is yielding practical fruit as in this year’s Budget the Finance Minister speaks of enhanced investment in pro-poor growth activities and debt reduction.

As could be seen from the Budget figures, a sizeable chunk is prioritised for education, health, security and infrastructure development in public spending. This will improve upon the livelihood of many of our citizens should the funds be disbursed equitably and appropriately within the sectors intended for.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, at this juncture I would like to bring to light the following significant issues which I always feel should receive the utmost attention of Colleagues tasked with the responsibility, particularly when implementing Government funded programmes and these include, *inter alia*:

Power supply and rural electrification.

Comrade Speaker, the dissatisfaction with the power supply by the REDs among many of our citizens should worry us all and must be addressed the soonest possible. If people are not happy, including myself, with the services of the recently established Regional Electricity Distributing companies, called RED, a review of the REDs is quite necessary now rather than later.

Their services for connectivity or extending power to clients are not just exorbitantly higher and unaffordable for poverty alleviation and economic growth purposes, but their general services of continuous power supply and customer-ship are ineffective, deceitful and uneconomical. For example:

Is it logical for the RED to put up a single-phase line or transformer at a fast-growing centre or at the venue where economic development has a potential instead of a 3-phase line?

What kind of logic is it for the RED to keep an under-utilised 3-phase transformer at a place where there is no economic value instead of putting it where activities are taking place? For example, two transformers are almost covering a distance of 500 metres. At one place there is a need for a 3-phase transformer, while the other, a school, which does not necessarily have the need to have a 3-phase, is

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having a 3-phase transformer with two houses. That transformer will not be used to the maximum, so to say, because the school will be able to pay that transformer so that the Government could buy more transformers.

Rural electrification is a positive Government project and must be reviewed continually. We must aim to accelerate sound economic management, community empowerment and job creation as our priorities when managing national economic entities. There is a need to have a strong watchdog, specifically for Government subsidiaries and/or companies. At all times a watchdog of Government subsidiaries should be on the alert to curb against abuse or poor planning, like in the case of the REDs, which means that we need a strong watchdog that would enhance the productivity of Government entities.

Comrade Speaker, fellow Members, **On Education**, in my last year's contribution to the Budget, I stressed the need to increase the students' loans for tertiary education and training. My appeal was that review of the fund be made to ascertain that more students receive loans in future, especially those doing critical courses that Government lists as priorities and in accordance with the National Development Plan at hand.

I appreciated that last year I was contacted and requested by the Ministry of Education to make a contribution to a submission to Cabinet. Indeed, I have done my contribution and I must say that a lot has been done. Yes, much money is given to education, but still we must devise a practical method to follow up students who received Government loans and grants. This means that once we give money to students to go and study at a particular institution, on completion we should be in a position to follow up these students so that they can pay back.

I realised that when I got the information from the Ministry last year, that there were a lot of students who could not be accounted for, some apparently were not able to be traced. Of course, I have made my suggestions, that I felt that this fund could have a lot of money were could be able to collect from those who have completed. This will help to enlarge the fund of the Ministry of Education to have loaning capacity for future students to benefit.

As I said last year and I am quoting myself: *"In essence, the financial input into education should be equitable to its medium and long term output. When we invest in education, we must as well be able to translate our work into visible dividends. Our products must be of the best quality and marketable."*

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On **Grade 10 repeaters**, I would love to commend the Ministry of Education and other stakeholders for making such a provision, but this should not be seen as a solution rather than a problem creation, because it de-motivates students to be serious with their academic work. In actual fact, this will be a serious problem for the Government to continue with. I have a suggestion (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: May I ask a question? Would you agree with me that in some instances it is not the fault of the learners who fail, particularly the schools in rural areas where there are no facilities? In such a situation, would you really support such people to repeat, because it is not their own fault but the fault of the system?

HON DR ANKAMA: That is a very good question. We have not done research, but if one can prove that indeed it was not the fault of the students, then well and good. However without research, I am not convinced. I have been in education and I always said that if you want to see that one is a good teacher or the other is a bad teacher, I always said, let us look at our results at the end of the year, particularly results that are of national nature, Grade 10 and 12. How much has the teacher produced in term of grades? How many produced only As or Bs? Then we can say this is a good teacher, that is a wrong teacher. (Intervention)

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: May I ask a question? Honourable Member, in a situation like we have in Namibia, could one really compare teachers to such an extent, the schools like St Pauls and so on that perform at their best, they have small classes, they have teaching aids and all of that, whereas teachers in the rural areas have large classes, no teaching aids. Can we really say the number of people who fail are an indication of the teacher's teaching ability?

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HON DR ANKAMA: Honourable Member, let me give you a situation. I was teaching at high school at one point and for three consecutive years, when teaching Grade 10 and Grade 12, we beat schools that were regarded as best schools, Oshigambo for example. We beat Mweshipandeka for three consecutive years, I was then at Iipumbu Secondary School and we did that.

Last year there was a school somewhere in the North and one in Katima that beat schools that are the best in Windhoek. Therefore, that argument holds no water, I would say. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: May I put a question? I thought you were going to answer the question, but now you deviated from the question itself. The question asked, those kids walk a distance of 5 to 10 kilometres per day, once they get to school they are tired, they are not fresh. If this teacher fails to teach those kids accordingly, it is not the fault of the teacher, it is the fault of the distance because they are not near the school. That is the question I would like you to answer. You are blaming the teacher for nothing. Now whose fault is that? It is the facilities, the distance between the school and the kids. Now what are you going to say on that? Please, could you answer that?

HON DR ANKAMA: Thank you, Honourable Chief, I think that was a good comment.

I would say that this is a de-motivating factor and I would not encourage that we continue with the trend. I suggest that the Ministry of Education from now on identify schools in each Region ... (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask a small question? Are you aware that Schukmannsberg Combined School in the Kabbe Constituency in Caprivi performs better than A Shipena? Are you aware of that?

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HON DR ANKAMA: Yes Comrade, I am aware. I would therefore suggest that the Ministry of Education from now on identify schools in each Region to be upgraded to industrial schools....(Intervention)

HON DIENDA: On a Point of Information regarding Shipena. Honourable Speaker, A Shipena, like Augustineum High School, only receive the learners whose marks are below 40%. All those with 60% are sent to Windhoek High School, Academia and all those schools because the principals of Windhoek High School and Academia do not want to take those learners whose marks are so low and that is the reason why at A Shipena and Augustineum the learners cannot really be compared with the other ones. The teachers have less to do than the teachers at A Shipena and the teachers at Augustineum. I do therefore not think we must compare these schools with one another. I am very sorry, they refuse to accept our kids who cannot perform at these schools.

HON ANKAMA: That is probably a comment, but I must also say that schools, regardless whether they take students with best grades or not, it depends on the activities that are taking place at a particular school and the management.

The school where I have been teaching that I told you about at the beginning would take any student with any grade who qualifies to go to Grade 10 or Grade 11 and 12 and we did it. And the school that the Right Honourable Prime Minister was talking about in Caprivi does not have the same facilities like Windhoek High School.

I suggest that the Ministry of Education from now on identifies schools in each Region to be upgraded as industrial schools to cater for learners right from primary level, thereby equipping them with various skills in fields of business, manufacturing, trading, etcetera. Therefore, money being used in funding grade 10 repeaters should be redirected to practice-oriented education curriculum, thus upgrading identified industrial schools the soonest possible.

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We cannot all be doctors or professors in a country. After all, people with real money are those with industrial skills and qualifications. These are people who make the economy tick in the country. When you have industrial skills you can do anything, you can make money on a daily basis. These are the people who create businesses and jobs for the others. They can stimulate the economic growth of industries in any given country. We can even, to a greater extent, incorporate the partnership-training component between the Ministry of Education and the private sector, on the other hand. This can be done by using willing national and multinational industries with capacities to provide continuous internship to students while the Ministry of Education industrial schools provide them with theory on a continuous basis.

Comrade Speaker, fellow Members, I would like to touch a bit on aquaculture. Fish farming and fish breeding have a great potential in stimulating economic wealth in the rural part of our country. What is needed is a fund to assist people with interests in aquaculture projects and the technical experts. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask my Professor a tiny question? Honourable Ankama, can you perhaps give us insight into these German industrial schools? How do they operate? When do they start? Is it at primary or secondary level? Because there is a school called Arbeit Schule and Germany has developed it in such a way that they produce technicians, industrialists, people who contribute to their economy. Even cleaners are trained, cooks and everybody. Our problem in Namibia is that we tend to look at academic performance, neglecting the people who matter in society, the carpenters, the builders, etcetera. Maybe you have some knowledge about this, Honourable Ankama.

HON DR ANKAMA: Thank you, Comrade Uutoni. Indeed, I was not in Germany, I do not know much about Germany but the logic is that when you have a young mind, you are likely to develop that mind to the maximum should you give the right training. The younger a person is, the better the person catches up.

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With this reference I am saying what is needed is a fund to assist people with interest in agricultural projects and technical experts to guide fish farmers to success.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Will Honourable Ankama accept a question? Do you not think this is the time, while we have a lot of water especially in the Northern areas, that the Minister of Fisheries should be given leave to go now and do Aquaculture?

HON DR ANKAMA: Comrade Prime Minister, I think that is a good suggestion, but I do not know whether you will be able to give them permits to do the job.

This may lead to creation of small-scale industries, for example fish processing, presentation, packaging and cool storages, etcetera. But all these are ample chances of job creation.

My Brother in the fishing industry, Dr Mannetjie, is probably better positioned to tell what is in the coffers for the Nation in this specific query.

Then I would like to touch a bit on **water harvesting and earth dams**. This is something that has been worrying me for quite some time.

Comrade Speaker, fellow Members, I have continuously listened to Colleagues, probably with expertise in the field of water harvesting, cautioning that harvesting of water is impractical as water becomes salty, especially in the northern Regions where it is flooding right now and water stays only up to six months or so. Nevertheless, I am not yet convinced by these arguments. If water gets salty when harvested in earth dams, then why do we not look at the examples of how the missionaries used to harvest and store water and constructed dams in a style where water is kept in there, they cannot flow up, but not very deep perhaps where water could become salty at the end of the day? We could even use this water for many purposes, for example solar water pumps can be installed to pump

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out water for animal consumption. Do animals really need purified water from the tap to drink?

Even those who want to do irrigation for their crops will be able to use untreated water if huge water harvesting projects are planned, designed and constructed along natural water flows and catchment areas, such as Oponono in the North, Oohinakulu Homadhiya, also in the North somewhere there, Ntuli, Ontsaadhiya, Ntunda and many more places where water normally flows to.

I have seen many man-made lakes in some countries which are being used for economic gains. We can do the same. We can construct them on a continuous basis on the rolling Budget. We can start small and at the end of the day we achieve big.

In the same vein, we must find a way amidst scarce resources of constructing bridges at crossing points... (Intervention)

HON BASSON: May I ask my Colleague a question? Comrade Ankama, I just want to find out, what happened with the fish ponds? Were they destroyed or are they far from these floods? I know that many women are employed on that project and I just want to find out, are they far from this area where the floods are?

HON DR ANKAMA: Unfortunately I am not within the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources and I will have to wait for Dr Mannetjie to respond to that question, but generally speaking, there are dams that have been constructed by the missionaries and they are still there and there are a lot of fish in there as well.

What I am saying is that we need to consider the construction of bridges at crossing points. (Intervention)

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HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Comrade Speaker, just for the sake of information to the Honourable Chief Ankama, just to put your mind at ease for what you believe to be the right way of constructing earth dams. It is true, if you build an earth dam in the North, you will get saline water and that will be problematic. However the way that it is being planned now to make those earth dams, is simply to make an earth dam at an open space, close to the oshana and you pump the water from the oshana into that earth dam. That water will never be salty at all. You should also then not make a big open dam, that will not be useful, because evaporation is 85% of the water and we will only use 15%. If you make it smaller, then the evaporation rate is reduced. That is actually what we are embarking on now and when we are going to discuss the Budget, you will see that in our Budget there are provisions for earth dam and that is what we are going to do to harvest water. Of course, we will also use the same dams for Aquaculture where possible. Just that information.

HON DR ANKAMA: It is a very good answer, but I also feel that our pans are getting filled up by sand. We could excavate and get that sand out, make them a bit deeper, but maybe we can talk about that outside or somewhere else. It is however a very good idea to look at this as well.

Honourable Members, I am talking about the **construction of bridges and crossing points**. At the moment we have areas that are flood endemic and as such, especially in the Northern areas, it is not a situation that you can wait for the river to flow and after an hour you can cross over. Those areas get flooded, the water is standing there for some time, you cannot cross over. People from Uuvudhiya cannot go to the other places and so many places in the North and other places too. I went to Omatjete the other time and I was unable to cross.

We should be looking at construction of small crossing points where people can walk on foot or use bicycles and maybe a larger one somewhere else to connect centres to one another to enable movement of the people.

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This year's rain and floods has taught us an unforgettable lesson and I think we will definitely put it down in our books so that we can remember and then the younger generation will refer to it in years to come.

Then I move to **job creation**. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the issue of unemployment is a national concern. However, no Government in the world over has the capacity to employ all its citizens. Generally, what Governments do is to create opportunities for both local and multi-national investors to engage in meaningful businesses, thereby creating job opportunities for the locals. In my view, local businesses must be protected from vulnerability against multi-national Companies investing in our country, because our local businesses do not match the standing of multi-nationals. In other words, the taxation and other related financial burdens should be eased to benefit our local businesses to enable them to grow and create job opportunities for our citizens. Incentives should, therefore, include subsidies where possible or provision of free business advice on finances and management, meaning that we should look at practical incentives to grant to our businesses so that they can grow.

A business person can get a loan from a financial institution, but he has no capacity to manage that loan financially. Financial institutions should also be in a position, when they grant a loan, to attach that as part of the incentive benefits, so that we can train a person how to go about this.

At the same time, advice in terms of business, a person has a business mind, but maybe he or she is unable to put up a business plan. Somebody should be there. We know of the Ministry of Trade, I understand a lot of people are complaining that they go there, they submit a plan and they will never get it back. It gets upgraded, it is stolen and somebody else is going to use it. (Intervention)

HON NAMBAHU: Comrade Speaker, can I ask Comrade Ankama a question? Comrade Ankama, you are doing very well and before you conclude I would like to hear some more of your views. When you touched on the issue of industrial schools and now you are on job creation, do you not think that if you were to set up a school for cooks and just make a feasibility study and just drop at each and every house a form just to look for candidates for the cooking school, do you not think you are going to have potential candidates from each and every household,

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taking the number of complaints that you have from people that the partner cannot cook?

Secondly, if you were to set up a bookkeeping school, looking at all the other business initiatives that are taking place all over the country, small SMEs and things like that, and these people started with maybe a shebeen, now he has a farm, now he has some share in something and it is becoming complex, he is no longer a sole proprietor, do you not think these are some of the areas where we could get candidates? What is your comment on that?

HON DR ANKAMA: Yes, indeed, this is a good comment. In actual fact, what you are saying is that I propose that we create a fertile ground for people to come up with businesses without being stolen or taken away, but then we should also have those companies, management, advice, loan granting and all that together. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Thank you very much, you are doing well and you know I do not like to interrupt, but would you not like to suggest to the Prime Minister's Office, if not any other institute, when we open NIBA, this is for the administrators, that we also create a unit of business training? We run to MBAs, a lot of people go and do MBAs, they come back zero. They do not even contribute to the Ministry which sends them to go and do the MBA. Therefore we are losing knowledge. Perhaps we should start from the basis and start a training centre for business people from the bottom up and leave the MBAs. We spend so much money paying for these children? Would you not support an idea like that?

HON DR ANKAMA: Thank you very much, I support the idea Honourable Deputy Prime Minister. That is a very good idea. We have a lot of people

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educated and when they come there, they are not used in their proper fields and as a result we lose the skills.

Yesterday about 2 am as I was coming to Windhoek, I was in the North, and just about 2 kilometres from my house there is an oshana, a shallow river and I met a donkey cart at night and there were about five people, three young boys and two ladies. I recognised one who is my niece, Hilma Ankama and another Esther Amadhila. I talked to them: “*Where are you from?*” “*We are from the other side of Ongandjera.*” “*What were you looking for?*” “*We went to harvest mopani shrimps*”, just to borrow the term from the Minister of Justice and it was bags and bags in that donkey cart at night. They said this was not the first time, they went there already twice and they are going back tomorrow or so. These days it is very good business. What I am saying is, this is very good business. I asked the people, “*what do you do with the mopani shrimps*”, it is not only for their own consumption, but for selling. You find them selling to locals and even international visitors.

The thing is we have the likes of the mopani shrimps, for example *Omboga* which is called a wild spinach. We have, for example, the frogs and we have *omafuma* and then we have *Omagongo*, marula wine and we have *Omalunga* Palm wine and *Ombike*. All these products are local, but should we come up with a fund or motivation to help these women to create a viable business, they would be in a position to market their products internationally too. Why not? We will be able to package them, dry them professionally and then they will be able to have all these *Onagungu*, *Omboga* and all these edibles locally and for international export. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Are you aware that the envisaged Capital of the Oshikoto Region’s economy is exactly those things you are talking about? *Omagungu* is the diamond of Omuthiya.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Ankama, you have run out of time.

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HON DR ANKAMA: Let me just conclude, Comrade Speaker. What I want to say is that the importance of what we have should be recognised and we should add value to our products. We will then be able to create job opportunities and expertise to do things.

Finally, Comrade Speaker, I would like to end with a quote from J. Krishnamurti's *Tradition and Evolution*, who says: "*We are the results of our environment of our society, we are the results of all our interactions*" and I would like to thank the Finance Minister, Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, for a Budget that is pro-poor and pro-growth. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Mushelenga.

HON P MUSHELENGA: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, before I address Budgetary aspects, I would like to reflect on the past two weeks that I have been away from this august House on an official mission, when double tragedy struck the National Assembly.

The sudden departure of our Colleagues has imprinted hollowness in this Chamber. I pay tribute to *Honourable Kala Gertze*, a legislator with a compulsion to yield productive end-results. He was an industrious and pragmatic lawmaker who added value to Parliamentary business and legislative weightiness.

I further pay tribute to *Honourable John Pandeni*, who embodied multiple personalities as a patriotic guerrilla fighter, formidable political prisoner, organised trade unionist, people's Regional Governor, attentive national leader and unassuming Cabinet Minister. These life trajectories uniquely positioned him to become what he became – a gentle politician and celebrated hero.

This morning again, *Honourable Nico Bessinger*, former Minister of Environment and Tourism passed away. I pay tribute to this freedom fighter, dignified leader, champion of humanity and truest Comrade who soldiered on till death. May the souls of these Namibian leaders rest in eternal peace.

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Honourable Speaker, now moving to the matter under consideration, I would like to first congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance and her able team for presenting a considerate and balanced Budget. Its salient features of caring for the elderly, war veterans and flood victims speak volumes of Government's commitment to alleviate the plight of the needy.

During the past two Financial Years, as part of the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Social and Community Development, I visited a number of hospitals and clinics in our country. In most of the places we observed the need to improve our **health facilities**. I am pleased to note that in the Development Budget an amount of about N\$1 billion have been Budgeted for the current Medium Term Expenditure Framework period to be used for renovations and upgrading of hospital facilities. I further welcome the allocation of N\$182.1 million for the acquisition of vehicles for the Ministry of Health and Social Services, which I believe will be used to buy ambulances, as the scarcity of these facilities currently hamper the efficient provision of health and medical services.

Government should be further commended for allocating N\$35.3 million for the treatment of HIV and TB diseases. This amount will enable the Ministry to reach its target of providing Anti-RetroViral Treatment to 54,554 patients by December 2008.

The **energy sector** had performed well. With all the energy shortage that we face in the southern Africa region, NamPower embarked upon the rural electrification distribution programme to the value of N\$63.8 million last year. Thus far, the Company had tried its best to ensure that there is no power shedding and the supply of electricity remains stable. Efforts should be made to support the Company in realising its generation capacity needs. I am, therefore, in support of an additional N\$610 million to NamPower in the current Medium Term Expenditure Framework period to support infrastructural development for power generation and back-up energy supply.

Honourable Speaker, **foreign trade** is very important to the country's economy. I was pleased to learn from the Honourable Minister of Finance in her Budget speech that the balance of payments for 2007 is expected to triple from N\$1.1 to 3.5 billion. This is good news from our foreign trade returns. If we were to have balance of payments deficits, we would have been forced to impose restrictions on imports, and the consequences would be retaliation and general increase in trade barriers. In this respect, it should also be noted that in order to yield enough

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foreign currency, it is important that we sell quality products to the world market. The establishment of the Namibia Standards Institution is a move in the right direction. I am, therefore, in concurrence with the allocation in the current Medium Term Expenditure Framework period of N\$57 million to the NSI to enhance productive quality, reliability and competitiveness.

The domestic economy and its market prices are as important as the foreign trade. I would like to address the issue of high prices of houses in the country, especially in the capital city. We need to examine this economic trend. Theories of economics, for example the one by GF Stanlake in his publication *Introductory Economics*, states that prices for any economic good under a capitalist market conditions are dictated by the forces of supply and demand. For example, there could be high demands for houses with a large number of bidders for few available pieces of serviced land auctioned by municipality annually. This could result in prospective buyers buying the land at a price way above the valuation price. Information available reveals that some Municipalities have regulations that prospective home owners should build homes for a price higher than four times the price of land values, which incredibly pushes up the price of houses. These factors related to municipal transactions and regulations need to be addressed with our Local Authorities. The issue of property valuation also needs to be addressed. Banks and building contractors work on square metre rates for building houses. When square metre rates are set, the price of the property becomes determined by such rates, which in reality has nothing to do with the actual building cost, counting land price, material and labour costs.

Another contributing factor could be the low competition for material suppliers. This results in suppliers adding a substantial amount of profits on materials that they import from South Africa. In his publication *"Economic Theory and Operations Analysis"*, William Baulmol stated that *for an industry to operate under competitive conditions, there should be many firms in the industry, each of which controls a small proportion of the total output. All firms should be known to buyers and should have homogeneity of products. Companies in the industry should have freedom of entry and exit from the market without artificial hindrances.* We need to encourage and attract investors in the building supply industry to create competition in the market.

The allocation in the current Financial Year of N\$14.1 million and half a million to investment promotion and maintenance of the investor tracking and after-care

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system programmes, respectively, should be efficiently used for that purpose. This ground is further complemented by N\$3 million for marketing Namibia.

Honourable Speaker, **Real Estate Agents and lawyers** fees add a reasonable amount to property prices. In most cases, these third parties only fill in standard forms, which in a small population like ours can be a template drawn up for sale in retail outlets and filled by prospective buyers and sellers at the deeds office, which will check whether the forms were correctly filled and thereafter process them. Other charges come from the Value Added Tax where clients are charged VAT by builders for new homes, which should not be the case in terms of the VAT Act.

In their publication, *Economics for South African Students*, Philip Mohr and Louis Fourie argued that price stability does not imply that prices should be constant, as they would rise due to inflation. Whether the skyrocketing house prices are linked to inflation is a debatable issue and it should be thoroughly scrutinised. We need to critically examine a number of factors that contribute to high property prices and so something about this trend. Otherwise, in a few years to come our people will not be able to own private properties, but would keep throwing money into renting properties.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to spend some time on **international relations**. Last year, Namibia opened additional missions in Egypt and the United Republic of Tanzania. The diplomatic contingent of Namibia is growing and we continue to perform well both in multilateral and bilateral diplomacy. Resources permitting, it is my recommendation that we open a mission in Geneva, Switzerland, another hub of multilateral organisation. I welcome the allocation of N\$225.2 million to the pursuance of bilateral and multilateral diplomacy through our Foreign Service establishments in the foreign capitals.

I should commend the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for continuously taking in young recruits in the Ministry. The youth are the future of our country and they need to be equipped with the necessary skills and expertise to stand the management and implementation of our foreign policy and diplomacy in good stead in the future. Reports about the performance of these young diplomats are encouraging. The deployment of some of them in multilateral missions is commendable, as it enables them to acquire multilateral skills that are necessary

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in international relations, which is currently dominated by pluralism and interdependence.

I further commend the allocation of additional resources for bilateral and multilateral programmes totalling N\$25.2 million for the current Medium Term Expenditure Framework period. Part of these funds will be used for the training of our diplomats and it is my hope that the young diplomats will benefit enormously from this allocation. Other Ministries are encouraged to do the same with their recruitment and staff development programmes.

On the occasion of our 18th Independence anniversary, Namibia conferred the *Order of the Most Ancient Welwitchia Mirabilis* to Commandant Fidel Castro. This great soldier and gallant revolutionary is larger than life. He epitomise steadfastness and perseverance amidst trials and tribulations. He is a giant of a man in terms of both the physical stature and international prestige. He is a distinguished internationalist and has won admiration from many freedom fighters, revolutionaries and progressive persons. Commandant Castro is a popular figure and friend of many in the world community. Those who hate him, it is a matter of irrational odium and egoistic frustrations.

Namibia has supported all United Nations General Assembly resolutions calling for the lifting of embargoes against Cuba. This august House too passed a Motion to that effect a few years ago. Our bilateral relations with Cuba are excellent. Last year, a delegation from Cuba was here soliciting our support for the freedom of their respective five family members detained by the United States of American authorities. Namibians turned up in large numbers at the Hosea Kutako International Airport to express solidarity and support to the families of the five Cubans. We should persistently and consistently continue to pronounce our uncompromising support to the Cuban cause. The behaviour of some entities within the world community have spoiled the world agenda, riding on obsessive hegemonic supremacy, while compromising justice, objectivity and credibility in the international political system.

Honourable Speaker, international relations and world politics have become characterised by conflicts. The situations in the Sudanese region of Dafur and the neighbouring Chad are bad and horrific.

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War in that Region has killed a number of people, caused hunger and poverty and left women and children displaced. The anguish and despair resulting from armed conflicts is not something that I need to be lectured on. I spent my entire childhood in a war zone, taking cover from the bullets of the enemy, who illegally occupied my country and was confronted militarily by my comrades and compatriots. As a child, I endured physical pain and emotional torture from the wounds of the enemy's bullets when they targeted my family. I am, therefore, devastated when pondering about the children in Chad and Sudan going through the same ordeal and hallucinations. Even when the troubles subside, they will have to live with the post conflict trauma and agony. It is my hope that one day conscious rhetoric questions will linger in the minds of those who are responsible for miseries and desolation. The future will castigate their past and criminalize their wrongdoings. Guilty and inner peace disorder will always eat the minds and souls of cruel and malicious troublemakers.

On the eastern side of the continent, not too far from our Southern Africa region, somewhere, somehow, something went systematically wrong with the presidential elections in Kenya last year. I will not venture into pointing fingers to perceived culprits. I leave that to the general will to serve as the court of public opinion.

African statesmen and women frequented Nairobi to bring peace to Kenya. I commend peace-making efforts by African leaders under the leadership of former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan. Reconciliation and dialogue have brought a new momentum in the Kenyan scenario. The aggressive and rough waves that engulfed Kenya have calmed down, turning into a pacific fountain that brings hope and assurance to tormented civilians.

Kenya was among the countries that contributed troops to the United Nations Transitional Assistance Group (UNTAG) which supervised peaceful transition to Namibia's Independence. Brigadier General Daniel Opande of Kenya was the second-in-command of the UNTAG contingent. When the mandate of the UN came to an end, President Nujoma requested President Moi to second the Kenyan Battalion of UNTAG to train the new Namibian Army. When President Nujoma bid farewell to the Kenyan continent in June 1990 the following were his words:

"As a true brother, President Moi never hesitated to assist our Government. Our request was considered favourably and you were asked to delay your departure from Namibia. Kenya as a country and Member of the OAU has played a

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significant role in the liberation struggle of Namibia. It assisted us and rendered all round political, diplomatic, moral and material support to our people over the years, in particular. I would like to single out His Excellency President Daniel Arap Moi for his personal commitment to the Namibian cause.”

Honourable Speaker, I hope that you are capturing the point that I am trying to drive home. The presumptions of academic perspectives suppose that small States have limited foreign policy scope. Yes, we cannot be everywhere all the time, but certainly we should be somewhere sometimes. We have an obligation derived from our history. When the occasion demands, we should respond to the call to provide stewardship in crisis management and conflict resolution, assisting our siblings on the continent to embrace a Liberalism-oriented agenda of good natured humans who strive for harmony and political decency.

With these words, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I support the Appropriation Bill 2008/2009 and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework 2008/09 to 2010/11. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. Honourable Amweelo.

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. Comrade Speaker, before I start my contribution, I would also like to join my Colleagues in paying tribute to Honourable late Comrade John Pandeni, the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, Honourable Kala Gertze, Member of National Assembly and Honourable Nico Bessinger who passed away this morning. May their souls rest in eternal peace.

Comrade Speaker, secondly, I would like to congratulate the Minister of Finance, Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, her Deputy Comrade Tweya and the entire staff, as well as the Director General of the National Planning Commission for a job well done in the preparation of this Budget. Congratulate Comrades,

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you were able to manage and improve revenue which resulted in a surplus. Thank you very much.

Comrade Speaker, we heard some people – not all- saying that it is not the right time to build the railway, but I would like to remind them that soon after Independence in 1990, the Government recognised and this was well researched, the importance of transportation infrastructure development as a catalyst for socio-economic growth and development and decided to take advantage of the strategic location and the close proximity to Regional and International markets to and from the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Europe and South and Central America.

It is against this background that the Government decided to embark upon the extension of this national railway line from Tsumeb to Oshikango. This modern and state of the art railway line serves to connect the northern part of the country with the Nations capital and the main ports, but will also serve as a strategic tool to connect Namibia to the huge untapped potential in economic markets in the Republics of Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana and DRC. This is information to those saying that it is not the right time.

We are saying that when they see the Government starting these very important programmes....(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Information. Dr Amweelo, this weekend I was in the North, I passed the Dr Amweelo Railway Station between Oshivelo and Tsumeb, but what I want to say is that I met two business women from the South over the weekend in Ondangwa and then they told me that they started with a fish shop and first it was transported from the factory in Walvis Bay by road and it was very expensive, but since the train has started coming to Ondangwa, it is very cheap.

HON DR AMWEELO: Comrade Minister, thank you for the information. Comrade Speaker, let me now turn to the problem we are facing and I am also happy that our Deputy Prime Minister gave us a lot of information about the

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disaster we are facing. I would also like to give some information, based on how we will be able to prevent a major disaster in the Northern and North-Eastern Regions, of Caprivi, Kavango, Oshana, Ohangwena and Omusati.

Comrade Speaker, we have experienced major floods in the Northern Regions from the month January to February this year and also heard that the Emergency Unit officials recorded many deaths of animals and we also heard about infrastructure such as schools, buildings, offices, hospitals and road bridges being threatened by the floods. Now the question is, if these problems are not properly addressed so as to work out a disaster relief programme with a view to formulate a strategy to mitigate or control the disaster, the Region will continue to suffer from the disaster and catastrophe.

This could hamper the Regions' vision of progress, considering the adverse impact of the natural disaster on the economy and the environment. The other methods of prevention of the disaster are to rehabilitate and repair the infrastructure, such as roads, bridges and do construction and erection of drainage and supporting structure. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: On a Point of Order, may I ask Honourable Dr Amweelo a tiny question? Honourable Amweelo, my question is, do you not think that these natural disasters are a consequence of global warming and the industrial world is responsible for almost 90% of these gas emissions which cause these disasters and now that the Deputy Prime Minister also mentioned today that this is the biggest disaster in living memory, the floods in the North, do you not think that because these floods are occurring not frequently, but now perhaps it will be a regular phenomenon, but they do occur maybe sometimes after 30 years, sometimes after 20 years and because of that and maybe the people think, because when I was looking at those photos when the President went to visit the flood area, I could see that this is a natural course, it appears that it is a natural course of the river, which maybe after certain years nothing happened and people tend to think that this is a safe area or they are attracted to build their houses, maybe starting with a small place and then nothing has happened in the past 20 years, people think it is okay. (Interjection). It is not your problem, I am asking a SWAPO Colleague, what is your problem? There is no DTA here. You cannot come up with something.

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This has also happened in Mozambique. People tend to go and build in these natural floods. Do you not think that maybe in future we should also think of doing planning so that we avoid people from building in the direction of these natural courses? That will also alleviate the problem.

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. Comrade Nujoma is one hundred percent correct.

Comrade Speaker, I would like to talk about the **Contingency Plan for Disaster**. Although natural disasters are not a common phenomenon in Namibia, we need to seriously consider the Contingency Plan for Disaster and Calamities. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may I ask Honourable Dr Amweelo a question? Dr Amweelo, we have been following the courageous position taken by the Government to try and assist the situation in the North with funds, food and all things. Do you think that right now the Government effort is mainly concentrating on handouts and they are not looking at a long-term solution to the problem, as it has been the habit for the last couple of years?

HON DR AMWEELO: What I wanted to say, Comrade Speaker, the Emergency Management Unit of the Department of Natural Resources Management will be entrusted in drafting the Disaster Contingency Plan. I think that is very important, to have a Contingency Plan. The Department of Natural Resources and Management has decided to take an aggressive step with regard to disaster preparedness because of the common notion that the disaster and the natural calamities that have occurred are not only geological in nature, but also largely influenced by the state of the environment.

I come to your question now, Comrade Nujoma. Landslides, floods, droughts, forest fires and even deforestation are contributing factors to the natural disasters

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and the calamities and we feel that we do have the agents to manage the environment and the responsibility in helping the people prepare themselves for disaster and calamities that occur in the country.

With the objectives of preventing the loss of life, minimising human suffering, minimising property damage and the community losses and speed up recovery and the rehabilitation after the occurrences of the disaster and the calamities, the Region needs to introduce the Contingency Plan for Disaster and Calamities. I think that is my point.

This plan will aim to identifying the natural disaster, calamity hotspot in the Regions, locate their threats and the possible source of occurrences and recommend the medium and/or mitigating measures to minimise the destructive effects of these disasters and calamities.

This is one of the recommendations I would like to give Honourable Comrade Nujoma. I will continue tomorrow.

HON SPEAKER: On that note the House shall stand adjourned until tomorrow afternoon, 26 March 2008, at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2008.03.26 AT 14:30