

**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 G H Geingob (Mr)	<i>(Trade and Industry)</i>
Dr N Tjiriange (Mr)	<i>(Minister of Veterans Affairs)</i>
Dr A Kawana (Mr)	<i>(Presidential and Interim Attorney-General)</i>
Dr N Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Safety and Security)</i>
Rev W Konjore (Mr)	<i>(Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture)</i>
Mr J Mutorwa	<i>(Agriculture, Water and Forestry)</i>
Mr H Angula	<i>(Works, Transport and Communication)</i>
Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwah	<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>
Mr J Kaapanda	<i>(Information and Broadcasting)</i>
Ms P Iivula-Ithana	<i>(Justice)</i>
Mr I Ngatjizeko	<i>(Labour and Social Welfare)</i>
Mr A !Naruseb	<i>(Lands and Resettlement)</i>
Mr E Nghimtina	<i>(Mines and Energy)</i>
Mr J Ekandjo	<i>(Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development)</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>(Works, Transport &amp; Communication)</i>
Mr I Katali	<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>
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 B Esau	<i>(Mines &amp; Energy)</i>
Mr I Katali	<i>(Lands and Resettlement)</i>
Mr K Kazenambo	<i>(Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development)</i>
Ms T Mushelenga	<i>(Trade and Industry)</i>
Ms Muharukua	<i>(Gender Equality and Child Welfare)</i>

## **SECRETARY**

Mr N Goabab

## **DEPUTY SECRETARY**

Mr F S Harker

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

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

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

**DTA OF NAMIBIA**

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

**MONITOR ACTION GROUP**

Mr J Viljoen *(Chief Whip)*

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

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

**REPUBLICAN PARTY**

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

**SWAPO OF NAMIBIA**

Dr L Amathila (Ms) *(Deputy Prime Minister)*  
Dr M Amweelo (Mr)  
Mr N Angula *(Prime Minister)*  
Mr H Angula  
Dr S C Ankama (Mr)  
Ms L Basson  
Ms A Bayer  
Ms C Bohitile  
Mr H Booyis *(Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House  
Committee)*  
Ms H Christian  
Mr Dinyando *(Deputy Minister)*  
Mr J Ekandjo *(Minister)*  
Mr B Esau *(Deputy Minister)*  
Dr G H Geingob (Mr) *(Minister)*  
Dr T-B Gurirab (Mr) *(Speaker)*  
Ms P Haingura *(Deputy Minister)*  
Mr M Hausiku *(Minister)*

Mr P Iilonga	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms E Ipinge	
Ms P Iivula-Ithana	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr A Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr N Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr L Jooste	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr J Kaapanda	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr E Kaiyamo	
Dr R Kamwi (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms L Kasingo	
Mr I Katali	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms J Kavetuna	
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 N Nashandi	
Mr T Nambahu	
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 P Shifeta	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr V Simunja	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms D Sioka	<i>(Deputy Speaker)</i>
Dr N Tjiriange (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr T Tweya	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr R /Ui/o/oo	

**UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT (UDF)**

Mr J //Garoëb *(Party Leader)*

Mr M Goreseb

Ms G Tjombe *(Chief Whip)*

**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  
16 SEPTEMBER 2008  
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**NOMINATION OF NEW MEMBER**

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I welcome back our Chief Justice, His Lordship Peter Shivute, to the Chamber.

In terms of Article 48(2) of the Constitution, the SWAPO Party has nominated Mr Nicky Nashandi to fill the vacancy, which occurred in the Assembly as a result of the passing away of Honourable Gabes Shihepo.

I now call upon the Chief Justice to administer the oath or the affirmation to Honourable Nashandi. I at the same time call upon the Chief Whip of the SWAPO Party to escort him inside.

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**OATH/AFFIRMATION BY NEW MEMBER**

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**CHIEF JUSTICE SHIVUTE:** Administers the Oath to Mr Nicky Nashandi.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I now declare Honourable Nicky Nashandi a duly elected Member of the National Assembly, which means of the Parliament of the Republic of Namibia. Congratulations.

You can imagine how proud I am to welcome you here to continue to do what I have known you for, for all these years. Take your seat.

I once again thank our Chief Justice for always being on call for the business of the House. Thank you, Chief Justice. I ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the Chief Justice from the Chamber.

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16 September 2008

**ANNOUNCEMENTS  
HON SPEAKER**

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I have some announcements to make. With sadness I would like to announce the passing away of Mr Jannie Jooste, the father of Honourable Leon Jooste, Deputy Minister of Environment and Tourism on 1 September 2008.

On behalf of the National Assembly, I would like to express our deepest sympathy and condolences to Honourable Jooste and his family.

Today, Tuesday, 16 September 2008, marks the commencement of the Eighth Session of the Fourth Parliament of the Republic of Namibia. This Session will go in recess at the end of November as per our Parliamentary Calendar and will resume, God willing, in February 2009.

As it was resolved by this House previously, no Bills will be tabled after the 1<sup>st</sup> of November this year in order to allow enough time to dispose of all business timeously: Provided that the House may upon a Motion moved, resolve to extend this time limit in the event of matters of urgency. I do not foresee that, I will strictly interpret matters of urgency as and when they arise. A detailed calendar for the year 2009 will be distributed during this Session.

I have been informed that the SWAPO Party leadership has appointed Honourable Hans Booys as the Party Chief Whip with effect from 4 August 2008 to fill the position, which was left vacant after the appointment of Honourable Dr Hage Geingob as Minister in Cabinet.

I would like to inform the House that the United Nations General Assembly established the International Day of Democracy in November 2007 to celebrate democracy every year on 15 September. As you can very well realise, today is the 16<sup>th</sup>, but the reason being that we are starting the business of the House only today, a day after that designated date and therefore, there will be a workshop dedicated to this day on 18 September 2008 in Conference Room C. An invitation was extended to a number of public personalities to speak on different aspects of our democracy and democracy in general, and we expect some Honourable Members will also attend that.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS  
HON SPEAKER**

Honourable Members, dear Compatriots, Comrades and friends, good afternoon and welcome back. I am truly delighted to see you all. This year has so far been unusually hard on our Nation. We remember our fellow Members of Parliament, Comrades and friends, who have passed on. They left our Parliament poorer. We will sorely miss their talents and contributions, even as we count our blessings today and pray for good days ahead for the rest of the year and beyond.

It is also the case, this time a sad one that for the first time, in more than 18 years, an incumbent SADC President has been buried. Dr Levy Patrick Mwanawasa, President of the sister Republic of Zambia and then outgoing Chairman of SADC, died while on duty abroad for Africa and the Region. The late President has brought remarkable political stability, renewed confidence and economic recovery to Zambia. We trust that his successor will continue on this path of progress and do more for our dear Zambian sisters and brothers.

President Pohamba, accompanied by our First Lady, joined an impressive company of African leaders and other dignitaries at the memorial and the funeral services. I was also there, together with my wife, representing our Parliament, as guest of my counterpart, the Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Zambia. I took note of the fact that the memorial service, full of tributes, memories and rededication, was held at the Parliament grounds. This was intended to underscore Parliament's special place of honour in national affairs, not only the deaths of Heads of State.

Good news is that Zimbabwe has a deal. With that, the challenge is now economic recovery, reconciliation and rebuilding the embattled society. President Thabo Mbeki is a hero. We congratulate him for his tireless efforts, clear mind and impartiality. We look forward to re-engaging our fellow Members of Parliament from that Parliament.

We also celebrate successful parliamentary elections, something very close to our hearts, in the Republic of Angola.

These are Parliamentary elections to be followed by Presidential elections next year along with other SADC countries, including the Republic of Namibia. Let us therefore hope that the good news from Angola will characterise all remaining countries where elections are going to be held.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS  
RT HON N ANGULA**

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

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**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Can I join you in welcoming back all the Honourable Members. I trust your absence here has enabled you to add value to the Namibian GDP through farming and other economic activities, also to strengthen peace and democracy through peaceful mobilisation, and to keep Namibia's name high internationally through your globetrotting. Welcome back.

Mr Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Annual Report of the Public Service Commission of Namibia for the year April 2007 to end of March 2008.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Right Honourable Prime Minister table the Report? Any other Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Honourable Viljoen.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS**

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**QUESTION 70:**

**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, I have decided that from this day on I will only ask transparent and good-natured questions.

Therefore, I give Notice that on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Labour and Social Services the following questions:

Commercial farmers were on several occasions in the past accused of the following sins:

1. Not paying their workers minimum wages;

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON VILJOEN**

2. Inhuman behaviour and abusive language against employees;
3. Illegal dismissal of farm workers and dumping of these workers along the road.
4. Honourable Minister can you please inform this Honourable House if any progress has been made in this regard to eliminate this malpractice once and for all?
5. Is it possible to submit the names of these culprits in each of the aforementioned categories to this Honourable House to enable us to take this matter up with the guilty farmers?
6. Were these accusations verified and tested by an objective body or person?

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**QUESTION 71:**

**HON VILJOEN:** I further give Notice that on Thursday, 25 September 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Labour and Social Welfare the following questions:

According to the Affirmative Action Law (1998) preference should be given to designated groups.

1. Does it also include non-Namibian citizens?
2. How many non-Namibian citizens are part of the 80,000 Civil Servants?

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**QUESTION 72:**

**HON VILJOEN:** I give Notice that on Thursday, 25 September 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Lands, Resettlement and Rehabilitation the following question:

What are the procedures to familiarise and inform the public at large with the offering of farm units for allotment?

16 September 2008

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON VENAANI**

I so Move Honourable Speaker

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member table the Questions?  
Honourable Venaani.

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**QUESTION 73:**

**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Speaker, I join you and other Members to welcome the newest Member of the House, the veteran Nashandi. Welcome.

Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 25 September 2008, I shall ask the Minister of Presidential Affairs and Acting Attorney-General the following:

1. Is it true that the Office of the President owes over N\$23 million in unpaid debts to the City of Windhoek on the portion of the erven where the new State House is constructed?
  2. If answer to question 1 is in the affirmative, when does the Office of the President envisage to settle its outstanding debt, and if the figure is bloated, how much does the Office of the President owe the City of Windhoek on these erven?
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**QUESTION 74:**

**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Speaker, I further give Notice that on Thursday, 25 September 2008, I shall ask the Minister of Trade and Industry the following:

In an era where Nations' foreign relations heavily depend on economic diplomacy, which encompasses intra-trade between Nations, may the Minister answer the following questions?

1. Whether it is true or false that our United States Mission in Washington has up to date no trade attaché since the last one resigned in 2002?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON VENAANI**

2. If the answer to question one is in the affirmative, why has this important mission lacked the presence of a trade attaché? When does the Minister wish to appoint one?
3. Is it further true that our missions in Brazil and China currently have no trade attachés at those critical missions? How does the Minister envisage addressing these shortcomings?

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**QUESTION 75:**

**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 25 September 2008, I shall ask the Minister of Foreign Affairs the following:

1. What is the quota that Namibians are eligible to apply for employment at the United Nations during the current Financial Year?
2. How many Namibians have sat for examinations and interviews for different jobs at the United Nations during the last two Financial Years?
3. Why are these quotas not advertised in our local media to allow fair eligibility of our citizens to these opportunities?
4. May the Minister inform this august Assembly as to how many Namibians have been absorbed by the United Nations under the quota system?
5. May the Minister further inform this House as to how many Namibians are employed by the African Union and the SADC secretariats up to date?

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**QUESTION 76:**

**HON VENAANI:** I further give Notice that on Thursday, 25 September 2008, I shall ask the Minister of Foreign Affairs the following:

1. What is the total value of our national properties at all our missions that were purchased and may the Minister give a breakdown?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

2. How many missions are still renting or leasing their properties as of date?
3. Is it not an opportune time for our Nation to exploit the weak world economy to purchase buildings at our missions abroad now rather than later for investment purposes?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member table the Questions?  
Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase?

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**QUESTION 77:**

**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** Honourable Speaker, I join my Colleagues and the Honourable Speaker in welcoming my former Colleague to Parliament.

Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 25 September 2008, I shall ask the Minister of Education, Honourable Nangolo Mbumba, the following questions:

It was reported in the newspapers that 100 scholarships for studies in the Republic of South Africa were given by the said Government to the Ministry of Education but that none were taken up. The Ministry of Education, by way of an explanation, stated that no Namibians qualified.

1. Is this true?
2. Were the scholarships advertised, applications received and evaluated?
3. How many applications were received?
4. Is the Honourable Minister aware of the fact that many poor Namibians passed Grade 12 and are on the streets because they cannot afford fees for tertiary education?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON TJIHUIKO**

5. If the answer by the Ministry is correct, would this mean that Grade 12 students who pass in Namibia do not qualify for tertiary education in South Africa?
6. If this is the case, what does this say about our standard of education?
7. Would the Minister be prepared to provide the Human Resources, Social and Community Development Standing Committee with the relevant information in order that a thorough and transparent investigation can be conducted to ascertain the veracity of the said explanation?
8. Would the Ministry and the Honourable Minister be prepared to request successful Grade 12 learners to submit their results and that the hundred Namibians will be granted these scholarships, enabling them to commence their studies at the beginning of 2009?

I so Move Honourable Speaker

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member table the Questions?  
Honourable Tjihuiiko?

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**QUESTION 78:**

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, allow me to also congratulate and welcome Honourable Member Nashandi to this House and I wish to advise the Honourable Member that since he is sitting on this side of the House, I hope that he is going to be different from the rest of the SWAPO Party members.

Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister Mutorwa the following questions:

1. Would the Honourable Minister agree with the theory or school of thought that says the Kavango and the Caprivi Regions are the Regions with good rainfall and appropriate climatic conditions for agro as well as agricultural production in the whole of Namibia?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON TJIHUIKO**

2. Would the Honourable Minister agree with me that if the agricultural potential of the Kavango and the Caprivi Regions were exploited to the maximum, Namibia could have been able to feed its people, especially with the basic necessities?
3. As the Minister responsible, can you please explain to this august House and through this House to the Namibian Nation as to why after 18 years of Independence the potential of these two Regions that are so vitally needed has not yet been exploited to the maximum?
4. Is it perhaps lack of political will from the Ruling Party, SWAPO?

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**QUESTION 79:**

**HON TJIHUIKO:** I give Notice that on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2008 I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Finance the following questions:

1. On August 7, 2008, *The Namibian* newspaper published a report under the headline, “N\$38 million pension perk for some retired MPs”. Can the Minister confirm whether there is any truth in this story?
2. If it is true that Cabinet knew about this secretive huge expense as early as November 2007, why did they elect not to inform the public about this expense?
3. Can the Minister inform this august House as to under which Vote is the N\$38 million budgeted for?
4. Would the Minister confirm that the N\$38 million is the money budgeted for the salary adjustment of the sitting Members of Parliament, which was supposed to have been implemented by April 1, 2008, but which has not yet been implemented to date?
5. If the answer in Question 4 is in the negative, when would the legally approved Members of Parliament’s salary adjustments be implemented?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON T GURIRAB**

**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member table the Questions?  
Honourable Gurirab.

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**QUESTION 80:**

**HON T GURIRAB:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 25 September 2008, I shall ask the Minister of Works and Transport the following:

Given his statement that the recent strike by NATAU at TransNamib amounted to economic sabotage:

1. What was the cost of the strike to our economy in dollars and cents?
  2. How many man-hours were lost?
  3. Why did the Ministry look the other way when striking workers defied the law of our country and the unions were openly taunting the Government?
  4. Was the strike called in furtherance of SWAPO's political strife with the RDP, as alleged by NUNW's Evilastus "*Running Dog*" Kaaronda?
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**HON SPEAKER:** The person whose name you mentioned, Honourable Gurirab, might be your personal friend, but unless the Speaker is satisfied that this is not one of this person's legitimate names, I would ask the Honourable Member to withdraw the name. I heard something like a "dog".

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**HON GURIRAB:** I withdraw.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any further Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions?

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**NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

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16 September 2008

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS  
HON TJIHUIKO**

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that next Tuesday, 23 September 2008, I shall Move that:

This Assembly discusses the current prevailing poverty, hunger and diseases prevalent in our country.

The recently launched Millennium Development Goal Report, 2008, stated that poor people have increased and 1.8 billion people are living under extreme conditions. Through the endorsed Millennium Declaration of September 2000, eight millenium development goals were adopted as a roadmap to build a safer and more prosperous world. I would, therefore wish to request the relevant Ministries and departments to update this august House on the implementation of those goals as a tool to address poverty in Namibia. I so Move.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member table the Motion? Minister Konjore.

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Comrade Speaker, I give Notice that on Tuesday, 23 September 2008, I shall Move –

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of the National Youth Council and the Youth Development Fund; to provide for the management and administration of the Council and the Fund; further to provide for the establishment of youth forums; to provide for the registration of youth organisations and associations as affiliates to the Council; and to provide for incidental matters.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Minister table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? That brings us to the end of the business scheduled for today. I invite the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House.

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16 September 2008

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Before I Move the adjournment, I would like to congratulate Honourable Hoffmann with her birthday today. On that note, I Move that we adjourn now and return to this House on Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2008.

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**THE HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:30 UNTIL 2008.09.23 AT 14:30**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER  
23 SEPTEMBER 2008  
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

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**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
NAMIBIA AGRONOMIC BOARD**

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Comrade Deputy Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Annual Report of the Namibia Agronomic Board No. 20 for the period, 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Table the Report Honourable Member. I recognise Honourable Minister Nghimtina.

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**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT OF  
MINISTRY OF MINES AND ENERGY**

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**HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Annual Report 2007-2008 of the Ministry of Mines and Energy.

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23 September 2008

**TABLING OF REPORTS  
HON H ANGULA**

**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Table the Report. I recognise Honourable Minister Helmut Angula.

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**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORTS: NAMIBIA AIRPORTS  
COMPANY AND NAMIBIA PORT AUTHORITY**

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Annual Report of Namibia Airport Company for the year 2005/2006.

I further, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I lay upon the Table the Annual Report of Namibia Port Authority for the year 2007.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Table the Annual Reports. Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Honourable Moongo.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS**

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**QUESTION 81:**

**HON MOONGO:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry the following:

1. Is the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry ready to assist and subsidise the individual communal farmers with ploughing? If the answer is yes, why is the payment always delayed for more than nine months? It hampers the owners of the tractors to buy the costly diesel and do repairs.
2. Will the Minister take up these problems?

23 September 2008

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON P MUSHELENGA / HON TJIHUIKO**

3. Is the Minister aware that a burnt engine ploughing from China and Japan was good assistance to the poor communal farmers? When will the Ministry order it at a reasonable price before the rainy season begins?

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member please table the Questions? I recognise Honourable Mushelenga.

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**HON P MUSHELENGA:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, in terms of Rule 82, I would like to pose an Oral Question to the Minister of Finance, the Shareholder Minister of Air Namibia.

Last night it was reported that a passenger with disability was left behind during a domestic flight from Eros to Ondangwa because Air Namibia stated that they could not guarantee his safety in terms of air accidents. My question is:

Is this an old or new policy on the part of our National Carrier? Is this rule applicable to domestic flights only or is it also applicable to international flights? Knowing that our National Carrier also carries senior citizens, if they cannot guarantee the safety of people with disability, how will they guarantee the safety of our senior citizens?

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Rule 82(a) stipulates that after answers to questions on Notice, the Speaker shall allow time for oral questions. Therefore, you should hold this question until Thursday. The Minister cannot be allowed to respond to that question today. I recognise Honourable Tjihuiko.

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**QUESTION 82:**

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on 2 October 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry, Dr Hage Geingob, the following questions:

23 September 2008

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS/MOTIONS  
HON KAURA**

1. Is it true what was reported in the media about the selling of land to foreigners, namely Chinese and Indians, for the purpose of development in the towns of Oshakati, Ondangwa and Oshikango?
2. How many foreign investors bought land in Oshakati, Ondangwa and Oshikango?
3. Can the Minister give a breakdown of sectors of investment in which these people invested and the amount of money invested in the above-mentioned areas?
4. Through this Government effort to bring about desired development to the Region, how many indigenous Namibians lost land in this process?
5. What does the Government do with the people who have been forced to sell their homes and mahangu fields in the name of modern development?
6. What is the lowest and the highest prices Government or investors paid to the affected people so far?
7. After having paid whatever amount you paid, what happened to uprooted, landless, poor communities? Have they been resettled in the Government acquired resettlement farms? If not, what happened to them?

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Table the Questions, Honourable Member. Further Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Honourable Kaura.

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

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**HON KAURA:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2008, I shall Move –

That this Assembly deliberates the fate of 154 Namibians that went into exile on the instruction of Chief Hosea Kutako to get military training and to come back home to liberate Namibia. The deliberation must be aimed at incorporating them with the PLAN fighters/war veterans that are getting N\$2,000 per month and I

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS  
HON MOONGO / HON KAVETUNA**

provide the list as it was taken by the Botswana Protectorate on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April 1964.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Table the Motion. I recognise Honourable Moongo.

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**HON MOONGO:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2008, I shall Move –

That this Assembly discusses, amends or temporarily suspends the current registration of war veterans which discriminates and which does not accommodate all who have participated or were injured during the liberation struggle. This Act disturbs the true national unity and the true national reconciliation. The Constitution states that all people are equal before the law and that no person shall be discriminated against.

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**HON KAVETUNA:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2008, I shall Move –

That this Assembly discusses a Motion on the economic empowerment of the Namibian people.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Table the Motion, Honourable Member. Ministerial Statements? Honourable Minister Angula.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: CIVIL AVIATION**

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, I rise this afternoon to make a statement on the issues related to civil aviation in our country.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON H ANGULA**

I am very much worried, because of the number aircraft accidents that have been reported in the immediate past and I am sure you are equally concerned as Members of this Honourable House.

Namibia is one of the few States on the African continent that subjected itself to a voluntary audit by the International Civil Aviation Organisation from the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March to the 29<sup>th</sup> of April 1996. The audit findings revealed, amongst others, serious system deficiency within the civil aviation administration that inhibit the State to comply with international standards and recommended practice.

The lack of comprehensive and effective aviation primary and secondary legislations, consistent with environment and complexity of civil aviation-related activities since Independence is compromising Namibia's membership to the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

This has a serious impact not only on our Government, but to the whole civil aviation industry and compromises our ability to ensure compliance, particularly in technical areas, such as licensing and training, servicing of aircraft, aircraft operation certification and supervision, primary civil aviation legislation and operating regulations, prevention of aircraft accidents and instant investigation.

Honourable Members, these areas, according to the International Civil Aviation Organisation, are crucial indicators of any country's ability to ensure the safety and the regularity of aircraft operations worldwide. Namibia's assessment in 2006 and again recently by two experts from the ICAO SADC Initiative on the Cooperative Development of Continuing Safety and Airworthiness showed significant and major non-compliance in some areas considered crucial for a State's effective oversight responsibility under the Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation.

It is clear that after the assessment from the International Civil Aviation Organisation's Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme was completed, very little progress has been achieved, partly because of the Ministry's inability to attract and retain competent and qualified incumbents, which need to effectively regulate civil aviation operations in Namibia.

This resulted in Namibia being categorised as a Part 3 country, based on the recommendation from the ICAO Audit Results Review Board. This can cause our country to be blacklisted unless we demonstrate political commitment. Namibia

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON H ANGULA**

is currently ranked with 22 other countries, which are well-known for their poor safety records in the world.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the integrity of our National airspace would therefore remain questionable as long as the critical elements are not addressed. In this connection, the Ministry is working hard to expedite the tabling of the proposed Bill on the Namibia Civil Aviation Authority. For this, we shall need the support of all stakeholders, including Parliament, as a long-term solution.

For the short and medium-term solutions the following are being addressed:

We have invited and contracted an expert from the International Civil Aviation Organisation to come and thoroughly assess aircraft operations of all certified air operators, licensed personnel and shortcomings within our physical infrastructure. The expert will assess the quality of pilot training schools, competencies of instructors, aircraft maintenance organisation, licensed aircraft maintenance, engineers as well as designated and medical examiners.

The International Civil Aviation Organisation team of experts will also assess licence holders' compliance to their original licensing conditions, privilege, limitations and if found non-compliant, such licences would be suspended in terms of the provisions of the Namibia Civil Aviation Regulations and Technical Standards.

I believe that an independent assessment by the International Civil Aviation Organisation's experts in flight and airworthiness, personnel, licensing and aviation security will boost our in-house capacity to objectively assess the compliance of all licensed personnel and certify all operators with their original licensing conditions. These activities are planned to start by the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2008 should all negotiations with ICAO go well.

Furthermore, Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Ministry of Works and Transport has already approached the Public Service Commission to approve the appointment of key aviation staff, given the plans underway to establish the Namibian Civil Aviation Authority at market-related salary scales.

In the same vein, the Public Service Commission supported the idea that market-related salaries be offered as a transitional method to attract the skills and competencies currently needed within the Directorate of Civil Aviation.

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**QUESTION ON MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON VENAANI**

It has been demonstration since the evolution of air transport that the highest safety standard is to have a safety culture. Safety needs to be our way of thinking, a mindset imbedded in every decision we take in our life. We have witnessed a number of aircraft disasters with evidence in most instances that most of the aircraft accidents occurred as a result of unfortunate safety culture, with overwhelming consequences not only to the loss of precious human life, but also destroying public and private properties.

I, therefore urge all stakeholders in the aviation industry to critically look at their operational procedures and adopt a safety culture in order to rescue our country from the bad picture that we currently find ourselves.

To the Namibian Nation, tourists, businesspersons and international community, I am appealing to you to remain calm while we are sorting out the deficiencies referred to with experts from the International Civil Aviation Organisation and the relevant stakeholders.

We remain committed to solve the problem before the start of the African Cup of Nations in Angola and the Soccer World Cup in South Africa.

In conclusion, I would like to commend men and women from the City of Windhoek, Namibian Police, Namibian Airports Company and other investigation officers for their timely response to most of the aircraft accidents and incidents that have occurred in the recent past. I thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. I will allow one question only due to the powers invested in me.

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, in the little power invested in me as a legislator, I want to ask a few questions.

First, I want to congratulate the Minister for being proactive in trying to rescue our country from what he has elucidated, but I want to ask two questions:

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**RESPONSE MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON H ANGULA**

You are saying you need to have some experts that need to come and check our airspace and aeroplanes and so forth. What is the cost of this exercise? From the 1<sup>st</sup> of October you will be bringing in experts, what is the cost of that exercise in total?

I do not know whether I heard the Honourable Minister correctly, but did you say that Namibia is included in the 22 worst countries in terms of civil aviation safety or did I misunderstand you? What has led to us being part of these 22 countries? Is it because of the last few accidents we had in the country or the many accidents that we had or since when are we part of these 22 worst countries?

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** The reason in the majority is human error and not necessarily machinery. This is compounded by the fact that there has been an increase in tourists visiting our country and the demand for dedicated to specific areas where the tourists want to reach quickly. As a result, there has been an increase in the business of individual or private flight departures from airports to specific destinations, be it lodges or National Parks. This increase in business activities because of the demand probably led to the operators being less attentive to the standard needed to operate and manage these flights.

I have also said that on the part of Government we have suffered considerably as a result of the exodus of people from the industry, because of the lucrative offers from neighbouring countries, as there has been indeed an increase in the demand for experts in the area of civil aviation, be it air controllers or experienced pilots. Therefore, because of the limited capacity of the Namibian economy, we are not attracting experienced licence holders in the form of pilots.

The oversight issue is also a contributing factor because we are very thin on the ground to enable us to check and verify compliance by the operators in terms of their own infrastructure and equipment that they use. However, these are general observations by the ministerial taskforce and they need to be verified by competent persons in civil aviation.

Thus the request on our part for ICAO to send us experts for a limited period of time to help us change the situation around.

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**RESPONSE MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON H ANGULA**

Regarding the second question about the listing: Of course there are many countries worldwide which do not subject themselves to International Civil Aviation Audit. As we want to compete with other countries, we voluntarily subjected ourselves to the inspection and audit and as I said, we were found in deficit. We are among those 22 countries having voluntarily subjected ourselves to audit, but we have been found to be not competent enough. Of course, we have tried to rectify the situation as per recommendation by ICAO and we hope that this situation will be addressed in the shortest possible time so that we take off this veil of being listed as a dangerous country to fly in.

Equipment, of course, are most important. As you know, we do not only need personnel, but we also need equipment and we are preparing to acquire the equipment that relates to the surveillance of our airspace and to control the airspace in such a way that we can manage the flights over our national airspace as well as our airports, aerodromes and airfields. That equipment is not cheap, not only in financial terms to acquire them, but at the same time in terms of management. I have already described the situation that there has been a flight by the few people we had here to neighbouring countries. We need to improve the conditions of service and we need to make the Aviation Authority an independent authority that can act faster with less bureaucracy. I hope I have answered the Honourable Member's question.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, Honourable Minister, for your answers. I would like to announce that the Motion by Honourable Moongo, according to Rule 108(a), is Out of Order and cannot be placed on the Order Paper because there is already an Act. Thank you. Message from the Head of State? The First Notice of Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture. Does the Honourable Minister Move that the Bill be now introduced?

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**NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL BILL:  
INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING**

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**NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL BILL  
HON REV KONJORE**

**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** I so Move, Comrade Deputy Speaker.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Who seconds the Motion? Any objection? Agreed to. Will the Honourable Minister please table the Bill? The Secretary will now read the Bill a First Time.

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**SECRETARY:** *National Youth Council Bill.*

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**HON SPEAKER:** Does the Honourable Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture Move that the Bill be now read a Second Time?

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**NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL BILL:  
SECOND READING**

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** I do, Comrade Deputy Speaker.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Speaker. Comrade Deputy Speaker, Members of Parliament, it is with great pleasure that I stand here in front of this august House to table this very important document.

This is aimed at empowering our young people to be part of the decision-making process that affects them. Let me start by giving a brief introduction about the National Youth Council.

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**NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL BILL  
HON REV KONJORE**

The principal aim behind the establishment of the National Youth Council was, and remains, the Government's acknowledgement and commitment to create an agency outside the Government structures to be the voice of and for the youth of Namibia. The National Youth Council was established in 1994 in the aftermath of the Cabinet decision to approve the National Youth Policy submitted by the first Ministry of Youth and Sport in 1993. Thus, the adoption of the National Youth Policy gave birth to the establishment of the National Youth Council.

The tabling of the National Youth Council Bill of 2008 represents a great moment of triumph, hope and achievement for the youth of Namibia who have participated fully in the process of drafting the Bill since its commencement in 2005.

Since its inception, the Council has been a platform and avenue through which young people have expressed their desires, hopes and aspirations to the Government of the Republic of Namibia. This Act is an instrument that will only strengthen and enhance the Council's ability to coordinate youth development programmes, to monitor and evaluate youth development initiatives and to enhance research and the state of young people in our country.

The proposed Bill, once enacted, will not only create a National Youth Development Agency, but will also contribute towards a professionalised youth development sector.

The National Youth Council will be expected to build the capacity of youth organisations, to run efficient administrations and account properly for funding that they will receive from the State. This kind of responsibility requires a total mind-shift on the part of our young people and their organisations.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the enactment of the Bill will not mean that the Council becomes the only platform for youth development, but it will simply represent one stage through which young people, through a youth-driven process, will have a say in the National development.

The proposed Bill is yet another demonstration of Government's commitment towards the comprehensive development of the Namibian youth through self-development and state-led initiatives. Similar institutions or agencies were established in the same way as the Namibia Sports Act, 2003, whilst the Namibia Arts Fund Act of 2005 and the National Youth Service Act of 2005 established

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HON REV KONJORE**

the Art Fund and the National Youth Service, respectively, established the Namibian Sports Commission.

Furthermore, the eventual enactment of the Bill will make Namibia to become one of the few African countries that have not only ratified the African Youth Charter, but that has also begun to meet some of its basic provisions, especially with regard to Article 11(b), (f) and (g) of the said Charter. The enactment of the Bill will also conform to the United Nations World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, enhancing youth participation and decision-making. In addition, the enactment of the Bill will further strengthen Namibia's resolve to contribute towards the attainment of a new partnership for Africa's Development Strategic Framework for Youth Development.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the National Youth Council is, in terms of Article 2 of its Constitution, an autonomous umbrella body to which Namibian Youth Organisations may affiliate on voluntary basis. It also strives for the betterment of the socio-economic, cultural and political situation amongst the youth.

I am happy to report that the Bill successfully passed through the necessary stages until it reached us here in Parliament for this august House to deliberate on it. Under the proposed Bill, the National Youth Council will have the following powers and functions:

To foster amongst the Namibian youth a spirit of National identity, a sense of patriotism, unity, self-respect, an in-depth awareness of socio-economic, political, educational and cultural prospects and diversities.

Secondly, to develop the inherent abilities and capabilities of young people both individually and collectively.

Thirdly, it is to encourage literacy and artistic activities amongst the youth.

Fourthly, to establish and maintain relations with international youth bodies and national youth structures in other countries.

Fifthly, to mobilise funds both locally and internationally for the cause of youth development.

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Sixthly, to popularise and advocate the concept of gender equality amongst the youth.

Seventhly, to initiate youth development programmes and activities with the aim of encouraging the active participation of the youth in the progress of their own empowerment.

Eighthly, to facilitate, implement, monitor and evaluate youth development programmes.

Ninthly, it is to pursue an advocacy role with regard to the rights and opportunities for the youth with disabilities and lastly, to liaise and advise the Ministry responsible for youth on youth matters.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, when one compares the functions and powers provided through the proposed Bill with the objectives of the Council as stipulated in the Constitution of the Council, it is obvious that they are similar, because the Ministry intentionally ensured that the Council retains its powers under the proposed Bill similar to that of its Constitution.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, with this rather broad motivational background I am now looking forward for the support of all the Members of this august House and the speedy passage of this long-awaited and very important piece of legislation. I thank you for your kind attention and support.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, Honourable Minister. Any further discussion? I recognise Honourable Venaani.

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, there is a saying that says, “*better late than never.*” I speak as a founder member of the National Youth Council of this country. I want to thank the Minister, I know the former Minister of Youth and Sport, my good friend Honourable Mutorwa, and the current Minister who has laid this foundation did a lot of work and I want to commend them for that.

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However, Honourable Deputy Speaker, one can belabour the technicality of the Bill at a later stage, but what is important is that this institution was created back to give the young people of this country a voice. It was created to give the young people of this country hope and to aspire for better things to come and I think it is up to the young people of this country to judge ourselves, whether we are really pushing ahead with our aspirations to achieve or not. It is commendable to see those young people who have achieved something in life, but it is also a disturbing phenomenon in our country when youth leaders, whether at church level, political level, traditional level and so forth, debate issues in this country.

We should not lose focus that even if you have all the rights that are enshrined in the Constitution, it must be a responsible Debate. If the young people of this country want to be respected, they must respect other people. If we do not respect others, people will not respect the youth leaders in this country and it is important for us to reassess the very way that we debate in this country and it is central to the youth leadership in this country.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Venaani, you are talking about respect. Do you have something in mind that you are referring to or is it just respect for the sake of respect? Secondly, is it perhaps that you are referring to what we have seen where some of the youth leaders are becoming allergic to the surname Angula?

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**HON VENAANI:** It is not my intention to dwell on political matters and Honourable Tjihuiko, let me not answer that question and deliberately so, because if I start pointing fingers at one side, the fingers will also be pointed to the other side. Nevertheless, what is important is that as young leaders we must have respect for others if others are to respect us. That is important and that is central.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I must congratulate the successive Secretaries General of the Youth Council, starting with Fanuel Kaapama, Pohamba Shifeta, Juliet Kavetuna and the current one, Mandela Kapere for having shown leadership in difficult times to make this institution a very respected institution and it an internationally well-respected institution, especially in the Scandinavian

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HON VENAANI**

countries. In Africa we have built one of the most respected Youth Councils in the Region and I think their work must be commended as we are passing this Bill.

However, one of the main concerns that have been raised by the Youth Council through its successive General Assemblies and Executive Committees is the question of budgeting. I must be very bold and candid to state that it does not help to create institutions if we do not have the necessary tools to aid them to achieve those noble aims and objectives. I am on record for raising the question of the Budget of the National Youth Council. At least we as Legislators here that are entrusted with the job of overseeing the Budget of this country need to give more resources to this eminent body so that it can be able to function and to have more programmes and more so programmes on the economic front.

Many young people in this country are the ones who have SMEs in this country because of poverty. Young people run all these new upcoming welders and cuca shops and if we want to give the young people aspirations, the issue of the economic empowerment youth remains central to the achievement of those goals. I think the National Youth Council can play a role in raising the awareness and the potential of young people that even the richest people on earth have persevered through industries. If you look at the history of Tata in India, the man who manufactured Tata is now currently manufacturing the cheapest car on earth, and this person has also persevered as a young person to achieve something. This body can play a role in realising the dreams of young people.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the other aspect, which I think the National Youth Council has not really succeeded in addressing is the question of education. We have not really run enough programmes to make sure that many of our young people are encouraged to go to school and every January we will drill the Minister of Education, asking why are we failing in our education. However, our young leaders are not doing enough to make sure that we tell our colleagues, the students and learners of this country that they are not doing enough with their studies. Go to Katutura now, people are in front of shops, playing with a tennis ball or a soccer game. We are giving too much attention to sports and not so much attention to the academic side.

I think the National Youth Council should also play a cardinal role in addressing the seriousness of education in this country. We can argue our hearts out on the question of the Grade 10s that are failing every year, but why are the Grade 10s failing? Partly it is because the education system is a problem, but also partly

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because many students are not serious and if we do not address this question, many young Namibians will not achieve those noble dreams that they might have in their own hearts.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, with these few remarks I want to wholeheartedly support the Bill. I will look at the detail of the Clauses later, but I want to thank the Minister for having done so and I want to urge our young people to stand up and to seize this opportunity and this support so that they can make a change to our country, to our economy and to our people. With these few remarks, I thank you very much.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Honourable Mushelenga.

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**HON P MUSHELENGA:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I Move that the Debate be adjourned until tomorrow.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Debate stands adjourned until tomorrow. The second Notice of Motion is the one of Honourable Tjihuiko. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion? Who seconds the Motion? Any objection. Agreed to. Honourable Tjihuiko, you have the Floor.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, due to some unforeseeable circumstances beyond my control, I wish to request your indulgence to motivate tomorrow.

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**HON SPEAKER:** The Motion stands adjourned until tomorrow. I now call upon the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House until tomorrow, 14:30.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would like to Move that the House adjourns now until tomorrow 14:30.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40 UNTIL 2008.09.24 AT 14:30**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER  
24 SEPTEMBER 2008  
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

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**TABLING: REPORTS OF AUDITOR-GENERAL**

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

1. Village Council of Kalkrand for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2006;
  2. Town Council of Eenhana for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2006;
  3. Regional Council for the Otjozondjupa Region for the Financial Years ended 31 March 2000 and 2001;
  4. Regional Council for the Otjozondjupa Region for the Financial Years ended 31 March 2002 and 2003; and
  5. Regional Council for the Otjozondjupa Region for the Financial Years ended 31 March 2004 and 2005.
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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Table the Reports, Honourable Minister. Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Honourable Moongo.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS**

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**QUESTION 83:**

**HON MOONGO:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2008, I shall ask the Minister of Veterans Affairs the following:

Can the Minister inform this House what provision of assistance there is for the Namibians who were inside and outside Namibia but who do not receive a regular income adequate for the maintenance of a decent standard of living and who do not qualify as war veterans, but were equally affected by the war of Independence, such as victims of bomb blasts, those who have lost their properties and those dependents whose parents were killed in cross-fire?

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**QUESTION 84:**

**HON MOONGO:** I further give Notice that on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2008, I shall ask the Minister of Veterans Affairs the following:

1. Can the Minister agree that in order to qualify as a war veteran, you need to be a SWAPO member? If the answer is no, what is the good reason that all SWAPO detainees could not be registered in order to qualify for benefits?
2. It is a fact that in the spirit of reconciliation the two warring parties, SWATF and PLAN-fighters shared the R36 million provided by South Africa. What prompted the Namibian Government to discriminate this time against the SWATF members not to benefit from the War Veterans Fund while the PLAN-fighters benefited from the money paid by South Africa to its fighters?
3. Is the Minister aware that Mrs Sara Ashimona, a victim of the Oshakati bomb blast and others were refused to be registered as war veterans by

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**NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL BILL  
HON P MUSHELENGA**

registration officers? The abovementioned victim needs artificial limbs which cost N\$61,000.

Can the Minister look into this matter in order to ensure that some war veterans are not discriminated against?

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Table the Questions, Honourable Member. Further Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Ministerial Statements? Message from the Head of State. The Secretary will read the First Order of the day.

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**RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING:  
NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL BILL**

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** When this Debate was adjourned yesterday, 23 September 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable Mushelenga adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

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**HON P MUSHELENGA:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. I stand to make my contribution to the National Youth Council Bill, which was tabled in this august House yesterday by a venerated elder, Cabinet Minister and servant of the Lord, Honourable Reverend Willem Konjore. I will be brief today, as I have already made extensive contributions to the Bill when I was approached to make inputs last year.

This day reminds me of a day in 1992 when Honourable Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana, then Minister of Youth and Sport, informed us at the SWAPO Party Youth League Congress held at Augustineum Senior Secondary School that she was contemplating to establish the National Youth Council to serve as the umbrella body of youth organisations and carry out youth development programmes. The Congress expressed full support to the idea that was still in making by then.

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HON P MUSHELENGA**

Having been part of this plan since the formative years, I am glad that I have lived to see the tabling of this Bill.

I seize this opportunity to pay tribute to all Ministers who had played a role in the development of the National Youth Council since its inception in 1994 and all Secretaries General who served the Council.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the powers and functions of the Council place an important task and responsibility upon the institution to nurture our youth into meaningful adults one day. Uniting the Namibian youth under the umbrella of the National Youth Council, to give them a Namibian identity, is what they need as they stand at the crossroads of social and political diversity and thunderous challenges of socio-economic nature. The Founding Father of the Namibian Nation, His Excellency Dr Sam Nujoma lives to state that: *“A people united, striving for a common good for all members of our society will always emerge victorious.”* The National Youth Council will be an institution that will solidify the young people’s cause to accomplishment, progress and humanity.

The promotion of culture among the Namibian youth is necessary to mould our youth into persons who value the richness of their cultural background on which they will build a strong foundation of a promising and reassuring future. The promotion of cultural values and norms will help the youth uphold etiquettes that espouse distinction and composure. Issues of respect and patriotism, underscored in Section 3 of the Bill, are cardinal elements in youth upbringing. The youth should follow a path leading to a restful shade and sensibleness and human civility.

Children are initiated into cultural aspects at home during childhood, and through interactions with peers at school. As interactions become too many and too heavy to bear, some get lost in the jungles of cultural confusion and modernisation overdose. Consequently, the undesirable follows and that is that many youth start losing their cultural heritage. It is thus essential, to task the National Youth Council to promote culture through supporting and developing the artistic talents of our youth to spread the message of cultural consciousness.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, governing is about being considerate. I commend the Minister for the consideration given to people with disability and the marginalised communities who are guaranteed representation in the Board of the Council. It is my belief that other Ministers will emulate this example when they

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would table before this Assembly Bills establishing institutions that serve a large scope of the Namibian population.

We should endeavour to accommodate everybody, so that nobody will feel left out in nation building and development endeavours.

One of the important elements of human survival is economic stability and prosperity. The Bill has given power to the National Youth Council to initiate youth development projects that ensure their empowerment. The National Youth Council should work closely with other institutions, like the National Youth Service, towards attaining this goal.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry is challenged to generously extend a hand to the Namibian youth to ensure that they benefit remarkably from programmes like the small credit guarantee schemes. The youth should become visible in the Small and Medium Enterprises sector. Major stakeholders in the Namibian economy, like the Namibian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, should take the National Youth Council as an important partner to address the economic needs of the youth. In fact, the promotion of youth business ventures requires support from all of us. I would not venture into asking how many members of this august House have taken a keen interest in youth expos, to appreciate the young people's business initiatives and undertakings and given them moral support. Let us judge ourselves.

I want to address issues related to the funding of the Council. The youth are the backbone of the Namibian society and, therefore, of the country's economic as well. I concur with the sentiments expressed by Honourable Venaani yesterday that adequate funding should be provided to the Council. This is to ensure that programmes of the Council are carried out to the benefit of all our youth. The Council should be adequately staffed to effectively carry out the functions of an institution serving the population of the Namibian youth, with a variety of needs and interests.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the issue of who is a youth and who is not remains a cause of disagreement. I said in this august House in 2005 during the Budget Debate, that Government should reconsider its position on the age of the youth. Rather than keeping it at 16 to 20, it should be changed from 16 to 35. Many youth organisations in Namibia subscribe to this proposition. I was informed by them that the National Youth Policy defines the youth as persons between 16 and

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35 years. Is that policy so rigid that it cannot be changed to conform to the general will?

On 12 March 2008, this august House ratified the African Youth Charter, the African Union's blueprint on young people. This Charter defines the youth as people between 16 to 35 years. Here we have a Bill suggesting the different age, 16 to 30. At the same time, Section 14 of the Bill states that the Board of the National Youth Council, shall comprise of persons between 16 and 35 years. Why are there contradictions in the same Bill on this issue? It does not augur well for us to present ourselves differently before the African Union, ratifying their charter, but here we pass different laws. It will be tantamount to gambling for convenience with multilateral diplomacy.

I also want to address the issue of acting capacity in respect of the position of Executive Chairperson of the Council. Section 30 of the Bill states that when a vacancy occurs for the position of the Executive Chairperson of the Council, such a vacancy should be filled in terms of the provisions under Section 27, that is by the General Assembly. However, the General Assembly only meets after every four years and there is no provision for convening an extraordinary General Assembly in the Bill. Even if this was the case, then one has successive resignations of the Executive Chairpersons within a short span of time, one cannot afford to convene extraordinary General Assemblies so often as this exercise is costly. Accordingly, I would like to suggest that the Representative Council should fill the vacancy of the Executive Chairperson in an acting capacity if the unexpired portion of office is less than one year. Further, I suggest that provision should be made for an Extraordinary General, Assembly... (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** May I ask a question? Honourable Mushelenga, you are contesting the age issue of the youth. I just wanted to ask you, what is the spirit behind this? Is it the physical strength of the person? I am now 55 years old and I consider myself a youth. In Socialist countries such as Cuba, one is a youth as long as you are spiritually and physically fit. Only when they reach the age of 60 they qualify. What is the rationale? In addition, I agree with you, we must be consistent. If we ratify something, we must live up to that spirit. The aim of ratification of these treaties

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is to bring the local laws into line with the treaties. Those are my two comments and also to tell you that I am back.

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**HON P MUSHELENGA:** On the question by Honourable Uutoni Nujoma, by soul a member of SWAPO Party Youth League, but legally a Member of SWAPO Party Elders Council, my argument is because we have ratified a Charter which says 16 to 35. Now we come here and say 16 to 30. Many of the organisation's currently members of the National Youth Council have a definition of youth as between 16 and 35. That is the consistency that I am requesting us to follow.

Moving to the conclusion, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I further suggest that provision should be made for an Extraordinary General Assembly, which can perform some of the powers of an Ordinary Assembly. With these few words, I support the Bill.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. I now recognise Chief Riruako.

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**HON RIRUAKO:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, it is indeed my humble pleasure to be granted this time to reflect on the establishment of the National Youth Council and the Youth Development Fund.

The development of any Nation and prosperity of its population depend on the fundamental manner in which it will be carried to and by its youth. The teenagers and the young people constitute a great share of the Namibian population and their demographic importance and effect on development should not be undervalued. Kofi Annan once said: *“Young people have the energy, ideas and optimism to make a difference. They are a force for positive change, not a force for positive destruction. Yet millions of young people face lives of poverty, exploitation and despair. If we are serious about reaching the millennium development goals by 2015, we must involve young people today.”*

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the creation of the National Youth Council must be seen as in line with our Nation's agenda. We have agendas to be followed and to

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be respected. The youth have to bear this in mind. If you look closer at the National Youth Council, we from this august House can learn one or two things. Since 1994, the National Youth Council has decentralised its activities from the onset. This has allowed the youth at grassroots level to own their development via the Youth Council.

This is correct to be understood as such, but bear in mind, do not forget who you are and how old you are. This is in terms of the Regional Youth Forum and Constituency Youth Forums. Now they have teeth by mere fact of this Act, but not to demolish what happened to be constructed year after year, but for you to recognise the facts of life and to follow whatever what is meant to be reached and for you to be honoured for what you happened to create and what it stands for.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I believe empowering young people means creating and supporting their own initiative, not to be barred and be shouted down not to develop and to become themselves. At the same time, there must be a balance to everything and on their own terms, rather than at the direction of others. Therefore, by empowering the National Youth Council, the latter will be the business of the day, joined by the youth and elders to become one forum of understanding. If you oppress a human being to the point where he cannot move, he can be one of the old things I cannot mention now in this House, be a confused person, but we do not want them to be confused and at the same time I do not want them to confuse this House.

Therefore, by empowering the National Youth Council, they are supposed to accept what is fair and correct for them to develop. The enabling conditions under which the young people can act must be able to help the National Youth Council and become a burden to them when it comes to release their funds for them to empower the youth at grassroots level. It has to be equal to everybody and he or she must get what we have at hand and put into practice.

In the World Development Report of 2007, which was dedicated to the youth, one of the youth was asked and said the following: *“When it comes to youth making a difference in communities, changing the community outlook, I think the value of youth has been underestimated everywhere.”* We do not trust them, we do not depend on them, we think that they will go in a wrong direction and hence we tell them how to do and when to act. *“Youth are excellent in delivering grassroots level development projects at minimal Budget and very effectively. Due to the*

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*fact that they are involved at grassroots level, they can easily implement a project without the bureaucracy of an organisation, often at a lower cost base too.”*

Honourable Deputy Speaker, as much as I want this Bill to be enacted, I want to raise some questions, which are as follows:

Part 1: The definition of “*youth*” means a young person aged 16 to 30. My dear brother and my dear nephew, Honourable Nujoma, that is the criterion. However, we propose that it should state that the age of youth should be 16 to 35 as per the African Youth Charter that we in this august House just passed recently. That is the norm.

Part 2, Section 9(e): I want to know when the audited financial report shall be tabled at the Representative Council. Is it after or before it goes to the Auditor-General’s Office? Why I am questioning that is that if you go to Section 26, the Representative Council, in agreement with the Minister and the Minister responsible for Finance, may determine the payment of allowance to members and members of committees. In addition, if you go to Part 3 of this Bill, Section 31(3), the Representative Council, in agreement with the Minister in respect of each Financial Year of the Council, shall approve the Funds. Now Section 11(1) says the Representative Council shall only meet once a year. Do you think what I have mentioned above shall be done in one meeting which is normally, customarily, at the end of the year? We propose that the Representative Council meets twice a year, one just before the preparations of the National Youth Council Budget and one as usual.

I want to know, as we all know that the marginalised groups are not that organised, who and how will they be nominated to the Board? That is another query. They cannot put themselves in the position.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, in conclusion, I want to thank the young men and women who have untiringly and selflessly worked for this Bill to come to this House since 1994, the likes of Fanuel Kaapama, Peya Mushelenga, Pohamba Shifeta, Joseph Kauandenge, McHenry Venaani, Juliet Kavetuna, Emma Mulelekge, the late Chris Hawala, Brian Riruako and the list goes on and on. (Interjection). I am a National leader, I am not in the habit of individual groups and you must follow me where I am going. This is the way I want these things to look and to be accepted by this House. I thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I now recognise Honourable Kavetuna.

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**HON KAVETUNA:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to add my voice to the Members who contributed to this Bill before me.

The importance of this Bill cannot be over-emphasised. I have an obligation to recognise and extend my appreciation for the important role played by all Ministers who were assigned to the Youth Ministry, including the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Comrade Nahas Angula, before and after the inception of the National Youth Council. Indeed, I am doing this in my capacity as a former leader of this well-organised platform of the youth fraternity and on my behalf as a young person.

My utmost gratitude goes to the youth community and the staff members of the Line Ministry for their commitment, dedication during the lengthy process of the drafting of this living piece of legislation, for this Bill is for the youth by the youth. The Amendments, subtractions, editing of all eight drafts were indeed worthwhile.

Being young is the most memorable and exciting period of our life cycle as human beings, though it is full of challenges. Who of us in this House do not recall his or her youth years when dynamics of life are provoked? With a deep sigh, one will always hear the phrase, "*aye, when I was young.*" During this phase, the body is active, the mind is fresh and the eagerness to do things and to make an impact is high.

Deputy Speaker, the youth played a major role in the petitioning for the freedom of our country. They were significant in the battlefields and loudly voiced out against the unjust, against humanity. This group was at the forefront of bringing change and ensuring that change had come.

I am reminded here especially of the 1988 student uprising in which many students lost their lives and were imprisoned. This uprising started at Pönhofi Senior Secondary School in what is today known as Ohangwena Region and spread like wildfire to all corners of this country.

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In other instances, the youth had been used to create havoc, to destabilise institutions and peaceful Nations. They have been used as tools of mass destruction for personal selfish gain of different individuals.

For so long the youth have been fighting old, unknown battles for the benefit of a few greedy people in society. What is so bitter is that when they succeed, they are dropped like hot potatoes and remain unrecognised, less prominent and poverty-stricken followers. What a shame and a waste of these energetic, able-bodied fellows!

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the youth comprise of more than 60% of the Namibian population and thus a legalised structure in the name of the National Youth Council is vital for the advancement of the youth agenda. As an umbrella youth organisation, the National Youth Council succeeded in providing the ingredients for youth empowerment and development to a section of its Constituency with limited resources. I would like to re-emphasise that, with limited resources. I made strides in enhancing the spirit of patriotism of the youth cause and promoting political tolerance among its members.

It is unfortunate that some Parties represented in this House do not have youth wings, specifically the UDF and MAG. It is further disheartening and a pity that our white counterparts do not see the necessity of affiliating or simply being part of this important structure. The Council, in all essence, had met its objective through its vast and open affiliation for the following youth categories: Religious, cultural.... (Intervention)

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**HON ULENGA:** May I ask my youthful cousin a question? With regard to what the Member just mentioned about specific Parties not having youth wings, is it compulsory for a Party to have a youth wing even if it does not have young members?

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**HON KAVETUNA:** The youth categories are religious, cultural, political, student movements, youth economic empowerment groups, social and community organisations. There is still a lot that needs to be done in order to succeed in our mission of youth emancipation. This mission will only be accomplished if we do not sit back and wait for tomorrow, because tomorrow will never come.

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Only through organised structures such as the National Youth Council will the youth be able to raise their voice, effectively contribute to the National development and ensure a better and peaceful Namibia. Despite these achievements, the youth of our country... (Intervention)

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**HON MOONGO:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Is the Honourable Member aware it is due to SWAPO's bad propaganda that MAG and the whites did not join this organisation?

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**HON KAVETUNA:** Despite these achievements, the youth of our country are faced with numerous challenges.

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**HON RIRUAKO:** May I ask a question from a person who put herself in the forefront to prove her kind of criteria? SWAPO can criticise and other things, but the youth belong to the Nation, it is national youth, it is not individual Party youth. If you do not have them here, perhaps you might not have young people among you and we cannot press you in order to be there and make yourself useful.

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**HON KAVETUNA:** Despite these achievements the youth of our country are faced with numerous challenges that are ticking as fast as a time bomb – the high unemployment rate, the ever-increasing threat of HIV/AIDS infection, high crime and violence rates, the severe abuse of alcohol and other substances, the high number of school drop-outs, apathy in democratic process, such as elections, and lack of active participation in developmental activities.

Allow me, Honourable Deputy Speaker, to echo the sentiments of the age definition of the youth, already outlined by my brother, Honourable Mushelenga and my Paramount Chief. This definition of 16 to 35 originates from the Commonwealth Youth Charter and other international instruments. I wish to once again use my voice as a youth leader and elaborate on why the above definition is unsuitable.

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The youth fraternity in Namibia has always had consensus that 35 be the cut-off limit in respect of the definition of youth. This is because the vast majority of our affiliate organisations have 35 as their upper limit. Namibia, as a signatory to the African Youth Charter which was adopted a few months ago in this House, must also take into consideration the views expressed in respect of the upper limit of the definition of youth. The Charter clearly defines the youth as a person between the age of 15 and 35.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, taking cognisance that the National Youth Council is the custodian of the youth in this Republic, the efforts to alleviate and eliminate all misfortune lie heavily in the hands of every Namibia. It is indeed a long and a bitter struggle to win the war against these social ills, but coordination of programmes aimed at addressing these will be the best remedy.

To this end, Honourable Deputy Speaker, we would like to take the initiative to bring about positive change and it starts with us as young people. We should bear in mind that the agenda of the youth will be correctly and genuinely, solely be put on the table by those who know it and who are eager to motivate and defend it. Political or other affiliations should not be a block towards our own advancement. The unity of purpose has to be our driving force. It should be our conviction as leaders of today and tomorrow to realise that we need to stand firm, shoulder to shoulder and speak with one strong voice in order to determine how we want to shape the future of ourselves and for the generation to come.

I hereby wholeheartedly support this Bill and I thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to make my contribution to this important Bill.

I congratulate the Minister for tabling this Bill and I must congratulate the former Minister of Youth, Comrade Mutorwa and Comrade Kavetuna who played a role in the formulation process of this Bill.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, this Bill is very important because it is addressing the needs of a section of our community, which are considered to be vulnerable in one form or the other. There are two categories in the journey of life, namely the

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youth and the elderly.

The youth, economically and by their nature, are composed of people who are just emerging, they do not have anything that they can call their own, except a few lucky ones who have inherited some economic means from their parents. This is the category of people who, many of them are trying to establish themselves in life, who are students at universities, colleges, at primary level, at kindergarten, etcetera. Although kindergarten does not fall into this category, these people are trying to find their footing in life.

Therefore, many a times they are faced with different challenges, which they are sometimes not in a position to address, either because of the structure set-up, culture and other norms. There are many challenges and these are the people who are in many cases stigmatised. They are faced with prejudices, they are either seen as troublemakers, as people who cannot adhere to certain established norms and sometimes they find it difficult to challenge established religious or cultural norms. Even when they want to find jobs for themselves, in many cases they have to deal with laws that have not been established by them. You are a graduate from university, you have done your best, you think there is a job in the market you qualify for and then you are told that you have the necessary skills but you do not have experience. Then you start wondering, “*where could I get experience if I have just completed my studies?*”

Even in some organisations where this group of people find themselves as loyal members they are often reminded that they are newcomers, *they were not there, you are a Johnny-came-late*. These are the people in communities, in families... (Intervention)

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**HON RIRUAKO:** May I ask a tiny question? What does “*Johnny-came-late*” mean? Again, if you are well equipped, but the time is not ripe for you, you might wait until you become somebody else. What does that mean again?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Honourable Chief, what I mean is that even when we are at Okahandja at *Otjiserandu* and I have a good idea how that *Otjiserandu* could be improved, I am told that I am too young.

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I am not allowed to speak on those reserved matters. Then you are a Johnny-came-late, you have to wait. That is what I mean. However, we talk about these people.

Coming to the National Youth Council itself, it is one of those programmes of the Namibian Government, which is playing a very important role, just like the National Youth Service. These institutions are playing a very critical role in the development of our Nation.

The National Youth Council, in particular, is a broad house in real terms. You will find Namibians of different backgrounds, irrespective of their political background, irrespective of their religious backgrounds, irrespective of their gender. For me this entity is really consolidating the Namibia that we want to build. This is an entity that is within the spirit of building one Namibia, one Nation. The National Youth Council gives Namibians a platform at an early critical stage to appreciate one another from different cultural backgrounds, from different religious backgrounds, from different political backgrounds. It creates a platform for them to come and share ideas. Therefore, it is a platform for promoting tolerance, for promoting cultural integration in the real sense of the word. The National Youth Council is playing that role and in a way, this Bill should be complemented by the National Youth Service.

It is about time that the National Youth Service should become compulsory, as is the case in many countries. In many countries when children have completed Grade 12, then they go into the National Youth Service and they are deployed in different corners of that country and are exposed to different cultures in their country.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40**

**HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:16 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I was talking about the importance of the National Youth Service and especially conscription.

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Many countries are employing this activity and it is really designed to foster national unity, to expose the youth to the various Regions and cultures of their country and Namibia, being a rainbow Nation with different cultures, should expose its young people to the various cultures of this country by sending them for National Service, either in a conscripted form, for them to be exposed to the realities of this country. They will be liberated from only knowing their corner of the world. They will learn that some of the problems are worse than their own problems and they can only do that if they are exposed to the cultures of other communities.

The National Youth Service instils discipline, which in some cases has not been instilled at school. That is why you find that citizens of some Nations are obedient, tolerant to one another, disciplined and well organised because at a certain age they had been exposed. Through the National Service our youth can be trained in management and organisation, relating to one another, self-respect, respect for one another.

I feel the National Youth Council, through its programmes and deliberations, must try to create a link with the National Youth Service in order to instil a culture of patriotism, love for your country and people, respect for their language, colour and so on.

Now we have a situation where a certain section of the community is exposed to other sections of the community only when they are selling or marketing products to them. Some people only become exposed to other members of the Namibian society when they are serving as teachers, doctors or nurses, but they do not appreciate the background of these communities. They have never lived amongst these communities. To build one Namibia, one Nation we need to expose the future leaders, the citizens of this country to the whole Namibian package in its entirety.

Therefore, the National Youth Council Bill serves a very important role and I support it wholeheartedly. Before I conclude, the Fund is a very important component of this Bill because a number of youth are successful entrepreneurs, because they have been exposed to opportunities and the environment allowed them to develop to their full potential. Therefore, this provision in the Bill is very important because this Fund will help to unleash and unlock opportunities to be exploited by the youth.

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Therefore, it is very important for the Youth Council to also build a culture of business among our youth at an early stage and also encourage a spirit of self-reliance, whereby the youth in Namibia will become a community of people who are dependent on themselves, as people who want to develop something, who want to add something, who want to bring change. This provision in the Bill is very important for unleashing the potential of the youth and with these few remarks, I support the Bill. Thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. I yield the Floor to the Honourable Deputy Minister of Labour.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Comrade Deputy Speaker, I adjourn the Debate until tomorrow.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Debate stands adjourned until tomorrow. The First Notice of Motion is the one by Honourable Tjihuiiko. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion? Who seconds? Any objection? Agreed to. Honourable Tjihuiiko has the Floor.

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**MOTION ON POVERTY, HUNGER AND DISEASE**

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, since I am motivating I hope it is the culture that the ones who are motivating will not be interrupted. I hope that that will be the norm in the House.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, let me start my presentation by quoting the Ministry of Trade and Industry's Mission and Objectives: "*The Mission of the Ministry of Trade and Industry is to be the catalyst for a rapid, equitable and sustainable economic growth through investment, industrialisation and trade.*" *The Ministry's main objectives are "to develop appropriate policies..."* (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:** May I ask a question, please?

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It is not allowed, it is motivation.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. The Ministry of Trade's main objectives are "*to develop appropriate policy legal framework and programmes for business, trade and industrial development and investment; to promote and encourage a sustainable economic growth with equity and meaningful participation of formerly disadvantaged Regions, communities and individuals in the economy; to achieve accelerated industrial development, growth of an entrepreneurial culture and employment creation; by providing an able environment through active and professional services; to increase export shares in the percentage of GDP through trade diversification in terms of products and trading partners to ensure the competitiveness of Namibian products and services.*" That is the basis where I want to start.

Some good economies would argue that economic growth would automatically help to reduce poverty because of three main reasons: Growth would create opportunities. It would provide an environment that would help to build things like schools, hospitals, etcetera. It would also create incentives that would enable the poor to access the needed facilities.

Honourable Speaker, I believe that the economic growth in any given society is the best vehicle to address the issue of poverty. One would therefore believe that our industrial development was meant to raise the minimum income of the poorest of our population. If that was the case, then the current SWAPO-led Government's industrial strategy has failed. That is why we are now confronted with mushrooming of squatter camps all over the country. It is, indeed, disheartening to see the conditions under which our people are living at places such as Babylon, One Nation, Okahandja Park, Mixed Squatter Camp and others across the country.

The growth of our economy is being reported as being at a satisfactory level, but we have failed to create the needed employment for unemployed youth in the process to address the issue of poverty.

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The percentage of our population below the poverty line is increasing in a country blessed with abundant natural resources, a country with a population of two million people, but many still lack access to basic services such as health, education and others without which they cannot claim a share of the wealth of the Nation.

I have perused through all Government documents, be it policies, plans, programmes and even our Constitution and most, if not all the agreement declaration, be it Regional, continental or international. We have entered into many of them. After having considered all the above mentioned documents Government has to address the question of poverty, I have come across one critical statement which I want this august House and the public at large to seriously debate and come up with a clear recommendation and that is how to address the current level of poverty, diseases and ignorance in our country.

As an Economist – and a good one for that matter – and someone who carries the interest of our people at heart, I have been carefully following the efforts of Government with keen interest on this issue, but what disturbed me the most is the cry from the community out there about the poverty conditions they find themselves in. If one reads newspapers or listen to the radio, all what you read or hear is how our people are swimming in the sea of poverty.

Honourable Speaker, for too long now we have been throwing blame at one another and tried to politicise every issue in this House while our people out there are looking upon us for concrete answers and resolutions to most of the critical needs. It is about time we start looking for common ground as elected leaders and listen to the cry of the marginalised and poor of our community.

This Motion came about after I have read some of the Reports launched recently by the National Planning Commission on poverty in the Regions. Interestingly, I have realised that in fact each of the thirteen Regions has its own poverty profile based on issues raised by the prospective communities themselves. I know that some of the Ministries that are supposed to be concentrating on providing basic services to the communities have not yet read these reports, I am sure.

Allow me to use this opportunity to congratulate the National Planning Commission for the comprehensive Reports produced. As a lawmaker, I am happy to see that at least some of the money that we have appropriated in this

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House is capably put to the intended activity and produced tangible results. That is very important and I hope that the other Ministries will follow suit.

However, I strongly believe that issues highlighted in these Reports need to be taken seriously and form the basis for future intervention when addressing poverty in the respective Regions.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the community tell us in no uncertain terms what they consider the most critical priority, not the priorities that Honourable Kazenambo and others are coming up with. They even went further to provide their action plans. Let me show you the Regions and action plans, number one priority in each Region and it is very important for you to listen very carefully.

In Caprivi the number one priority is water. Erongo, Hardap and Karas, priority number one as far as they are concerned is employment. This we have miserably failed to provide. Kavango, lack of medical services, Honourable Minister of Health. Kunene, poor education after eighteen years. Ohangwena, drought. These are the priorities of the people themselves. Omaheke, unemployment. Omusati, poor education. Oshana, poor health services. Oshikoto and Otjozondjupa, unemployment. This is what the people have said themselves. Do not ask me, ask Honourable Helmut Angula who was the Director-General who produced these tangible and useful information. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** On a Point of Order. This Motion is *“to discuss the current prevailing poverty, hunger and diseases prevalent in our country. The recently launched Millennium Development Goal Report stated”* etcetera. *“Through the endorsed Millennium Declaration.”* When is he going to mention anything about the Millennium Declaration?

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I need to be protected. I know that many of you might be thinking, *“we know those things already.”*

The issue here is that what we know from quantitative information has now been confirmed by a critical qualitative assessment coming from the poor themselves. All things that are mentioned in the Millennium Account were supposed to

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address the issue of poverty, the issue of economic development. Therefore, what I am talking about is actually the same thing and I want the Ministry to address that issue when you are participating and come up with constructive inputs.

Most importantly, Honourable Deputy Speaker, and what I find very interesting is that almost all the activities our communities are putting forward are nowhere to be found in our development plans and programmes. They are nowhere.

We are thinking of complicated and not so easy to do type of interventions, sitting in our air-conditioned offices and thinking that we know everything - that is why the Government has failed – while in many instances the communities have no role to play, because we do not want to go to the communities. Only some of us who are going to the communities.

When we are developing programmes for people, go to the people and consult them. Failure to follow what the poor communities suggested in the community action plans, which we will get in these reports – I hope all of you have seen a copy – will render all the efforts and resources we invested into these beautiful reports useless. I hope that the Honourable former Director-General will support me in that.

I heard many times the Head of State, His Excellency the President, hammering on implementation of Government programmes and policies and I agree with him that they must be implemented, even though they are off the target. Recently His Excellency President Pohamba has declared war on poverty. It was a public statement and all of us in this House know that. By now, one would expect to see Ministries, Departments, developmental institutions rolling out specific programmes and ideas in support of the President's instruction, but unfortunately nothing is happening right now.

In fact, Honourable Deputy Speaker, what we are seeing on the ground is the contrary. What we are seeing are the self-proclaimed trade union ayatollahs organising illegal strikes, sabotaging the economy, creating dis-investment of prospective investors in this country and as a result create conducive conditions for anarchy in a developing economy. (Intervention)

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** On a Point of Order. The Honourable Member is busy motivating a Motion, but he is being provocative. We never had *ayatollah* unions in Namibia and he must

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withdraw that. If not, then you should use your power not to let him continue with the motivation.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I know that the Honourable Member is trying to bring in things completely different from his Motion, but I am requesting you to hold on. Tomorrow you may respond. However, I do not know what the word “*ayatollah*” means. If that thing does not exist, then the Honourable Member should withdraw the word.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, if those who are objecting can define the word “*ayatollah*”, then I will withdraw because there is no reason to withdraw.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Because it has to be in line with the union, which you used it for. I do not know the name you mentioned.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** I am not referring to that one. I am referring to the other one.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Which one? The one, which organised the illegal strike?

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** I withdraw. Honourable Deputy Speaker, I also want to point out here to you that many a time we formulate policies and programmes of our offices and dump them on communities without consulting. They do not feel as being part of these interventions and hardly get involved. We need to improve our approach, our way of doing things if we want to address the issue of poverty. We are developing these programmes for people, not for trees.

They have their own ideas, they know what they want. That is why they came up with what I have just read.

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Proposals:

- Let us focus our poverty intervention on the rural development, which we have not even heard what is going on with, the Rural Development Department in one of the Ministries.
- Let us make deliberate efforts to target the rural women and youth with income generating projects.
- Let us encourage most of our development partners to follow Government strategies and programmes.
- Let us monitor this intervention closely and see what difference it will bring in the lives of the poor people. If need be, we may start and roll out as we learn from this.

What I am trying to say, Honourable Deputy Speaker, is that the electorate had waited too long and we need to act now in unison.

Before I conclude, Honourable Deputy Speaker, allow me to highlight some of the ill-thought, badly implemented developmental strategies of our current Government. The current modern development, taking place in the poorest and disadvantaged towns is not properly considered as a serious effort in addressing poverty of our people. In most cases strategic located land, good for trading, has been taken away by paying owners peanuts and are given to foreigners in the name of development.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, it was reported in the newspapers recently that 88 year old Maria Salomo, a grandmother of fifteen children, was ordered by Helao Nafidi Town Council to stop tilling her mahangu field, because the land is located at the edge of a Chinese warehouse, not a Chinese manufacturing industry, a Chinese warehouse. Honourable Deputy Speaker, that is her land, the land she has been tilling since 1950 to feed her family. How are this poor woman and fifteen children going to survive now?

Another one aged 50, was also reported in the papers, lost 2 800 square metre of her land to the Town Council in the name of development without being given an alternative. What happened to Veronica and her family was in fact given a one-way ticket to Poverty Land and to die from hunger.

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The so-called development in some towns in the North and in Helao Nafidi in particular, is in fact expropriation of land without compensation. The land of the poor to be given to the Chinese and Indian traders, not investors.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, for God's sake, what happened to manufacturing? Why traders? Why is the land being taken from the poor and being given to a foreigner to trade on that land?

In conclusion, Honourable Deputy Speaker, allow me to kindly request the following Ministries to present papers on their specific designed programmes in support of poverty alleviation of Government. I also wish to challenge institutions such as UNAM, the Polytechnic of Namibia, NEPRU and individual Economists to present their views on how to address poverty in Namibia and that the Motion be referred to the Parliament Committee on Economics, Natural Resources for further input to the Report, and report back to the House. The Ministries that I am talking about are the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Works, the Ministry of Education, etcetera. I thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I call on Honourable Kazenambo.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. As a prelude to my intervention, two weeks ago, I was in Gam and then I saw a "*president of confusion*" sitting with some elderly, writing something and talking... (Interjections). I was wondering what was going to come, only to see that there is something written here and then when this Motion was introduced here, I was deceived in a way, I thought that this Motion has to do with the real issues. This Motion is nothing other than propaganda of trying to aid a Party, a tribal organisation.

Coming to some of this propaganda juice which the Namibian people are being entertained with this afternoon, let me say that a lot of the pieces pasted together

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have been stolen from the poverty profile which has been compiled by the Government of the Republic of Namibia, the SWAPO-led Government, a very efficient Government, a Government that has the interest of the Namibian people at heart, a very transparent Government. It went and it compiled the profile of the economic situation facing our people across the thirteen Regions and it was competently compiled. It is there at the National Planning Commission.

Little did we know that this important data, critical data, which were compiled and gathered so public policy-makers, could use this data, to seriously consider it, to seriously search for solutions that can address this poverty profile, would be abused in the manner which we are seeing here. The plight of the Namibian people is being abused here, it is being politicised, played with in the name of political expediency.

I hope and I hundred percent trust that the Namibian people out there, who are seriously confronted with National issues, will reject this cheap pre-election propaganda of the Honourable Arnold Tjihuiko and I am sure that the Namibian people ... (Intervention)

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**HON RIRUAKO:** On a Point of Order. I thought you are clear as to what is supposed to be done in the House and how it should be done. Why do you keep it behind the scenes forever and ever? I pose the question to this Assembly, what about the poor? The Honourable Minister put that to you. You could not get something out of it until now.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Namibian people... (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** On a Point of Order. This House, as a close family, one of the important aspects of this Debate is that we should be able to have eye contact with each other. Is it allowed for an Honourable Member to completely seal off his eyes of the opportunity to have eye contact?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** I said the Namibian people have come of age. They cannot be lured with cheap cover-ups.

I know when Honourable Tjihuiko went to Gam, his usual destination, he was confronted that: “Honourable Tjihuiko, are you repeating what you have been doing? Now that you are in Parliament, we have not heard of you talking about our plight in the rural area. Are you about to repeat when your term is about to end? Are you also repeating what you did when you went to the Ministry of Trade? You did not deliver for us when you were a Civil Servant, why are you betraying the Government?”

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** On a Point of Information. The Honourable Member is derailing as usual. The issue we are talking about is that you are the Government and if you want to prove me wrong, come up with facts. What have you done at Okahandja Park? Are you telling the people of Okahandja Park and even at the Mixed Squatter Camp that *we have done this and that*? Tell the public out there through this House that this is what the Government has done. Prove me wrong by coming up with facts, then go for character assassination.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** We are used to this type of language and I was saying that the people asked Honourable Tjihuiko: “*Are you failing us as you failed us a Civil Servant and you failed the Government as a Civil Servant? You were paid a lot of money, but you failed to come up with workable ideas.*” (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** I do not want to begin a dialogue but I think I need to answer this. On a Point of Information. When the people of Gam asked me that question, I told them that the reason why I resigned from the Government and joined a progressive Party that would look at their interest is, because the Government does not have a direction to address the issue of the poor people. That is the reason why I decided to resign from Government and they agreed with

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me hundred percent. It was not only in Gam, it was in the Mixed Squatter Camp here in Windhoek. What have you done?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Not to be bogged down, for the sake of progress, I was saying that just in passing. We are used to this type of information, this type of language. When the people throw stones at SWAPO, when SWAPO takes the stones away, then we are intolerant, then we are not democratic, then we are labelled that way. When the people go and say that the Government has failed, but when we say you were entrusted with the responsibility as a Director, as a Civil Servant to help with implementation of the policy, then it is character assassination. I think this is really to cover up the guilt of somebody.

Coming to the issue of poverty and the SWAPO Party's commitment to address poverty in Namibia, when SWAPO came into power in 1990, we found eleven Bantustans and administrations in this country. The character is that in many of the communities and towns across this country, some of them did not have potable water, some of them did not have clinics and hospitals. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** May I ask a question? You mentioned that we fought and liberated this country, we found eleven Bantustans. Is that when my daddy was the Deputy Minister of Justice? Is that the one you are referring to? (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** I really do not know whom the Honourable Deputy Minister is referring to.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** I am referring to my daddy, Honourable Kaura.

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

All I know is that there was a Bantustan type of Government and under that Government people even distributed farms to themselves, distributed opportunities and benefits to themselves while the Namibian people were suffering in poverty. However, when SWAPO came to power and transparent as we are, we started compiling poverty profiles across the thirteen Regions of this country. We embarked upon infrastructure development and since the attainment of Namibia's Independence we have built the Trans-Kalahari Highway. We have built the Trans-Caprivi Highway. We extended the railway line from Tsumeb to Oshikango. We introduced rural electrification whereby even at the moment when you are in Okahitwa in the Okondjatu area you can communicate with a cell phone. We introduced telecommunication in this country, we built health centres across the thirteen Regions, we introduced rural water, and we introduced a number of projects. There was no road between Omakange-Kamanjab. There was no single tarred road to Opuwo. Today there is a tarred road. The Port of Walvis Bay was not a port of international standard and these are infrastructure development.

When we turned independent in Namibia, CDM exported our minerals without the Namibian people having any stake. CDM was transformed into NAMDEB and the Namibian people have a hand in the natural resources of this country.

Our fishing industry was nearly depleted, our international waters was *Onduno ya nguna enga* open for everybody. Today Namibia is respected as a country that is managing our natural resources very well.

In the field of agriculture even the people in the reserves across this country appreciate the efforts which this Government is doing in terms of trying to open markets, accessibility of markets. We did not have bodies like the Namibian National Farmers Union, NNFU, that are to a certain extent supported by Government. Before we attained Independence, all farms were distributed among the politicians. We did not have the affirmative policy in place by which Namibians have benefited. I am not saying that all we have done have no limitations. They do have limitations. There is room for improvement. However, for a person to try to say the SWAPO Party has no programmes is belittling the progress which the Namibian people are enjoying.

Last night there was a programme on television where the people in Etale

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Constituency opened a tap and said that they did not have that potable water before Independence. The Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration has opened an office in Tsumkwe where the citizens can go and access national documents and this is the trend across this country. These are the programmes for addressing the plight of the Namibia people.

Yes, there is poverty and we are addressing poverty within our policy. The very same cheque which was distributed to a colleague belonging to a Party, was shared amongst themselves. That Political Party abuses everything. When they get an opportunity to resources, it is just to distribute and squander. That is not our policy, ours are managing in a transparent manner, and the programmes are there. You drive on a road from here to Gam, that road has been developed by the Government programme. There was no road. Today there is a road going to Gam. There is an agricultural extension officer in Gam. This is cheap propaganda. Our mission is not to distribute resources amongst ourselves as leaders. Our mission is to develop the Namibian people, to build resources for them and we are doing that. Of course, we are doing that with difficult because of limited resources.

That propaganda is as cheap as it is and it is going to be rejected not only by us here, but also by the Namibian people who have been rejecting your Party and that is why you are in the minority. Thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Minister.  
Honourable Chief Riruako.

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**HON RIRUAKO:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I thought we are dealing with highly qualified people. I did not go to villages to look for people to think but to talk and to decide. Do not run away, come back.

The fact remains. The man who came up with this proposal is a Member of SWAPO and that is the Minister. He put all this in front of you and you just adopted it. He did this during his time, he did also discuss with you, and you ignored it. That is a fact.

In addition, whoever ignored the facts and said this man is wasting his time, we

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are not going to follow what he says, I feel sorry for you. Do not talk about the colonial Government. What are you going to do with the colonial Government? The fact remains that you are useless if you cannot follow the right proposals and design in the right way. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Chief, is the word “*useless*” allowed in the Chamber? “*Cheap politics*” is used.

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**HON RIRUAKO:** Cheap politics I can accept. I may talk about what was in his mind here today to try to persuade people who are deaf, who do not listen, do not follow whatever is good for a human being. The fact remains that he wasted his time trying to persuade the people who do not listen. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** May I ask the Chief a question? Chief, why can you not address the Motion? You are now addressing Honourable Kazenambo. Why are you doing so? Address the Motion on the Table. (Intervention)

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**HON RIRUAKO:** Now I have to turn back to the normal way of doing things. We are not here to tell one another this is wrong and this is bad, that proposal came up from an Honourable Member of SWAPO, a man who was given permission with suggestions, Honourable Helmut Angula. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** May I ask the Honourable Chief a question? Honourable Chief Riruako, you are repeatedly indicating the Honourable Minister who brought the information to this House and to the public about the Poverty Profile. Do you agree with Honourable Kazenambo when he said that the Mover of the Motion cut and paste the information that has already been provided by the Honourable Minister?

Is that really correct for an Honourable Member to hijack or unlawfully use the

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information that has been provided with good cause, to bring it here for cheap politicking? Do you agree with me, Honourable Chief?

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**HON RIRUAKO:** I do not think that Honourable Member Katali is right about this profile. Deputy Speaker, it is unfortunate. A person comes up with a proposal that all of us have to come together and select what is the priority, as simple as that and not to insult one another. We are not from the bundus, from the bush. We are from the civilised world and with any proposal, we are supposed to come together and select what is our priority on this. That is a fact. If you are a gentleman and you respect your calibre and what you are, you ought to come with that kind of proposal.

I am not here to argue where I got this information, it is in front of you, and you did not read it. Read it now. You have to ask for copies and then we have to come together and sit down and come up with a priority about what has to be done. I have to address you and I have to educate you in order to open your eyes to look at what is on the Table. Let us come together and do the job, as simple as that! We argue with one another. This was a good proposal we were supposed to take care of and we are supposed to sit down and have a discussion. As simple as that! I thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Moongo.

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**HON MOONGO:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I was provoked to make a few remarks and comments. Very few of the Colleagues on that side have sympathy with the Nation and the majority of them do not worry, because they did not read these priorities and this was a priority to address burning issues. Now the majority of the SWAPO Members are only planning for propaganda purposes. They are writing about how many suffered because of the flood in Caprivi and in Oshana, but they never did anything. It is only a programme of action but nothing happened.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:**

Comrade Deputy Speaker, on a Point of Information. This Government compiled this information for planning to assist the people. Secondly, I do not know whether the Honourable Member did not read or hear that over N\$200 million were given by this Government to assist the Namibian people who are affected by drought and by floods. Are you not aware of this, Honourable Moongo? You just have that hatred against SWAPO and you cannot even see it for yourself. Are you not aware that currently food is distributed and that even your members are receiving it? Moongo, please change, you must grow up!

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**HON MOONGO:** Of course, the truth hurts, but as I was saying, thousands of dollars were donated by sympathetic, friendly countries for the people affected by the floods and the money never reached the people. People whose small businesses were destroyed never got anything to start another business.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** On a Point of Information. I appeal to the Honourable Members of this Parliament not to politicise things, which are so serious. A Report will come which will detail who contributed, how these contributions were distributed to vulnerable groups and that will come. Please, do not politicise this one.

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**HON MOONGO:** I am talking as a man who also suffered there and I know nobody benefited from that money, unless you say the money is still coming. The people have been suffering for a whole year now. They wanted to improve their businesses.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** On a Point of Correction. No donation was made to support cuca shops and the tombo places which you are running. Donations were made to assist people to get food, proper water, blankets and basic needs, not to support small businessmen and cuca shops.

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**HON VENAANI:** On a Point of Order. I would like the Right Honourable Prime Minister to withdraw that the Member is running toambo businesses. He is running small and medium enterprises. That word is derogatory and it is not at the level of the Right Honourable Prime Minister. I want him to withdraw.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Well, I do not know whether Honourable Venaani has been to the place of Honourable Moongo. There are cuca shops and those shops are selling beer and on the other side toambo. If you want me to call it a shebeen, it is a shebeen, but toambo is one of the products.

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**HON VENAANI:** On a Point of Order. We are all Namibians and we visit places over the whole country. Honourable Deputy Speaker, I impress upon you that it is improper for the Right Honourable Prime Minister to say Honourable Moongo is running a toambo business. He is not running a toambo business and that must be withdrawn.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I withdraw, Honourable Moongo is running a shebeen with some products made of sugar and sorghum. (Laughter).

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**HON MOONGO:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I was saying that even the people who could not harvest the flooded mahangu fields got a 10-kilogram bag, which had to be shared by two houses of more than twenty people. I think this plan was a bad plan to assist the communities, and it is a pity that the Government came up with a programme every day. We enrol those orphans of single parents. It is only propaganda for next year's election, to be seen that they are vigilant, to be seen doing something for the poor. People are poor, people are suffering and I appeal to the Government to give more food assistance. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS:** Comrade Deputy Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Vice-

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President of DTA, how many supporters did you address at Omuthiya?

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**HON MOONGO:** It is a pity to address somebody who does not even know Article 17 which says everybody has a right to participate and we have our basic right to make politics in every Region and in every corner of this country. How can you ask me such a question?

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**HON P MUSHELENGA:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, may I ask Honourable Moongo a question? Honourable Moongo, if by a miracle the DTA of Namibia were to win the elections, what would be your first three major priorities to alleviate poverty? Just three of them?

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**HON MOONGO:** I call upon you to read our Manifesto, because you do not read other Parties' Manifestos, because you are much indoctrinated. I call upon you to read our Manifesto. It is well placed and it is progressing.

Colleagues, let us address poverty, the people are suffering. One bottle of sunflower oil to be shared between three houses of more than thirty people must stop. This is the style of SWAPO now, what they are doing to the poor people. I appeal to the SWAPO Government to refrain from causing more suffering. If you give somebody one tin of maize who did not eat for two days, you will kill him or her.

I support the Motion and let us put our priorities correctly and implement them. I support the Motion.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Any further discussion? Honourable Dinyando.

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HON DINYANDO**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY:** Comrade Deputy Speaker, I need your guidance before I get into any discussion on this Motion. On the Order Paper the Motion speaks of the relevant Ministries and Departments to update this august House on the implementation of poverty reduction in Namibia and it also talks about the Millennium Development Goals on which the Mover did not even touch while motivating this Motion.

With reference to the Regional Poverty Assessment Reports which have been carried out in the thirteen Regions, this was a Government initiative in order to realise the Millennium Development Goals and once the Reports are completed, Government will definitely address and implement those concerns raised in those Reports.

Hon Tjihuike cannot bring issues here to be discussed while the Government is envisaging implementing them, I do not know how we will be able to discuss such a Motion. Therefore, I need directives from the Chair as to how to proceed from here. However, Government is in the process of addressing the same issues. I seek guidance, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** At the beginning somebody rose and I said, “*hold on first, you will have your chance to speak.*” These are the type of things which we should always avoid. If you address land, you have to talk about land, do not talk about water or diamonds, otherwise, you mislead the House. That is why I threw the ball in your court so that now he has to face the situation and answer to what he has said. You were not directed in the first instance where to go. If you were misdirected, you also have to answer. That is why I am giving the Floor to anybody who would like to answer on the way he addressed the issue. I think you understand what I mean. It is in your hands. Honourable Minister Helmut Angula.

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** I Move that the Debate be adjourned until, tomorrow afternoon.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Debate stands adjourned until tomorrow. I, therefore, call on the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House until tomorrow.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I Move that the House be adjourned until tomorrow.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:30 UNTIL 2008.09.25 AT 14:30**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER  
25 SEPTEMBER 2008  
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**ANNOUNCEMENT: MEMBER NOMINATED  
TO STANDING COMMITTEES**

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** First announcement: Honourable Members, I have been informed that the CoD Party nominated Honourable Kavari to serve on the following Parliamentary Standing Committees:

1. Human Resources, Social and Community Development;
2. Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration; and
3. Constitutional and Legal Affairs.

I now, in terms of Rule 38(6), pronounce Honourable Kavari a duly appointed Member to the said Committees.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Ministerial Statements? Honourable Minister of Labour.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

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**HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: LABOUR ACT  
HON NGATJIZEKO**

I am pleased to rise in this august House and to announce to the Nation that the Labour Act, 2007 (Act No. 11 of 2007) will be put into operation on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2008. In addition, regulations and user-friendly forms to facilitate the Act's implementation will be promulgated on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2008. The regulations will also specify the information that employers are expected to report on annually to the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.

This Act is not simply a new Labour Law, but it is also a social instrument conceived by social partners, i.e. Government, employers and employees, to play an important role in the daily life of our Nation. As my predecessor, Honourable Alpheus !Naruseb, stated upon introducing the Labour Bill last year: *“This Bill will affect directly, and hopefully will improve the lives of hundreds of thousands of Namibians. It is a Bill that will contribute to our Nation's economic development and to the achievement of Vision 2030.”*

Now enacted and to be put into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November this year, the Labour Act, 2007 will be the cornerstone for the achievement of decent and productive work for all Namibians.

Our Nation has experienced several strikes that have inflicted damage on Namibia's economy and its reputation. If we are to succeed in our bold national plans for economic and social development, we cannot allow labour disputes to fester without resolution or to trigger unlawful action. Employers and employees instead need to change their attitudes and change the manner in which they discuss and resolve their differences. The new Labour Act will be an agent of change.

The operationalisation of the Labour Act, 2007 signals the beginning of a new era in labour relations in Namibia. An era characterised by social dialogue on all key issues affecting the labour market, mutual respect between employers and employees and fairness at the workplace, effective communications and collective bargaining, improved productivity and early and peaceful resolution of labour disputes. This places a challenge before Government, employees and employers to ensure that the Act fulfils its enormous promise. We, therefore, must become familiar with its provisions, utilise it effectively and ensure strict adherence.

Although the Act was discussed and debated at length in Parliament and in the

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media, I consider it important to touch on some of the key areas that the new provisions of the Act will affect:

**Prevention and Resolution of Disputes:**

A new system to prevent and resolve labour disputes will come into effect on 1 November 2008. This includes the following:

The offices of the Labour Commissioner throughout Namibia will be ready to accept referrals of all new labour disputes that cannot be resolved at the workplace. The Labour Commissioner will designate trained conciliators and arbitrators to conciliate or arbitrate the disputes in accordance with new rules and statutory time deadlines.

An electronic (computerised) case management system in the offices of the Labour Commissioner will facilitate the speedy and efficient processing of all disputes. The Ministry has acquired recording equipment for the arbitration tribunals.

The Minister of Labour and Social Welfare may act proactively in the public interest to initiate conciliation or to appoint a tripartite panel to investigate any industrial conflict or potential conflict.

The new Committee for Dispute Prevention and Resolution, a Sub-committee of the Labour Advisory Council, will render advice support to the aforementioned processes.

A new Essential Services Committee, also a subcommittee of the Labour Advisory Council, will advise on the identification of essential services, the interruption of which could endanger the life, health and personal safety of any person. The Act prohibits strikes and lockouts in essential services.

The district labour courts shall decide all pending cases, but shall be phased out upon the completion of these cases.

**The Labour Court:**

The Labour Court will become a division of the High Court with an expanded jurisdiction to hear appeals from arbitration tribunals on questions of law. New

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rules will govern its proceedings.

Regulation of strikes and lockouts:

*Ex parte* interdicts have proved to exacerbate the resolution of strikes and impede their orderly conduct. The new Act provides that the Labour Court may issue an urgent Interdict only after notice of the application for an Interdict and a right to be heard has been given to all parties. The Act also provides for the regulation of strikes and lockouts through the parties' adoption of rules governing its conduct.

Strengthened protections for employees:

The new features include:

- The concept of "casual" workers has been eliminated. All employed persons are considered to be "employees" and are entitled to the protection of the Act.
- A consequential Amendment to the Social Security Act will harmonise the definitions of both Acts, thereby expanding social security coverage to all persons employed in the Republic of Namibia.
- Provisions dealing with the prohibition or regulation of child labour have been expanded and strengthened;
- A provisions has been introduced to address sexual harassment as a form of discrimination at the workplace;
- An agricultural employer/farmer will be required to give three months' notice of eviction to employees obliged to live on the employer's premises; all other employers will be required to give one month's notice to employees so obliged;
- Vacation leave entitlement for employees working different normal, work-weeks is spelled out clearly;
- Employees taking maternity leave will be entitled to continue to receive all allowance and fringe benefits included in their remuneration package without interruption;

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- Every employee will be entitled to five days' annually for compassionate leave upon the death of specified close family members. The leave is non-accumulative.
- The previous deduction of employer pension contributions from an employee's severance pay entitlement has been eliminated.

Support for collective bargaining:

The goal of harmonious labour relations can only be achieved through ongoing and effective consultation and cooperation among social partners, that is the Government, trade unions and employer organisations. Our Ministry is committed to assisting to strengthen the capacity of the trade unions and employers' organisation in order to promote collective bargaining as the preferred means to prevent labour disputes.

A new provision in the Labour Act, 2007 permits an employer and a trade union recognised as the exclusive representative of the employer's employees to negotiate in their collective bargaining agreement a union security provision known as an "*agency fee*". This is a payment deducted from the wages of employees and remitted to the union in order to defray the expenses of union representation.

Regulation of working conditions pursuant to various contract entered into by the State:

A similar provision contained in the 1992 Act has been strengthened. Any person who wishes to enter into a contract with the central Government, Regional or Local Authorities or State-Owned Enterprises or to receive a licence in terms of any law on mining and minerals, wildlife, environment, tourism or fisheries must undertake to ensure that every person employed directly or indirectly, pursuant to such contracts or rights, is employed on terms and conditions not less favourable than those contained in industry collective agreements or the wages and conditions prevailing in the same industry or Region.

This is intended to both protect the employees and eliminate unfair competition among employers based upon substandard wages.

Prohibition of labour hire:

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As many are aware, a court case is pending that will test the constitutionality of the new Section of the Act that makes the practice of labour hire a crime. That case will be heard in November this year. The Ministry will, therefore, not put the new provision into effect until the High Court hands down its judgment.

Variations of the Labour Act:

A new provision confers on the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare the authority to vary any of the statutory Basic Conditions of Employment after consultation with the Labour Advisory Council. This will enable employers and trade unions to apply for variations in order to fashion basic conditions of employment that are appropriate for a particular industry or establishment.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, despite the worthy intentions of the social partner architects of the Labour Act, 2007 and of the Parliament in adopting it, this important social legislation cannot be effective without compliance with its provisions and without persons asserting the rights afforded by the law. During my visits to so many parts of Namibia I have found that compliance with our current Labour Act, 1992 is wanting. The reasons for this are many. For example, some persons simply do not respect the law and flaunt its requirements. We have seen this not only in the case of the Labour Act, 1992, but also with respect to the Social Security Act, 1993 and the Affirmative Action (Employment) Act, 1998.

To reverse this situation, we cannot allow laxity in enforcement. Our Ministry has plans to expand its complement of labour inspectors to strengthen its capacity to enforce the laws. This is however only a partial solution. We have also found during our visits to the Regions that many of our key stakeholders, whether employers, employees or Government Officials, are ignorant of the requirements of the Labour Act.

We cannot make a success of this new Law unless all sectors commit themselves to ongoing efforts to raise public awareness about the rights and obligations created by the Labour Act and commit themselves to comply with it.

Our Ministry has begun to approach this mammoth task of educating the public about the provisions of the new Labour Act. Many of you have undoubtedly seen the fact boxes placed by the Ministry in two daily newspapers during the past month that explain key provisions of the Act. Two hundred and sixty thousand

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pamphlets summarising the key provisions of the Act were produced for inclusion as supplements in the two newspapers and for direct distribution countrywide. I hope the Honourable Members of Parliament are also going to be availed that documentation. In addition, popular pamphlets have also been prepared on termination of employment, conciliation of disputes, arbitration of disputes, annual leave, strikes and lockouts. The Ministry intends to disseminate additional information through both electronic and print media on an ongoing basis.

If we are however to succeed in this important social project, the task of educating the public and achieving public ownership and acceptance of the new Labour Act is the responsibility of all stakeholders, that is Government ministries, Parliamentarians, employers organisations, employee organisations, churches, civil society and all other institutions and individuals who would be affected directly or indirectly by the new Act.

This Law can make a difference in improving the lives of many of the working people of this country. We appeal to you to familiarise yourselves with the new Labour Act and make it known to your members, your communities and your families. Our Ministry is prepared to cooperate with you by sending trainers, conduct workshops at your request and provide simplified written materials on the Act. Let us make a difference in the improvement of labour relations in our country. I thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Minister. Any questions? Message from the Head of State? Thursday is the day initiated by the Opposition benches. Question 73 is by Honourable Venaani to the Honourable Minister of Presidential Affairs. Does the Honourable Member Put the question?

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**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS**

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**QUESTION 73:**

**HON VENAANI:** I Put the Question.

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HON DR KAWANA / HON DR GEINGOB**

**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, although I do not have a written response for the benefit of Honourable Venaani, I will venture to use my knowledge to respond so that we do not waste time. May I with your permission, Honourable Deputy Speaker, regard the two questions of the Honourable Member as one?

As I stated during the Budget Debate, the grounds where the new State House is located have not yet been consolidated and that process is ongoing. At the same time, as I informed this Honourable House, the land consists of two categories: One category consists of residential zone for private residences and I can now confirm to this Honourable House that progress is being made to compensate those affected. With regard to the other area of land which is owned by the municipality, negotiations are ongoing so that this issue is finalised. Once all these issues are finalised, the whole area will be consolidated into one plot where the State House is situated at the moment and thereafter a number of outstanding issues will be sorted out between Government and the City of Windhoek. As for the private plots or residences, as I said there is considerable progress and I believe that before the end of this year that issue will be resolved. I thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Question 74 is by Honourable Venaani to the Minister of Trade and Industry. Does the Honourable Member Put the Question?

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**QUESTION 74:**

**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I Put the Question.

**HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:** Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker. I am asked whether it is true or false that our Trade Mission in Washington has up to date no trade attaché since the last one resigned in 2002.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Honourable Venaani for the keen interest that he is showing in the matters of national economic development. I am confident that with such positive interest shown by some Members of the Opposition on matters of mutual concern, we together are most likely to succeed

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HON DR GEINGOB**

in the economic objectives of industrialisation, wealth creation, poverty alleviation and the overall welfare of the people of Namibia.

Regarding your question on the absence of a commercial counsellor in Washington, the answer is yes.

Secondly, the Honourable Member asked why this important mission lacks the presence of a trade attaché and when does the Minister wish to appoint one?

There is certainly a need to reactivate the operations. Since becoming the new Minister of Trade and Industry, I have requested my officials as a top priority to ensure that an adequately qualified and experienced official at senior level be identified and presented to me for appointment. As I have said, this is a priority posting along with others such as China and the United Arab Emirates. We are identifying people and I will appoint them as soon as that process is done.

Thirdly: Is it further true that our missions in Brazil and China have currently no trade attachés at those critical missions? How does the Minister envisage addressing these shortcomings?

Yes, it is true, we have identified both Brazil and China alongside the United States, Germany, France, UK and the United Arab Emirates as key global economic centres requiring Namibian presence to intensify trade and investment relations. Hence, the opening of Commercial Counsellor offices in these countries has been budgeted for and will be operationalised soon. However if the Honourable Member is interested, please consult me.

I trust that these remarks would have served to allay the concerns which Honourable Venaani has raised with regard to Namibia's investment and trade promotion profile in the international economic arena. I thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Minister. Question 78 is by Honourable Tjihuike to the Honourable Minister of Finance. Does the Honourable Member Put the Question?

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

**QUESTION 78:**

**HON TJIHUIKO:** I Put the Question.

**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, indeed, Honourable Tjihuike has misdirected the question, as always, and he has also mixed up more than one issue, so that it is not really clear from the question what he wishes to be provided information on. Maybe just to indicate why I say he has misdirected the question, the Honourable Member seems to be seeking information on issues of remuneration of political office-bearers and it is not part of the terms of reference of the Ministry of Finance to deal with remuneration of political office-bearers. That is not part of fiscal policy and I, therefore, advice the Honourable Member to redirect the question to the correct Office, which I am sure would be happy to provide any information that would be required.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I wish to thank the Honourable Minister of Finance for the kind advice and I will follow her advice. Thank you very much.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Question 80 is by Honourable Gurirab to the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**QUESTION 80:**

**HON T GURIRAB:** I Put the Question.

**HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I thank Honourable Tsudao Gurirab for his questions and the answers are as follows:

Question 1: The strike has cost TransNamib an amount of N\$52,934,569. For the Namibian economy the loss is estimated at N\$180 million.

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HON P MUSHELENGA**

Question 2: The man-hours or working hours which were lost as a result of the strike is 16,800 hours.

In the third question the Honourable Member wants to know why the Ministry of Works and Transport looked the other way when striking workers defied the law of the country and the unions were openly taunting the Government?

The answer: The Ministry of Works and Transport is not a law-enforcement agency. In other words, those who disobey the law of the country were supposed to be dealt with by the law-enforcement agencies in our country.

On the question as to whether the strike was called in furtherance of SWAPO's strife with the RDP, as alleged by NUNW Evaristus Kaaronda, the answer is that I am not prepared now to indulge in propagandistic or other exchanges so as to appease the CoD. Anything that I will have to say about these questions of strikes will be based on facts and figures. I thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I now call on Honourable Peya Mushelenga to put his Oral Question to the Minister of Finance.

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**ORAL QUESTION**

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**HON P MUSHELENGA:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, as you advised on Tuesday, I will now put my Oral Question to the Honourable Minister of Finance.

It was reported on Monday on NBC News that a passenger with a disability was left behind by a domestic flight from Eros Airport to Ondangwa, because Air Namibia stated that they could not guarantee his safety in terms of accident.

My question is: Is this an old or a new policy of our National Carrier and is this rule applicable only to domestic flights or is it also applicable to international flights? Knowing that our National Carrier also carries senior citizens, will they now also stop carrying senior citizens in domestic flights, because they cannot guarantee the safety of people with disabilities? In terms of accidents the effect will be more or less the same.

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HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I thank Honourable Mushelenga for posing this question and therefore, providing me an opportunity to provide clarification as provided to me by Air Namibia on this issue.

The issue is, in my view, indeed very important and, therefore, deserving of an explanation in order that our Nation is properly informed and that any concerns that may have been raised as a result of this incident and the reporting thereon can be allayed.

Air Namibia has confirmed that a passenger from Lusaka, Zambia, who was booked on one of its flights to Ondangwa on 22 September this year could not be transported on the flight. This, the Airline explained, was because the specifications of the flight equipment, a Beechcraft 1900 Aircraft, which is the equipment used on all Air Namibia domestic routes, does not allow for the handling of passengers with restricted mobility by means of passenger aid units for the loading and off-loading of persons with restricted movements.

Air Namibia indicated that that model of aircraft only allows for one passenger on the step at a time, and I am sure most of us have travelled with those domestic flights. You can only have one passenger on the step at a time, thus it will not be possible to carry a passenger with a disability.

Air Namibia said it would also be a safety hazard to all passengers, including the concerned passenger, if the aircraft was to board a person with restricted movement on that model of aircraft if there were to be an emergency situation, because the airliner does not have cabin crew on board to assist the passenger.

The Airline further indicated that it had indeed informed the passenger upon receipt of the passenger's reservation through the travel agent that he will not be able to travel by that flight because of the reasons explained earlier and also because the requirement of the International Aviation is that passengers on those models of aircraft should be able to climb the stairs and move within the cabin in cases of emergency. However, the staff of Air Namibia only noticed when the passenger arrived at Eros Airport that he was indeed not able to move around, because they did not have the detail, and indeed would require assistance beyond what can be handled by the aircraft specifications. As a result, the passenger could not be boarded on the aircraft.

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HON VENAANI**

However, Air Namibia reached an amicable solution with the passenger, whereby the Airline took responsibility for the passenger's journey by road to and from Ondangwa and for his accommodation on the night of the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September here in Windhoek.

The Airline has emphasised that this is a requirement of the Aviation Association and that it sincerely regrets the inconveniences caused to the passenger as a result of this. It emphasised that, indeed, the travel agent was informed about this but it would seem that the travel agent did not convey the information to the passenger and as a result this incident occurred.

Air Namibia and I as shareholder Minister on behalf of Government in Air Namibia wishes, to ensure the Namibian public and the passenger in question of the commitment of Air Namibia and our Government of the respectful handling of all our customers and to ensure non-discrimination of all citizens.

Asked as to whether this restriction is also applicable to other flights, including international ones, I think I have indicated that this was specific to the Beechcraft 1900 Aircraft. Our international routes are run by different models of aircraft and we do have cabin crew that can assist passengers in need of assistance. I thank you.

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I want to ask an Oral Question to the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I have read a serious allegation in the media, *Informanté*, that Namibia has seen an influx of around 50,000 litres of Chinese milk that contains the Melamine substance. Has the Ministry of Trade and Industry intervened as of yet or has the Minister at this point in time recalled the product? Is that allegation true and what does the Minister envisage to do to address the question? It is an urgent oral question.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Minister of Trade.

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HON DR GEINGOB**

**HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:** Firstly, if such a thing has happened it is a very serious occurrence and, obviously, it is not only the Ministry of Trade that would act, but also the Health Ministry. However, I do not have any information about it, I did not read about it in the newspaper. I have read about other countries who have recalled that milk and I definitely did not hear about Namibia. But now that we know about its existence, we will of course take the necessary action. I thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. The Secretary will read the First Order of the day.

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**RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING:  
NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL BILL**

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**SECRETARY:** Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – *National Youth Council Bill*.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** When this Debate was adjourned yesterday, 24 September 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture, that the Bill be read a Second Time. The Honourable Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Welfare adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor. Honourable Iilonga.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker. I rise to contribute to this very important Bill which deals with the young generation, the hope of our future and also to thank the Minister and the entire Ministry for tabling this very important Bill.

The dreams and endeavours of our youth are anchored in our resolute to create space and mechanisms that would enable them to fulfil such dreams. Comrade

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HON IILONGA**

Deputy Speaker, the dreams of young people are what propelled the youth of yesterday, the Kaptein Hendrik Witboois, the Mahareros, the Tjamuhas, the Ipumbu Ya Shilongos, the Mandumes. The list is endless. Those are the dreams we wish our youth of today to follow and this is what enabled our forefathers to wage a war of resistance against German colonialism. This dream also which propelled Dr Sam Shafishuna Nujoma, the Pohambas and many others to wage a successful liberation struggle under the umbrella of SWAPO, which culminated in our free and independent Namibia on 21 March 1990.

The National Youth Council Bill intends to create a vehicle the youth can use to realise their potential and also to channel their intentions in pursuit of the economic struggle to the benefit of all youth in all thirteen Regions and all 107 Constituencies.

I am, therefore, pleased to make a contribution to this Second Reading of the National Council Bill as introduced by Comrade Konjore, Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, the creation of a body such as the National Youth Council brings coherence and national pride among our youth. It is true that the future of our youth are in their hands, but equally it can be said that their futures are affected by what we do in this House. Therefore, it is important for us as Honourable Members to produce an Act of Parliament that institutes the National Youth Council and hence, strengthen its institutional and operational capacity.

Today's youth are constantly reminding us that they are the leaders of today. They do not want it to be said that they are the leaders of tomorrow as we were told in our time when we were young. We were told we are the leaders of tomorrow and that is the reality. For that reason, Comrade Deputy Speaker, the youth must be adequately equipped with resources that should enable them to tackle the challenges they are facing, not only tomorrow but also today.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, the youth are the most vulnerable section in our society. It is true that many a time key decisions that affect their lives are taken in the absence of not only the youth, but also in absence of the elders who are not sitting in decision-making bodies. Therefore, I hope and believe that the National Youth Council Bill is intended to address this anomaly.

A reconstituted National Youth Council should be strengthened by providing

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skills to young people in collaboration with other relevant institutions and agencies. Our youth must benefit from training in the field of agriculture, commerce and entrepreneurship. Agricultural training will enable our rural youth to benefit from the fruits of Independence just like their counterparts in urban areas.

Our country depends heavily on food imports from neighbouring countries. Therefore, if we want to reverse this trend, it is imperative to encourage our rural youth to become food producers. This will address both our Nation's food security as well as our young people's welfare.

To quantify what I have mentioned above, I want to support Comrade Kazenambo that the National Youth Service must be compulsory so that our youth be trained in patriotism towards their country, Namibia. Currently, Comrade Deputy Speaker, you find only young Namibians who are black participating in the National Youth Service and that cannot be regarded as a National Youth Service if other Namibian societies are not participating. To make it really national, all, including Honourable Viljoen's sons and daughters, should participate and not to grow up the way we were brought up.

While it is important to empower our youth with the necessary agricultural and entrepreneurial skills, we should not forget that our youth are differently gifted. I would like this House to consider seriously. Many of our young people are excellent in the field of arts, culture and sport, but these young people's skills are often not considered and sometimes ignored. They do not receive the necessary infrastructure and financial support. We have witnessed around the world that arts, culture and sport can lead many people, including the illiterate ones, out of poverty. Therefore, if we want to tackle the unemployment among our young people, especially among those without formal education, we should seriously consider the establishment centres of excellence where our young and gifted artists and athletes can be moulded into productive citizens of our country. This is very important, if we have a place where people can be trained, we will really overcome some of these problems.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, the National Youth Council Bill intends to make our young people the central characters in the shaping of their socio-economic disposition. Hence, the role of the youth in the shaping of their future is enhanced by the Bill before us. Our SWAPO Party Government is committed towards the provision of an enabling environment for young people in order to

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constantly interrogate the state of their being and hence, advance and influence governance and other stakeholders' policies on youth development.

One reality we cannot escape from is the fact that the past injustice sadly continues to shape our society today. While the National Youth Council Bill is meant to empower all our youth, the truth before us is that our young people are at the present moment not equally advantaged.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, I mentioned earlier that you find that youth in the rural areas are not benefiting or are not well-equipped like their counterparts in urban areas. Therefore, also when it comes to the youth of formerly disadvantaged and formerly advantaged, there is a difference. If you take the road towards Daan Viljoen, you will find some young Namibians who are from the rich families or those who were advantaged that time participating in sports, riding motorbikes and many other things. Therefore, the centre of excellence is needed.

We therefore, find among our youth those who are more vulnerable than others. What comes to mind here is the young women, the young unemployed youth, the rural youth and those living with disability and diseases such as HIV/AIDS. It is only fair to remind not only the youth leaders, but all the stakeholders to have deliberate policies and programmes that specifically target these sections of our young population.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, we must ensure that the Bill establishes a National Youth Council that is not only attached to the capital city and other major towns, but which goes as far as impacting on the lives of the youth residing in the rural settlements and villages. We realise that for this to be accomplished, the National Youth Council needs to have links at all levels of governance, from the central Government, Regional and Local Authorities and including our Traditional Authorities. The National Youth Council's presence is felt in all our thirteen Regions, we will succeed if it is guided in activities by the National Youth Policy that is comprehensive, cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, such a policy should bring coherence among the youth intended policies that emanate from various Government Offices, Ministries and Agencies as well as development partners. However, I encourage the youth leaders to fully comprehend how Government processes work if they are to gain

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maximum benefits from the programmes, services, amenities and activities designed by Government for the benefit of the youth.

At the same time, Government Offices, Ministries and Agencies must interact with youth leaders to learn and accommodate the expectations and wishes of young people.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, with this National Youth Council Bill we should guard against changing only the status of the current National Youth Council without bringing meaningful change to its operational capacity. It is clear that the intention of this Bill is to create a body that is established by an Act of Parliament and the youth are quoted in the media that they want a National Youth Council that cannot be dissolved easily by a Cabinet Decision. They want something that is solid so that it could have activities which would not lead to the Cabinet doing away with it. Moreover, young people want to see a huge transformation in terms of legal standing of the National Youth Council as an institution and subsequently, its funding.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Section 30 of the Bill makes provision for the establishment of the Youth Development Fund and I hope that the youth will acquaint themselves with the law and make sure that the money appropriated by this Honourable House is going to be administered with a full degree of financial discipline.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, I am glad that with this National Youth Council Bill Namibia is indeed moving towards to the fulfilment of its commitments under various international policies that address youth initiatives. Here I think of the African Union Youth Charter, Commonwealth Youth Charter as well as the United Nations World Programme of Action for Youth. Furthermore, while I wholeheartedly support all the efforts geared towards youth empowerment, I would in the same breath remind the youth about the huge responsibility that comes with the reconstitution of the National Youth Council. Amongst others education and to educate each other on respect for the elderly, the maintenance of the history of the Land of the Brave as well as hard work. Only through those principles can they really see their dreams come true like the dreams of the youth of yesterday to liberate that country. Without discipline as a youth, you will go nowhere.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, I say they must study the history of the country so that

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they know that all these opportunities came as a result of the heavy sacrifices of the youth of yesterday, the sons and daughters of the Land of the Brave who gave their precious lives for them to be in an independent Namibia and some to be born free. They must defend that hard-won Independence and not betray the blood that waters our freedom. In the SWAPO Party anthem we say, "*their blood sustained us until we got our freedom*" and our National Anthem says, "*their blood waters our freedom.*" I want the youth to see to it that that blood must be their aspiration and mentor, so that they cannot betray them.

Finally, we should make sure that we do not fail the expectations of our young people and I hence call upon you all, Honourable Members, to make sure that the National Youth Council is transformed an institution that is ready to serve its Constituency better and to advance the interests of Namibia. Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Speaker.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I recognise Honourable Nghidinwa.

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**HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:**  
Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, first of all I would like to join others who thanked the Honourable Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture for tabling this very important Bill in Parliament.

Since the youth are the backbone of the country, the backbone of the labour market, the introduction of Bill to Parliament has come at the right time when our children, our youth, are surrounded by many social problems.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, my contribution of today shall be brief. I would like to support the statement made by Comrade Peya Mushelenga and Comrade Kavetuna, more especially when they encouraged the youth under this umbrella to fight against poverty, unemployment and other challenges facing them, for example, poverty, unemployment, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, alcohol and drug abuse, teenage pregnancies and early school dropouts and many others. As we know, some of the youth in our society are orphans who became heads of households.

The youth under this umbrella needs to be encouraged to join vocational training

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centre programmes in order for them to become entrepreneurs and to contribute to the economic growth of our country.

With the establishment of the Youth Development Fund in this Bill, they will be able to make use of it in their different established small companies to fight poverty and create more jobs within themselves.

The issue of the National Youth Service needs to be supported, as mentioned by Honourable Kazenambo, to form a united Nation in the future. Such programme needs to be revisited to accommodate all the programmes, for example manufacturing, to ensure that after graduation the youth can do more to combat unemployment among themselves.

Lastly, I would like to express my gratitude to these youth who are trying their level best to organise themselves to tackle the issue of unemployment. Especially during agricultural seasons such initiatives need to be extended to all Regions through Regional exchange programmes to ensure that all thirteen Regions are doing the same.

Let us now support this Bill which will make the Namibian youth to strive for the betterment of the socio-economic, cultural and political status among the youth. With these few words, I fully support the Bill and I thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, Honourable Minister. I recognise Honourable !Nawases-Taeyele.

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**HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. I rise with particular satisfaction to contribute to the National Youth Council Bill, which is the Bill for the youth, by the youth that was introduced by the Honourable Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture.

The National Youth Council Bill, as this august House is aware, seeks to provide for, *inter alia*, the establishment of the National Youth Council and the Youth Development Fund; to provide for the management and administration of the

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Council and the Fund; to provide for the establishment of youth forums; to provide for the registration of youth organisations and associations as affiliates to the Council.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to cite the powers and the functions of the National Youth Council in terms of the National Youth Council which, *inter alia*, I quote: *“To foster among the Namibian youth a spirit of National identity, a sense of patriotism, unity, self-respect and in-depth awareness of social, economic, political, educational and cultural prospects and diversities; to develop the inherent abilities and capabilities of young people both individually and collectively; to initiate youth development projects, programmes and activities with the aim of encouraging the active participation of the youth in the process of their own empowerment.”*

The institutions of the National Youth Council, are namely the General Assembly, Representative Council and the Board of Council. The Bill makes provision for the appointment of an Executive Chairperson who shall not only be the political head of the National Youth Council, but must also be a person who understands and develop politics and aspirations of the youth in general. This is an important provision for which I would like to thank the former Minister of Youth, Honourable John Mutorwa, for his understanding. I must, therefore, thank various Ministers who showed their understanding when we lobbied against accepting the Bill in the form it was previously.

Undoubtedly it was going to dilute the identity and direction of the National Youth Council. We are happy, therefore, that many of our comments are now reflected in the current Bill.

I now wish to make some specific comments on the Bill and its provision to address the plight of our young people in 107 Constituencies and in all thirteen Regions of our country.

At the onset, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I wish to highlight a slight discrepancy in the definition of the youth. According to the definition of “youth” under Part 1 of the Bill, it is a young person aged from 16 to 30. However, in Section 14 on the Constitution of the Board reference is made to the Board members being aged from 16 to 35. I would like the Minister to harmonise the definition of a youth as contemplated in the National Youth Policy or the African Youth Charter.

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Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, this Bill is indeed aimed at fostering among the Namibian youth a spirit of National identity. Therefore, this means, among other things, that as the Economic Transformation Convention of the SWAPO Party Youth League made it clear, there is need for funds to be made available to cater for the needs and aspirations of other young people. This Fund must also have an Empowerment Register to ensure that a broad-based and fair participation of the youth in the Fund beneficiation takes place and it is effectively monitored. This register must be a public document.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, it is in this context that I wish to state that the State procurement rules and procedures must be amended so that it is in concert with the proposed Youth Development Fund in the Bill. The Amendment of the State procurement rules and procedures must ensure that the youth preference must be mandatory in awarding tenders. Public procurement must also grant a 30% mandatory preference to local young entrepreneurs. The tender process should thus require at least 30% of public tenders to youth ownership of companies bidding for the state tenders. Preferential access for the youth should be granted in the allocation of these tenders.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I will also propose that youth enterprise should be exempted from the usual tax burden in order to encourage young people to enter into business ventures. It is further my call to devise a clear-cut youth integrated development approach in all Government Offices, Ministries and Agencies. There must be a quota allocated for youth and women in all above captured institutions. I appeal that when we debate this Bill, we must look into it holistically and see how we can use it to improve the lives of our young people which cut across all sectors and Political Parties represented in this august House.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I suggest that we should interrogate and look into how this Bill should be closely linked with the economic Ministries, like Mines and Energy, Environment and Tourism, Fisheries... (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** May I ask Honourable Taeyele a question? Comrade

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Taeyele, you made a point in favour of the youth, that the youth must be exempted from tax. As you have been fighting for the definition of “youth” to be changed to 35 years old and looking at our population, how many people are we talking about? And these are the young people who are working who are now supposed to contribute to the State coffers in order to prepare for their future. If they are exempted, where is the revenue going to come from in the country if the elders are not working?

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**HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE:** Yes, Honourable Members, I am very much aware that the youth constitute the majority of the Namibian population. That is why I am eager that we at least help these people until a certain stage where they could be on their own before we put this burden on them of taxing the little income they are generating. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,  
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** May I ask a question? The youth are people up to the age of 35 and these are the working people. The majority of the energetic people who are working are up to the age of 35 and the old ‘crocks’ are from 40 to 60. If 60% of the working people do not pay tax, do you think the rest of the working force will be able to maintain the State?

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**HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, when I was addressing this very important part, I referred to those young people who are just starting businesses or entering into business ventures. We are sitting with a majority of young people that are unemployment. I am not sure of the statistics, but young people are the ones that are mostly unemployed and that do not have access to these facilities to make sure that they will be empowered and be given opportunities to venture into business opportunities.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT  
AND CULTURE:** Comrade Deputy Speaker, I am terribly sorry to interfere

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with the Honourable Member since I will have time to reply, but I think I also need to be assisted to give very good advice when I reply.

My question to the Honourable Member is: What is provided in our laws as far as income tax is concerned? Are there not income brackets that determine who should pay tax and who should be exempted from tax depending on the income? Will it not be better to use a different definition for that request rather than to say youth? Youth may have a higher income than Parliamentarians. Should we then exempt them just because they are young people?

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**HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE:** Yes, I am calling for an Amendment. If there are such requirements within the tax forms, that you should at least be given that chance. Let us give those who are starting a chance to at least reach a certain stage before we start taxing them on the little income they are earning. That would be my appeal.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I was suggesting that we should interrogate and look into how this Bill shall be closely linked with economic Ministries, such as Mines and Energy, Environment and Tourism, Trade and Industry, Agriculture and to a larger extent, the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development. The youth economic empowerment and development must assume a centre stage in all their policy pronouncements.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I will lastly, as a proud and committed young cadre of this House, wish to applaud the former Minister together with the current Minister, Deputy Minister and the staff of the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture for their understanding, the wise counselling and approach in bringing about this much-needed Bill to this House. Your visionary insight has indeed led to the drafting of this Bill and we are very much happy and salute you for that.

Finally, it remains our collective hope that the Budget of the National Youth Council will be increased at least to N\$30 million in order to cater for the growing needs of our young people. I thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Any further discussion?  
Honourable Tsudao Gurirab.

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**HON T GURIRAB:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I Move for the adjournment  
of this Debate until Tuesday, next week.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Debate stands adjourned until Tuesday, next  
week. The Secretary will read the Second Order of the day.

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**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE:  
MOTION ON PREVAILING POVERTY IN OUR COUNTRY**

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**SECRETARY:** *Resumption of Debate on the prevailing poverty in our country.*

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** When this Debate was adjourned yesterday, 24  
September 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable  
Tjihuike. The Honourable Minister of Works and Transport adjourned the  
Debate and he now has the Floor.

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Thank you, Comrade  
Deputy Speaker. My participation in this Debate, which should have been very  
important for the sharing of information and education in terms of where we are  
with regard to the Millennium Development Goals, will be restricted to facts and  
figures and I will stay away from propaganda unless I am provoked.

Namibia set a precedent of the United Nations General Assembly during the  
Millennium Summit in New York in 2000. At this occasion, world leaders of  
some 189 countries met and agreed on the most pertinent problem being faced by  
humanity and agreed on what needs to be done to overcome this. As I said, this

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Summit was shared in terms of chairmanship between Namibia, supervised by the current Speaker and Finland.

The Millennium Declaration that was then signed stated that everything would be done to take men, women and children out of extreme poverty. World leaders from rich and poor countries committed themselves to eight basic targets. If these targets can be met, it would halve extreme poverty worldwide by 2015. These goals 1 to 7 are committed to help the poor out of poverty, hunger, get every child into school, empower women, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, fight HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases and to ensure environmental sustainability. Goal 8 states that poverty can only be reduced worldwide if countries collaborate to achieve this.

The Monterrey Consensus was adopted by Heads of State and Government in March 2002 in the United Federal Republic of Mexico. At the Gleneagles Summit Declaration and Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness a commitment was made to increase official development assistance to Africa to some US\$25 billion by 2010 and to council by 100% of outstanding debt to Highly Indebted Poor Countries, to the IMF, Financial Development Assistance and African Development Fund.

The ultimate objective of the Monterrey Consensus is to enhance growth and reduce poverty in poor countries. Economic performance in the African Region improved slightly since the Monterrey Consensus was adopted.

Mobilisation of international resources and domestic resource mobilisation showed little progress.

The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), World Bank and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development indicate that in terms of official development assistance in the pre-Monterrey period, that is 1998 – 2001, Official Development Assistance stood at US\$16 billion in Africa and in the post-Monterrey period that is 2002-2005, at US\$28 million.

Performance in terms of the amount of Official Development Assistance is positive, but there is a concern that recent aid flows stand to concentrate on a few countries and emergency assistance and that relief accounts for a significant percentage of aid flows.

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The Millennium Development Goals indicators, baseline and targets are:

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. Target reduced by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar per day and reduced by half the proportion of living who suffer from hunger.

Goal 2: Achieving universal primary education. The target: Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling.

Goal 3: Promote gender equality. Target: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005 and at all levels by 2015.

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality. Target: Reduce by two-thirds the mortality rate.

Goal 5: Improve maternal health. Target: Reduce by three-quarters the maternal mortality ratio.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. Target: Hold and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015. Hold and begin to reverse the incidents of malaria and other major diseases by 2015.

Goal 7: Ensure environment sustainability. Target: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policy and programmes. Reverse loss of environmental resources. Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development. The target was: Develop further an open trading and financial system that is rural based, predictable and non-discriminatory. Includes commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction nationally and internationally. In cooperation with the developing countries, develop decent and productive work for youth. In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries. In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefit of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies.

Namibia's progress on achieving the Millennium Development Goals is as follows:

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Namibia has made significant progress towards meeting most of the Millennium Development Goals for which I believe this Motion was seeking and it is on track to meet some targets before the scheduled time. The latest information concerning poverty based on the National Household Income and Expenditure Survey of 2004, two years after the Monterrey Summit, indicates that poverty levels have declined since 1994 from 38% to 28% in 2004. The income distribution also improved as reflected in the reduction of the gini-coefficient. The Section below provides a brief description of Namibia's progress in achieving each Millennium Development Goal.

Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, on which Mr Tjihuiko dwelled quite considerably:

The proportion of poor households has decreased significantly during the ten-year span between the first and the second household survey (1993/1994) (2003/2004). The target set by the Government for 2006 was reached already by 2003/2004).

The proportion of severely poor households was much smaller than that of all poor households, showing a decrease from 10 to 4%. However, the target for 2012 to reduce the number of malnourished children seems unlikely to be met as malnourished children under five still constitute more than a quarter of all children under five. Nothing to hide.

Achieving universal primary education: Since the year 2000 there has been a slight increase in the literacy rate from 91% to 93% and the net primary school enrolment rate from 91% to 92%. However, the net primary school enrolment rate is on a downward trend, which makes it unlikely that the 2012 goal will be reached. Should the increase in the literacy rate continue at the same pace as during the 2000 and 2007 period, it is unlikely that the 2015 goal will be reached. Nothing to hide.

In response the Government has invested in the education sector and it is estimated that about 25% of the National Budget – and this was our response to this international commitment in terms of education – went to Education in 2008/09. For the same period it is estimated that the share of primary and primary education affairs and services is about 50%. This investment has led to higher accessibility of schools and better facilities.

Gender: Promote gender equality and empower women. How are we faring? In

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2007 there were 98 females for every 100 males in primary school and 170 females for every 100 males in secondary school. The target for the ratio of females per males in secondary education and the female to male literacy rate are thus achieved. It, therefore, seems likely that the target for primary education will be achieved before 2015. The proportion of women in Parliament has also increased significantly since Independence to 26.9%. However, the 2015 target of 50% is not likely to be met, provided we make an extraordinary effort.

Furthermore, there are still relatively few women reaching high level positions. For instance, in the private sector women held about 33% of senior management positions in 2005. In the same year, women constituted 29% of the parastatal boards of directors, while in the boards of directors in the private sector only 18% are women. In the public sector the share of women in management positions in Government Offices, Ministries and Agencies varies from 5% in the Ministry of Defence to about 75% in the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare. I hope there is no reversed discrimination.

Although the Namibian Constitution acknowledges the rights of women as equal to men in society and outlaws discriminatory practices and numerous policies exist in support of gender equality, the main challenge seems to be the implementation of these policies and the change of perceptions regarding women's role in society.

Reduction of child mortality: Namibia is performing well in comparison to other sub-Saharan countries in reducing the rate of child mortality. According to Namibia Demographic and Health Survey 2006, since the year 2000 infant mortality has increased from 40 to 49% per one thousand live births. This is in contrast to the marked progress made during the nineties in reducing the mortality rate. Therefore, the target for 2006 was not achieved.

The set target concerning immunisation against measles for 2006 was not only met but even surpassed. Progress of an increase from 65% in 2000 to about 70% in 2006 for children that have received all their vaccinations, not only vaccinations against measles, can be reported. If this trend continues, it is very likely that health authorities will meet the 2012 target regarding the immunisation of children. In support of achieving this MDG, the Namibia health authorities employ an extensive policy framework aiming to promote child health, especially

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an extended policy for immunisation which has shown encouraging results in providing vaccination to all children.

**Improved maternal health:** According to all the development indicators of 2006-2007, in comparison to other lower and middle-income countries, the maternal mortality ratio in Namibia is higher, with a ratio of 449 deaths per 100,000 live births. Maternal mortality is deteriorating in spite of the increased attendance of skilled health workers during delivery. It is therefore unlikely that maternal mortality will improve to a level of 370 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2012.

**Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and diseases:** The HIV/AIDS prevalence range has gone in the age group of 15 to 19 and 20 to 24 respectively from 12% in 2000 to 10.2% in 2006 and from 20 to 16.4% in the same period. The 2007 targets were not met. However, if the prevalence rates continue at the rate of reduction seen from 2000 to 2006, the 2012 target may be achievable.

The Namibian Constitution acknowledges the issues of HIV/AIDS and human rights through the Bill of Rights. Also the Namibian HIV/AIDS Charter of Rights and Code on HIV/AIDS are defining the legal rights of people living with HIV/AIDS. The political leadership of Namibia is also committed to combating HIV/AIDS in accordance with international commitments, such as the Abuja Declaration and the United Nations General Assembly Special Session.

Namibia's Third National Development Plan also set the prevention of new HIV/AIDS infection and treatment on people living with HIV/AIDS as top priority.

In the Third Medium-Term Plan a National Strategy Plan on HIV/AIDS has been created in order to guide the National Programme for Curbing and Treating the Disease.

**Tuberculosis:** In 2007, the Global TB Report ranks Namibia as the country with the second-highest incidence of tuberculosis. The disease often coincides with poverty and malnutrition, overcrowded living conditions as well as alcoholism. Under the reviewed National TB Health Policy, the Ministry of Health and Social Services succeeded in implementing a range of practices and guidelines holding the potential of reducing the incidence of TB. The number of TB cases in 10,000 cases detected shows a decreasing trend since 2004 after increasing since 1997.

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The TB cases treated have also improved and the projection for 2007 indicate that health officials expect the success rate to reach 78%. The goal of 85% by 2015 is therefore an achievable target.

**Malaria:** Malaria remains one of the main diseases in the world, killing up to 3 million people annually. In comparison to some other African countries, the transmission of malaria in Namibia is relatively low and of a seasonal nature with peak transmission period coinciding with the annual rainfall patterns. However, malaria continues to be a major public health concern in Namibia, affecting more than 60% of the population.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services increasingly employed the use of insecticide-treated mosquito nets as a preventative measure in Regions not prone to malaria. The Ministry also provides treatment for malaria patients, giving priority to vulnerable groups such as pregnant mothers, children and HIV/AIDS patients. These measures are also supported by the World Health Organisation as well as the Global Fund both financially and with equipment such as cars and technical advice. The Ministry of Health and Social Services has generally shown efficiency in responding to outbreaks in disease. An outstanding example is the polio campaign during 2006 as well as measures to control cholera outbreaks have proven successful.

**Ensure environmental sustainability:** The progress on this goal is good on access to clean water but slow on access to safe sanitation and slow on other environmental sustainability, such as forestry and energy. About 97% of households have access to safe water. The proportion of households with access to improved sanitation in urban areas stands at 61% and in rural areas at 32%. About 32% of households have no access to electricity and 62% of households use the traditional source of heating, firewood. Yesterday we held a workshop just to see how we can expedite sanitation and access to sanitation along our major roads.

Fifty-one conservancies have been established and registered and 14.1% are formally protected within a network of 21 National parks, game reserves and recreational areas.

**Develop a global partnership for development:** Namibia's involvement in international and Regional economic exchange and cooperation is intensive. An economic partnership agreement with the EU was finalised, as well as with other

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trading partner countries. Namibia has also concluded double taxation agreements to strengthen African and international south-south cooperation. Namibia has concluded preferential trade agreements with some African, Asian and Latin American countries. Apart from being a member of SACU, the country participates in the Common Monetary Area with South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland and recently signed the SACU Free Trade Agreement. Namibia also enjoys fruitful relations with development partners and highly acknowledge their valuable contribution to accelerate Namibia's economic and social development.

The year 2007 saw a strong increase in foreign assistance and the target of aid inflow has been met and is likely to be met in the years to come. However, the per capita figure for 2006 amount to about 3% of the GDP, which is low in comparison to other African countries. Namibia's classification by the World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund as a Low-Middle Income Country has barred the country's access to concessional loans of the World Bank Group and International Development Agency.

In conclusion, this measuring concept is based on a single criterion, namely the annual GDP growth per capita which overlook the problems the country is facing eighteen years after Independence. These, in reality, we believe is what the Motion was seeking and we had hoped that it was elevated to this very level. Thank you very much.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, Honourable Minister. Any further discussions? Honourable Tsudao Gurirab.

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**HON T GURIRAB:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, in the absence of any further contribution, I Move to adjourn the Debate to Wednesday, next week.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Debate stands adjourned to next week, Wednesday. That brings us to the end of our programme for today. I now call on the Minister of Trade and Industry to adjourn the House to next week Tuesday, 14:30.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

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**HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:** I now Move that this House now adjourns until Tuesday, 14:30.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:55 UNTIL 2008.09.30 AT 14:30**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER  
30 SEPTEMBER 2008  
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**ANNOUNCEMENT: PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION  
REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES**

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I want you to kindly join me in acknowledging the presence in the Chamber of my dear brother and colleague, Dr Patrick Herminie, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Seychelles and his delegation, which includes Mrs Mari-Louise Potter MD, Leader of Government Business, Honourable Mr Colin Dyer MP, Representative of the Opposition, Ms Jeanine Wirtz, Senior Parliamentary Reporter Chief Editor and Ms Doreen Zelia, Personal Assistant to the Speaker.

The Speaker and the delegation are here at our invitation on an official visit to share experiences, to exchange best practices and I want to thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister, the Governor of our Region and Mayor of our City and the Leaders of the Political Parties, the Chairpersons of the Standing Committees, all of whom have been engaging with the delegation. May we give them the traditional warm welcome?

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate the Ruling Party for its good behaviour and congratulations for its great victory in Omuthiya Local Authority Elections and also the Electoral Commission under its new Director for seeing to it that everything was in order.

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**NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO  
STANDING COMMITTEES**

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30 September 2008

**NOMINATION OF MEMBERS  
HON DR T-B GURIRAB**

**HON SPEAKER:** I have been informed that the SWAPO Party has nominated the following Members to serve on the following Parliamentary Standing Committees:

Honourable Nicky Nashandi to serve on the Public Accounts, Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration and Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security; and

Honourable Hans Booys to serve on the Pan-African Parliament Committee.

I now, in terms of Rule 36 announce Honourable Nicky Nashandi and Honourable Hans Booys as duly appointed Members of the said Committees.

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

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**TABLING: REPORTS OF AUDITOR-GENERAL**

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

1. National Council for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2008;
2. Electoral Commission for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2008;
3. New Era Publications Corporation for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2008.

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

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30 September 2008

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON VILJOEN / HON TJIHUIKO**

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS**

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**QUESTION 85:**

**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 9 October 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture the following questions:

1. Which youth organisations are affiliated or registered with the National Youth Council?
2. What are the conditions for registration?
3. How many members are in everyone of these organisations, respectively?

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

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**QUESTION 86:**

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on 25 September 2008, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following questions:

1. On August 7, 2008, the *Namibian* newspaper reported under the headline, “38 million pension perk for some retired MPs”. Can the Honourable Prime Minister confirm whether there is any truth in this Report?
2. Is it true Honourable Prime Minister that Cabinet knew about these secretive huge expenses as early as November 2007? Why did they elect not to inform this august House or the public about it?
3. Can the Honourable Prime Minister inform this august House as to under which Vote or which Ministry in the 2007/2008 or 2008/2009 Budget is the N\$38 million budgeted for?

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS  
HON DIENDA**

4. Would the Honourable Prime Minister confirm or deny that the N\$38 million in fact is the money which was budgeted in the 2008-2009 Financial Year for the salary adjustments for the sitting MPs which was supposed to have been implemented by April 1, 2008 but which has not been implemented to date?
5. If the answer in Question 4 is negative, when would the legally approved MP salary adjustment be implemented?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any further Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions?  
Honourable Dienda.

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

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**HON DIENDA:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Wednesday, the 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2008, I shall Move –

That this House debates the practical implementation of the Language Policy as it affects mother-tongue instruction from Grade 1 up to Grade 3 and this Motion to be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Social and Community Development for further input. I so Move.

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

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: LOCAL  
AUTHORITY ELECTIONS**

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30 September 2008

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament. The time has come that I am enabled to share in the joy of life again. Thank you for your support and understanding during the past few months as my family tried to come to terms with the loss of my husband who was a resident of Omuthiya Gwiipundi.

As we all know, on Saturday, 26 September 2008, the outcome of the first ever Local Authority Election for Omuthiya Gwiipundi was announced. The SWAPO Party won with more than 2/3 majority 6 seats. None of the remaining Parties scored enough votes to gain a seat – DTA 5 votes, CoD 26 votes and RDP one 123 votes. The surplus from the SWAPO Party enabled RDP to get one seat. Allow me therefore, at this juncture to commend the people of Omuthiya for their overwhelming support and trust in the SWAPO Party to lead them. Their happiness is shared in all 13 Regions and 107 Constituencies of our country.

Allow me, therefore, Honourable Speaker, the opportunity to pay tribute and congratulate the people of Omuthiya for the following reasons:

One, they turned out in large numbers. The recorded number is 82% of the registered voters to vote for their new Councillors.

Secondly, they conducted themselves, as usual, in a peaceful and calm manner.

Thirdly, they voted overwhelmingly for the SWAPO Party, my Party, our Party. It, therefore, gives me great pleasure to congratulate the people of Omuthiya for their well-deserved victory.

Comrade Speaker, through the policy of decentralisation, which was reflected way back in the year 1989 Election Manifesto, the SWAPO Party Government was brought closer to the people through the establishment of the Regional and Local Authorities Acts since 1992. New towns have been proclaimed - where there were only bushes there are now vibrant towns, such as Outapi, Eenhana, Nkurenkuru and others and now Omuthiya Gwiipundi, which shall also serve as the new Regional capital for the Oshikoto Region.

Comrade Speaker, prior to the Omuthiya elections a lot was said and written about Omuthiya. Many in the local media made themselves guilty by falsely painting Omuthiya as a violent and intolerable place in Namibia, leading that

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chorus with those who have shown themselves undemocratic and yet purporting to be democrats, for how can one be a democrat when you have allocated to yourself a particular position in an organisation without due process which all of us are subjected to? For our democracy to be meaningful and credible, we should establish procedural requirements which should be met by all Political Parties intending to play a role in National politics. Interim arrangements should not be allowed in a democratic setting as ours to be the rule of the day.

Those candidates serving the interests of different Political Parties at every level of our governance should be properly mandated by the democratic structures of the respective organisations. Failure to adhere to these tenets of democracy will create anarchy, which Namibia cannot afford.

Honourable Members of Parliament, the SWAPO Party victory at Omuthiya has mandated and directed us to move faster and accelerate the implementation of the Development Plans in the context of the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto of 2004, NDP3 and all other relevant programmes of the SWAPO Party and its Government. In this regard, the newly elected SWAPO Party Local Authority Councillors of Omuthiya are called upon to accelerate the provision of housing, potable water, electrification of all households and the acceleration of the provision of improved sanitary and sewerage services, increase in public health campaigns. The roll-out of HIV/AIDS testing centres and anti-retroviral drugs should be accelerated to halt the spread of the deadly HIV/AIDS pandemic. These efforts shall be accompanied by the renewed campaign to educate our people about family planning and good health.

The people of Omuthiya have also given clear orders that the newly elected Councillors should speed up the completion of the Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centre to cater for the diverse interests of the youth, especially in view of the National Youth Council Bill, introduced by the Line Minister in this august House last week.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, on behalf of the SWAPO Party, I am appealing to all those in elected National positions not to sit on their laurels. Our plans for the development of this country are all in place, just ready for implementation. The newly elected Councillors who will be sworn in, or into probably have already been sworn in today, should waste no time in embarking upon the tasks which have been waiting for them since February this year.

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With Omuthiya behind us, I call on all SWAPO Members to focus their attention and campaign vigorously for the Tobias Hainyeko by-elections and move into the next gear for the 2009 Presidential and National Assembly Elections with vigour and determination.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, finally, as we approach the year 2009, a number of our sister Parties will also face similar elections throughout the SADC Region, such as the ANC of South Africa and Frelimo in Mozambique, among others. Our comrades in these respective countries must stand in unity and solidarity to defeat the onslaught against former liberation movements. The neo-colonial agenda of trying to penetrate our ranks to cause disunity and confusion should be rejected vociferously through the democratic process. After all, it is thanks to the liberation organisations that democracy and dignity is restored in our respective countries in Southern Africa. We should remain united because in unity there is strength.

Once again, congratulations to all SWAPO Party rank and file members for our victory at Omuthiya and many more to come. I thank you.

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**HON MOONGO:** I would only like to say it was a very good beginning in Omuthiya. For eighteen years Opposition Parties were not allowed to freely campaign there. There was an atmosphere of intimidation and this is the liberation of Omuthiya. So, they have made a very good beginning. Thank you very much.

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

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**RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING:  
NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL BILL**

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**SECRETARY:** Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – *National Youth Council Bill*.

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**NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL BILL  
HON T GURIRAB**

**HON SPEAKER:** When this Debate was adjourned on Thursday, 25 September 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture, that the Bill be now read a Second Time. Honourable Tsudao Gurirab adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

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**HON T GURIRAB:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Let me take this opportunity to thank the twenty-six comrades who voted for the CoD in Omuthiya and also congratulate the Parties which were successful this time.

Honourable Speaker, the National Council which we debate under this Bill already exists. This Bill is to give a legal gadget to the National Youth Council and I, therefore, rise to lend our support for this very important Bill.

Honourable Speaker, as our National census demonstrates, ours is a youthful country and population and it is, therefore, right for matters affecting the young to be at the centre of our development efforts. It is our understanding, looking at the powers vested in the Council, as set out in Section 3, that by passing the National Council Bill we are playing the critical critical role to enable the youth to fend for themselves, as the slogans says, "*each for one and one for all.*"

Honourable Speaker, the history of our country, if anything, is a record of how young people rose to assume leadership and to take head-on the challenges of the day. The actions and exploits of yesterday's youth are a courageous and proud record of our Nation-making and building. It is, therefore, our submission that the challenges facing our youth today are of a different dimension, as captured under Section 3 of this Bill. Our youth must be enabled to succeed in the full spectrum of society's activities, that is in areas of politics, business, sports, academia, as successful parents, etcetera. It would however be up to the youth of today to define and understand for themselves the challenges which our age presents, both within and without and be able to rise to these challenges.

From where I stand, Honourable Speaker, I see some of these challenges for our youth of today in our country as one, the AIDS pandemic so rife among the age bracket which is the subject of this very Bill. The National Youth Council and other youth fora must openly speak, educate and provide leadership on this very critical issue for the young of our country.

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The second challenge I see is the lack of skills, non-completion of school education in our country where, on the one hand, we have a skills deficit, yet on the other hand we have an army of school dropouts. Clearly this must be an area of challenge. As one would sit down and define what the issues and challenges of today are, I submit that this must be a challenge where the National Youth Council must provide a voice and a leadership on.

As a consequence of this alarming high school dropout, we also have an equally alarming problem of school pregnancies in our country. I believe equally that this is an area which must remain on the agenda of the National Youth Council and where the National Youth Council and other youth organisation must provide a voice and leadership.

Our youth, Honourable Speaker, must also seek to be employers and entrepreneurs and add wealth to Namibia instead of seeking simply to be another deadwood MP or a senior clerk in our Government. The youth must seek to be entrepreneurs, our youth must be innovative, they must go out and create and add wealth to our country.

Honourable Speaker, I may define the priorities for the National Youth Council and other youth organisations generally, but as one of my professors at the university would say if we disagree with a particular author or a particular line of argument, that that serves as a challenge to you, because if you disagree with what has been presented, firstly you must say why you disagree and give an alternative for that. But that in itself must present a challenge for the youth to rise and talk, debate and articulate the issues as they see them.

Let me conclude, Honourable Speaker, by saying that our youth must be our insurance policy for the future, but for that insurance policy to be valid – as those of you know who allowed your insurance policies to lapse – for that insurance policy to be valid, we, today's leaders and parents, must pay the premium, that is by paying for their education, ensuring that they acquire the skills, give them an opportunity to succeed in life and above all, weaning them... (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Honourable Speaker, may I ask Honourable Gurirab a question? Thank you, Honourable Tsudao, for accepting

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my question, but I would rather speak on a Point of Information. Honourable Tsudao, you mentioned that the youth of today should be dynamic and you know that last Friday the youth spoke at Omuthiya and they have voted overwhelmingly for SWAPO. You will recall that I told Honourable Moongo that when the RDP was launched here, he was so jubilant, so happy that now that ***RDP is here, SWAPO will see.*** Then I told Honourable Moongo that he is digging his own grave, this RDP will never take a single vote from SWAPO. What will happen is that your votes will go to the RDP and Honourable Moongo, you have been abusing your child last week on the NBC, trying for her to mobilise the youth and the pioneers but that was a futile effort.

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**HON SPEAKER:** You can take the Floor and make a contribution.

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**HON T GURIRAB:** Honourable Speaker, I was saying by way of concluding...  
(Intervention)

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**HON MOONGO:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, do you realise how a Party which scored less votes made SWAPO panic? They recycled the Electoral Commission and dropped the leaders and somebody was assassinated there and I confirmed it.

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**HON SPEAKER:** You and I and the other Honourable Members in the House are currently baby-sitting the Electoral Commission. If your information could be shared with me, what does “recycle” mean to you?

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**HON MOONGO:** The Government fired the Chairperson Kanime just because of Omuthiya, a small town in Namibia and you permitted it because of...

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**HON SPEAKER:** No, I want you to explain to me what “recycle” means.

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**HON MOONGO:** They panicked just because I entered Omuthiya. It’s liberated now by DTA, so we will now wage a full campaign without intimidation.

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**HON T GURIRAB:** Honourable Speaker, I was saying by way of concluding that one of the things which we must do overall as Government and as State Institutions is to reintroduce from the mistaken belief that Government will always provide. A successful State is one which helps its citizens to look after themselves and it is our hope that the National Youth Council established in terms of this Bill will assist the youth to catch the fish. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Dr Abraham Iyambo.

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**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I would like to also add my voice to the National Youth Council Bill while supporting it, but before I proceed, I wanted to ask myself a question. I want to ask myself, why is it that in this House there are officially five members of the DTA and at Omuthiya they got exactly five? I want to answer by saying why they got five and they are five here from the DTA.

Honourable Speaker, by supporting this very important Bill, I want to start with Section 3, the powers and functions of the Council.

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** May I ask my Colleague a question? Are you aware that the number of Councillors that were supposed to be elected in Omuthiya were seven and each Party did in fact nominate seven members. Now, if DTA got five, what happened to the two votes?

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**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:**

Honourable Speaker, it is true that each Party had seven candidates, the DTA got five. I was expecting them to get seven. Two of them absconded. (Interjections).

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**HON SPEAKER:** Before you continue, if you look up there, you see our children. They are here because they heard that an important Bill about them is going to be discussed. So, if you could concentrate on talking to them, I would appreciate that.

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**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:**

Honourable Speaker, I want to start with Clause 3 that says the powers of the Youth Council would be “*to foster among the Namibian youth a spirit of National identity.*” That one is very important, that our youth identify themselves with the values and spirit of Namibia, first of all to be Namibians. That is very, very important that that is emphasised, that our youth take that National identity.

The other point is, “*to get a sense of patriotism.*” Honourable Speaker, yourselves and the other Colleagues older than myself were very patriotic, fighting for the country, fighting very hard. I think the time has come for the youth to be patriotic by developing the country, economically, culturally and otherwise and that is now our responsibility for the contemporary generation. If we were to wage a revolution, that should be our revolution, a revolution of economic development, economic empowerment of the youth.

This Bill is calling for the youth to believe in unity of this country. We have only one country, we have only one people that need to be united, to be able to succeed in the development of this country as well as the depth of awareness of social, economic, political and educational and cultural aspects. I think these are values that need to be inculcated in the minds and hearts of our young people for them to have that sense of belonging, the integrity, the national identity. Therefore, I support that point.

I also support (g) which says that the powers and functions of the Council are “*to initiate youth development projects.*” That is very important. We have more than

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twenty to thirty young people each year coming from Grade 12 and Grade 10 and now we have the National Youth Council Service taking up 200 to 400. That means that a big number of young people who cannot get formal employment anywhere may end up in the street. So, it is the responsibility of the young people to engage in youth development projects, of course to be assisted to be able to do that. It is not good enough to be talented, to have all the skills and to be expected to start business, that is not possible. They have to be assisted with resources to be able to start business. Therefore, this Bill, calling for the development projects, programmes and activities to encourage the youth... (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Minister a question, please? Honourable Minister, you are doing fine, you are talking about the development of the youth, empowerment of the youth, your emphasis is more on the youth. Can the Honourable Minister perhaps explain to the Nation out there as to what is the role of us as parents in the process of empowering the youth if Government could for two years forget about hundred free scholarships that were meant for the empowerment of the youth?

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**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:** Honourable Speaker, I wanted to assist by answer the Colleague, but he has already assisted me by answering the question.

I was saying that the focus of this Bill is to empower the youth for them to be able to develop youth projects, but we should also assist them with resources. The youth will not do anything if they are just talented. They also need to be assisted with skills and resources.

Honourable Speaker, during the time of the National Youth Service, the baby of this National Youth Council, we managed to work closely with the members of the Youth Service and we now have a case study, and I can confirm with much seriousness that these people are really a pride, highly exemplary to their peers, the way they work.

Nearly three years ago in 2005, together with the Ministry of Youth and Sport, working with the Honourable Johannes Mutorwa, we worked out a programme to

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see how we can engage the young people to work at the fishing farms in the Caprivi and Kavango Regions. These fish farms were nearly collapsing in terms of management. In terms of the ethics of work there were no people to be there, but we trained these people who have already been trained through the youth programme to breed the fish. I want to say that today the farms under the responsibility of the youth of the National Youth Service in the Kavango Region are the best. They are the ones producing more vegetables, more food and now their vegetables and fish are being sold mainly at the Spar and all the supermarkets in the Kavango Region

I just want to say that the inception of this programme, to have the young people of Namibia taught, to have a national identity, to have unity, to have respect, to work hard, has worked and is benefiting the country.

Honourable Speaker, I would like to make some recommendations, that yes, we still have so many young people who do not have employment. It is, therefore, our continuous responsibility to continue asking the questions, "*who are they, where are they and what are they doing*", to ensure that they start doing something. We need to continue asking and defining the youth empowerment process, a deliberate empowerment process for the young people to be able to have a living and assist themselves now and in future as well as their parents. Therefore, as part of this National Youth Council document, the need to work out these long-term strategies, to work out the tactics and policies to ensure that our young people who are the hope for tomorrow, get a living.

We criticise the young people of Namibia for not doing a, b and c. We should also leave it to them by saying Namibia is your father and mother, if you mistreat your mother and father by not behaving, then you let down your mother and father. So, we leave it in the safe hands of the young generation to fight this good fight, the new revolution to build Namibia. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Minister. Honourable Mbai.

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**HON MBAI:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I will be brief, as usual. Thank you very much for allowing me the opportunity to make a few

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comments on this Bill, that is to provide for the establishment of the National Youth Council, the Youth Development Fund and many other youth forums, organisations and associations.

Honourable Members, as State Party to the African Union and the United Nations we acknowledge the commitments already made towards the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and also the invitation to all of us as partners to reaffirm our support to advance the well-being of our young people.

At the same time, I also recognise the efforts made by our Government and civil society to address the economic, social, educational, cultural and spiritual needs of our young people.

Honourable Speaker, I would, therefore, like to commend and express my appreciation, more especially to the Minister responsible for bringing this very important piece of legislation to this august House. Like other speakers said before me, better late than never. My appreciation also goes to those running the Youth Council in the absence of proper legislation. We are today very proud of the foundation they have laid.

The issue of age restriction should not be emphasised, because other Colleagues in the House have already expressed themselves and I concur with them that unfortunately we shall not determine age for the youth other than those we have ratified in the African Youth Charter, namely that for the purpose of the Charter, youth or young people shall refer to every person between the age of 15 and 35 years, not 16 to 30 as proposed in the Bill.

Honourable Speaker, in the past in some quarters of our communities, the Youth Council was seen and regarded as another front organisation of the Ruling Party, but if you go through the definition of the National Youth Council in Part 1 of this Bill and also the proposed decentralisation of youth forums to Regions and Constituencies and affiliation of youth organisations and associations, we eliminate all these wrong perceptions.

Honourable Speaker, I also support the establishment of the Youth Development Fund as proposed in the Bill. The promotion of youth development is entirely the responsibility of the Council through identification and funding of activities, programmes and projects and without well-managed income and expenditure estimates, the Council shall remain a body just on paper.

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In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, I believe every young person shall be entitled to enjoyment to the rights and freedom recognised and guaranteed by the proposed law and the State shall continue to provide access to information and education and training of young people to learn their rights and responsibilities.

The State shall put in place adequate infrastructure, more especially in rural areas, for the youth to participate in sport, physical education, cultural and recreational activities.

Finally, taking it as an obligation by the African Union Commission by inviting Governments to include youth representatives as part of their delegations to the Ordinary Sessions of the African Union and other relevant meetings, shall broaden the channels of communication and enhance the discussion of youth-related issues.

With these few comments, I support the Bill.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:45**  
**HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:20 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Comrade Speaker, Sir, I am rising to make my humble contribution as an expired youth – not tired, expired. Firstly I would like to thank the Minister responsible for youth affairs in Government for introducing this very important Bill, the National Youth Council Bill and to say that the youth are our future and we have every trust and confidence in them to bring about a better future for themselves and for the coming succeeding generations.

It is for this reason that this Bill is in front of us to create this institution legally through legislation, the National Youth Council. This institution will provide a political voice to the young people, it will also provide opportunities for civic socialisation.

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The National Youth Council is a very unique institution. It is a unique institution because it is one political institution which does not discriminate, it is open to all who want to be members. It is open to all despite their political affiliations or ideological dispositions or even their social background. They are all welcome in the National Youth Council. They only need to organise themselves and become members of local forums and through local forums, affiliate themselves to the National Youth Council. It is indeed a very unique institution where self-governance by the youth is actually practised. It is not like, for example, in a school environment where governance is directed by a teacher or principal or head of department, here the youth are in charge themselves and some of them graduate from there to come to Parliament, like Honourable Shifeta, Honourable Kavetuna and Honourable Venaani who are now here. This is therefore an Institution which has great potential in terms of youth socialisation. (Interjection.) When Tjihuikeo was a youth he ran to Britain. He spent much of his time in Britain, learning Economics which he never understood.

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**HON MOONGO:** May I ask the Honourable Prime Minister a question? I think it is high time that the Prime Minister inform this House as to how many youth from the white section and the Opposition are discriminated against and not only there, but at the nursing school, primary school and elsewhere? Is the Prime Minister aware that the youth of the Opposition are discriminated against in employment and certain academic schools?

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I want to inform the Honourable Member that I am colour blind. So, anything to do with colour I do not answer. However what I know is that the National Youth Council, like the National Youth Service is open for all – black or white, poor or rich, boy or girl, you are welcome, provided that you want to be a member. Nobody is going to force you and I know the son of the Paramount Chief Riruako is one of the leaders of the National Youth Council. Therefore, you cannot claim that the opposition youth are discriminated. Perhaps they are discriminating against themselves.

I was saying that this is a very unique institution and I think we must support it and celebrate its existence. It is giving an opportunity to young people at a very young age, first of all, to learn how to agree to disagree. That is very important. In the National Youth Council they learn how to agree to disagree, that if they disagree, life still goes on, they are still members of the Youth Council. That is a

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very important democratic quality, to learn to agree to disagree.

In the National Youth Council they also learn to share the little that is there. I do not know how many of you attend youth expos. This is one important institution where young people, aspiring and budding entrepreneurs, bring along their products and showcase them. In the process they learn from each other, they also inculcate confidence in their business acumen, which is very important. This Institution is also cultivating our future business leaders.

I am, therefore, happy that there is going to be a Fund dedicated to this institution, to the youth, the Youth Development Fund. What we can do as a Parliament is actually to strengthen this Fund so that all the Regional youth forums should have their own allocation to conduct their activities. I am also happy to inform those of you who are not aware, who are allergic to the youth that the youth have now decided to start district expos, Regional expos and national expo, to make sure that there is possibility for optimal participation by all the youth. This is how you cultivate interest in business, how you cultivate interest in innovation, for young people to think out of the and to try out their ideas. Sometimes they do not succeed, that is fine, that is what it is all about, but sometimes they also succeed and become self-employed. That is very, very important.

There is another offshoot of the National Youth Council. Annually they come together and discuss national political issues at the Annual Political Forum and when they meet there you will be impressed. What impressed me the other day is how much they agree. They even agree on matters of ideology. The only thing is that when they go back to their Parties the problem is tradition and culture. Tradition and culture are holding down our youth. *“My political home is NUDO, we can agree here but at the end of the day my political home is NUDO.”* They talk there, they agree on very good issues, but when they go home, they go back to the political institutions which would not agree with what they agreed there. Therefore the Political Forum is a very important institution and Honourable Minister of Youth, I hope that you would start sponsoring this Political Forum because right now it is sponsored by a foreign organisation and we do not know what the interest of this foreign organisation is.

Therefore, I think we should take charge to give our young people an opportunity to interact politically among themselves, so that they also come to know each other and become friends and when they come to Parliament, they already know

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each other even though they do not belong to the same Political Parties. It is like me meeting Paramount Chief Riruako when we were in a refugee camp in Zambia. He was the only guy who had tea all the time, so if you wanted tea you had to be friendly to Chief Riruako. Every time he wants to keep me quiet, he says he will mention those things I was doing in Lusaka when I was a youth. That background is very important because it creates that respect and you will not suspect this person of having a hidden agenda.

Therefore, I think this is a very important institution for nation-building and I think we have to give all the support to the Minister on this Bill and that the National Youth Council is established as a legal institution and that the Youth Development Fund get appropriate resources so that they can carry out their mission.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** May I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister a question, please? Honourable Prime Minister, you are talking about this relationship that develops because of people being together. After having mentioned all these things in Zambia, you did not mention anything about the Tanganyika Group, because when I was in Dar-Es-Salaam, we were informed that whenever people were saying “SWANU”, which means something, some people who were not SWANU were complaining. Is the Honourable Minister aware of that? And tell us a little bit about the Tanganyika Group.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I am not one of the Tanganyika Group, I am of the Zambian Group, but there are people here who can tell you about the Tanganyika Group. Some of them are near you there. Those days we were so few, we were family and you could not afford to run away from a fellow Namibian.

When I went to New York and found Honourable Kaura there, when he had a big thing in Brooklyn we all went there. He lived in Brooklyn, I am the only guy who qualified to live in Manhattan. Anyway, we were family, there was nothing about SWANU or whatever, those were just small things. Of course, as political causes for Namibia we had to compete, because through competition growth comes around.

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** On a point of information, I just want to help the Prime Minister on the question which has been asked by Honourable Tjihuiko. I think what he is referring to is that in Zambia there is one language which, when they greet you, they say “*mulia SWANU*”. (*muli shani*) Then our people said, “*no, no, no tuli SWAPO*.” (Laughter).

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I was not aware of that, I only know that when you said *pamondo* in Zambia, which means “small”, one colleague would say, “I am strong.” It was misinterpretation of the local language.

This Bill is important because this institution will help to socialise our children, our youth, into political life.

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**HON MOONGO:** May I ask the Prime Minister a question? Since you dealt with Tanganyika, how many SWANU Members were in detention and how many disappeared during that time? Can you inform the House?

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** None. That is the answer, zero. Those who have zigzagged during the struggle would be sent somewhere. You cannot allow zigzagging in the struggle. Luckily enough, the struggle is over, you can now zigzag if you want.

Honourable Members, this institution will give a political voice to our young people, it will socialise our young people into civic life and it will provide them with the opportunity to develop their business acumen and also to have an opportunity to express themselves culturally. It is, therefore, a very important institution in the process of self-governance and self-actualisation. Go and look up that word in the Oxford Dictionary.

Having said that, I just want to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to one or two things. The definition of “*youth*” in Section 1 should be synchronised with Clause 14, where in Clause 14 you are saying that “the Board consists of members aged from 16 to 35”, but you have defined the youth as from 16 to 30.

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In the composition of the Board they are saying the Board, which should be appointed by the Minister, will consist of a number of people. One of the representatives of the Board is a person representing marginalised groups. I think it is very important to define who these marginalised groups are, otherwise there will be total confusion. I can also define myself as being part of the marginalised group. Unless you define it in the Bill who the marginalised groups are, you are going to have a problem, especially that there is only one representative. Marginalisation is a relative term and unless it is properly defined it can cause problems.

With those very, very few words, I support the Bill. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Prime Minister for his contribution. Honourable Mutorwa.

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly. In support of this very important Bill for the young people of this country, I would like at the same time to also congratulate and pay homage to my Colleague, my Comrade, my friend, my successor, Minister Willem Konjore, who has eventually brought this very important Bill to the House of the people for debate and for enactment.

At the same time, I would like to commend and thank the youth themselves, as organised under the umbrella of the National Youth Council, for the very important, constructive, determined role that they played during the process of formulating the process of drafting the Bill at the sectoral level, meaning at the Ministerial level. I remember we, as a Ministry, did involve them directly in coming up with the initial drafts of this very important Bill. I know that we went up to the sixth draft before we felt comfortable enough to forward the draft to the Cabinet Committee on Legislation and even at the Cabinet Committee on Legislation the National Youth Council leadership, under the leadership of Honourable Juliet Kavetuna at that stage, were there together with us.

Therefore, this is a Bill which was prepared in close consultation and cooperation

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with the young people themselves. They were organised in Committees to explain the Bill in the different Regions of our country.

As far as the Government is concerned, right from the Independence of this country the issues concerning, affecting the young people were kept, and are still being kept, on the agenda of Government, not only through education alone but also through other avenues, including the National Youth Council. If we go back into history from 1990 to 1991, matters concerning the youth were under the then Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports where our current Prime Minister was the Minister. Then from 1991 to 2000, there was a dedicated Ministry responsible for Youth and Sports where our current Secretary General was the very first Minister and yours truly speaking at one point was also the Deputy Minister in that Ministry.

The point is, we must appreciate the premise upon which the National Youth Council was established. With Independence, in the sector of youth but also in the sector of sports, the reality that confronted the Government was that here you have a situation where you have so many sport clubs and organisation, how does Government respond in terms of helping these many sport organisations and clubs? Hence, in the sector of sports we came up with what is now known today as the Namibia Sports Commission as a national umbrella body representing the different sport organisations and sport clubs.

The same with the youth. The reality is that you have many youth organisations, some of them political, some of them cultural, some of them social, etcetera. Hence, I remember that it was in 1993, leading up to 1994, where through a consultative approach we confronted the reality and at the day of the day in April 1994, a consensus was reached that there was a need to have a National umbrella organisation to which the different youth organisation, irrespective of their political affiliation, social status and what have you, should affiliate on a voluntary basis and that founding conference for the National Youth Council was held in April 1994 at the University of Namibia. We were there the whole day until the night with the then Minister Pendukeni Ithana and I and the young people, the hall was full.

It is, therefore, very important, as other speakers have already indicated, there is this perception that when you leave matters in the care of the young people that they will mess up. There was a lot of apprehension that if you put up a national body representing the different youth organisations, sooner rather than later you

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will have chaos. From 1994 up to today when we are now debating the National Youth Council Bill, this particular body has been existence, managed and led by young people themselves. Of course, the Government, through the Ministry responsible for Youth Affairs, will provide some guidance.

For fourteen years we did not experience chaos, for fourteen years we did not experience in the National Youth Council the young people getting into a situation of confrontation. So, they have proved to us that given the necessary space and given the necessary guidance, the young people are quite capable of managing their affairs and of charting their agenda in terms of the development in line with the overall national policies of Government, and for that we must commend them.

Hence, after fourteen years the organisation has grown and, therefore, the absolute need to have an enabling legislation to further empower this particular body. In terms of principles guiding this Council it is exactly like this House here. We are here representing different political organisations, but when we discuss issues here, we debate and at the end of the day we take decisions which are in the best interest of the country and in the best interest of the Nation. There are also different organisations in the National Youth Council that are affiliated. They debate, like we do here, and at the end of the day they will then reach consensus that these are the issues that must be adopted and that must be agreed up to chart the way forward for the young people.

Hence, I am very happy as a former Minister responsible for Youth that we have seen the day where we are now here as the representatives of the people debating this issue of the National Youth Council Bill. We must, of course, refine the Bill before it becomes law, but never forget that we should not be a stumbling block in terms of eventually passing this very important Bill so that the young people are further empowered to move forward in terms of development, not only of themselves but also the development of the country.

Comrade Speaker, with this I again fully support the Bill as presented by the Minister responsible for Youth Affairs in our country. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Minister. Honourable Nambahu.

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**HON NAMBAHU:** Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. I would also like to register my support for the Bill which, in my view, is very important in trying to streamline and charter the way forward in terms of development for our youth.

I would probably be boring the House, because I was not here when the Debate started and I might be repeating some of the things that have already been said by the Honourable Members, but nevertheless, there are some areas where I think some of our humble contributions could be of some assistance.

In the powers and functions of the Council it is stated: *“To establish and maintain relations with international youth bodies and national youth structures in other countries.”* I would like to see some qualification to this. I would not want our youth to go around establishing relations with youth bodies without some guidance. If you are aware of the situation obtaining in many parts of the world, there are parties coming up to advance certain agendas, some of them not very progressive. If you, for example, refer to something that is taking place in Darfur, it is something that we maybe may not be standing for. Therefore, I would wish to see some guidance, some proviso on what kind of relations we want to establish and with whom, either for the advancement of peace or something similar.

Some organisation with xenophobic tendencies are coming up worldwide and I would not wish us to allow ourselves to establish relations with these kinds of organisations. We as a country and many of our leaders have quite a lot of experience in dealing with this kind of situation and maybe we could tap this reservoir of knowledge and guide our youth properly.

*“To initiate youth development projects and programmes and activities with the aim of encouraging active participation of the youth in the process of their own empowerment”* and in (e), the course of youth development. I sometimes become anguished by the tendency of looking at youth development in a materialistic way. You are measured in terms of your development, in terms of what you have materially, but as far as I am concerned, development is not limited only to material possessions.

The fact of the matter is that we are living in a culture whereby we attach too much importance to material wealth, but there are also other areas in which development is needed, namely in terms of value, in terms of culture, in terms of aspirations, in terms of any other rounded development of an individual.

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If you look at the kind of cars people are driving and that person is most admired, but without questioning how he came into possession of that and our youngsters want to emulate that, these are the things that I would like the Bill to address, to look at the programmes that are affecting our youth nationally. Those are the programmes that should inform a Bill like this, so that it is actually in tandem with the development that is necessary and the problems affecting our youth.

Therefore, my humble advice to the sponsors of the Bill is to look at these other problems, even at the Youth Parliament Report and lift out some of the points that are highlighted in there to inform the Bill, so that the Bill is really addressing the problems of our youth.

With these words I support the Bill and invite you to do some comparative studies with other countries and see how far they have gone, not that I am for blindly copying anything that is youth oriented. I thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Minister of Finance.

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, I rise to add my voice to those who have spoken in support of the National Youth Council Bill.

The finalisation of the Bill is very important, not only because it establishes the comprehensive mechanism for addressing issues of youth development, but also because it signals a successful strategic engagement with our youth in a process that is truly empowering for them as beneficiaries of the Bill. I, therefore, commend the Minister responsible for Youth, his staff and the National Youth Council and through the Council, the broader community of our young people for this bill.

I am glad that the Bill provides for equitable gender representation in the governance structure of the National Youth Council. Often our female compatriots are still left on the margins even when special efforts are made to reach out to them. I hope that the female youth will actively participate in the activities of the Council so that they too can benefit from its programmes.

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Having said that, I would now like to comment on some specific provisions of the Bill:

Section 11(5) talks about the quorum for the Representative Council and sets it as two-thirds of the members of the Representative Council. The need for wide participation of the youth representatives in decision-making is appreciated; however I am somehow concerned that the structures may struggle to have a quorum because of such a high requirement for a quorum. I do not know why they could not have a simple majority for a quorum, for example.

Section 13(e) deals with the powers and functions of the Board. The Board will need the approval of the Minister responsible for Youth and they need to consult the Minister responsible for Finance to determine the remuneration and allowances and grant such leave of absence, etcetera. Maybe a reformulation of this provision would be necessary in order that the Minister of Finance should not have to be consulted on issues of granting leave of absence. I think that is maybe a problem of formulation and they only wanted to refer to determination of remuneration and allowances and not to extend it to granting of leave of absence.

Then under Section 14(h), the concurrence of the Minister of Finance should not have to be sought for every investment, because here they are also saying that every investment that is to be made by the Board would have to be approved by the Minister of Finance, would like to suggest that instead the Board should be required to have an investment policy that should be approved by the Line Minister after consulting the Minister responsible for Finance and not for the Minister of Finance to be consulted on each individual investment to be made. That is not practical.

However, I want to suggest that there should be a limitation with regard to where these funds may be invested, so that the investment area is restricted to the domestic market and also that investments only be made with reputable institutions that have been approved by relevant supervisory institutions. This is in order to avoid speculation with funds that were intended to promote the development of the youth, in order to generate returns or to have a situation where the funds are placed with disreputable institutions and could, therefore, be at risk of being lost.

Section 26 deals with the payment of allowances to Board members and members of the Committees of the Board and it provides that the payment of such

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allowances, including the payment of subsistence and travel allowance, will be paid only to those who are not in the employment of the State. That State employees are not to be paid sitting allowance is a standard practice and I have no problem with that, but when it comes to subsistence and travel allowance, that may need to be addressed because I do not think that the employing institutions of the youth that would be members of these structures would be willing to pay the subsistence and travel allowance for trips that are not related to the work of their Ministries. We could actually have a situation where these young people may be left stranded and they are not able to participate because the law precludes the payment of subsistence and travel to them by the Council because they are employed by the State.

Finally, I think that this provision and the earlier one I referred to need to be streamlined with the provision of the State-Owned Enterprises Act in regard to remuneration and how investments are to be made, so that there is consistency.

Section 30(6) deals with youth development and it also refers to the placement of investment of funds from the account of the Youth Development Fund. With regards to the latter, it requires that the consent of the Minister of Finance be secured for the placement of these investments. Here I would like to make the same proposal as made earlier that it be revised so that it is required for the fund to have an investment policy approved by the minister, after consultations with Minister of Finance rather than to require an approval by the Minister of Finance for every investment.

Apart from the fact that it would be logistically problematic, it can also divest the powers that would otherwise be vested in the Board, and transfer it to the Minister. Because now if the Board goes to the Minister and ask to place the funds with Honourable Tjihuiko and the Minister says yes, and tomorrow Honourable Tjihuiko loses the money, we will not be able to hold the Board accountable because the Minister said they may place the funds there.

Some general comments on the Youth Development Fund: I think that the Fund is a very important aspect of this Bill. It will enable the Youth Council to raise and accumulate funds for purposes of supporting youth development activities and I believe that through the management of the Fund, the youth can exercise responsibility for their own resources and gain experience in financial management and in the setting of priorities, because we have so many priorities and when somebody else has to distribute these funds, we always feel that maybe

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they did not exercise their discretion properly. Now here they will be sitting at the steering wheel and they will be able to say which of the priorities should be addressed before the other one.

I hope that the youth will exercise their discretion with utmost care, because this will have an influence on how potential supporters will view the Fund and actually relate to it. If the funds are used wisely, people will be encouraged to support the Fund. If, however, the funds are not used wisely, they would not be keen to support the Fund.

I know that the funds allocated for the activities of the Youth Development Fund under the current Medium Term Expenditure Framework falls short of what is needed. However, these allocations constitute a good beginning and I am sure that we can consider additional allocations when more resources become available. However, the youth should demonstrate ability to make good use of the funds that are now made available to them and I have no doubt that they are up to that challenge. I am, therefore, looking forward to some interesting activities of the Fund.

I hope the Fund would expose the entrepreneurial talents in our youth and help polish it up so that they can become more established entrepreneurs who can tap the vast resources of our country and contribute to wealth creation.

Government has recently developed new instruments that can assist our youth to develop business-wise. These include bridging facilities located at the Development Bank of Namibia that will provide financing for contract implementation.

We are also trying to finalise the review of the Procurement Act to facilitate active participation of Small and Medium Enterprises in public procurement. When we manage to get over the legal intricacies of that, we shall put the Procurement Bill out for consultation. We look forward to youth participation in the discussions. We shall be greatly aided by the purpose in our efforts to strengthen the empowerment aspects of our Procurement Policy. I, for one, would not mind if 40% or 50% of the public tenders are taken up by the youth. I would be happy if the youth can take up even 75% of these tenders. After all, they constitute about that proportion of our population and I am open to do what I can to facilitate proportional participation of our youth in our economy.

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We would, of course, all be greatly assisted by the youth themselves to ensure that there is genuine empowerment of young people in the country. First the youth must acquire the necessary know-how to be able to live up to the contract obligations when they are awarded those contracts. Secondly, they should resist being used as fronts in order for other people to acquire benefits. I know that some opportunistic business persons take advantage of some vulnerable community members, using them to get economic benefits and then drop them once they have done so or paying them out with peanuts to silence them. The youth should resist that, because you find that every business person that wants to see a politician is accompanied by a previously disadvantaged person. Tomorrow, after they got their shares, you see that person on the street with a new cell phone and a new car and after the car has overturned, they come back crying, telling you that you should take back the contract from the other person. I think we should really resist that.

I believe everyone of us embraces the principle of youth empowerment and everyone of us will be prepared to lend our young people a helping hand in whatever way is necessary. I support the Bill.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Minister. Deputy Minister of Finance.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. First, congratulations to the Honourable Minister of Youth for tabling this very important Bill. My contribution would be brief and the first one is the period for the Executive Chairperson, which is four years. That is Section 27(2)(b) on page 14. I understand it is an elected position for the duration of four years. The Director's period of office is five years. Is there perhaps any rationale for this?

The second one is about the appointment. The Chairperson would be elected by the General Assembly and it is supposed to be, as the Bill says, as the political head. I would have suspected, because it is a political head, it would perhaps have been more appropriate for the Minister to do that appointment.  
(Intervention)

**HON P MUSHELENGA:** Honourable Speaker, may I ask my elder brother a question? Honourable Tweya, currently the political head of the National Youth Council is the Secretary-General, who is elected for four years by the General Assembly. Do you not think that when this is transformed to become an Executive Chairperson it will still be in order just to continue having the same person in the General Assembly for four years?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Well, if that is the rationale, I would go along. But my second point is that the Director who is the head of the administration is to be appointed by the Minister. I see it as a reversed arrangement. That is Section 35, Director of Council: *“The Minister, on the recommendation of the Board, must appoint a person as Director.”* I would have thought as head of administration, the Board would have had the powers to appoint the Director.

But together with that, I notice that Section 13(1)(iii) which talks about the powers and functions of the Board, refers that the Board is also to appoint, subject to this Act, such persons as it may consider necessary to perform the functions of the Council. My interpretation is that the Director and the staff need to be appointed by the Board, but at the same time, under Section 48(3)(a) that refers to the regulations, it refers that the Board, with the approval of the Minister, may make rules relating to personnel matters. This would include the human resources from appointment. I see a duplication and if the appointment is to be left to the Board through regulations it would suffice, rather than overburdening the Minister to deal with the appointment of ordinary staff members.

The next observation is on Section 35. Under Section 35(7) it refers to *“a person designated or appointed in terms of Sub-section (6) has all the powers and performs all the functions of the Director.”* Now, when I go back to Sub-section (6), I do not find the issue of appointments there, but I find the powers ... (Interjections). Oh, Sub-section and not Section 6.

The last observation: In terms of corporate governance, the Section dealing with funds, 37, refers that the Board would give funds to any person or youth club for any purpose contemplated in Sub-section (1). Sub-section (1) talks about the Council’s activities, programmes and projects. I would suspect that these

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activities and programmes would be defined under Section 48, because it can create a loophole if funds are to be given to any person, because the Bill does not deal with individuals, but it deals with either associations or youth forums. One needs to have clear regulations so that the Fund is used for the purpose it is meant for.

Finally, the Executive Chairperson will preside over three different layers, chairing the General Assembly which is once a year or once in four years, chairing the Representative Council and chairing the Board and it says if there is a problem at the Board level that this chairperson may be removed, but it is the same person chairing all these three levels, is there perhaps any other way that these can be separated.

With these few words for clarity, Honourable Speaker, I support the Bill wholeheartedly.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Deputy Minister. Honourable Tjiriange.

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Because of the time I will have very few things to say.

Firstly, I would like to say that the youth are very, very important in our society. When we were youth – and I am a grownup youth – we were involved in another struggle, we were more concerned with the liberation struggle and I can see some of them here who have been around and we did that, disciplined in our own different parties that were fighting for the struggle in this country.

Honourable Moongo mentioned SWANU who has done that abroad. I want to tell you that we were sharing the same buildings and houses with SWANU in Dar-Es-Salaam, eating from the same pot. There was nothing like what you wanted to imply. Kaura was one of my colleagues, we were sleeping together, so do not bring stories here.

The youth of today, unlike us, have another role to play. They must be involved in economic emancipation. We have fought to bring about the Independence of

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this country. That phase is over, we have won and now we still have a lot of work to be done to actually liberate our people from hunger and poverty and the youth must be very active in this new struggle.

That is why I am happy to see that, among other things, the Bill provides for the youth to be involved in development projects and programmes that will bring about improved life of the youth themselves and other people in the country.

However, having said so, we should help not only the youth, but all those who are going to be involved in these activities, to be encouraged so that whatever they produce, they will have an unhindered and open access to the market. It does not make sense to have these people producing, getting into these beautiful programmes and then they are stuck with their commodities if there are no markets that we have put in place. This is very important, because that is one of the things that will frustrate even the youth to work. If they are producing cotton but there is no market, they cannot eat the cotton and therefore, this must go hand-in-glove with us providing the necessary access to the markets. The more we do, the more we are encouraging the youth to produce more. Therefore, these things have to go hand-in-glove. While we are doing these things for the youth, we also have to make sure that once they succeed, once they have done all these things, there is a free and always available market where they can bring their goods. I think that responsibility does not lie with them, it lies with all of us, including Members of this House.

Finally, there is one point on page 9 on which I want to seek clarity as to what is actually said. Clause (d) identifies the ones who may not become members of the Board. It is a Member of Parliament or of a Regional Council or Local Authority Council. I do not see any conflict of interest here. What if there is a youth in this House who is very active, who can be useful to this body, why should he not be a member of the Board? He can bring even his experience he got here into the Board of the youth to help it function properly. I can understand if there is a conflict of interest, but what conflict of interest can be there if an active youth who is a member of a Local Authority Council is elected to the Board? He may be even more experienced and bring that experience to the youth. Why is he not allowed? Maybe in some cases this may make sense, but what is the problem in this particular case?

I was closing my eyes and trying to think hard as to what problems it could cause and I think we may think about that because sometimes these people are

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experienced and they will carry this experience to the youth body. Why should we prevent them from doing that? Maybe somebody could give me a reason why it was put this way. If not, I think it is irrelevant.

With these few words, I will just say that I support the Bill and rest my case.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Minister. Any further discussion? If not, then the Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until tomorrow afternoon, 14:30.

Before I call on the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House, I wanted to inform the Honourable Members that the two schools' children who were here at different times are both from Omaheke, Drimiopsis Primary School and Gqaina Primary School and also to inform the Honourable Members that I have been informed by the Chairman of the National Council, that the Council, in terms of Article 75(2) of the Constitution, considered and confirmed the following Bills without Amendments:

1. Value-Added Tax Amendment Bill;
2. Road Traffic and Transport Amendment Bill;
3. State-Owned Enterprises Governance Amendment Bill; and
4. Plant Quarantine Bill.

I shall now, in terms of Article 75(3) refer these Bills to the President to deal with them under Article 56 and Article 64 of our Constitution. With that I now call on the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House until tomorrow afternoon.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the House adjourns until tomorrow at 14:30.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:42 UNTIL 2008.10.01 AT 14:30**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER  
01 OCTOBER 2008  
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS**

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**QUESTION 87:**

**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2008, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following questions:

Considering the fact that there is no clarity about the relevant Line Ministry and also considering the important role that was played by the Government of Namibia in the initial stages of the draft of the Pelindaba Treaty which was drafted in Namibia in 1994, I would like to ask the following questions:

1. Why has Namibia not ratified the Treaty?
2. Does the Government intend to do so and if so, when?
3. In view of the fact that only three more countries need to ratify the Treaty in order for it to enter into force, what is causing the delay?
4. Is the Government aware of the fact that if we sign as one of the three, we can join the African Commission on Nuclear Energy with all the benefits resulting from that?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON TJIHUIKO**

5. Are you aware that as the country, which will be the largest producer of uranium by 2015, we stand a good chance if we apply to have AFCON Headquarters in Namibia, bringing jobs and prestige to the country?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member table the Question?  
Honourable Tjihuiiko.

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**QUESTION 88:**

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on 9 October 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Finance the following questions:

1. Is it true that Government has approved N\$14.2 million from the Government Contingency Fund in TransNamib coffers to cover losses caused by the illegal strike of last month?
2. Can the Minister explain to this House and the public out there as to why Government should spend hard-earned taxpayers' money to bail out or pay damages caused by a political motivated illegal strike?
3. Why can the responsible Trade Unions NUNW and NAFAU and their respective leaders not be made to pay for their own illegal acts?
4. I want to know whether the precedent that you have created by paying for this N\$14.2 million, would you also apply the same in the future for illegal strikes which may occur and if not, why not?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member please table the Question?  
Honourable Venaani.

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS  
HON VENAANI / HON TJIHUIKO**

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

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**HON VENAANI:** I give Notice that on Wednesday, 8 September 2008, I shall Move –

That this Assembly –

Discuss the precarious water debts owed by many communal farmers to NamWater with a view to look at options of asking these bad debts to be written off, easing the economic burdens they put on rural economies.

That the Motion be referred to the Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration for investigation, review and report back to the National Assembly.

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

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2008, I shall Move –

That this Assembly –

Seriously discuss and consider the unacceptable economic and social conditions under which our old-aged pensioners are living at present and that this Motion be referred to a Parliamentary Standing Committee for further in-depth study and report back to the Chamber for further discussion.

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

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01 October 2008

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS  
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> of October, I shall Move –

That this august House –

Discuss the recent Report on Research published by the National Planning Commission with regard to the people of the South.

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

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: MASS GRAVES**

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I rise to make a statement in this august House. The statement will be about the alleged mass grave sites reported by the National Society of Namibia on Human Rights on 9 September 2008.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2008 the National Society for Human Rights held a media briefing where it launched its report entitled, “*Namibia Enforced Disappearances, Discovery of no-name mass gravesites*” and it reported, *inter alia*, that in July 2008 it had discovered some mysterious gravesites at Ohangwena in Ohauwanga Village in the Omundaungulo Constituency of our country and also in Onamwandi Village on the Angolan side.

The objectives of Mr Nangoloh’s press release and statement, among other things, were to inform the public about the recent discovery of what appears to be no-name and mysterious gravesites along Namibia’s South Western border and in or near the Ohangwena Region and to call for an independent, impartial and through international forums seeking this investigation to ascertain whether or not there are human remains in the alleged gravesites as well as when and how those buried in those graves were killed and who were the perpetrators.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON DR N IYAMBO**

According to Mr Nangoloh, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances Organisation are the best placed international organisations to conduct the investigations and to disclose their finding, the finding of the Human Rights body in Namibia, that there are clear matches between the mysterious armed killing on or around the 27<sup>th</sup> of September 1994 in the Mayara area of the Mukwe Constituency in the Kavango Region and the ensuing attack against the local civilian population in the northern and north-eastern border areas of Namibia.

Also to demonstrate that the said attacks have been directed primarily against the ethnic Ovimbundu people as well as against members of other ethnic groups in the conflict border areas and to call upon the Namibian Government to compensate the victims of the afore-mentioned unlawful, unconstitutional armed and killing conflicts in the borders of Namibia.

The National Society for Human Rights' statement further claimed and/or implied that the third mass gravesite contains remains of persons who allegedly have been cleared amass from border villages in Caprivi and Kavango Regions between 1994 and 2003 during that conflict and transported to be buried in the Ohangwena Region.

Clearly, following Mr Nangoloh's media briefing on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2008 on the alleged discovery of the gravesite, the Government of the Republic of Namibia considered it very serious and necessary to methodically investigate the alleged plans. Two actions were adopted:

**PLAN 1:** That the Inspector General of the Namibian Police, Lieutenant-General Sebastian Haitota Ndeitunga, should contact Phil Ya Nangoloh and he did so on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2008 and informed him whether or not Mr Nangoloh realised the implications of his allegation to the country and whether he was at the same time willing to accompany the investigators to show them the reported discovered mass graves. Mr Nangoloh at the beginning showed eagerness to show the investigators the site, but later on he indicated to be extremely busy and perhaps will not be in a position to accompany the investigators at the time they wanted it to be done. The Inspector General then informed him that the investigation team were more than willing to accompany anybody or any team of his choice to show them the gravesite.

After a few days Mr Nangoloh could not be found and did not answer his

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Cellphone, even after repeated messages left. However, the contact continued and after another couple of days he was contacted again and he alleged that he was busy preparing for a mission outside the country and he could only come back and accompany the investigation team on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September 2008.

The Inspector-General accordingly informed him that it was necessary that he, Mr Nangoloh, or his team make it a point to show the graves and for the investigation team to ascertain that these were not the grave or graves that were already known by our people.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of September 2008, Mr Nangoloh and his team led the investigating team to the gravesite. The investigating team made prior arrangement that after the site has been identified, it should be safeguarded by the security agencies so that no tampering with it should take place between the time they will be shown and the time perhaps any interested party should show cause to take up the issue.

After the gravesite it was very clear that Mr Nangoloh realised that the gravesite was not his discovery. The grave was known even by some investigators who were also members of the team, since that some of them were born exactly at the village of the gravesite and have known the gravesite since 1972.

Then on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2008, Mr Nangoloh changed the story as per his press release dated the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2008. The story also appeared in the Namibian newspapers of the 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2008 and an article was titled, *“Bodies in the 1972 mass grave finally identified.”*

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in that newspaper’s article, he went as far as providing names of people reported to be buried in the said grave as if he did not know all those information, including the names at the time of his press conference.

The investigating team, not knowing Mr Nangoloh’s next move to reveal the true information about the grave, implemented Plan B as planned, namely to keep the grave safeguarded until further notice.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Nangoloh was then repeatedly informed to make further contact with the investigating team so that the people at the gravesite could be released. After waiting for so long and no response, on the

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30<sup>th</sup> of September 2008, yesterday that is, it was decided to withdraw the guarding team because we see no reason for them to remain there.

Mr Phil Ya Nangoloh reported that when he took the investigation team at the gravesite there were heavy tyre prints of vehicles and that the gravesite was cleaned compared to the time of his discovery.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the grave contains Namibian men and women who were cold-bloodedly massacred by the then South African Security Forces on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 1972. Since Independence the local communities every year, before or on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August, gather at that site to clean it and to remember those murdered, whose remains are in that grave and today their blood waters our freedom.

It is, therefore, between June, July and August, during the time of his visit, their customary visit to the gravesite has not approached as this was to be done before or on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August. Hence, when the team of Mr Nangoloh and our investigating team went there, which was the 18<sup>th</sup> of September, the community had then already been there to complete what they do every year.

In the weekly paper of the *Windhoek Observer* of the 20<sup>th</sup> of September 2008, it is reported there that there is some international interest into the National Society of Human Rights in Namibia for their report and disclosure about the discovery of the mass graves in Namibia. Mr Speaker, I am only showing this to illustrate the point. On the 27<sup>th</sup> of September, also according to his information, finally the mass grave is linked to the 1972 Epinga massacre. Also, in the *Namibian* of 24<sup>th</sup> September, "*Bodies in 1972 Massacre Graves are identified*", as if it was after Mr Nangoloh's taking the investigating team to the gravesite that he learned what the truth was about the mass grave. It is not true, he knew all along.

We have sworn statements of people who are alive today, who some of them were the survivors of that massacre. Some even today bear the scars of what has happened, visible to be seen by everybody and they are in those villages and one wonders that Mr Nangoloh, only after taking the team there, could bother to find out the truth from the people that were involved in that incident.

In any case, what has happened with Mr Nangoloh and what is related in the newspaper is exactly in our view what Mr Nangoloh was after, to engage the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations Working Group

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for the Enforced Involuntary Disappearance with previously mentioned people. No wonder, therefore, he had no other option but to change his story.

Our findings of the investigation are as follows: Mr Nangoloh's mission started here in Windhoek in June 2008. The same day part of his team slept in houses that are known in Ondangwa. Others stayed in houses in Oshakati that are known. The next day they proceeded to Eenhana and Omundaungila Constituency to find their discovery. The investigation team that covered Mr Nangoloh's activities in Angola, for some time now the agencies that are responsible for safety and security of this country have been in touch with their counterparts in the sister Republic of Angola. The Angolans too have all the information on the evidence as to the graves on their side. They know on their side of the border just as we know the information on our side of the border. The names of those that are reported to be buried in the mass grave at Ohauwanga Village are identified as follows:

Mr Thomas Mweshihange from Epinga Village; Mr Lucas Veiko from Oshipala-Shomoongo Village; Mr Jesaja Shinana from Onakadilu, a village on the Angolan side; Mr Benjamin Herman from Onantana Village and Mr Matheus from Ohainengena from Entana area.

As it can be seen, the first name on this list for that victim, that of Mr Thomas Mweshihange, was the young brother of our late first Minister of Defence, Peter Mweshihange. Now to pretend that such grave would not have been known is silly, to say the least.

In that respect, it should therefore defeat any logic that the grave could not have been known. As a matter of fact, records reveal that Honourable Jerry Ekandjo, when he was responsible for Home Affairs, also visited the site in 2001. It should indicate to everyone that this is not a mysterious discovery of a grave by Mr Nangoloh. People who were killed and buried in that grave were killed on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 1972 by the then South African Security Forces, as I said earlier. This happened on Sunday after the church service at Epinga. Near the Anglican Parish in that village. This massacre took place because people were involved in political mobilisation where they destroyed the borderline fences between Namibia and Angola and they burnt down the cattle kraal where cattle of the village were normally vaccinated.

The gravesite is known by local people and as I said earlier, they do gather there

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every year before or on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August to remember the fallen heroes. Many of the people are known and have been interviewed under oath. We have the statements here and they are alive today.

It was therefore interesting, that Mr Nangoloh realised that the truth was about to be revealed and he made a point not even to return to Windhoek after showing the team the gravesite, he remained in the area. Information has it that he has contacted people to tell them that should the Police come to ask them, they should reveal this grave dated to 1996 as opposed to the real time he knows, 1972.

Mr Nangoloh in his statement also says that there is another grave at Oshikomo in the Western Kavango Region. He was asked by the investigating team please to take them there, but up to how, as we sit in this august House and the matter being urgent as far as we are concerned, he has not moved an inch so far.

He also claimed that some of the unidentified persons were actually abducted from Oshango and Onambundu, Odibo and Odinga, inside Namibia and were buried in that mass grave in 1999 or 2000. He further claimed that the people were killed in the Caprivi and Kavango Region and transported to Ohangwena to be buried. Many of you Honourable Members here know how many kilometres it is from Caprivi, to transport dead bodies from there to another Region, hundreds and hundreds kilometres away. But that is the type of Mr Nangoloh.

It was also reported that why is it that the Namibian Government was quiet and not responding to this issue, as if Government was glorifying what Ya Nangoloh has said.

My message to the Namibian people is this, that our people must understand that the Government is in charge and that we will do everything in our power to deal with national and international interest and give feedback at the time that is appropriate, unless there was a serious security threat in the country. You need to have irrefutable information. Although we knew, we wanted to keep the person at his place and that is what we have done, to respond to some of these malicious allegations at the time of our choice and do so systematically, as I am doing now.

In conclusion, I want to say clearly and loudly that those Governments, international organisations and perhaps some Namibians who believe in Mr Nangoloh as a serious human rights representative must think twice and they must know whom they are dealing with. He came to be nothing more than a

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mercenary who is using human rights as a springboard to get recognition or, worse even, alternatively to be awarded financially. This, I hope, should be clear that the people of Namibia, us here, citizens of this Republic, will not allow the names of our gallant leaders to be tarnished unnecessarily. Namibia stands ready to defend our hard-won Independence, freedom and peace in our country.

Mr Speaker, I do not make statements in this House very often, I want to thank you for your attention. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Minister very much for his detailed Report to the House and in doing so, clarifying the situation which quite obviously has preoccupied the minds of so many out there. Mr Phil Ya Nangoloh, for many here and outside who have known him for many years, has his political issues. This will not be the end, but I want, as seriously and earnestly as I can, to say to the media, any media, with your bad name, not to jump to appear to associate with Phil Ya Nangoloh unless that is the intention and that media be truthful, be faithful to its mission to inform and educate the people and not to be found in wrong corners, unless that is the intention.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any further Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the day.

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**RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING:  
NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL BILL**

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**SECRETARY:** Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – National Youth Council Bill.

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**HON SPEAKER:** When this Debate was adjourned yesterday, 30 September 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable

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Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable Kasingo reserved the right to speak this afternoon and she now has the Floor.

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**HON KASINGO:** Thank you, for giving me the Floor, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in supporting the Bill before this House, namely the National Youth Council Bill, as introduced by the Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture, Honourable Willem Konjore, I would like to recognise the effort put into this Bill by the Minister of Youth, the entire management cadre as well as your predecessor who has lain the groundwork for this Bill.

I regard this Bill as important because to me it is a very important legal instrument to create a conducive environment for social, political and economic development and upliftment of our youth.

As this Bill aims, among others, to empower the youth and to enable them to enter into the job market, allow me, Honourable Speaker, to recognise and applaud the initiative by the Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources for introducing the recent policy or strategy of attachment and inclusiveness of the young graduates to be taken by the Fishing and Marine Sector to enable them to gain experience so that in the long run this sector should be managed by the Namibians themselves. I hope that if this noble initiative by the said Minister is adhered to, then the number of graduates in this sector who are roaming around in the streets of Namibia will be minimised and I would like to humbly appeal to the Minister also to make this attachment and inclusiveness a condition for each and every company who applies for fishing quotas.

As the saying goes, *there are different ways to kill a cat* and it is in the same vein that I would also like to appeal to all our Ministries who have an element of job creation to follow suit, among others, the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Mines and Energy and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

Attachment and inclusiveness of young Namibian graduates should be done now, not later. After all, we are only two million and if this is done, we will somehow succeed to reduce unemployment, reduce poverty and other socio-economic ills which are besetting our country.

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Honourable Speaker, having made those short general comments, I would now like to turn to the specificities of the clauses of the Bill. I would like to comment on Clause 3 which deals with the functions and the powers of the Council.

I have taken note of the list of functions and powers indicated in Clause 3, however I would like to add some functions based on what I have said earlier on the need for young graduates to be attached to the industries in the fields they have studied. I think one of the functions of the Council should be to liaise with academic institutions of higher learning, namely the Polytechnic and UNAM, so that at the end of the day the Council will have a reservoir or database about the graduates, so that with this knowledge they will now consult through their Minister the Minister of Labour for these people to be attached to different fields.

The second clause I want to mention is Clause 9(c), which reads as follows: *“To recommend to the Minister to reprimand, suspend or discharge any member of the Board on the ground of gross misconduct.”* Honourable Speaker, I feel that if *“gross misconduct”* is not thoroughly defined, it could be abused and it could be a source of in-fighting by the people who would be tasked to carry out this noble task. Hence, I would like to propose that a thorough definition should be contained in the regulations which will accompany this Bill or alternatively, in the Rules governing the appointment and firing of the Board.

Last and not least, if we all agree that the membership of this body and its structures should be limited to the youth between 16 and 35, to me it stands to reason that the age from 36 and above should be the ground for one to vacate the office in all the structures mentioned.

Lastly, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to use this opportunity to request and call upon the youth, as they enter the labour market, to join organised labour unions. It is only through joining organised labour unions that they can assert their right and on the other hand, they will also recognise the rights and obligations of others they are likely to employ.

With these few remarks, I support the Bill and I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member. The House shall now rise for refreshments.

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HON BOHITILE**

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40  
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:14 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Clara Bohitile.

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**HON BOHITILE:** Comrade Speaker, I rise in support of the National Youth Council Bill and I would like to focus on Part 2 of this Bill that deals with the establishment of the Council, Clause 2 and also Clause 3, the powers and functions of this Council.

Comrade Speaker, one of the functions of the National Youth Council the establishment of this Bill is seeking is that this Council is to foster among the Namibian youth a spirit of national identity, a sense of patriotism, self-respect and cultural prospects. I want to emphasise these four as I see these functions as extremely important.

Comrade Speaker, no other stage in the life cycle provokes as much debate as the period between childhood and adulthood. Some historians question whether such transitional stage has always been recognised in past societies. “*Youth*”, Comrade Speaker, was nonetheless the word usually employed in western societies to denote how these years were different from years around them.

Complaints about “*youth these days, today’s young people*” are as old as civilisation itself. The early modern period was no exception, with unceasing laments from every Region about a world, “*full of ill-advised and ill-nurtured youth.*”

It is sometimes difficult to assess whether there truly were more problems with young people or simply higher expectations. Many times economic difficulties, for example, contributes to the perceived laziness of youth at any given time.

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Comrade Speaker, references to what we might call “*gangs of youth*” have been going on since at least the late Middle Ages, but during the early modern periods, scuffles increasingly went beyond just battles. In response some European parents succeeded in having their unruly children incarcerated in “*bride wells*” and workhouses. Comrade Speaker, in our case, we as Africans try by all means to hold onto our cultural roots, to our traditions that compel all of us, young and old, to respect our elders and every adult known to you or unknown to you. It takes a village to raise a child.

We, therefore, remain hopeful as Africans and, therefore, as Namibians that there is no possibility whatsoever that we could lose our youth along the way, despite the occurrences of misbehaviour, public utterances by some of our youth towards elders and leaders that are very disrespectful. We still remain convinced that our youth are on the right path as we see other exemplary youth all over in our society that do us proud.

Honourable Members, the transition from childhood to adulthood involves many biological, cultural, economic and political changes that occur at different ages for each youth. Some even, such as entering the world of work or institution of higher education prove more significant in the social development of some young people than others. That is why clearly an important stage in every individual’s life cycle, the phase known as “*youth*”, often remains ambiguous as to both rights and responsibilities, a situation not completely unfamiliar in the modern world.

Personally, Comrade Speaker, if it were in my powers, the age in which a person is considered a youth and thus eligible for special treatment under the law and throughout society, if I had that choice, would be up to the age of 25. I would have said, the rest beyond 25 join the antiques and be responsible.

Comrade Speaker, very recently the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration visited the Republic of Botswana to familiarise itself with the allocation of land to the citizens in that sister Republic. One of the groups the Committee needed to consult were the Traditional Leaders. The Traditional Leaders in that country are custodians of cultural values.

The Committee had to see the Chief of the Batlokwa who was not able to see the Committee because he was assigned by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Botswana, President Ian Khama, together with a delegation of Chiefs

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to go around the country, to every town, to villages, to Constituencies, addressing the youth before Parliament enacts a certain law. The group of Chiefs were going to address the youth on behaviour and misbehaviour like public drunkenness, public fighting, drug abuse and other misbehaviour. The intention of this law that is to come is that the youth, if they misbehave in such a way, would be arrested, would be imprisoned and if they are employed, they would still keep their jobs and work from prison. They would be dropped every morning from the prison to their workplace, they would get a salary at the end of the month which will go either to the wife or the parents. That was the purpose of the Chiefs going around.

Honourable Speaker, President Ian Khama, a Traditional Leader of the Bamangwato tribe himself, we were told, preferred custodians of cultural values, the Chiefs, to do this job for him. I can imagine that in Botswana at this moment while this group of Chiefs are going around, the youth would definitely have to watch their vocabulary in public statements. If they would dare, for example, to use vocabulary like instructing a Minister, instructing a President, instructing any leader, there would probably be trouble in Botswana at this point in time.

Comrade Speaker, my wish, therefore, is that this National Youth Council Bill, when becoming a law, will empower the established Council to foster among Namibian youth these values, that it will foster a spirit of national identity, a sense of patriotism, unity, self-respect, cultural prospects, etcetera.

Comrade Speaker, may I conclude by wishing the Honourable Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture, Honourable Konjore, all the strength with this mammoth task awaiting him. I support the Bill and I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member. I know what you mean, Honourable Member, that in some cases some older people act like children, so maybe raising the bar to the age 25 may be helpful to some. Some are light years ahead at the age of 13, as I have discovered when I engaged them in the Children's Parliament. Honourable Ipinge.

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HON IIPINGE / HON HAINGURA**

**HON IIPINGE:** Thank you very much, for the Floor, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members of this august House, I rise to contribute to the Debate on the National Youth Council Bill. Let me join other speakers before me in congratulating the Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture and the entire staff, as well as the young people who contributed to the formulation of this very important Bill.

Honourable Speaker, my contribution is on Part 2, Clause 3(f), a function that is *“to popularise and advocate the concept of gender equality among the youth.”* It is very important and I am very pleased to see this function in the Bill. However, looking at terminology such as *“popularise”* and *“advocate”*, it is too light, because when you are popularising, you are just talking, when you are advocating, you have an element of supporting. For this function to help us to promote gender equality, I would like to suggest that there is a need to include the concept of gender mainstreaming. I am saying this because mainstreaming gender is action oriented, while popularising, as I said, is just talk and advocating support. You support the concept of gender equality as if it is outside the youth.

I, therefore, suggest that there is a need to indicate or to deliberately include the strategy to promote the goal of gender equality and empowerment of young women and men and that is called *“gender mainstreaming,”* which is a process of reflecting on gender inequality. The process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, whether it is programmes, whether activities or policies, is a very important concept to be inserted there. I, therefore, suggest the function to read as follows: *“To popularise, advocate and mainstream gender among the youth development projects, programmes and activities.”*

Having said that, I support the Bill.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Haingura.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:**  
Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members. I rise to add my voice to

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the National Youth Council Bill which was introduced by the Honourable Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture.

From the onset, let me forward my gratitude to the entire team of the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture, National Youth Council and the SWAPO Party Youth League for their invaluable contributions to the Bill under discussion.

The National Youth Council Bill is tabled at a critical juncture in Namibia's relatively short history as an independent Nation politically, that is still trying to break both the physical and mental shape as imposed by successive colonial eras.

Comrade Speaker, we all know the immense contribution made by the Namibian youth during the apartheid era. The youth served as a bedrock and backbone of the Namibian revolution and remained steadfast where others wavered. Today the Namibian youth are engaged in a different era of financial and economic struggle. The youth are faced with immense challenges, amongst others unemployment, alcohol and drug abuse, teenage pregnancies and many more. Again today the youth are eking out a living under difficult conditions, compounded by the global financial and economic crisis. Nonetheless, African youth have come of age. The time for African youth has struck to carry the generational mandate bestowed upon their shoulders by our forebears.

Honourable Members, my contribution to this particular Bill is partly to advance the interest, hopes and dreams and aspirations of the women youth. As you all may be aware, I am also Secretary for the SWAPO Party Women's Council. As a mandated lawmaker with a specific agenda to implement women empowerment and development at all levels, I am pleased to realise that this Bill proposes the establishment of the Youth Development Fund. The Youth Development Fund is a welcome proposal to relieve the plight of unemployed youth. The rural youth should be encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities that might be offered by the Fund.

In the same breath I wish to propose that the annual allocation to the National Youth Council by the Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture should be increased to N\$30 million to cater for the diverse needs and wants of our youth. The current allocation is way too minimal and insufficient to the youth in all 13 Regions and 107 Constituencies.

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The emphasis should also be placed on rural women youth to encourage them to enter the mainstream economic sphere.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, rural women youth in particular face immense challenges. The Micro-Credit Scheme and Development Fund, as proposed, will alleviate poverty amongst women youth. Sometimes as single parents they struggle to make ends meet. This is not only about creating wealth, but empowering women who deal with two kinds of poverty, which is poverty of the mind and poverty of material things. Rural women youth will also be encouraged to form associations and give them leverage to start income activities.

Comrade Speaker, I join others in calling that this Bill should be linked to other economic Ministries to accelerate the employment of youth and hasten the implementation of youth development projects and business plans. The days for calling youth to do voluntary work is gone. World dynamics have changed, so has the playing field. The youth must be allowed to benefit from wildlife and tourism concessions, mining concessions and apply for state tenders, serve on different boards, especially in rural areas. Financial and economic freedom is what the youth yearn for at all times and at all platforms and fora, not only in Namibia but across Africa.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, the Namibian youth are today excelling in arts, culture and sports. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** May I ask my Colleague a question? The Comrade says she is mandated to empower women and she said the time for voluntary work is a thing of the past. Does she want to say that people cannot do voluntary work, because we see people who are participating in activities but when it comes to volunteering, they go? Can the Comrade clarify?

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**HON HAINGURA:** What I meant is that we can do a national duty on, for example, the railway, but there are some youth who come from a poor house, you give him a job and tell him to do it voluntarily, not even giving him money

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for transport. That is what I am referring to. If it is a national call like for the railway, I think they have done it already and thus we can continue. There are however some people who want to abuse the youth.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, the Namibian youth are today excelling in arts, culture and sports and we are happy about that. The overwhelming majority of Namibians listen to the sounds and music of Gazza, The Dogg, Phura, Ndilimani, Bullet ya Kaoko, Gal Level and many others. We are all aware of the name Moses, the Hitman Paulus. It is, therefore, imperative and my humble plea that we build a centre for arts, culture and sports to promote and realise the potential of our youth. (Intervention)

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**HON KASINGO:** I would like to ask the Honourable Member a question. I agree with you, Honourable Deputy Minister, when you talking of job creation for the young women youth. Do you also agree with me that the recent Cabinet decision to build toilets on the public roads is a very good initiative if implemented and probably the young women are given the job to clean those toilets, at the same time earning a living by charging the users N\$1. I am asking this question because there are people in the public who misunderstand this very good thing and it probably needs to be cleared by the spokesperson of Cabinet. Do you agree that young women should be given that task?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** Honourable Kasingo, if you listened carefully, I said we want these young people to get the tenders for them to benefit.

We have not forgotten the harsh realities that we were exposed to at the Beijing Olympics when the one of the Namibian athletics came back with a silver medal. (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Information. I just want to inform the Honourable Member who spoke before the Honourable Deputy Speaker, the role of women empowerment should be clearly defined. If one thinks that if there are toilets between Okahandja and Otjiwarongo and women

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HON DR KAWANA**

must be made to clean those toilets, that would create a wrong impression. What needs to be said is that they should also be able to be given preference to have tenders and employ whoever, including males, to clean the toilets. Not that women should be given the role to clean toilets, that is wrong.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I agree with the Honourable Tjihuiko. I wanted the Secretary General of the SWAPO Women's League to have said that. Not only am I a grandson of a woman, not to speak of a mother, but I am a father and a grandfather of women, young girls, and I do not want my daughter and granddaughters to be doing what their grandmothers and great-grandmothers were forced to do. Men are quite capable, they claim to be stronger, so they should be the ones specifically singled out to clean the toilets.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** Yes, it true, Honourable Speaker, women now want to be involved in big issues, like involving themselves in diamonds and mining, those big things. We do not want *kapana-kapana* every day because we are not getting anything out of *kapana*.

In conclusion, Comrade Speaker, in the final analysis I call on the Bill to accommodate professional youth. We have a diverse array of professional youth both in the public and private sectors that can contribute meaningfully to the development of our country.

Lastly, I wish to once again applaud the entire team of the Ministry of Youth for bringing this Bill to this august House and I support the Bill.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Dr Kawana.

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS:** Honourable Speaker, I beg your indulgence to adjourn the Debate until Wednesday, next week.

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**MOTION ON PREVAILING POVERTY  
HON T GURIRAB / HON GORESEB**

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**HON SPEAKER:** The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until Wednesday, next week. The Secretary will read the Second Order of the day.

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**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE:  
MOTION ON PREVAILING POVERTY IN  
OUR COUNTRY**

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**SECRETARY:** *Resumption of Debate on the Prevailing Poverty in our Country.*

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**HON SPEAKER:** When this Debate was adjourned on Thursday, 25 September 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Tjihuiko. Honourable Gurirab adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

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**HON T GURIRAB:** Honourable Speaker, I want to speak on this Motion tomorrow and unless there is any other Member who wishes to take the Floor now, I adjourn it until tomorrow.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Goreseb.

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**HON GORESEB:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, thank you for granting me this opportunity to say a few words on this very important Motion on poverty, hunger and disease which was introduced by Honourable Tjihuiko.

Honourable Speaker, poverty is a significant and persistent problem in the developing countries, including Namibia. After studying the motivation

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statement of the Mover of the Motion, Honourable Tjihuiko, I realised how deeply disturbed he is by the extreme poverty, hunger and diseases our communities are battling with, with no sign of real change even after Independence.

Generally in our country, and particularly in our Ministries, we have developed good laws, policies and programmes, however we are experiencing difficulties in proper implementation of programmes and prioritising community needs, hence the slow economic progress in a country of 2.1 million inhabitants.

The National Planning Commission has come up with a Report, and it is true that the Government must seriously consider that Report and act timeously on it regarding our economic status. The Report says that our development strategies have failed and the Mover has a reason to say that the mushrooming of Squatter Camps all over the country is proof thereof.

Honourable Speaker, due to hunger and poverty people fled to towns to seek a better life. Local Authorities, on the other hand, cannot any longer cope with the huge influx of people from the rural areas. Regional Councils cannot be blamed for not doing enough to develop their Regions because they are under-funded and their development priorities are undermined by the Central Government who always have their own development agenda. In other words, community needs are always sidelined.

Honourable Speaker, poverty, given its close relationship with food insecurity, poor health and nutrition and lack of education, result in lives falling short of their human potential. Insufficient calories and nutrient intake impairs cognitive development and school performance of children. That may be the reason for the high school dropouts in our country. It also reduces the productivity of adults and renders individuals more susceptible to diseases.

Honourable Speaker, improvement of household food security is limited by lack of education, in particular women education, thus the spiral of poverty, disease and hunger will continue in our country. We have too many school children and unemployed citizens suffering eye damage as a result of Vitamin A deficiency, resulting in more and more people going blind.

Therefore, Honourable Speaker, the eradication poverty and hunger must be a central pillar of our development goals. Policies that foster broad-based

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economic growth are critical components. I agree with the Mover that economic growth, whilst be no means a sufficient condition for sustained poverty alleviation, is undoubtedly a necessary one.

One is shocked by the National Planning Commission's view in its latest Report on our development strategies. It spells out in no uncertain terms that Government failed to endorse the development priorities of all thirteen Regions and prioritised the people's needs. In other words, this Government is not inclusive, but acts exclusive.

To demonstrate that, Honourable Speaker, allow me to use the South, the Karas and Hardap Regions, both Regions faced by huge unemployment according to the National Planning Commission. To see the image of the South as a Region trapped in poverty is really unacceptable. The National Planning Commission preferred a number of reasons why the southerners remain poor even after Independence. They said limited for the Region, laziness of the inhabitants, but I do not accept that statement. How the National Planning Commission researchers arrived at this should be explained. How can the South remain poor after all various economic expansions? We can talk about the diamonds, we can talk about the zinc, we can talk about Fish, how can the South remain poor?

Honourable Speaker, a Region that produces certain resources must be able to retain a certain percentage of the profit to benefit its inhabitants, but this has proved elusive for the South. As it is now, Honourable Speaker, the resources from the South are developing other Regions and even countries. A point of reference is Seaflower Corporation Ltd., a poor Company in the South that pays dividends of 31% to all the 13 Regions for social development, according to its Chief Executive Officer. Are all the companies in all the other Regions doing the same?

Honourable Speaker, the main issue here is that if the southerners were in control and had a voice in running the Institutions that affect their immediate lives, even at local or Regional levels, the situation there would be different. Poverty would have been addressed. Unfortunately, ours is not an inclusive Government and the southerners and others are basically excluded from the mainstream politics and economy, and what is true for the South is equally also true for the other Regions.

Honourable Speaker, I suggest that the SWAPO leadership revisit the following aspects that affect our lives and hamper broad-based inclusive economic

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development in our country: Neo-colonialism, tribalism. I thank you and I support the Motion.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Kavari.

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**HON KAVARI:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I rise to support the Motion by Honourable Tjihuiko that the House debates the prevailing poverty in our country.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, economic empowerment and poverty reduction have been featuring in political statements and speeches since our Independence in 1990. The popular one being the fight against poverty, hunger, disease and ignorance by the Father of the Nation. We had budgets that were called "*pro-poor*", yet according to the IMF Report, the biggest economic problems facing Namibia are poverty and unemployment. However, reducing poverty requires a conscious focus on what Government needs to do and what individuals in a given society should do. Hence we need a combination of the responsible policies and responsible behaviour from citizens.

Globally there is evidence that a high level of education is essential for a country to be able to achieve a high level of economic growth. Malaysia is a good example of a country which makes deliberate efforts to educate its nationals shortly after Independence and the growth of its economy is evidence to that.

Honourable Speaker, that is why we see slow growth in our economy because we continue to neglect our educational standards.

A study that was done in the US by Thomas and Sawhill in 2002 indicated that there was a reduction in poverty by 15% when the standard of education was improved. This study proved that the increase in cash welfare was reducing poverty by only 8 %. Giving the people a fish compared to giving them fishing rods to go and fish for themselves is the difference. Our efforts in

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poverty reduction should aim at reducing dependence and advocate sustainable self-development.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, human capital, through education and training is an important driver of structural transformation, but Namibia's human capital is weak. Only 15% of the working age population has completed senior secondary education. The proportion of the working age population with education who attained education beyond senior secondary level is about 5%. Low educational attainment and lack of skilled labour are the important factors contributing to the high unemployment rate in our country. The Public Service Commission Report also highlights, amongst others, that there are certain positions in our country that are given to foreigners simply because Namibians cannot fill them and that also is coupled that they are working without skills transfer to Namibians.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the increase in funding of education has not led to an increase in productivity. This is due to poor quality education, coupled with the low returns on the success of education. Moreover, there is a mismatch between the school curricula and the skills required in the labour market. The scarcity of skilled workers explain the low per capita income in our country.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is true that people that receive better education have characteristics that lead them to have higher incomes, access to health facilities, generate more income without depending on assistance from Government. Education encompasses both teaching and attainment of knowledge and skills, proper conduct and technical competencies. It does focus on the cultivation of skills, trades and professions as well as mental and moral development. However, Honourable Speaker, unless our education system is focused and addresses issues relating to economic development, economic empowerment would remain a dream in our country.

Since our country is endowed with natural resources, there is an outcry that we should vigorously embark on manufacturing in order to add value to our natural resources. However given the limited capacity of our country, we will have to produce products of excellent quality that would be competitive on the global export markets. Again that would require expertise and skills to attain that level of production.

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Honourable Speaker, as a developing Nation our education should be focused on certain sectors of our economy where we have a competitive advantage. Scholarships should be granted to address the skills development to enhance the development of these sectors. Our education system should establish centres of excellence which will instil a competitive spirit in our students. These centres should work with high schools and identify performing learners. Funds should be made available to send these students to international institutions of higher learning, like the Harvard Business School and other institutions. This should be a long-term goal, after which period the country will have a pool of experts to be used as catalysts to speed up the economic transformation of our country.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, since the gains of economical measures aimed at human capital development are not likely to be realised in the short to medium-term, additional measures are required in the short-term to lessen the impact of human resource base on our economy. In the meantime we should have a centre for coaching for excellence that will enhance the leadership and management abilities of the management cadres currently employed. This Centre should be managed by the best International Business Coaches and Mentors to ensure proper skills transfer as a measure to enhance and strengthen the institutional governance.

Honourable Speaker, the reform of the education sector to enhance quality, efficiency and relevance will contribute significantly to the development of strong institutions which are catalysts to the process of economic growth and structural transformation.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, these are but a few ways how we can attain the economic and youth development of our country. With these few words, I support the Motion.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member. The Notice of Motion is the one of Honourable Kavetuna. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion? Who seconds? Any objection? Agreed to. The Honourable Member has the Floor.

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**HON KAVETUNA:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this House of the people, it is indeed a distinct privilege for me to table a Motion on Economic Empowerment of the Namibian people. My humble presentation on this crucial aspect is geared towards attempting to enhance an understanding of this concept and to prompt an extensive discussion on the realisation of the betterment of the livelihood of the poor Namibians.

From the onset, let me register my appreciation and acknowledgement of the notable achievements over the past eighteen years under the SWAPO Party-led Government. I am mindful of the fact that since Independence our Government has been engaged in creating policies and programmes aimed at addressing the imbalances that we inherited from the pre-Independence dispensation. To this end, an Affirmative Action Act has been passed by this august House with a view to address the issue of career opportunities and advancement of our people in disciplines that have historically been denied to us.

I am equally aware and applaud the efforts of the Office of the Prime Minister to bring to the realisation the new policy framework that would be geared towards redressing the current economic imbalances in the name of the Transformational Economic and Social Empowerment Framework, in short TESEF. This policy framework is critical to our people's economic emancipation. It has the potential to effect change to a economic structure which has been characterised by racial favours of the previously advantaged citizens of our country.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the base-line analysis indicate a significant widening gap between the rich and the poor though there are a number of legislations that are aimed at addressing these economic disparities. In the 1990s there has been a new paradigm shift in development thinking. Empowerment has been at the centre of this paradigm shift and an attempt to reconceptualise development and developmental strategies aimed at poverty alleviation particularly in rural areas. In line with this new thinking, the Human Development Report of the UNDP, 1993 states that, "*development must be woven around people, not people around development and it should empower individuals and groups rather than disempower them.*" This rethinking has been brought about the fact that despite decades of development assistance,

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accompanied by growth in some instances, the number of the people in absolute poverty continues to increase in our country.

Empowerment thereof is seen as a response to the failure of the modernisation trickle down economics of the 1990s and the widespread perception of the State's inability to intervene successfully on behalf of the poor and the disempowered group in our society. In the new Webster Dictionary the verb "*to empower*" is defined, "*to give power to*" or "*to enable someone.*"

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, economic empowerment has been understood to mean a set of policies or programmes designed to benefit a specific segment of the society. There is a widespread perception and belief that citizens are disempowered by temporary residents from other countries who command more economic powers and businesses in forms of investment, high technical skills and entrepreneurship. Thus some interpret the concept of "*economic environment*" to mean the creation of an indigenous business elite to rival the more successful foreign businesses with a business interest within Namibia. Others understand it as acquiring a certain extension from some business rules and obligations, such as the exposure to competition, the provision of the security on loans, and even protection against legal actions arising from non-performance of the contractual obligations. For many others it means the entitlement to have shares in Government-owned entities and public assets.

Empowerment, however, is a very complex and often misunderstood concept. Empowerment came into the verge in response to the situation where people could participate in projects without having the power to decide on the critical issues related to the project. It conveys both a psychological sense of personal control or influence or a concern with actual social influence, political power and legal rights.

McArdle [1989] defines "*empowerment*" as a process where decisions are made by people who have to bear the consequences of those decisions.

More perspective on empowerment emphasise the need to build capacity in society to respond to the changing economic and political environment. For example, following its establishment in 1998, September, the Black Economic Empowerment Commission of South Africa has defined "*black economic empowerment as an integrated, coherent and socio-economic process located in the context of national transformation that aims at redressing the imbalances*

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*of the past*” and that is what we want.

The fundamental goal of empowerment is to help individuals within society to improve the quality of their lives and share equitably in the benefits of economic growth.

To me, Honourable Speaker, empowerment is about helping people to unleash their creative and productive energies to achieve sustainable growth and continued improvement in their living standards. We should, however, remember that the empowerment concept goes beyond the notion of democracy, human rights and participation, to include able-bodied persons to understand the reality of the environment, may it be social, economical, political, ecological or cultural and to take necessary action to improve their well-being. Therefore, any real empowerment starts with self-empowerment.

There must be an internal urge to influence change and to take control. People are empowered when they feel enhancement of their ability to control, influence or cope with their social and economic role. The motivational dimension of empowerment involves these following factors:

Firstly, people will be empowered if they want to be empowered. They have to be motivated intrinsically and they have to believe in the merits and prospects of empowerment. It will not help us to deliver thousands of pieces of equipment to people who are not ready to be empowered. It is a waste of resources and it has proven itself within the community projects where most of them died a natural death.

Secondly, empowerment is about creating the condition conducive to enhance motivation to perform by developing the person’s sense of self-determination and enhancing his belief of self efficacy. Our people should believe that they can own entities of magnitude like KFC, Shoprite and others. They should believe that they are beyond *kapanas*, shebeens and selling of sweets on the streets.

Thirdly, empowerment in turn provides the individuals with the ability to perform, the necessary skills, knowledge and so on. It is also in turn giving fair opportunities to perform.

Public and private sector should recognise and appreciate the ability of the upcoming entrepreneurs. They can be given opportunities to develop and create

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references through winning of tenders and other assignments with incentives.

What remains ambiguous in most discussions of empowerment is the question of self-reliance, how much must people do for themselves. At one extreme, the conservative use of empowerment may be restricted to the situation of total self-help. At another extreme it is the view that the only thing required for empowerment to occur is participation in decision-making. Everything else is done on behalf of the empowered person by the other professional persons. This kind of approach to empowerment attracts creative antagonism. Such an approach fails to recognise that as long as others have access to resources, control the process, then this process is actually disempowering. Empowerment is supposed to bring closer those who have and the have-nots in order to close the widening gap.

Because empowerment lies at the centre of resources relation, it presents a challenge to accumulate wealth and to address the skewed distribution of resources that is the main cause of severe poverty in some sectors of our communities.

Honourable Speaker, what is needed to impact all efforts of empowerment is new ideas and to find an alternative to capitalism and socialism. Following the demands of socialist system, some started talking about giving a human face to capitalism. In the mind of some, economic empowerment implies entitlement to a share of wealth or income, however international experience suggests that entitlements and other handouts do not bring economic empowerment. Entitlement creates a dependency attitude, undermines the power of positive thinking of one's own ability and nurture the feeling of helplessness and being disempowered.

The motto of empowerment should be: If I can do it, anybody can do it. Empowerment has to be an objective the individual must try to achieve.

Government can ensure equal access to economic opportunities, but it is up to each citizen to take advantage of them or to ignore them. Grabbing hands for too long created dependency and it killed the drive to do things on one's own.

It must however be recognised, that although equal opportunities can be created for citizens, equal outcomes cannot be guaranteed because people respond

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differently to the same incentives.

Generally speaking, Honourable Speaker, empowerment and development should contain the following essential ingredients in order to be effective:

- The financial intervention to assist local business activities that should be an increased access to credit;
- Enterprise development for citizens. Entrepreneurship is the driving force of the nation's economy. Entrepreneurs are meeting the economic needs through the creation of new businesses every year. Successful entrepreneurship however requires more than merely luck and money. It is a cohesion process of creativity, risk-taking and planning. Creating and growing a new venture is a task that a few individuals are able to accomplish, but managing its growth is another matter.

For us to create a culture of reliable enterprise, one pertinent question should be asked: Who is an entrepreneur? To me a sustainable entrepreneurship is a process that improves the living standard of one, an enterprise with visible growth. Dr Aupa Frans Indongo and others who started from humble beginnings and grew and still grow as entrepreneurs and who can now unquestionably be described as business magnates of this special kind, that is an entrepreneur with a real growth indeed.

Unfortunately, not every Namibian is able to succeed even if you try the route that Indongo has taken. Some only provide bread on the table for ages, which cannot be termed as empowerment. In contrast, this can be characterised as a mere survival, accompanied by the prospects of continued poverty.

The other issues are marketing strategies, bargaining strategies, job creation and training and education that we need to emphasise more if we want to empower people. If we look around in our society today, it is obvious that most Namibians who live in areas where we have multiple resources are living in severe poverty. They have no control over the resources, neither are they empowered to create opportunities from the resources in their surroundings, be it physical resources, intellectual resources, like knowledge, financial resources and even the self-determination, the unique combination of intelligence, creativity, self-esteem and confidence.

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In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, Members of this august House, having acknowledged the efforts made by the Government thus far in order to create a new environment within which the true meaning of empowerment can be realised, I however introduced this Motion to this august House for three reasons:

Firstly, I am of the humble view that Government, as the custodian of the promotion and protection of the welfare of the people, must become interested in the Debate and pronounce itself on the merits and de-merits of economic empowerment, especially as it relates to the black Namibians.

Secondly, as a Legislative Organ of our State, I firmly believe that this august House should set itself an agenda and programme to complement the efforts of the Executive Branch of Government in dealing with this urgent socio-economic challenge.

Lastly, to discuss what role we should play to effect the implementation of our good laws passed by this House and to ensure that TESEF will not become one of the dusty documents on the shelf of our implementers, like the Deputy Director of Trade has been doing with our policy. The road to empowerment is through involvement and active participation. This requires the strengthening of the meaning and reality of the principle of inclusiveness, transparency and accountability.

The stakeholders in the empowerment process include the Government, planners and policy-makers, private sector organisations and stakeholders. Effective empowerment requires... (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** Comrade Speaker, for the purpose of the record, I know it was a joke but it is on the record. If one is going to read and look at the date the statement was made, then we are going to see who is the Deputy Director of Trade at that time. That is just the issue.

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**HON KAVETUNA:** I withdraw that statement. Effective empowerment requires a multilateral and two-way power relations among the stakeholders. Wishing for an intensive deliberation, I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Minister Mutorwa.

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly. Debates and discussions specifically dealing directly and/or indirectly with the subjects of economic empowerment and the fight to reduce or even eradicate poverty are universal. They were held, they are also being held now and shall continue to take place in many parts of the world in both developing, but also in developed countries.

The Honourable Juliet Kavetuna, as far as I am concerned, needs to be commended, she needs to be congratulated for introducing this Motion in this august House barely a few months after she became an Honourable Member and a representative of the people in the people's House.

Comrade Speaker, I am tackling the subject matter more from an intellectual academic and sociological angle and not from a narrow, materialistic and classical capitalistic perspective.

A simple day-to-day definition of the words "*empowerment*" and "*poverty*" reveals the following and it is a simple definition that a teacher would give. For me "*empowerment*" refers to that process where you have to do something, where some kind of authority or power is given to a person so that the person is strengthened to do certain actions in a positive sense, whereas to be in a state of poverty actually means that one does not have or have very little money and possessions, materially speaking and a poor country is one whose inhabitants have very little money and very few material possessions. These are simple definitions.

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Now, in the context of our country, the obvious visible fact is, ours is a rich country. It is a rich country, endowed with many natural resources, but still ours is a country of which the large majority of its people are poor. That is a fact. Abject and absolute poverty is a fact among many Namibian and residents of our country. The challenge, therefore, is not lack of resources, but rather, as the Honourable Kavetuna convincingly argues in her motivation speech, what are the methods that must be employed and when should those methods be employed and how to economically empower Namibia in a fair, equitable and transparent manner. This is the fundamental and relevant question for debate.

From my perspective and from my personal point of view, empowerment could be effected by the individual himself or herself first. Secondly, then the State through its various actors, public or private entities, the Government, the community-based organisations, the non-Governmental Organisations, the private sector civic organisations, all those institutions could also play a role in effecting empowerment to the members of the society.

Economic empowerment must start with the important empowerment of the mind and of the intellect and then, of course, the body and the spirit. We should not confine empowerment only to the material aspect, but it is very important that the intellect, the mind should be empowered and there Honourable Kavetuna clearly emphasised that point in her motivation too. This must happen through education and training, first and foremost. It is because of that realisation that the Namibian State, through its Legislative and Executive Organs, have an entrenched Article 20 which deals with education in our national Constitution as part of Chapter 3, which chapter is exclusively dealing with fundamental human rights and freedoms and for that I think the Government needs to be commended.

Empowerment through education and training enables an individual to make correct and informed choices and decisions about how and when to utilise which resources individually and/or collectively, to make a living of course, without waiting for someone else to provide employment and in there lies the power of education, the empowering power of education. In actual fact, that is the fundamental objective and essence of education.

I thus argue, and very strongly so, that one of the methods that was and is being and will continue to be used in many, many countries is to ensure genuine economic empowerment through education and training. Understandably, of course, investment in education and training is always long-term and expensive.

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Just imagine for a child to complete primary education takes seven years and then if you calculate in monetary terms what it takes just to get that child through primary education, it is enormous. If you calculate the efforts and other things, it is enormous. After Grade 10 it is ten years, Grade 12 is twelve years and you add University, so, people want results now and you cannot blame them, but there is no shortcut as far as I am concerned to investment in education, which at the end of the day, once that happens that the individual is empowered to make use of the natural resources available to make a living.... (Interjection). It is not a question of 18 years, it can be a thousand years, but if you look even biblically – and Reverend Konjore can help me out here – the assignment that was given to us as human beings, go out and make use of all the resources for you to make a living, but you cannot do that if you are not willing. (Intervention)

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**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** May I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Honourable Minister, I totally agree with some of the points that you are making, especially the biblical assignment, but is it not true that in Namibia we do not pay as much attention to the assignment to use the natural resources, we rather concentrate on the assignment to go out and multiply? (Interjection)

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** No, I do not agree with you.

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**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** And secondly, I agree with the Honourable Minister that education is not an overnight investment and that is why it is incumbent upon us to have the type of education that when you finish Grade 12 you can go to university and that in three years you can get a degree. But we have a situation of a hundred scholarships and no people who qualify for University, even though they completed Grade 12, so there is something radically wrong and speeches will not correct it, action will.

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

Comrade Speaker, even the assignment about utilising the resources, even the multiplication is also an assignment, go and multiply, occupy the earth. Have you forgotten that part?

I mean, the Debate is not about education, but surely for the past eighteen years we have been debating education and we shall continue to debate education, but let us not be pessimistic. I mean, this education system in this country has produced. I am not saying it is hundred percent perfect, but it has produced. There are many Namibian students who are in universities not only here but also outside.

Comrade Speaker, I am saying that even though the investment in education is expensive and it is long-term, let us always remember that the dividends... (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** May I ask the Honourable Minister a question, please? Honourable Minister, you are telling us not to be pessimistic about our education. Honourable Minister, after eighteen years of Independence a hundred of our kids coming from our schools could qualify, not a single one, hundred out of the many thousands that are coming out of the system. A hundred could not qualify. Are you really trying to say that we should be sitting back?

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

Comrade Speaker, I think this is ambush. A hundred could not qualify for what? He even failed to say qualify for what? For Grade 1, for Grade 6, for what? You yourself do not even know what you want to ask.

What I am saying, Comrade Speaker, is that investment in education is long-term, it is expensive, but the dividends... (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** I am just qualifying my question. A hundred students did not qualify for entering university in South Africa. We were not able to have a

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hundred students who qualify to enter university in South Africa on free scholarships.

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

Comrade Speaker, that question is on the Order Paper, somebody from the opposition benches has asked that question and I am sure my Colleague, the Honourable Minister of Education will tomorrow provide an answer. Please stop singing this song.

Comrade Speaker, the dividends derived from such investments, on the other hand, are usually long-lasting and permanent. Very important to stress here that for genuine economic empowerment to be achieved, education and training, both formal, informal and non-formal, are unavoidable or indispensable prerequisites.

Accepting the premise or logic that economic empowerment is really the competition or fight for economic space that would enable one as an individual or as a group or a collective to have access to or direct benefits from the country's resources, it follows therefore that Governments the world over, as the elected or mandated representatives of the people, do have and do put some necessary mechanisms in place to ensure that the citizens are broadly empowered, broadly empowered culturally, politically, religiously, intellectually, economically and socially.

Now, Governments, including our own Government, normally do these things through the laws, the Constitutions, the rules and regulations, policies, programmes and projects. If you look at the Ministries of our Government, there is no single Ministry that does not have programmes and projects that are geared towards empowerment. Of course, empowerment is dynamic, to fight poverty is not a thing that you can do within a day, but surely from the side of the public sector there are certain programmes and we just need to increase.

Of course, in the animal kingdom empowerment is achieved and ensured in terms of the doctrine or principle of survival of the fittest. The one who is stronger just gets all the nice things, but that is not applicable in human affairs.

In conclusion, let me leave you with some quotations, the first one from His Excellency, President Pohamba's 2008 State of the Nation Address: "*New jobs*

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*generated by our economy have not been sufficient to reduce the level of unemployment. This calls for united action on the part of the Government and the private sector to promote substantial, sustainable economic growth. In fact, all economic actors must join this endeavour so that together we can improve Namibia's future economic trajectory."*

Then from late President Nyerere: *"For the truth is that development means the development of people. Development which is not development of people may be of interest to historians in the year 3000. It is irrelevant to the kind of future which is created."* Nyerere, from his book *"Freedom and Development."*

Then lastly from our Founding President, His Excellency Dr Sam Nujoma, writing in the introduction to Vision 2030: *"Our future is about our people. Therefore, at the centre of the visionary exercise is concern for the population in relation to their socio-economic and overall well-being. Namibia's future will also depend largely on the people themselves. Much will depend on our ability and willingness to respond with innovation and commitment to new challenges."*

That is exactly what we are confronted with and that is exactly the way I look at this particular Motion, that we need to debate in order to see what are the new challenges that are coming and how do we respond and I think together, both Government, private sector, everybody, there is a way out. The situation, Comrade Speaker, is not gloom. Thank you, and I support the Motion.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Kaiyamo.

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**HON KAIYAMO:** I Move that the Debate be adjourned until tomorrow.

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**HON SPEAKER:** The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until tomorrow. I ask the Minister of Trade and Industry to adjourn the House until tomorrow afternoon.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:** Honourable Speaker, I  
Move that this House now adjourns until tomorrow 14:30.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2008.10.02 AT 14:30**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER  
02 OCTOBER 2008  
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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**ADJOURNMENT OF ASSEMBLY**

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, in terms of Rule 17(b) the House stands adjourned until Tuesday, 7 October 2008.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS 15:03 UNTIL 2008.10.7 AT 14:30**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER  
07 OCTOBER 2008  
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**HON SPEAKER:** Before we commence with the business of the House scheduled for today, I would like to urge the Members of the Standing Committee on Rules and Orders that we ensure to form a quorum for the meeting to take place tomorrow at the usual hour and the usual venue. I urge each one of you present here to remind the other Members of the Committee that we form a quorum. There are outstanding matters that we need to attend to and dispose of.

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**HON S[EAKER:** Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees?  
Honourable Basson.

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**TABLING: REPORT ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS  
CONVENTION**

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**HON BASSON:** Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security on the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the State Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention held in The Hague, The Netherlands from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2007.

Honourable Speaker, before doing that, I would like to give a brief background of the Report.

The Parliament Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security was constituted in terms of Article 59(1) of the Namibian

Constitution and in accordance with Rule 48(2) of the Parliamentary Standing

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**TABLING:CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION  
HON BASSON**

Committee on Rules and Orders and Internal Arrangements of the National Assembly. The primary aim of the Standing Committee is to consider any matter it deems relevant with regard to the Ministries, Offices and Agencies responsible for the following categories of affairs, which shall, *inter alia*, include: Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Safety and Security, Home Affairs and Immigration, Namibia Central Intelligence Service. The Standing Committee can only deal and consider any matter referred to it by the National Assembly.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, as you are all aware, the Chemical Weapons Convention was opened for signature on 30 January 1993 and entered into force on 29 April 1997. The Republic of Namibia became a member of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons Convention after signing the Convention on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January 1993 and deposited the Instruments of Ratification in 1995. The Republic of Namibia, therefore, became a State Party to the Convention and, therefore, is obliged to adhere and fulfil the various provisions of the Convention.

Since 1993, Namibia, represented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has been a regular attendant of the Convention meetings and conferences held annually at The Hague, in the Netherlands.

The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) is an international treaty that prohibits the development, production, stockpiling, use and transport of chemicals that could be associated with the production of chemical weapons. The Convention is internationally assisted by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which is located in The Hague, The Netherlands. The Convention requires that State Parties have a national authority to serve as the national focal point for implementing the Convention in and interfacing with the OPCW.

Namibia has established its National Authority, consisting of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Mines and Energy, Defence, Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, although Namibia does not produce chemical weapons, it is a Member State of the Convention and it is obliged to fulfil the provisions of the Convention. Namibia also stands to benefit from the

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**ORAL QUESTION  
HON VENAANI**

assistance offered by the OPCW and, indeed, Namibia is already benefiting from the various programmes of the OPCW as outlined in this Report.

Namibia could also be used as a dumping ground for chemical waste and, therefore, need technical assistance from the OPCW in order to monitor and prevent the dumping of such waste.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, my Standing Committee therefore recommends that the legal drafters of the Ministry of Justice be requested to hasten the drafting of the Namibian Bill on Chemical Weapons. The OPCW can also be approached for assistance with the drafting of the Bill.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the National Authorities which was held from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2007 at The Hague with the theme, "*The Role of Parliamentarians in the Implementation of the Convention on Chemical Weapons*". In this regard, emphasis was put on the need for Members of Parliaments of State Parties to regularly attend both the meetings and conferences of the OPCW. This is because Members of Parliament are responsible for performing the oversight function of the other branches of the State and they are the representatives of their people and need to keep them informed.

Therefore, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I now have the distinct honour to table this Report for information.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member table the Report? Any further Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Honourable Venaani.

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**ORAL QUESTION**

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Speaker, I would like to ask an Oral Question to the Right Honourable Prime Minister under Rule 82(d)(e).

Thank you, Honourable Speaker, it is a very important question that I want to raise and that is in relation to the current international financial meltdown of the

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**RESPONSE TO ORAL QUESTION  
RT HON N ANGULA**

banks and we are seeing what was happening in the United States, Europe today and yesterday and now in Asia. I just want to ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister whether Cabinet has discussed the economic impact of this meltdown and has Cabinet come up with a remedy or are our banks' liquidity position safe or what has Cabinet decided upon on the financial meltdown? Are we going to be affected as citizens, as a country or are we not affected and what measures has Cabinet in place to try to remedy this financial meltdown?

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I thank Honourable Venaani for his concern, I believe it is a concern of many people. However, the question is misdirected, the only person who can answer this question is our representative on the Board of the World Bank and IMF and the supervisor of our financial institutions, namely the Honourable Minister of Finance, Honourable Comrade Mrs Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila. She will be in a better position to answer that question.

However my advice to you is to invest your money in cattle rather than leaving it in the banks. The contagion might also come to Namibia, but for now I have not heard any kind of vibration that the contagion is coming to Namibia. I have however seen that the European leaders met and each one of them is planning a rescue plan. I also know that the Asian markets have been affected and of course, America is the origin of the whole thing.

For now I think I would advise you to ask the Honourable Minister of Finance for more information on that specialised subject and it can only be better answered by a specialised mind in the form of the Honourable Minister of Finance. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** There is the aspect, Prime Minister, that relates to whether the Cabinet has reflected on this issue. If that aspect is not dealt with, there will be misunderstanding outside. It could be a yes or no.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** As I said, Cabinet has not received anything from the Bank of Namibia to indicate that the contagion has reached our shores.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON MOONGO**

Thus, perhaps there is no need for panic for now. (Interjection)

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**HON MEMBER:** You are kidding.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I am not kidding, I am telling you what I know. But if you know something which I do not, you are free to share it with this House. Cabinet has not deliberated on this issue as yet.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Prime Minister for his answer.. Honourable Moongo.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS**

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**QUESTION 89:**

**HON MOONGO:** I give Notice that on Thursday, the 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2008, I shall ask the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare the following:

Is it true that Article 10 of the Supreme Law of Namibia, the Constitution, regulates that "*all people are equal before the law?*" What prompted the Ministry of Labour to prohibit and discriminate against some workers like sub-headmen and headmen, which is in conflict with the Supreme Law, the Constitution? Some workers who also work for the State, such as the members of Traditional Authorities, the Police Force, Defence Force, City Police, Intelligence Services and the Prison Services are stipulated in the Labour Act, Sub-section (1).

Can the Ministry explain when these workers are going to get benefits and get better conditions of employment?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON MOONGO**

**QUESTION 90:**

**HON MOONGO:** I further give Notice that on Thursday, 14 of October 2008, I shall ask the Minister of Works and Transport the following:

1. Is the Minister aware that NaTIS in Ongwediva is disorganised, that customers who bring vehicles for roadworthy tests are joining the queue on Sunday. The sleep in the queue until Monday afternoon due to lack of officials and the testing days were reduced to two days per week.
2. Is it true that we have thousands of matriculants who can take this job? Will the Minister take drastic and appropriate action to remedy the situation
3. Is it true 28-seater Okalindi buses' seats will be minimised to 26? This will jeopardise the profits of the owners of the buses.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any further Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Honourable Minister Angula.

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** I give Notice that tomorrow, Wednesday, 8 October 2008, I shall Move –

That this Assembly ratifies the Millennium Challenge Contract between the Republic of Namibia and the United States of America, acting through the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Minister table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the day.

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**MOTION ON ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT  
HON P MUSHELENGA**

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**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE: MOTION ON ECONOMIC  
EMPOWERMENT OF THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE**

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**SECRETARY:** *Resumption of Debate on the Economic Empowerment of the Namibian People.*

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**HON SPEAKER:** When this Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, 1 October 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Kavetuna. Honourable Kaiyamo adjourned the Debate and in the absence of that Honourable Member, any further discussion? Honourable Mushelenga.

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**HON P MUSHELENGA:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to make my contribution to the Motion by Honourable Juliet Kavetuna. I join Honourable John Mutorwa to commend Honourable Kavetuna for tabling a Motion in this august House within a short period of time after she was sworn in as Member of Parliament. Honourable Kavetuna and I belong to the same school of thought and travelled a long journey as student activists, leaders of SWAPO Party Youth League and now as youthful lawmakers.

Empowerment in its simplest definition is the improvement of social, political and economical power of a given group in society. Those that are to be empowered should, therefore, have a need for improvement in one or many aspects of the scope of their life. When there is a need for empowerment, it means that something somewhere is improper or irregular and it needs to be rectified for the better positive results of the affected persons.

Given the past history of our people, it is arguable that many of the Namibian people have been, in one or another, disadvantaged, discriminated or marginalised.

The Motion before this august House should, therefore, seek to address how to redress the ills that I have alluded to. It is important to know that empowerment has different levels. The need for empowerment differs

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HON P MUSHELENGA**

from person to person. They are dictated by the level of development, profession and advancement. To illustrate my point, I would like to refer to the statement related to the effect of Independence on different people in the society.

Addressing the congregation at the installation of the Chancellor of the University of Namibia in 1993, the President of Zimbabwe, His Excellency Robert Mugabe, otherwise known as Comrade R G Mugabe, stated: *“There has been remarkable achievement in the area of capacity-building and the institution of democratic structures. I could go on listing the observable indices of development in the areas of social and health services, agriculture and natural resources, human resources, communication, information, works, transport and international relations, but this would not reveal in its totality what effect Independence has on the life of the ordinary Namibians, the men and the women in the street.”*

The same scenario is applicable to empowerment. One can talk about the acquiring of shares in multi-national corporations by Namibians, the listing on the London Stock Exchange of a Company owned by previously disadvantaged Namibians, mining concessions given to a group of previously disadvantaged Namibians and so on. This does not yet mean empowerment to the lives of the ordinary Namibians, the rural poor, labourers and underprivileged youth.

We need to identify the needs for empowerment for each group in order to map out strategies for empowerment. There are marginalised communities, like the San and the Himba's. The programmes run by the Government to alleviate their abject poverty addresses the issue of empowerment of these groups and they should therefore be commended. In their case empowerment is what would immediately address their basic needs, such as the provision of social amenities and elementary services that delivers on social human requirements and eradicate poverty. Thereafter, programmes of education, training for self-sufficiency and projects for economic gains would follow gradually. When the standard of living of these people is significantly improved, their empowerment needs will become broader, looking at advanced opportunities in the social, economic and political spheres.

Honourable Speaker, my Constituency, the Namibian youth, have their own empowerment needs. The range is broad and it includes, but not limited to, social, cultural, economic and political empowerment. Capacity building and education are very essential tools for empowering the Namibian youth. Education and capacity building requires financing, means which are limited to

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many of our youth. Our youth who venture into business opportunities need to be effectively encouraged and assisted, seeing they are competing in an unfavourable business environment with older and experienced members of our society.

Programmes of tutelage for young entrepreneurs are absolutely necessary. The Government and the Ministry of Trade and Industry, in particular, could make use of the National Youth Council as a vehicle to drive some of the youth empowerment programmes. We should create among our youth relevant competencies in manufacturing, production, networking, marketing and financial management.

Women have their own empowerment needs. Women in the rural areas need certain programmes that would earn them a living, rather than living on charity.

Politically we have walked a milestone this year, having reached the SADC target of 30% of women in Parliament. There is, however, a contradiction in the issue of women empowerment. Young women and their children are often marginalised by older women when it comes to empowerment. Women organisations are largely led and support the cause of women, but with little or no regard to the benefits of young and disabled women. I have my quarrels with the judgement of this trend, there should be consistency in our approach.

Disabled people form a category of their own which has its own empowerment needs. The empowerment of the mind through emotional support is very crucial. Disabled people, therefore, need to be created with respect so that they can enjoy the assurance of humanity and comfort and dignity. They are part of us and they deserve opportunities that any opening in society could offer them. They have a special place in the small and medium enterprise sector. With the support from the society in terms of skills development and market creation, they will be able to make a meaningful contribution to their livelihood through the sale of a variety of products that they could come up with.

The workers too need empowerment. Favourable working conditions and considerate conditions of service are important issues to the workers. Recognition of their achievement and rewards corresponding to their production outputs are among many empowerment strategies that boards and managements should religiously adhere to. Workers should have access to information from management and constructive engagement between employees and employers

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should be encourage. Empowerment at the workplace has changed the attitude of workers. The more they be respected, the harder they work.

Honourable Speaker, I am mindful of the fact that Government is busy working on empowerment strategies, especially economic empowerment for the previously disadvantaged groups. I would wait for that moment when the policy would be tabled in this august House to make further comprehensive intervention on the subject. For now, Right Honourable Prime Minister you are spared and I would rather emphasise the point that empowerment needs the enthusiastic participation of the people to be empowered. This is what is called personal development and empowerment. Individuals should be driven by the confidence that they are capable of being agents of change and influence events around them.

With these few words, I support the Motion.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. Honourable Nashandi.

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**HON NASHANDI:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to support the Motion by Honourable Juliet Kavetuna, my neighbour, but first, it gives me much pleasure to make my first contribution to this august House to which I was sworn in on Tuesday, the 16<sup>th</sup> of September 2008 to represent the broad masses under the mighty SWAPO Party. It is, therefore, with humility that I pay my tribute to the heroes and heroines, both fallen and current, of our beloved land, Namibia, for it is their precious blood that waters our freedom. Therefore, we dare not disrespect such precious sacrifices which made it possible for us to gain our freedom and Independence.

I further thank my party, the SWAPO Party of Namibia, for providing me with the opportunity to make a contribution to my people through this Chamber. My association with SWAPO Party stretches over four decades and the hardest and testing times were spent in the liberation struggle abroad under the able leadership of the Father of the Nation and leader of the Namibian revolution, His Excellency, Dr Sam Shafishuna Nujoma.

I hail President Pohamba for his effort to continue with nation-building and

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steadfastness in his leadership. Through him our guidance remains clear. I, therefore, congratulate him for his leadership role and wish him further strength.

I further applaud the contribution of my fellow lawmakers to nation-building. We have seen a number of pieces of legislation introduced, debated and passed by this august House, most of which are aimed at providing economic and social relief to our people. However, more work remains to be done in this matter. The history of our people under apartheid, which I will not repeat, is one of subject oppression, denial of basic human necessities and persistent economic dependency and a masters generation after generation. This august House and the Government of the people ensured the consistent, systematic and objective reversal of these evils.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Motion introduced in this House cannot expire and its relevance cannot be overtaken by time. Empowerment is a broad subject covering the vast landscape of meanings, interpretations, definitions and disciplines and we probably cannot exhaust its meanings, but be it as it may, it is a subject matter that still requires attention because the injustice committed on our people over many decades by the apartheid policies cannot realistically be reversed in the short period we have been independent as there were more pressing challenges to deal with.

Therefore, if a person is empowered, he or she is having decision-making power of one's own, having access to information and resources to take proper decisions; having areas of options from which he or she can make choices, not just yes or no, either-or; able exercise assertiveness in collective decision-making, having positive thinking or the ability to make change; able to learn skills to improve one's person or group; involve in growth process and changes; increasing one's positive self-image and overcome stigma. In short, through empowerment we allow one to gain the knowledge, skills and attitude needed to cope with the changing world and the circumstances in which one lives.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is a reality that the economic ownership of our major strategic industries rest not in the hands of the majority of our people. The fact is even emphasised by our income disparity measurements which portray the emphasis. Up to 20% of the population control 80% of the wealth of the nation and the remaining 80% of our people feed on 20% of the cake. Therefore, the redistribution of our resources needs further attention. This can only take place if our people are empowerment.

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One of the scarce resources of our people is land. Efforts to resettle the landless by the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement should, therefore, be supported. However, such efforts can only work if land is made available. Even in communal areas land has become more scarcer. An important instrument of empowerment in the agricultural sector is the Government's land reform policy which aims to facilitate the transfer of agricultural land to black Namibians over a specified period of time. This cannot be a project with an infinite timespan because land is an important, but sensitive issue to all Namibians. Our history of conflict and dispossession or forced removals and the racial skewed distribution of land resources has left us with a complex and difficult legacy.

Coupled with the abovementioned is the need for capital. Capital is a factor of production without which one's venture cannot prosper. Even with skills and no capital one is doomed to fail. How do we access capital as a factor in economics, which is indispensable? We have as a part of our democracy enhancement and nation-building established strategic development finance institutions, such as Namibia Development Corporation (NDC), Development Bank of Namibia (DBN), Agricultural Bank of Namibia (AgriBank) and other credit guarantee schemes. Such institutions should play a pivotal role in the provision of necessary finance to especially the small and medium enterprises. Together with our commercial financial institutions, the conversion of the Small Business Credit Guarantee Scheme (SBCG) under the Ministry of Trade and Industry into a SME Bank would hopefully expand the coverage into the current un-banked areas where our SMEs exist.

Experience shows that there are shortfalls and markets are not fully exploited in these areas, especially to the world segments of the economy. If markets fail to reach certain areas, Government is duty-bound to serve. If people have access to capital, they can contribute meaningfully to the enhancement of economic activities. Our people thus need to take such lead if they are economically empowered.

Let the newly proclaimed town of Omuthiya, which I salute its residents for entrusting its leadership to those able, be a case. Let our people lead in the establishment of construction of economic units, such a shopping outlets, let them own tenders to build houses and offices. This is the way we can empower our skilled people.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the skills and technology of our

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people are ingredients to drive our economy. However, nothing comes without personal effort. In this vein, I wish, Honourable Speaker, to suggest that we still have to instil hope, courage and confidence in the capacity and capability of our children who are our future and hope.

We need to find adequate resources to enhance the competitiveness of our education system through programmes such as ETSIP. We further need, individually and collectively, to motivate our children to take their education very serious, for education is the key to success.

Contributions to our schools, no matter how small, can help to empower those teachers and learners and such contribution can go a long way in the realisation of our patriotic goals and plans, Vision 2030. There are schools, mostly in the remote areas of our land, which require basic education tools and scientific apparatus to enhance understanding among learners who are more marginalised educationally. Equally, our teachers need motivation and dedication to serve in order that the pass rate in our schools improves. It is only through teamwork that desired results can be achieved.

I observed that motivation speeches of national leaders motivate learners. Sometimes intended projects and schemes aimed at enhancing the social and economic well-being of our people may not yield the desired results on the basis of lack of information to our people. Our people without literacy programmes need to be encouraged and strengthened rather than to capitulate the culture of reading. Through reading one gains relevant knowledge and skills and get the information which might help them. This would open up oceans of opportunities for oneself and society.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in summary, I highlight that the focus of the empowerment strategy should be the transformation of the economy in order to achieve meaningful participation of our people in all sectors and levels of the economy. This includes substantial change in the racial composition of ownership and management structures, which is an imperative for sustainable economic development in Namibia. Hence, when we talk about empowerment, we should strive to ensure the broadest ownership and productive assets and resources, to increase levels of employment in the economy, to increase household incomes, to expand the literacy and skills development and to extend the basic services to those who do not currently have them.

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In conclusion, empowerment should be viewed within the broad scope of empowerment processes, including job creation, rural development, urban renewal, poverty alleviation, specific measures to empower black women, skills and management development, education, meaningful ownership and access to finance for households and for purpose of conducting businesses.

Finally, let us remain focused as ever before. Together we can make it. With these few remarks, I support the Motion and I thank you for your attention.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Nambahu.

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**HON NAMBAHU:** Comrade Speaker, thank you very much, for this opportunity to make my humble contribution to the Motion by Honourable Kavetuna. I congratulate her and wishing her well in bringing to the fore this kind of Motion.

Empowerment is something that is much talked about in this country and beyond, but I am just going to make reference to some points which explicitly need empowerment.

What is very important for us as a nation is to ponder on the purpose of empowerment. Sometimes it seems that empowerment is meant to alleviate poverty. Whose poverty? Is it community poverty, individual poverty or is it the need to give strategic importance and significance to such community, individual or the country? Sometimes I get the impression that empowerment seems to be limited to the allocation of shares, the receipt and depositing of a cheque and I do not know whether that should be the case.

There is also this notion that we should embrace and analyse very critically, namely the issue of national resources. You are actually being given the privilege to share in that national resource, hence you are expected to be very prudent and very wise in utilising that resource. This is actually prompted by my analysis of seeing, how at times people who are empowered tend to use and abuse what they have been given. This is not a privilege that is extended to each and everyone, but who actually cohabitate this space of earth, called Namibia. It is very important that we re-look at this kind of empowerment and educate those who have been

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given that privilege, that this is actually a privilege and it is not everyone who has that privilege and who are you to stand out and be given that privilege and you abuse it, while there are thousands of Namibians who do not have that opportunity?

Honourable Members, it is very important to education and go and interrogate how we are doing things in this regard and I also think some questions must be answered on how this empowerment leaves Namibia strategically after the resources have been exhausted. Are we trying to create a trust, are we really trying to put Namibia in a certain position to enable Namibia to be able to do something later with that resource or with that empowerment?

I would wish that apart from poverty alleviation we apply our minds to other considerations and more importantly, I also think that it is incumbent upon anyone who is in a position of leadership to incite and influence that a Debate takes place in this country regarding what is happening in the global financial markets.

When you listen to the candidates for the elections in the United States, what are they saying about these things? When you listen to President Sarkozy criticising the Anglo-Saxon approach of no regulation and us being taught and lectured that everybody in Wall Street knows what they are doing and look at the mess in the world, who is going to educate who? Who is going to lecture who? We must really take the lead in our own institutions, debate about these issues and actually determine the direction to take. (Intervention)

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**HON RIRUAKO:** May I ask a question? Who are they who enjoy these fruits? Do you have names? Could you name them?

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**HON NAMBAHU:** Comrade Speaker, before I go to that, I was just developing my thinking and my line of argument. What is happening is actually a challenge to most of the standing theories that have been obtained in the financial schools of economics and now you have other people from the Middle East buying assets and shares in banks in the United States and here we are in Africa, not doing anything, not positioning ourselves. (Intervention)

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**HON KAURA:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, do you not think the prediction of Karl Marx is now being realised, that now this is the collapse of capitalism and now communism and socialism must take over?

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**HON NAMBAHU:** When there was a problem with the discovery of an atom, someone was saying this is a crisis of physics. Then someone wrote, no it is not a crisis of physics, it is a crisis of physicians. Therefore, it sometimes is not about our wish, but when feudalism collapsed, it was not because someone wanted it to collapse. It was because it had to give way to capitalism because it was the most advanced way of production.

What President Sarkozy is saying is what the Finance Minister in Germany is saying, that this is the end of the monopoly of a certain country, of a certain kind of money. It is not me saying that, therefore it is not appropriate for us as a nation, as a continent to be sitting idle, hands folded or taking the cul-de-sac in the Debate of this issue. We must take the lead, position ourselves, talk to whoever has something to do with this and to educate them in the right direction. (Intervention)

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40  
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:14 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

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**HON NAMBAHU:** Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. I was about to conclude my intervention, but a question was posed to me by the Honourable Chief. I am not going to answer that question directly, all I will say is that we need to put in place a formula which would have two dimensions, one at the level of determination of empowerment, the threshold where you start and the other dimension is the distribution of the proceeds.

If you say a community is empowered and Mr Nambahu owns the shares on behalf of the community and you will see me driving a Pajero and there it ends. The community is empowered because I drive that vehicle but no one else in the community is getting that, how does it filter down to the members of the community? These are some of the areas where we need to direct our thinking to

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research and follow up the issue of transparency and accountability. Does that exist or are we abusing the name of the community? Some NGOs use the faces of starving Africans to get donor aid, but the aid does not filter down to the people really in need of it. Maybe these are some of the areas that we need to look at and I will not be able to answer the question directly. (Intervention)

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**HON DE WAAL:** Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Information. Honourable Nambahu, I just want to make sure that you are aware of the fact that the whole idea of issuing shares in companies is to distribute the wealth between as many people as possible. In other words, the fact that we do have shares in companies is exactly for that reason, that you can give one person ten shares, another person ten shares. You do not to give 500,000 shares to one person and then say that the community has been assisted. You can actually spread it and give Mr Kaura ten, Mr Moongo ten, Mr Nambahu ten and then the people actually have something which is theirs and which is valuable. I just wanted to make sure that you know about this.

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**HON NAMBAHU:** I am not criticising what is being done, but I know, as the Honourable Member does, what is happening. I am not too sure whether what is happening is what is desired and I am not too sure whether it corresponds with the designed strategy. Gone are the days that you pass a policy or you come up with an intention and you think that it will go on its own without monitoring and without follow-up. That is what happened with Wall Street.

Therefore, I am simply inviting your thinking in that direction as a country, as a House and as citizens.

Honourable Speaker, I will conclude by saying this is a very welcome Motion, we need to think very much about it, we need to debate it. Our scholars, our *intelligencia*, everybody needs to look at how these things are done, for the formula to be fair and I am a firm believer that a better and fairer world is possible. There is no doubt about it and we must be convinced that with our deeds, with our thinking we will be able to contribute our bit. Every bit helps and therefore, a Debate in this direction is invited and encouraged. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Honourable Speaker, may I put a question to the Honourable Member? Would I be correct, Honourable Nambahu, having listened very carefully to your very good statement, if I made the deduction that we as leaders and as a nation in general should at all times guard against some people thinking they are excluded from the very good policies that we are developing? Our actions should not be such, whether intentionally or unintentionally, that they leave some members of the Namibian society with the conclusion that they are excluded from the mainstream? Is that what you are trying to say?

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**HON NAMBAHU:** Thank you very much for the question, Comrade !Naruseb. I think we should honestly guard against that, because the war starts not necessarily on the basis of facts, but perceptions, founded or unfounded, should be addressed. The Ottoman and Roman Empires collapsed because there was a time when they were not concentrating on the root causes of the problems that were eating away at their progress. They thought they were going to kill their way to victory and this is what is happening with this other war that you are fighting. People think that they are going to kill, the empires concentrate on the might of the military instead of the thermometer in the armpit of their people and these are the things that we should avoid.

I am totally in agreement with what you are saying. It should be debated whether founded or unfounded, because it makes people uncomfortable with each other and it brings about collective accusations.

I will end up saying you are all Members of Parliament or you are all from that Region, but that is not correct in law, that is not correct as facts. Thus, this problem should be addressed by our Institutions, our researchers and those who are in power.

Comrade Speaker, I was just saying that we should all engage in this Debate and really analyse the tenets of the theories that we have been lectured. They are the ones that are progressive. We have seen what is happening in the system that we were told is the best. When you follow the candidates, you will be hearing, "*oh, is he a socialist or is McCain what?*" Before you were told, "*you are either with me or not with me*", but now you are hearing things from the people themselves and they are saying exactly what we have been saying.

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With these remarks, I support the Motion and I invite the Debate to go on.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. The thinking mind, good contribution. Honourable Kazenambo.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I rise with a bleeding heart to make a contribution to this people's Motion. Unfortunately, when the Mover was making her contribution I was not in the House and I was not presented with a copy to have the advantage of reading it. Nevertheless having listened to the previous speaker and also from the burden which I am living with regarding the topic under discussion, I have no option than just to speak from the bottom of my heart.

Before I do that, Honourable Speaker, let me congratulate Honourable Nashandi for his eloquent, diplomatic speech from a seasoned sort of diplomat and I really support him wholeheartedly and I am going to say what I want to say.

Now coming to the topic, departing from the intervention made by Honourable De Waal – and it is unfortunate that he is not in the House – the issue of defining empowerment of Honourable Kaura and Honourable Moongo and Honourable Kazenambo by giving them shares in a company is a theoretical economic analysis. Sometimes it is far from the reality because distributions or allocation of shares in a company is just like employing people in management of a certain company where you give people titles such as managing director or chief executive officer, but in reality they have no powers in taking decisions that can make a difference. You may allocate shares to individuals for purpose of window-dressing, for cosmetic purposes, but real empowerment is far from being reached in this version, because you choose Honourable Kazenambo and others and allocate them shares and that is the end of the story because those who own the Company may through management decide not to divide dividends. They may design ways of siphoning the money from the company, of disadvantaging those whom they purport on paper to have empowered. That is the reality in business management and it is a fact.

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I was trying to give that piece of information that allocating shares sometimes is not the end of the world, because you may allocate shares and then you subject that institution to Company procedures and management procedures, where you deny the so-called empowered anything. That is a fact.

Moving further on this matter, the topic of economic empowerment is an important topic to many citizens of this country and we need to reflect seriously on it. With this topic we must arrive at a point – and I think we have already bypassed that time – where we need to be ahead of the time, not time to be ahead of us and it looks like time has already caught up with us on this specific topic.

When we are talking about economic empowerment, we are talking about distribution of resources. We are talking about sharing economic opportunities. We are talking about sharing the cake. We are talking about deciding the fate of some members of this country, whether they are going to enter the next generation as poor people or they will enter the next generation in poverty.

Dividing the national cake covers matter such as land reform. Dividing the national cake covers issues such as when you enter the management of a bank where my grandmother with her meagre money banks, who are in the board of directors, who are the management, who are the receptionists, who are the middle managers? The structures of these institutions need to be put in reflection. It is not only confined to the private sector, it also comes to the door of the Government, the public sector. When you enter the Ministries, do they reflect the real Namibia, because those who are working in the public offices partake in taking decisions about the distribution of resources and politics is about distribution of resources, power to decide how to distribute resources. The main objective of politics is how do we distribute resources.

In this country of ours where we preach democracy every day, where we have enjoyed peace and stability for the past eighteen years, if we are realistic, without blaming one another, without accusing one another, and look at the core reality of how the situation manifested itself and developed and take stock and be realistic. Window-dressing, piecemeal and lip-service will not take us anywhere.

Sometimes there are people in this country, especially our white compatriots, with the exception of a few – and we are forbidden to mention names in this House – whose actions in this country – risking to violate the decorum of this House – there are people like the elderly person, Harold Pupkewitz, who made a

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contribution and I wish he was my age so that others could try to do what he is doing. It is commendable and I am not saying that he is distributing resources, but in this country there are those who are sitting with the bread and I see Honourable Viljoen is looking at me and I am not being racist here, the bulk of our white compatriots in this country and their fellow foreign whites in Britain and in the West are choosing to use a mirror that will reflect what they want to see and then they just enjoy that comfort, thinking that the situation will continue like that for ever and people are not aware of what is happening to us. This mindset, this attitude needs to change in this country.

When I am talking about the experiences of not only the poor people in Katutura, the poor people in Havana and the rural areas, but I am talking also of the experiences of the people who are so-called managers but who are subjected to humiliation in the private sector in this country. There are people who are dead walking – if I may borrow from Hengari’s words. This is happening in our country at banks, mines, shops name it. 18 Years into Independence we do not go into any supermarket that is owned by a black.

The Woermann Brock of this country is the very same Woermann Brock who were taking things from my parents in Okahandja. That is the very same Woermann Brock and it has the same system. The entire management of these Companies still remain white just like they were in 1904. It is like that unless we live in hypocrisy. That is the reality.

We in this country are consumers from institutions which do not belong to us and we are told by the so-called engines and prophets of progress that we should only concentrate on the flag, we should only concentrate on the politics, the blacks must fight against one another in the form of the Political Parties, whether they are DTA, RDP, SWAPO, NUDO. That is the area reserved for us. We cannot be riders in our own economy 18 years into Independence. When we are talking about economic empowerment, we are talking about these matters.

Recently, a few months ago, I discovered the notoriety, the barbarism of this system, where in this country the service an Insurance Company renders to the majority of us is not the same they are rendering to their fellow whites and I can give it to you in black and white. The same insurance is not given to me that is given to a certain Mr So and So. (Intervention)

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**HON T GURIRAB:** May I ask a question? I am following the Honourable Deputy Minister's interesting presentation with great interest, but I am also aware that he is as member of the Central Committee of the Party in Government and he is a Deputy Minister and I want to ask whether he made a similar speech at the Central Committee and in Government and just what reaction does he get? What is your sense, will you address them and what reaction will you get?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Honourable Gurirab, I am very glad you asked that question. What you are asking is exactly what I have said a few minutes ago, that when we come to the issue of bread and butter, we are made to ridicule ourselves, to divert our attention from the bread, to ask ourselves, what do you say in the Central Committee of SWAPO and what do you say in CoD? I am still going to answer you, I got your question. (Intervention)

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**HON T GURIRAB:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? As a member of a Government in power, the point about having power is to change these things we disagree and I am asking whether the Honourable Member raises these issues at the meetings where decisions are taken, so that these things which are not acceptable can be changed? That is the point.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** What I am raising here is what I used to raise on SWAPO platforms, be it the Central Committee, be it public rallies, be it in consultations with my leaders, whoever. This is my position because these are matters of principle and the reason I am raising them here is because in the structures of SWAPO and the Central Committee I would be raising them to SWAPO members and when I am raising them here, I am addressing the country and the world. (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question,

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please? Honourable Deputy Minister, in answering the question of Honourable Gurirab you were saying that these issues are being discussed within the structure of the Ruling Party, but last night we were informed by one of the SWAPO youth leaders that the reason why they are going public is because the communication system within the SWAPO Party has blocked.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** All of us in this House know by now that whenever the Honourable Member gets the opportunity he distorts, even distorting what the public was watching. Now I will leave it to the Namibian people and this House to see whether this Honourable gentleman is really still qualifying to be honourable. (Intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** But while we are here we are all Honourable Members.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** I respect the Speaker's Ruling, I withdraw. (Intervention)

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**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question please? Honourable Deputy Minister, you said I was looking at you and it is true, but I am the only one here on whom you can take out your anger or rage or something like that. My question is: You referred to an Insurance Company dealing differently with white people. Are you prepared to give me the name of the Company and the documentation and I promise you that I will take it up and make it known to the rest of the country? Are you prepared to do it?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you for your question, Honourable Viljoen and I am more than prepared to give you the documentation or what I was saying about this Insurance Company and what I am now going to pay and perhaps I will also tell you why. I am more than prepared and I am also asking you not to stop there, just investigate services in this country. Other than that, I can even take you to a shop in this country which is displaying a sign that prices are charged according to the attitude of a customer. In this country!

I can take you even tomorrow, that prices in this place will be charged according to the attitude of the customer. That is Namibia for you!

Honourable Speaker, what I was saying is that when we are talking about economic empowerment where some of us are becoming impatient and frustrated... (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? Honourable Kazenambo Kazenambo, you are saying so much about the economic war that is going on in our country. Do you know the building called Atlas House? I am told Atlas House is a building owned by blacks, I do not know whether Namibians or just blacks. Do you know that that building has been newly renovated but has been empty for the last few years? Every time I pass there I look at it and I once asked somebody why that nice-looking building continues to remain empty and the explanation I was given, and I am asking whether you have heard about it, is that the Real Estate people of Namibia who are almost 99.9% from Caucasian origin, have ganged up against any black person who ventures into owning properties such as Atlas House. Atlas House continues to remain empty and Frans Indongo Garden is following. Do you know the rationale behind such a situation, of a nice building remaining empty for so many years?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Honourable Speaker, honestly, I said I am contributing... (Intervention)

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**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** May I ask Honourable Kazenambo a small question? Honourable Kazenambo, when you provide Honourable Viljoen with the documentation, could you please extend the documentation to include people who have paid their life insurances to South African Companies until they die and then it takes them years to get anything? We are not allowed to mention the names of people who are not here, but I have a specific case of somebody who has passed away two years ago and the widow and children have as yet not received a cent. Maybe we can have an investigation as to why it takes so long to pay out when people reach a pensionable age or they pass away, but you have to pay your monthly contributions on time.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** What Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase and what Honourable Ithana have mentioned is what Honourable Nambahu said we need to put the thermometer on the pulse to check the temperature. I know what I am saying sounds like racism and sadly, I am aware of that, but what I am trying to say here is that we really have a problem to address.

For the past 18 years some people enjoyed, thinking that maybe we are not aware of what Honourable Schimming-Chase and the Honourable Minister has just narrated. We think we can only talk about democracy, we can only enjoy stories of SWAPO's so-called in-fights, CoD, DTA, NUDO, RP and people are saying Africa should talk democracy, there is no democracy but where is economic democracy? (Intervention)

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**HON NAMBAHU:** May I ask the Honourable Member a small question? Honourable Kazenambo, while you are on that issue of economics and also taking into consideration the facts of the issue and the illustrated examples by Comrade Ithana and Honourable Schimming-Chase, what was the name of the King of the Jews when Jesus was born? (Interjections) Exactly! Is it not true that there are economic heroes?

Who were out to kill competition and who did not want any baby that was going to be the King of the Jews and went out on a killing rampage? What do you say

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about that statement?

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**HON SPEAKER:** I am still waiting for the response to the query by the Minister of Justice about Atlas House. Do you know anything about that or could anybody else who knows anything about it just enlighten the House?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Honourable Speaker, these two questions can be combined even though they are addressing two different subjects. The answer is yes, we are aware of Atlas House, it is in Sam Nujoma Drive. (Intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** What is the problem with it?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** The problem is that when the people of colour, the blacks, own property in the middle of town or in a very lucrative area, a strategic location, then there is economic sabotage and these places are deserted. By and large it is like that in this country and it can be said it is cheap, but if there is a rented property advertised in a newspaper, especially houses and flats in some suburban areas, and if you are of a certain colour and to turn up there, you are told that the flat has just gone. It happens that way. If you want to rent a place and you are from a certain colour, you are told the flat has just gone a few minutes ago, because they do not want a person of this colour.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Deputy Minister, seriously, is it not the case that there are a growing number of BEE beneficiaries, black economic empowerment, in Namibia, that they are in business, that they are entrepreneurs, why can we not as

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black people with a lot of money occupy them, rent them and run offices from there?

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

I am very happy that I am enjoying the attention of my Speaker. Comrade Speaker, this is where some of us, in the eyes of Honourable Gurirab, are abusing this platform if we belong to structures. We are experiencing those situations and we are appealing that we be honest after 18 years on the economic management. We have been managing our flag, our politics and everything else. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** On a Point of Order, Honourable Speaker, maybe just to shed a little bit more light on the Atlas House. In order to lease a building in the city, you need to go through an estate agent. Estate agents are the ones who now have the power to allocate clients. When somebody is looking for office accommodation and aims at occupying a floor in that building, he is told that that building is already occupied, there is no space there and he is allocated space elsewhere and this building remains empty and people will not know until the issue is brought to the attention of the public. This is just to indicate that there is something sinister going on in real estate and it is an economic war, it is not just an isolated case.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I am an elected Member of this House, occasionally I need to also participate. If this information is available and can be verified, there is going to be a big hotel complex Eliakim Namundjembo Plaza. Is it not going to be befallen the same fate? Is it worth doing it if we know what will become of it?

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Comrade Speaker, it seems there is something really interesting coming to our ears. The Honourable Speaker has asked that if there is a house like that that is empty, are there no black business people that could in this case bypass the agents and try to hire that

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building? I want to propose, if that is true that that building is owned by black people and there is a hindrance, then obviously if the Government needs accommodation, let it occupy that building.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you very much, Comrade Minister. If that information is correct, perhaps we do not need to go far to seek that information. The Government of the Republic of Namibia owns the Country Club and how do we put it to use competitively? (Intervention)

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**HON VILJOEN:** May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? If you were an agent, would you refuse a person because he is white or black? It means money for the agent. I know of many agents who take people, white, black, any colour, to show them houses and properties and I do not think that an agent should refuse to give a person the opportunity to rent that building. Do you agree?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you, Honourable Viljoen. Perhaps to sum up my intervention and to address these questions that are coming, let me rephrase it this way: Eighteen years into Independence while we have been flying our beautiful flag of Independence, while we have all Political Parties represented in this country, if I may be crude and candid, if you can ask me in what sector of the economy the black people of Namibia have participated actively in the past eighteen years, there are only two sectors. One is agriculture in the communal areas, second is liquor outlets, shebeens. These are the two sectors of the Namibian economy where the blacks participate. (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister two questions? Looking at the Order Paper, “*Debate on Economic Empowerment of the Namibian People*”, the last couple of minutes that I have been listening to this Debate, I am getting the impression that it has become an issue of whites making it difficult for the blacks to be empowered. Am I right to understand it that way?

The second question is that the Honourable Deputy Minister said that the only two sectors that the blacks seem to be thriving are the shebeens and rural agriculture. Have they been pushed to the whites to go and invest in those sectors so that they cannot progress or have they decided themselves to go into those sectors?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** It is a very simplistic question indeed, but anyway, it has leads and I will follow the lead. I have not yet answered, Honourable Gurirab. (Intervention)

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**HON T GURIRAB:** Honourable Speaker, in terms of Rule 29, the Member’s time has long expired. The Member has been speaking since we came back from tea.

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**HON SPEAKER:** The Rule does not apply, Honourable Gurirab.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** I was saying that there are two sectors and the Honourable Tjihuiiko has questioned that. The truth of the matter, although Honourable Tjihuiiko wants to belittle it, is that it is not going to haunt you and me, it is going to haunt this nation and you cannot build peace and stability on a weak foundation.

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The issue of the blacks finding themselves in communal areas and doing business with shebeens and working as cleaners in the banks and as domestic workers in this country where you do not find people from Klein Windhoek of certain colour going to work in Katutura as cleaners and domestic workers is because of the legacy of colonialism. It is because of skewed economic distribution in the past and this is what we are calling for with this Motion, that we address the issue of economic empowerment seriously because we have to share resources. We have to distribute resources.

If we could say that it is natural that people find themselves in Katutura, it is natural, it is because of some biological handicap, that they cannot employ people from Klein Windhoek or anywhere, we are walking on a time-bomb. We are kidding, we need to be realistic about this matter. We need to address the economic structural bottle-necks and you always claim that you are an Economist from Okahitua and I hope you will understand this.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? Do you agree with me that if we want to address the question of empowering people, there are certain things we need to look at, among others the laws to do the things that we want to do. Secondly is the creation of a conducive environment by the lawmakers to enable those who are outside the economic sphere to get into that. If you agree with me, have we done enough on that sector?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** I agree with that comment that as this House and this country we need to address macro-economics and especially the micro-economic policy needs to be revisited and the policy on the transformation of the economy, TESEF, which the Prime Minister's Office is driving needs to be implemented as soon as is humanly possible, because there are deficiencies. We need to address the structure of the economy of this country. We do not need to have tokenism in the insurance companies, we need to have people in there from the formerly disadvantaged communities and we are not talking about the "*rented*" managing directors and I am not insulting anybody.

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Just to summarise, we need to open up all the sectors of the economy and also to come to a conclusion, we need to develop the markets. An international NGO recently advised on how aid has to be channelled to developing countries and the report is addressing the plight of those who are on the edge of the markets. (Intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Tjiriange.

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Thank you, I will be very brief. Many things have been said and I just want to look critically at two or three other issues that relate to economic empowerment, which sometimes irritate me and I do not know whether there is anything we can do about it.

With good intention we sometimes want to empower people by putting into place certain schemes from which people can benefit and they use these opportunities to access what the Government is doing, but at the same time, after having accessed these benefits given to them, they abuse the same that they got from the Government and we seem to be very helpless in bringing them to order.

Let me just talk about something like the AgriBank loans, buying farms. People go there, the policy is that people must be helped to get out of the communal areas so that they can make place for others who are building themselves. The big guys get out so that at least there is grazing available to those with less animals and they grow so that they can follow suit. What is happening?

A person goes to AgriBank with this understanding, he is given money, subsidised by the Government, under these conditions that he or she is going to get out of the communal areas to give place to other people so that they can also survive. (Intervention)

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** May I ask Honourable Tjiriange a question? Comrade Tjiriange, I took an AgriBank loan the other day and I earned myself a name, “*HIPIC*”, meaning “*Highly Indebted Individual.*” As much as I want to

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remove my cattle from my communal land, I wonder whether it will be helpful to abandon my communal land where I owe nothing in order to rely on an AgriBank farm. The farm belongs to AgriBank. What I have on the farm is some animals, the farm does not belong to me, it is an AgriBank farm which I am renting from AgriBank now. If I abandon the communal land and AgriBank chases me out of the farm, what do I do?

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** You are reaping the fruits of your own making, because you consciously went to the AgriBank, knowing the conditions under which those loans are given and one of them is that you have to vacate the communal land to give place to those farmers that cannot afford to get the loans that you are getting, because there many conditions for you to get that loan, down payment and all these kinds of things. You have a lot of cattle, that is why you are getting to that in order to relieve the burden on the communal areas for those who are not in a position to get the loans that you are getting.

But once you get a loan, what happens is that you occupy your farm in the commercial area, even stock it to capacity and still keep your animals in the communal area. (Interjection)

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** It is not possible.

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** It is. I am talking of experience. (Intervention)

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**HON VENAANI:** May I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Honourable Tjiriange, you are a Herero man, you know that in your homestead you have cattle that belongs to your aunts, your maternal uncles. If you say Venaani has 300 cattle that belong to thirty people and he dies a commercial entity, the kraal would be named after the head of that homestead and everybody would assume that those cattle belong to Honourable Tjiriange, but yet the cattle belong to his

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aunts and when he goes to the commercial areas, the aunts are saying “*Inda ozandje kazena okukasuta o farama*“ our cattle are not going to pay loans, you are now going to bury me. Thus you have to leave them behind and people sometimes assume that because Tjiriange has left now, all his aunts’ and maternal uncles’ cattle must move and those people are refusing to go and pay the loans. How can we address that problem that exists among our community? It is a reality.

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** You have a point and I am coming to that. There are situations of that nature. When you are going there, having bought the farm, you do not want to turn your farm into a communal area. You will move with your cattle, you may leave people behind and you go and farm commercially. Now the problem is that some of these people occupy those farms and from time to time bring their cattle back to the reserves and they are occupying certain lands in Okamatapati. That is an abuse... (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** May I ask Comrade Tjiriange a question? Comrade Tjiriange, on the question asked by the Right Honourable Prime Minister on how to overcome the *HIPIC* phenomenon, can you maybe advise that Honourable Riruako can give us some lessons on how to solve this problem of *HIPIC*?

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Under normal conditions young people do not advise elderly people in my culture, but he has heard and he may reply.

What I am trying to say is that there is an abuse, that is the point I am trying to make, where people get this money and there is a clear, sound policy. The situation mentioned by Venaani is true and some of the areas are left to the families, I have no problem, but there are those who have three or four places of grazing in the communal areas while they got money to get into the commercial areas. They are there, you know them and I do not want to mention people’s names here. That is one abuse.

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HON DR TJIRIANGE**

Now, if we are talking about economic empowerment, as long as we do not stop this abuse we shall have a problem.

The next one are the people to whom we give mining concessions and fishing quotas in order to be empowered and start moving forward with business. They get the fish or whatever, make a U-turn after they have spent the money on Mercedes Benzes and come back again to get into the line. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER:** Do you not think, Honourable Tjiriange, that there is a tendency of giving things to people without looking at their background, whether they understand what they are getting themselves into? People think it is fantastic to hear that you have fishing quotas. You have to hire boats to get the fish, you have to have extra money and I think we get our people into systems which they cannot afford at the end of the day. This is the same thing with the farms. It is so fancy to say you have a farm and then you get a farm with twenty cattle to take there and the haves, not particularly white people, those who have a lot of cattle come to you and say in very nice language, "*I want to rent two of your camps.*" Then you give these two camps, he brings thousands of his sheep and after two years your land is overgrazed.

Do you not think we first need to educate our people to know what they are getting themselves into? I think that is where the problem is.

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** I think you are coming towards what I was driving at, because I was diagnosing the problem so that we can come to what we can do to stop it. But you have to diagnose the problem first and this is what I am doing, and then find a cure, the treatment.

These things are there, we have people who have been given these things in good faith and they are back into the queue again. What happened to the things that they were given?

To come to the renting, it is true that people get farms and maybe your stock is not enough to occupy the whole farm and you rent out two or three camps. It depends on how you run your farm. Let me give you an example about myself.

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When I went there to the farm, I only had 150 cattle. I have a lot of camps and my neighbours are very rich people, they have more cattle they can afford to keep on their farm. They came to this small black man and asked for grazing. I said *yes, do that, but do not give me money, bring your cattle, graze but give me such number of cattle per month for the grazing.* After two or three years I got 150 cattle and they left and I have added 150 to what I had plus the ones that multiplied. Now I can no longer give anybody any camp because it is enough for me now. It is how you do it. But if you get money, you will put petrol in the car and you will never run that farm. That is how you do things. But I never took my cattle back into the reserve because I know I am going to abuse the farms that I am given. (Intervention)

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**HON RIRUAKO:** I went to Bucharest to go and find a boat there. During my absence I used to own 1,2 metric tons horse mackerel and this was taken away from me by Honourable Angula and when I came back and *asked where is my 1,8 metric tons*, he could not say anything. I said this in Parliament several times, nobody listened to me, but God forbid, you will never get away with the matter.

Now I want to talk about the farm, I was the first man to buy a farm. I bought in the Gobabis area and then I sold this one to buy a new one. What happened? My own people brought in one thousand cattle into my farm and I told them I bought this farm. There was no place and my neighbour was a bit furious because those days it was the apartheid era. I cannot say anything about that, but if you go to white neighbours who surround me, most of them were given 21 cattle and one bull and in addition to that another 20 by the Government of the day. They did not buy anything, not even the fence.

I had more than 170 cattle on the farm, but there was drought and I bought this farm from the Government, not from an individual.

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** I was about to conclude by saying that having identified those problems... (Intervention)

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**MOTION ON ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT  
HON DR TJIRIANGE**

**HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** On a Point of Information. I did not take a fishing right away from my Chief and Colleague in exile. What the Honourable Chief did was to pass the fishing right to his Somali cousin.

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** These are just two examples that I gave, there are many. What I am saying is that with the goodwill that we have we are trying to do things, but some people are taking us for a ride and we have to find a cure to this situation. One of them the Deputy Prime Minister has just mentioned, but there must be a way for us to prevent this abuse if we want to get the development we want with the money that we are giving to the people. We are giving people money and then they abuse it, not for the purpose that we have intended it to be used so that we can bring a little development to the disadvantaged people. (Intervention)

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** May I ask a tiny question? The phenomenon you have been discussing, do you not think that this phenomenon has come about because of partial empowerment? Let me give an example. You give someone a loan, not money, the money is given to the owner of the farm and they say within 12 months you must pay your first instalment, even before your 20 cattle have calved. That is partial empowerment. Do you not think that is the cause of this problem?

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** I do not want to dispute that, but if that is the case, let us cure it. This is what I am trying to say. I am just trying to cure the disease and if that is one of the medicines, let us do it.

I am saying there is this problem and it must be attended to one way or the other and if... (Intervention)

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HON DR TJIRIANGE**

**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER:** There was this issue of collateral given to some of us when we bought the farms, that certain banks held our pension funds, but now this collateral is on paper and you are forced to pay the N\$250,000 out of your pocket to AgriBank, leave alone the collateral. I think what we need to do is to find out is that if I have this pension and I get collateral, why can I not pay my farm? Why do you give me collateral on my pension, because if I did not have the pension you would not sign for my collateral. Why do you not just pay the farm so that I can buy cattle? We are up to here with debts.

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** I agree. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, a few years ago this Assembly, through a Parliamentary Committee chaired by Ponhele Ya France, investigated the issues surrounding the problems of the farms and the Report was issued and there were beautiful recommendations that contained that medicine that we are looking for. What happened to that Report? It is in that Report? When we implement that Report, then we address some of the problems ourselves. As simple as that.

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Since the medicine is somewhere in the storeroom, I identified the problem, I brought it to your attention, let us address it and not claim that it is not there. The problems are there, let us look at them so that we will be able in the shortest possible time to address this problem.

On the question of the pension, I have always been advocating for access to this money. Just take the example of what happened in one of our neighbouring countries. In one of our neighbouring countries people were not allowed to access their money and by the time they became pensioners, the money was just paper and some of them committed suicide. We may move in the same direction if we do not access our money with these banks collapsing. Therefore, it is proper for us to access this money... (Intervention)

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HON RIRUAKO**

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**HON T GURIRAB:** On a Point of Information. It is an important point the Minister is addressing, but I am rising partly as a trustee of your Fund to say that as the law stands at the moment it does not allow that. The law does not allow it. If you do not like it, we should bring it here and change it.

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** This is exactly what I am saying, that we are aware of this, let us do something about it and I thank you.

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**HON RIRUAKO:** What happened that we deviated from the real issues Honourable Kazenambo mentioned? We have our Fürstenhof in that hotel and nobody goes and eat there, even the blacks themselves. Now you pass the famous Hotel and I ask people what is going on here? No, they deviated from that hotel because it is owned by Dr Angala and others. They do not want to put their money where their mouth is.

We have people who own a hotel, but it is not favourable to others. Why? What happened to the service? The service was always the same service. We are not going to deviate from that, we are still there. You cannot tell us something in order for us to deviate from the right issue. What happened to? That is another question. Is it because of our colour or what? If you want to argue about the issue, go along and argue. I can take you there tonight. We are here to discover what is wrong and what is right. Are we discriminating against one another in this world or not? If we are discriminating against each other, will the other side survive or not? That is another query. Discrimination is going on and on until we start to query what happened there at Fürstenhof. If you go and eat there, enjoy it. One day I found Pupkewitz and his people at the very same hotel, but now I can take you there, you will not see any white man with the exception of the foreigners eating there. Why? . (Interjections)

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**HON MUDGE:** They do not have money.

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HON RIRUAKO**

**HON RIRUAKO:** The foreigner did not even come over there? Why? They were booked, they were directed where to eat and where to go. That is how it functions. What is that? I am saying that to Honourable Member Jooste, what about the tour guides who bring people from abroad to the hotels, that they now deviate from this one hotel? That is another query again. We must sit down and discuss this issue. It happened to be a minor issue, but it has become an issue to be discussed here. We cannot tolerate that on both sides. This is unfair and we cannot allow this unfairness to continue forever. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** May I ask a question? Now that you are talking about division along the colour lines, we are the majority in this country, the blacks, what will happen if we say that *tit-for-tat*, they have our industries or businesses, we are going there to buy things from the people who are boycotting us, it is a new strategy to punish these people.

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**HON SPEAKER:** You will reply to that tomorrow. The House stands adjourned under automatic adjournment until tomorrow afternoon, 14:30.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2008.10.08 AT 14:30**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER  
08 OCTOBER 2008  
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**ANNOUNCEMENT: MEMBERS NOMINATED TO  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PRIVILEGES**

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**HON SPEAKER:** I have been informed by the SWAPO Party that Honourable Hans Booy's and Honourable Elia Kaiyamo have been nominated to serve on the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Privileges. I now, in terms of Rule 38(b), announce Honourable Hans Booy's and Honourable Elia Kaiyamo as duly appointed Members of the said Committee.

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

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**TABLING: POLITICAL DECLARATION ON  
AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS**

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**HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Comrade Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Political Declaration on Africa's Development Needs and the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs on the Group of 77 Ministerial Declaration 2008 in New York.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Minister table the Report? Honourable Gurirab.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS  
HON T GURIRAB / HON SIOKA**

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**TABLING: STATEMENT OF AFRICAN UNION  
OBSERVER MISSION ON ANGOLAN ELECTIONS**

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**HON T GURIRAB:** Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Statement of the African Union Observer Mission on the Angolan Legislative Elections of 5 September 2008.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member table the Report? Honourable Sioka.

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**SADC ORGAN ON DEFENCE AND SECURITY  
COOPERATION ELECTION OBSERVER MISSION**

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Comrade Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the SADC Organ on Defence and Security Co-operation Election Observer Mission and Preliminary Statement on Parliamentary Elections of the Republic of Angola held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2008, just for information.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Deputy Speaker please table the Report? Any further Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Honourable Chief Garoëb.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS**

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON //GAROËB**

**QUESTION 91:**

**HON //GAROËB:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I give Notice that on Thursday, 16 October 2008, I shall ask the Minister of Environment and Tourism, Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah –

1. Whether the constant reports of predators, more specifically the cheetahs pestering the communal farmers of the middle or central Kunene, are reaching her offices?
2. What is the Minister intending to do to save the small stock of such farmers?

Only last week 25 goats were killed at Marienhöhe, 12 at Palmwag at Albertus /Gomeb, 14 at Lina !Kharuxas' place, 7 at Oortrek at Abraham !Aebes' place, five in my kraal less than twenty metres from my house and I know there are others which have so far not reached my ears.

3. Are the farmers free to hunt and kill such predators and if prohibited to do so, whether the Government will replace the small stock lost by such farmers?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member please table the Questions? Any further Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Honourable Kavari.

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

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**HON KAVARI:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2008, I shall Move –

That this august House debates the effects of the Shebeens and the Liquor Act, 1998 (Act 6 of 1998) on our communities and that the Motion be referred to the relevant Parliamentary Standing Committee for further in-depth study and Public Hearings and report back to the Chamber for further consideration with a view of amending the Act in order to minimise its socio-economic impact.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: VETERANS  
HON DR TJIRIANGE**

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

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: REGISTRATION OF  
VETERANS**

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Comrade Speaker, the reason for me to address this august House today is inform this House and the Nation, as well the veterans of the liberation struggle about the progress made so far regarding the mass veterans' registration which came to an end during the first week of October 2008. At the same time, I would also like to brief this august House and the Nation about the situation of the children who are camping in front of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs. I start with the mass registration of veterans.

The veterans' registration process, as you may recall, of our comrades and colleagues, was launched on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July 2008 by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia. The process itself started on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> July 2008 after thorough training of those who took part in the registration of the veterans. The process started with the mass registration in all Constituencies of the 13 Regions for a period of two months. The mass registration, therefore, marked the beginning of the veterans' registration process in Namibia and it will go on for many years to come. This means that the just ended mass registration was just the beginning of the process which will involve the registering and de-registering of veterans.

Problems encountered during the mass registration: While the Ministry of Veterans Affairs can describe the first phase of the registration as successful, it really helped us to see what and where we need to improve. As one can appreciate, doing something for the first time, you will always run into issues that you have not planned or not foreseen. I should, therefore, admit that the process was not problem-free. A number of problems and challenges were encountered.

For example, it was observed during the mass registration that some veterans did not have national documents, such as identification documents, birth certificates and for those that are married, no marriage certificates, which were required by the registration teams. Some applicants also could not convince the verification

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teams, neither could they produce any proof that they indeed took part in the liberation struggle. According to the reports from the registration teams a number of people came forward to register as veterans under false pretext.

In terms of the dependents, that is children and spouses, some too did not have the required documents, such as original birth certificates and/or marriage certificates as well as proof that the deceased persons did in fact take part in the liberation struggle. All this resulted in a situation where many people had to be sent back to fetch them or that their stories could not be accepted because of lack of evidence and substantiation of these stories.

Another challenge faced by the registration teams was the pressure from veterans and the community members on the registration teams, making them work until very late. It appears the Ministry underestimated the numbers of days for the mass registration. This has also resulted in long queues at venue registration points with some people left unregistered.

The form too, though comprehensive, is a bit technical, thus required a long time to complete.

The way forward after the mass registration: After the mass registration the Ministry of Veterans Affairs is inundated with numerous enquiries as to where they can go and register. This is an indication that people who did not have an opportunity to register are now coming out thinking that the process is over. I should state it here that the Ministry is hard at work to put in place the permanent and appropriate infrastructure and structure in the Regions so that those veterans who did not have the opportunity to register during the mass registration, can register in their respective areas. I must say that we wanted to have in each Region a representative of the Ministry to attend to this, but the officials dealing with the issues of Civil Service did not see their way clear on that one and we only got 6 and the Regions are 13. Therefore, we have to go back and fight. Right now as I am speaking they claim to understand our point and they have given 13 people to be in each Region.

This is to ensure that the procedures followed during the mass registration are maintained. Veterans are, therefore, requested to be patient while all those mechanisms are being finalised. Announcements will be made to let them know when and where they can register.

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As we have indicated during the mass registration, the forms filled in by the registration teams are only applications for one to be recognised as a veteran after thorough scrutiny by the Veterans Board and its National Working Committee. This is necessary to ensure that only *bona fide* applicants are registered and the eligible ones will receive what is due to them. I should remind the Nation that as per the Veterans Act, a person is only considered registered once issued with a veterans identification card, which can only be issued by the Veterans Board. This means that all forms received will be presented to the Board through the Working Committee.

The Ministry and the Board are determined to work around the clock and speedily to address the expectations of veterans to ensure that what is due to them is received. This is because the combination of high expectation and poverty among veterans, especially the unemployed, is a worrying factor to the Ministry and the Government as a whole.

The Ministry would like to thank those men and women who served in the registration and verification teams. The service they provided will always be remembered by the Ministry of Veterans Affairs. I would also like to thank the following specific institutions for their cooperation and assistance during this exercise: The Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Safety and Security and the Regional Councils.

Veterans of the national liberation struggle are requested to be patient and have confidence in what the Ministry is doing and wait for the response to their applications at the appropriate time.

With regard to the children born in exile, I would like to inform this august House and the Nation that some children born abroad have decided to come and camp in front of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs. Their basic demands are put in the following quotation from their letter to me: *“We are not going to leave this matter unattended to. Even if the sky comes rolling down, we will stand in front and struggle for what we believe in. They say the beauty is in the eye of the holder, inferring that we have a lot to offer to our Nation. All we are asking for is a chance. Many of us do not have parents and we do not want to become dependents or feel like flies on the wall. We do not want a pat on the shoulder, we want a reaction that can guarantee us stability, because we are now adults, we want to start thinking ahead. With a dark cloud hanging upon us, we do not want the past to haunt us forever, the future is bright.”*

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They are also claiming that they are discriminated against by Ministries, such as the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration when they want national IDs. The other problem is that they claim that when they seek employment, they are told to go to Angola because their identity cards stipulate that they were born in Angola. They are also accusing the Ministry of Defence that they were promised to be absorbed in the Armed Forces, but that promise did not materialise.

All these issues are beyond the mandate of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs. Some of them, obviously, may even not hold the truth. However, the Ministry of Veterans Affairs have seen and listened to these children on different occasions. For example:

They met with the Permanent Secretary and other officials first. Secondly, they again met with the Permanent Secretary and other officials while I was on a mission to Regions.

I also requested the demonstrators to elect a Committee to meet with me and discuss the issue. They indeed elected a Committee of four which I met and I had discussions with for several hours. I told them that I have taken note of their concerns and shall bring them to the Cabinet for discussions and possible solution. I told them that I do understand their problem, but some of the issues they are raising and the demands they are making are not entirely in the domain of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs and I shall undertake to bring them to the entire Cabinet or first to the Cabinet Committee on Overall Policy and Priorities. I also requested the Secretary of the SWAPO Youth League to come and discuss the issue with us at the Ministry.

After I told the abovementioned Committee, the Committee reported back to the crowd. However, the crowd refused to move, therefore the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary for SWAPO Party Youth League went and addressed the crowd and impressed upon them to leave and wait until I bring the issue to the Cabinet.

His Excellency, the President of this country and the Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture also met with the representatives of these young people. It seems all these efforts did not work and the children are still camped at the Ministry. I would like to emphasise the fact that these children are not veterans and they are not the responsibility of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs alone. Therefore, the Government is addressing this issue through the relevant

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Ministry. Section 1 of the Veterans Act defines a veteran as a person who, “(a) *was a member of the liberation forces; (b) consistently and persistently participated or engaged in any political, diplomatic and underground activity in furtherance of the liberation struggle; or (c) owing to his/her participation in the liberation struggle was convicted whether in Namibia or elsewhere of any offence closely connected to the struggle and sentenced to imprisonment.*”

*“Members of the liberation force”, according to the definition means, “any person who underwent military training and participated consistently and persistently in the war in order to bring about the Independence of Namibia, provided that a person is deemed to have consistently and persistently participated in the war of liberation, notwithstanding that he or she was reallocated to other liberation struggle functions or duties.”*

Therefore, in accordance with this definition the children who were born just before Independence and did not themselves participate in the liberation struggle are not covered by this definition as cited above. It is inconceivable for anyone to be regarded as a veteran just because your parent is or has been a veteran. You do not become a doctor just because your father is a doctor or a reverend because your father is a reverend.

It will also be discriminatory to regard children born abroad as veterans just because they were born outside the country. People who remained behind in the country suffered equally at the hands of colonial forces. They equally contributed to the liberation of our country under difficult circumstances since they were indeed entirely and directly under the authority of the colonial authorities, at the mercy of brutal colonial armed forces and Police. If you recognise children born abroad as veterans just because their parents were abroad and will not recognise those who were born in the country from veterans who suffered so much directly under colonial occupation of our country, just because they were not born abroad, this will constitute discrimination and cannot be defended.

It is necessary, therefore, to look at the plight of children born during the struggle as a problem which needs the entire Government’s intervention. I would like to emphasise the fact that the responsibility of these children is not that of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs, the problem of these children can better be dealt with as a problem of general welfare.

In conclusion, as already stated above, these children are not veterans and the

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Government of the Republic of Namibia is addressing this issue through the relevant Ministry, that is the Ministry responsible for youth matters.

The mandate of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs is to promote the well-being of veterans of the national liberation struggle, but not the welfare of grownup children, even if they were born by veterans. I thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Minister for his very important statement. Any further Ministerial Statements? The first 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, I crave your indulgence and request that the Motion be deferred to the 24<sup>th</sup> of October 2008 for my motivation speech, due to the fact that I will be away on very important official business until the 20<sup>th</sup> of October.

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**HON SPEAKER:** The Motion stands adjourned until the 24<sup>th</sup> of October. The second Notice of Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport. Does the Honourable Minister Move the Motion? Seconded? Objections? Agreed to. The Honourable Minister has the Floor.

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**RATIFICATION: MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE  
AGREEMENT**

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Sir. The Namibian Government, through the National Planning Commission (NPC), the Millennium Challenge Account Namibia (MCA Namibia) and the United States of America, through the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), a US Government Agency, has since early 2006 worked

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together to arrive at the MCA Namibia Contract, sometimes referred to as Agreement.

This Agreement, valued at over N\$2,3 billion was signed in Windhoek on the 28<sup>th</sup> of July 2008 by Professor Peter Katjivivi, Director General of the National Planning Commission and Mr Rodney Bent, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Millennium Challenge Corporation. The signing was witnessed by the Right Honourable Nahas Angula, Prime Minister of Namibia, His Excellency Dennis Mathew, United States Ambassador of Namibia, a number of Ministers, senior Government officials and Namibian NGO officials and stakeholders.

Namibia is the eighteenth country in the developing world to sign a contract with the MCC. Since its inception in 2004, the MCC has signed contracts totalling over US\$6,2 billion in the following countries: The Republic of Madagascar, the Republic of Cape Verde, the Republic of Honduras, Nicaragua, Georgia, Armenia, Vanuatu, Benin, Ghana, Mali, El Salvador, Mozambique, Lesotho, Morocco, Monrovia, Tanzania, Burkina Faso and now, Namibia.

What is the origin of MCC? It will be recalled that during the Millennium Summit in New York, which was co-chaired by Namibia, represented by its Minister of Foreign Affairs in the name of Comrade Gurirab, our Speaker, and Finland, the international community adopted eight millennium goals. Among others the Summit called upon the advanced nations of the world to scale up grant assistance to the developing countries.

As follow-up to that Summit in 2002, the international community, again through the United Nations, organised the Millennium Development Funding Summit in Monterrey, Mexico. It was at that Summit whereby the international community has agreed upon the modalities of stepping up financial assistance to the developing world, including especially to the highly indebted nations by way of debt write-off and including scaling up finance to the International Development Assistance (IDA) which is a soft window financing of the World Bank.

During the two signings referred to, the Government of Namibia, as mandated by its people to demand that Namibia be treated as a least developing country in order to access the development assistance, that is soft financing and grant financing, it was during those negotiations that initially the Founding President took a mission to the United States to lobby for grant assistance and in organising the usual friends of Namibia in the United States, Namibia succeeded to be

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recognised as a low-middle income country, something in-between not least, but yet not middle and, therefore, qualifying for grant assistance.

As follow-up and during the second term of office of President Bush, Namibia, among only four other countries, were invited for the installation of the President of the United States, President Bush. Only five Heads of State from Africa were invited.

On the occasion, the five Heads of State nominated one of them to speak to President Bush in order to demand a scaling-up grant assistance to the countries so invited. In recognition of this demand, the Presidential PACT, the US President's Grant Assistance on HIV in Namibia was stepped up and an increase in supply from the United States of funds to buy anti-retroviral drugs has been scaled up dramatically, to the extent that many of the Namibians infected by HIV today, who in those days could not have any hope of living another day or two or a year, today are contributing effectively to the national economy because they have been given another lease of life.

It was after the Monterrey Summit that the United States decided to set up the Millennium Challenge Corporation, because on the basis of their own choice they decided that they would rather provide their funds through certain specific conditions and directly to the beneficiary country instead of channelling them through international finance institutions as we know them. In this regard, a good number of countries, including Namibia, and Namibia particularly through the lobbying of Namibian friends, qualified to access that financing called the Millennium Challenge Corporation. There was rejuvenation among our people, because there was at least a promise that grant financing will be available to carry out specific programmes in Namibia which highly require financing in order to address the bottlenecks in economic development, including especially in the education sector.

The five-year contract will help strengthen access to and quality of Namibia's education and training sector, increase productivity of farming enterprises in communal rural areas and promote growth in Namibia's tourism industry. The Millennium Challenge Corporation's objective of reducing poverty through economic growth was worked into a manageable and sustainable programme, closely linked to existing development efforts which will stand the test implementation.

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In the design of the programme, Comrade Speaker, the National Planning Commission and MCC Namibia worked closely with the beneficiary Line Ministries governing the Agencies and Non-Governmental Organisations.

This consultative process was carried out throughout the 13 Regions. Elected representatives at all levels were met, briefed and had direct dialogue with MCC staff. Traditional Authorities were consulted. Parties were consulted through their legitimate elected representatives in this Honourable House and in the Second House, the National Council.

To access the funding, Namibia needs to meet a number of conditions related to programme administration and the policy environment related to the sectors in which the investment will be made. These conditions were part of the negotiations with the MCC and had been agreed to by Cabinet and shared with the relevant sectors, line ministries and Government Agencies.

In today's paper it is alleged that supposedly some page is missing from this important document. Let me underline the fact that this document, initialled by Professor Katjivivi has no missing page and I again want to call upon all Honourable Members to count the pages, as they do, and that is all what this gentleman standing is asking, for ratification of the true legal document as certified by our legal entities in the State of Namibia.

Indeed, Professor Katjivivi this morning addressed a press conference and he referred to this document being misinterpreted and I quote: *"The conditions presented are not explicitly listed in the contract, yet in the text of the contract references is made to the legal, administrative and policy-related conditions presented. A definite listing will appear in the programme implementation agreement, one of the supplementary agreements to the contract. This programme implementation agreement is still under discussion. In real essence, what is being submitted and misinterpreted are papers that are still under discussion and do not form part of this agreement. That means they have no initials, they have not been signed by any official of the Government of the Republic of Namibia. His Excellency, the President of Namibia, the Cabinet, the Government of Namibia, the MCC Namibia Board and the affected line ministries are fully informed of this position."*

Namibia gained eligibility for the Millennium Challenge Corporation funding through good governance which we have set ourselves to achieve, economic

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freedom and investment in people in a competitive set-up with other countries. It is not only a country's own score that counts, but more importantly, how it relates to other eligible countries in the same group. In this respect, the case of Namibia is part of the category of low-medium countries. The Government has accepted the challenge to maintain eligibility through the Compact implementation period and beyond. It is in the discussion with MCC on the policy improvement plan, which is related to the eighteen performance indicators that are used to determine eligibility for the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

The MCC funding would be released as follows: Compact implementation funding - 2 to 3% of the total Compact value for preparatory activities, such as the establishment of MCA Namibia office, feasibility studies, business plans and design studies, environmental impact assessment and management plans. The CIF period is expected to take 9 to 12 months from Compact Ratification.

The entry into force once all the legal documentation is in place and the minimum requirements for the full implementation of the programme are met, the Compact enters into force. The period of implementation is five years from the entry into force date.

Reasons for the ratification of the MCC Namibia Compact: Under normal circumstances the MCC Namibia Compact would have been a bilateral agreement between the development partner, in this case the United States of America, and the beneficiary development country, Namibia. However, due to the specific requirement of the MCC for all its MCA programmes, this grant agreement needs to be elevated to an international agreement.

Before coming to this Honourable House and after the signing of the agreement, the Cabinet sat in session and was briefed by the Honourable Dr Katjivivi with the submission, upon which by Decision 16<sup>th</sup>/02.09.08/004, Cabinet resolved:

- “1. *That Cabinet takes note that the grant agreement or Compact worth N\$2,3 billion was signed on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July 2008.*
2. *That Cabinet approves that the Compact should be presented to Parliament for ratification.*

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3. *That Cabinet directs the beneficial Ministries, that is Education, Agriculture, Water and Forestry and Environment and Tourism to participate with the speed required during the implementation period.*
4. *That Cabinet directs the Ministry of Finance, Trade and Industry, Education, Health and Social Services to become actively involved in order to improve Namibia's performance on some of the indicators.*
5. *That Cabinet Members defend the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) in Parliament and in public.*
6. *That the Cabinet ensures that conditions precedent and targets are met in order to facilitate timely disbursement of funds from MCC and effective implementation of the MCA Namibia programme.*

*Additional Cabinet Resolution: That Cabinet direct the Minister of Works and Transport to table the Compact to the National Assembly for ratification since the Director General of National Planning Commission is not a Member of the National Assembly. The implementer, the National Planning Commission, Ministry of Works and Transport."*

That is the decision of the legitimate Government of the Republic of Namibia before coming to this Honourable House.

On the other hand, due to a diversion from the standard Tender Board Regulations of the MCA Namibia Compact is brought before Parliament for ratification. That is why it was not treated as a bilateral agreement. The MCC procurement rules differ in principle from the Government of Namibia procurement practice, in that no preferential treatment of local contractors is provided for. The MCA Namibia procurement processes thus typified by the absence of this conditionality nor by Namibia and also nor by America.

The Government negotiating team, composed of well-tested cadres formed during the liberation struggle, some of them being commanders of PLAN under most difficult conditions, having experienced a crisis of international proportion, including the infamous 1<sup>st</sup> of April, were negotiators to this agreement, today being referred to in some quarters as not trustworthy and unpatriotic, so-called. These negotiators negotiated a threshold of US\$200,000 for shopping, which is a procurement method that does not require an international competitive tender

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process, yet all other necessary procurement will have to follow international competitive bidding.

Another safeguard built into the procurement process will be through the technical specifications for the tenders. MCA Namibia will work with the beneficiaries, Line Ministries and relevant Government Agencies to Namibianise the tender requirements within the set limitations. This could be creating smaller package sizes to be manageable for Namibian Companies, by ensuring local materials are utilised, to reduce maintenance costs, by demanding adherence to South Africa Bureau of Standards, technical requirements and by requiring a certain level of local knowledge and prior experience.

MCA Namibia further plans to brief the Namibian private sector in detail about the procurement process and encourage them to take a proactive approach to the MCA Namibia tenders. In fact, there is a training component for Namibian tenderers.

All other Namibian legislation will be adhered to in the implementation of MCA Namibia Compact.

**BENEFITS TO NAMIBIA:** Namibia will benefit from the MCA Namibia Compact in furthering the education, tourism and agriculture sectors.

Over N\$2,3 billion will be available for development of these sectors over and above current Government allocations and assistance from other development partners, including the United States. The Compact will improve the education sector's effectiveness through broader access to vocational training, upgrading of infrastructure and equipment in education facilities and the acquisition of textbooks for Grades 5 to 12.

The Compact will enhance the economic performance of the agricultural sector by supporting the construction of 5 Veterinary Centres and the tagging of 1 million cattle in high volume in under-served livestock areas; in producing community-based management practices and advancing the business capacity of the Namibian indigenous natural product industry.

Finally, the Compact will increase income and create employment opportunities through strategic investments in Namibia's tourism sector, the Etosha National Park and marketing of Namibian tourism.

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In education, the MCA Namibia programme seeks to bring the quality of workforce closer to the requirement of the industry and the labour market at large.

Further, in tourism the programme seeks to bring the conservancies in high potential tourism areas into the mainstream of the tourism business, increasing the financial and in-kind benefits to conservancy members.

Let me just list here the name of the conservancies that will be affected in one or another way, that will be participating: These are conservancies bordering Etosha National Park, Ehi Rovipuka Conservancy, Kunene Region; !Hoadi !Goas Conservancy, Kunene Region; Sheys Shu Ushona Conservancy, Omusati Region; King Nehale Conservancy, Oshikoto Region. These are the conservancies around Etosha, so that there should be no room for misinterpretation and diversion of attention from real issues.

In livestock the programme seeks to bring the marketing opportunities for farmers who live north of the veterinary cordon fence closer to the opportunities farmers enjoy south of the fence. Internationally accepted disease control measures, including traceability, are core to the livestock development activity.

In indigenous natural products the programme seeks to bring the economic benefits of adding value to raw natural products, such as marula, Kalahari melon seed, hoodia, devil's claw and ximenea and undertake the basic processing of these nuts, fruits and plants. The value chain approach that the MCA Namibia programme has adopted will ensure that the activities are responsive to the fast-changing market realities of natural products.

For the sake of clarity, let me now come to the direct beneficiary activities that would benefit from this money.

**EDUCATION PROJECT:** US\$145 million; Education Quality Activities – 47 schools sub-activities: Rehabilitation and renovation of infrastructure, including provision for disabled; teachers' housing; training and programmes for school administrators and teachers; construction and equipment and computer science laboratories at Teacher Training College and schools.

**Vocational and Skills Training activity:** Establish the National Training Fund; support priority vocational and skills training areas; construction and the

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renovation of 9 community skills development centres (COSDECs). Comrade Nahas Angula's product will be empowered by another 9 Centres. Support efforts to get the private sector involved in skills training.

**Textbook activities:** Funding for acquisition of Science, Maths and English textbooks; improving the system of procurement; distribution and storage of textbooks.

**Regional Sub-Resources Centres Activities (Libraries):** Construction and equipment of three libraries at Helao Nifidi, at Oshakati and at Gobabis.

Tertiary Education Finance activity: Improve the loan payment performance of the Bursary Fund.

**TOURISM SECTOR:** US\$56,5 million: Improved management and infrastructure in Etosha National Park activity; management capacity sub-activity: technical advisor on changed management to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism on the implementation of the concession policy around Etosha National Park and other national parks; improve Etosha National Park service delivery and introduce a cost centred approach for Etosha National Park.

The changed management activity will be informed by two studies, one in the tourism, carrying capacity of Etosha National Park and the other an Investment Promotion Study.

**Infrastructure sub-activity:** Construction and the renovation of over 100 staff houses at Okaukuejo, Ondika, Gaodom Gate, Otjivasandu. Construction and renovation of management infrastructure, workshop, storage space, meeting rooms, etcetera. Equipment activities – still at Etosha: Road maintenance equipment to be used to maintain the road in Etosha National Park and road development and maintenance in the adjacent conservancies. Game capture equipment to facilitate the relocation of game to Conservancies.

**Marketing activity:** International marketing sub-activity: Attracting more tourists from North America. Domestic tourism development sub-activity: Creating attractive tourism routes similar to the Cape to Namibia route through the Conservancy tourism areas to promote tourism into these up to now lesser explored areas of interest and linking Namibia with tourism routes in the southern African Region.

**Interactive website development sub-activity:** Expansion of Namibian Tourism Board website to accommodate interacting tourism route development and online bookings and function the gateway to Namibia.

**Community-based tourism development:** Technical assistance for capacity-building sub-activity: Create a capacity among 31 Conservancies in the northern communal areas to exploit tourism business opportunities in partnership with private sector business towards a high level of self-financing within the framework of the pronounced PPP as adopted by the Cabinet Retreat in Swakopmund and subsequently in Walvis Bay. Funding to assist 15 Conservancies to take up equity in joint venture tourism lodges; to enhance the benefit-stream from the joint venture lodge to the conservancies and its members.

**Land access and management activity:** Community land support sub-activity: Outreach and public awareness campaign to educate public regarding their land rights; capacity building training for Communal Land Boards; capacity building training for local and land administration institution, including Traditional Authorities; systematic verification and land registration process; community-based rangeland management; training in community-based rangeland management technique; training in herd management and other livestock husbandry, technique and practice; training in livestock business management and marketing skills; provision of infrastructure, water points and livestock pens.

**Livestock support activity:** Veterinary Service Centre sub-activity: Construction of five veterinary service centres sub-activity: Rehabilitation of two quarantine stations in Caprivi; introduction of a livestock identification and traceability system in the northern communal areas which currently are excluded; tagging of some one million cattle in the northern communal areas; public outreach and awareness campaign for the livestock identification traceability system; livestock market efficiency fund: Funds to support the study to determine action in steps to obtain internationally recognised foot-and-mouth disease free status for the northern communal areas; equipment for serology laboratory in Ondangwa; marketing infrastructure to improve livestock marketing in the northern communal areas.

**Indigenous natural products:** Primary producer group support; indigenous plant task team capacity building; indigenous national product innovation fund for the San and other minority groups. A number of cross-cutting issues will be addressed in all the projects funded by the MCC, which include HIV/AIDS

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awareness raising, gender sensitivity, monitoring and evaluation of all project activities and sub-activities, environmental and social impact assessment for all activities and sub-activities. In all these there will be technical assistance to improve the management efficiency and effectiveness of the operations in those various sectors, overall project management and administration, inclusive of the procurement agent and fiscal agent will be funded to the tune of US\$39 million.

In conclusion, and my sincere apology for boring you with these details and I also apologise for speaking so loud, for the Comrades that are sleeping. On behalf of the legitimate Government of the Republic of Namibia, I herewith request the Parliament to urgently ratify the Millennium Challenge Account Namibia Compact. This will allow for the MCA Namibia Procurement Rules to become applicable to the MCA Namibia Programme. Ratification is necessary to release the MCC funding earmarked for the MCA Namibia Compact Programme work. I thank you for your patience, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Minister for his very important statement. Any further discussion? Honourable Venaani.

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Speaker, I Move that the Debate be adjourned until the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October.

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**HON SPEAKER:** The Debate stands adjourned until 23 October 2008.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:08**  
**HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:26 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

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

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**NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL BILL  
HON DR KAWANA**

**RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING:  
NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL BILL**

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**SECRETARY:** *Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – National Youth Council Bill.*

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**HON SPEAKER:** When the House adjourned on 1 October 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture, that the Bill be read a Second Time. The Minister of Presidential Affairs adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I rise to contribute to the Debate on this very important piece of legislation.

Honourable Speaker, allow me in the first place, to thank those Honourable Members who have contributed positively to the improvement of the Bill. Indeed, I associate myself with the Honourable Members who said the welfare of our Nation should start with the welfare of our youth. This fact was recognised by our SWAPO Party since its inception.

During the period of our national struggle for Independence, one of the main objectives of the SWAPO Party was to ensure the formal education of our youth.

Institutions of learning were established in a number of countries, such as Zambia, Angola, Congo Brazzaville, Cuba and indeed, even here at home, for example the school in the South enjoyed the support of the SWAPO Party.

In addition, many youth were sent to a number of countries across the world and they got their education in various fields. In this august House we have a number of them who even proceeded to the level of doctorate. Today those youth of yesterday who have since expired, are now playing an important role in our

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country at all levels of the state. They are found in the civil service, the Executive, the Legislature, the Judiciary and, indeed, in the private sector.

Following the attainment of Independence on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 1990, education of the youth received top priority above all priorities. It is for this reason that today the largest portion of the National Budget goes to Education. In addition, the Ministry responsible for Youth was also established. Projects designed to benefit the youth were created, such as the National Youth Service and the National Youth Council. It is my humble view that the National Youth Service should be expanded so that all those youth who wish to acquire skills could be absorbed by the Service prior to further studies or to enter the job market.

It is, indeed, most unfortunate that when the Founding Father of the Nation, when still in office as First President of the Republic of Namibia, initiated the expansion of the National Youth Service so that our youth could acquire skills, some elements became apprehensive. Motivated by political motives, they even went further to say that the National Youth Service would become "*Nujoma's private army.*" Today some of these elements are calling upon the youth of Namibia to support them. How can this be possible when it is these elements who sabotaged their future?

Honourable Speaker, as I pointed out earlier, the future of any nation lies with its youth, therefore the future of our nation lies in the economic empowerment of our youth. It is in this context that the SWAPO Party Government has tabled the Bill before this august House. It represents the vision of the SWAPO Party Government.

Honourable Speaker, if you are to secure the future of our Nation, we should not only address the needs of the youth from the age of 16 years, but we should also address the needs of our pioneers. I am one of those who hold the view that political Independence will remain meaningless unless it is accompanied by economic empowerment of previously disadvantaged Namibians.

Therefore, there is an urgent need to come up with a law to regulate economic empowerment of previously disadvantaged Namibians. It is my humble opinion that this issue has become extremely urgent if we are to complete our struggle. It should not be a privilege, but rather a right for previously disadvantaged Namibians to equally share in the ownership of the means of production in our country. Our struggle will never be complete until this is achieved. We offer no

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HON DIENDA**

apology to those who are not keen to see the achievement of this objective. If we will fail to implement economic empowerment of previously disadvantaged Namibians, then our struggle for Independence will indeed remain meaningless.

Let us continue with the vision of the SWAPO Party. The future of our country is in our hands, the future of our Nation lies in the welfare of our youth. In this regard, the welfare of pioneers should also be taken into account.

I support the principle behind this Bill and I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Minister for his contribution. Any further discussion? Honourable Dienda.

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**HON DIENDA:** Honourable Speaker, I Move that the Debate be adjourned until Tuesday, next week.

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**HON SPEAKER:** The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until Tuesday, next week. The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

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**MOTION ON ECONOMICAL EMPOWERMENT  
OF THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE**

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**SECRETARY:** *Resumption of Debate on the Economical Empowerment of the Namibian People.*

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**HON SPEAKER:** When the House adjourned yesterday, 7 October 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Kavetuna.

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RT HON N ANGULA**

Honourable Riruako had the Floor and in his absence I give the Floor to Right Honourable Angula.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I want to make a small contribution to this very, very important Motion by Honourable Juliet Kavetuna.

First of all, I would like to appreciate and thank her for bringing this theme to the fore and to the Floor of this House

When Honourable Kavetuna was a youth she actually joined me in establishing the Community Skills Development Centres (COSDECS) and she used to mobilise the young people in Otjiwarongo for training which would lead to empowerment. Therefore, we share one vision and that is empowering the youth through training.

For now my contribution is in relation to SWAPO as a liberation movement, so I am going to speak as a liberation movement today and I want you to listen very carefully.

The mission of us as a liberation movement is to liberate and to free people, first from political bondage, political subjugation and to make them free and independent. That we have accomplished and Honourable Kaura is a witness to that, that we have accomplished that as a liberation movement because he is allergic to the words "*liberation movement.*" To him "*liberation movement*" is like the Jacaranda pollen which causes an allergy to some people and he is allergic to the liberation movement and he has to put on sun glasses. He is going back to the dark ages. When they were here in this House they represented themselves without liberation.

Now SWAPO as a liberation movement has a mission and the mission is to liberate, liberate the Nation... (Intervention)

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**HON MOONGO:** May I ask the Honourable Prime Minister a question? Are those youth camping at the Ministry of Veteran Affairs liberated and do those who are discriminated against, although they participated in the liberation, really

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RT HON N ANGULA**

have freedom?

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** We are talking about liberation and the young people you are referring to are products of liberation. If they have a social grievance, the Constitution of Namibia grant them their right to express their social grievance. I only advised them not to overdo it. Anything you overdo becomes useless. They have now made their point, let them go back home and we shall follow them there with programmes for their social liberation. I can assure you of that.

I was saying SWAPO as a liberation movement has a mission and the historical mission is to liberate. The first one was the achievement of our National Independence. Now we salute the flag, we sing our National Anthem, we have a Constitution which is best to none and we have peace and stability. That was the first step.

The next step now is liberation from poverty, from unemployment, liberation from want and liberation from unequal distribution of wealth in our country. That is now the task of SWAPO's liberation movement and we have started to build the foundations for that liberation.

The first foundation is education for all. You liberate people from ignorance, first of all. That is why the SWAPO Government is spending 25% of its national Budget annually on education and training. This is the process of liberation, to liberate from ignorance. (Intervention)

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**HON KAURA:** May I ask the Honourable Prime Minister a question? Honourable Prime Minister, when are you going to liberate the Namibian youth from NAMCOL?

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** First I have to liberate Honourable Kaura from ignorance and his persistent ignorance about NAMCOL's mission is alarming. Either he does not want to hear, he does want to see, he does not want

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to feel, or whatever it is. What I want to advise Honourable Kaura is for him to go to Okakarara Secondary School, ask how many learners were able to pass their Grade 10, how many were able to pass Grade 12. What do you do for those who did not pass? You have to have a safety valve for those who cannot make it for the first time and NAMCOL is that safety valve. It is part of liberation, it is part of the liberation army. (Interjection)

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**HON MEMBER:** It is part of the dungeons!

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** It is shock-proof for those who cannot make it for the first time, the second option.

I am saying we are on the march as a liberation movement to liberate this Nation now from ignorance, from poverty and from disease. Let us talk about social liberation. (Interjection)

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**HON MEMBER:** Okahandja Park, social liberation.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Rome was not built in one day. Liberation takes time. In 1960 we organised our first liberation movement, in 1966 we launched the armed liberation struggle, in 1989 we defeated the enemy and got liberation. It is systematic. We are going to tackle Okahandja Park, just wait.

I was talking about social liberation. Social liberation can only happen through empowerment, to empower people, so the empowerment agenda is part of the agenda of liberation. (Intervention)

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**HON MOONGO:** May I ask the Prime Minister a question? Is that really empowerment when the poor people are squatting on the whole mountain?

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RT HON N ANGULA**

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** You see, when we were waging the struggle, we used to have places in the bush, dugouts. That was another front, I was qualified to fight on that front and I fought very successfully. The Council for Namibia was able to create the Nationhood Fund for Namibia and achieve its goals. You were supposed to give me a medal for that. Thank you very much.

I am saying there are phases of the struggle for liberation, including the struggle for social liberation and the key word in social liberation is empowerment, to empower the people and I said the process of empowerment started at the day of Independence, first to empower people with knowledge and skills. That is why our Government is spending 25% of its Budget on education and training.

Then economic empowerment. We have a policy of giving citizens opportunities to exploit the natural resources, their natural endowment. When we are talking about fish, some of you were given fishing quotas. Because of your poverty you sold your fishing quotas for cash and you returned to poverty. (Intervention)

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**HON T GURIRAB:** May I ask the Prime Minister a question? I am following the Right Honourable Prime Minister's address with great interest. He told us that there is a policy to empower nationals by granting them parts of the natural resources. For some reason I must have missed that in that policy. I am aware that the Prime Minister is supposed to be working on something called TESEF, something which has not seen the light of the day. I do not know whether it is part of this thing the Prime Minister is working on, where this policy says the nationals are entitled to some part of the natural resources.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I told you that empowerment liberation has stages. I know when the Honourable Member wanted to empower himself, he imported second-hand Japanese cars and it has vanished. That is fine, it was trial and error. We do not blame the Honourable Member and he found the right job in Parliament. Perhaps the Parliament is going to work better so that he will be truly empowered.

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RT HON N ANGULA**

I was saying that systematically we have started with the policies of availing the natural endowments to nationals, such as fishing quotas, Affirmative Action loans... (Interjection)

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**HON MOONGO:** To members of SWAPO only!

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** To everybody, provided that you are courageous enough. (Interjection)

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**HON MEMBER:** Including yourself.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Including myself who has become highly indebted, but I am empowered. When I cross the gate of my farm I am in my republic, you do not come there.

Fish quotas, Affirmative Action, community conservancies, it is empowerment. The communities with Conservancies are getting a little money. EPL's, exploration licences. When some of you get something, the best is to sell to somebody else and go back to your poverty again. That is part of the stage of development.

This process of empowerment is a historical mission of the liberation movement, which is SWAPO. (Intervention)

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**HON KAURA:** May I ask the Prime Minister a question? Honourable Prime Minister, as Honourable Garoëb was saying here, the cheetahs are eating up the goats of the residents of those Conservancies. Is that empowerment?

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RT HON N ANGULA**

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I also have a problem with cheetahs. While I owe AgriBank millions, the cheetahs come and they even impoverish me further. I also have a problem with the cheetahs. (Intervention)

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**HON VENAANI:** I recently attended a very important farmers' workshop on these cheetahs through the Cheetah Foundation and they told us that apparently the appetite of a cheetah is to eat game, wild animals. If a cheetah has to choose between a goat and a small oryx, it would prefer to eat the game. The reason why the cheetahs are turning to livestock is because of the depletion of game around the area. I want to advise that he can buy more game through the Environment and Tourism project and the cheetahs are not going to eat your animals, because on my farm I have cheetahs and I have not had any situation, besides one, where they ate my goats. It is because there is enough game.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** The Cheetah Foundation likes to justify themselves. They come up with big stories. Since I was born and Etosha was not even as big as it is today, these cheetahs have been destroying our animals. If they prefer game, fine, but I am not going to buy game for a cheetah. Why they cannot put up a big cheetah conservancy and put game there so that they do not come and make us poorer and poorer. There I support Honourable Garoëb, but I am talking about empowerment.

The liberation movement has a programme for empowerment, a systematic one, starting with general collective empowerment and moving to individual empowerment. (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** May I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister a question? I enjoy your lecture, but can the Prime Minister just help me by explaining what he has been trying to explain by saying that SWAPO is the liberation movement. Do you still have a liberation programme eighteen years after Independence? There is a school of thought that says that the liberation movement has a specific programme to liberate the country and once we have liberated the country, the development and the Government programmes differ completely from the

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liberation programme. If the liberation movement, SWAPO, is still implementing the liberation programmes in an independent structure where the development and Government programmes have taken their place, do you not think that these are the problems that have led to the poverty and lack of empowerment that Honourable Juliet Kavetuna has tried to explain in this Motion?

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** No, the theory of liberation is the revisionist theory which should be dismissed with the contempt it deserves. Liberation is a continuous process, it is a historical mission of liberation movements. It is not an event, it is a process.

I therefore was talking about general empowerment through things like education, proper health care, housing, fish quotas, Affirmative Action loans, resettlement, EPLs, Conservancies, etcetera. Those are general collective empowerment and now we are moving towards individual empowerment, personal empowerment. (Intervention)

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**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, may I ask the right Honourable Prime Minister a question? The Honourable Prime Minister referred to Affirmative Action. You received a letter, a legal opinion which cost a lot of money and the outcome of this legal opinion is that it is illegal to apply Affirmative Action to all the people who were born after Independence. Are you aware of it?

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Affirmative Action is a constitutional requirement of Namibia. Until we amend the Constitution to exclude those who were born after Independence, it remains a requirement. Take Article 23 and read it yourself. Unless you amend that article, Affirmative Action will remain, as long as this Constitution is in force. Whether you were born yesterday, today or tomorrow, this Constitution will apply to you. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** May I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister a question? Honourable Prime Minister, are you aware of the fact that the generation of youngsters that the Honourable Member is referring to, born after Independence, is a generation which has been born from the people who were deliberately impoverishing this country, who are not in a position to look after their children as the former colonisers have the opportunity to look after their children. That is why you do not get white children in the streets, only blacks, because of the historical differences which the blacks were forced into. As long as those children are suffering that way, Affirmative Action is relevant. Are you aware of that?

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Yes, Honourable Chief Veteran, I am very aware of that. That is the relevance of Article 23 of the Namibian Constitution and I want to remind Honourable Viljoen that as long as that Article remains in the Namibian Constitution, Affirmative Action and empowerment is perpetual. The lawyer who interpreted that should go back to law school to learn about the Namibian Constitution and being one of the fathers of the Constitution, I can also give him a lecture about Article 23.

I was talking about the historical mission of the liberation movement. First political liberation, "*seek first the political kingdom and everything else will be added to you.*" That we have achieved, and the next is social liberation and we have the building blocks for social liberation and those building blocks are first to empower us severally as a collective. Now what we are moving towards is individual empowerment and that is what Honourable Kavetuna is talking about.

How do we now move from several empowerment, collective empowerment to individual empowerment? That is the big question and that is what I have been working on, on instruction of the Cabinet. I want to tell Honourable Tsudao Immanuel Gurirab that very soon the proposed policy document will come to the Floor and we will debate it and enrich it until we agree that this is the process now. (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** May I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister a question? Honourable Speaker, Article 23 that was referred to about apartheid and Affirmative Action, from what I am seeing here is that that article prohibits racial discrimination and the practice of the ideology of apartheid from which the

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majority of the people of Namibia have suffered. It prohibits racial discrimination. Are we saying that the people, children who were born after Independence, because the colour of their skin is white, this Article still justifies discrimination against those people, Namibians who were born after Independence? Are we saying this Article justifies that or is that not perhaps reversed discrimination, now not against the blacks but against the whites? Maybe I need to be educated.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** That is why Honourable Tjihuiko, despite spending considerable time in Britain, was not able to finish his PhD and he got a second-class Master's Degree in Economics. He should listen carefully:

Article 23(2): *“Nothing contained in Article 10 hereof shall prevent Parliament from enacting legislation providing directly or indirectly for the advancement of persons within Namibia who have been socially, economically or educationally disadvantaged by past discriminatory laws or practices.”*

These traces of discrimination are still present. When you go to a primary school in my area, it is not like a primary school in Pioneers Park. The discrepancies are so big because of the historical discrimination.

I was saying, Honourable Tjihuiko, when you read your Constitution, read it fully, not partially. Do not just see what you want to see, see also those things you do not want to see.

I was saying that in the process of liberation we are now moving towards individual empowerment and individual empowerment can only take place through social and economic transformation. We must transform the economic and social relations in this country if we want to truly empower people.  
(Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Comrade Speaker, I do this very reluctantly, but may I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister a very small question? Right Honourable Prime Minister, is it also your experience – definitely it is mine – that as long as we have citizens of this Land of the Brave who are shying away from recognising that we are living in a country

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which is so lopsided, whether it is legacies from the past or whether it is realities right now that we are somehow failing to address properly, that there are certain people that feel that they are excluded from the mainstream because of the realities of the past and that there are certain people in our country who does not recognise that reality. Is that your experience? (Intervention)

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Yes, it is a reality of Namibia. The reality of Namibia is that the culture of exclusion and the ideology of exclusion is so implanted in some minds that some sections of our society feel threatened. If tomorrow you say to Mr Venaani he is going to own a mine, they always conclude that Mr Venaani is going to take that mine from them. It is not true. Namibia is big with a diverse economy and all of us have a place in it and true empowerment will only come from transformation – social, ideological and economic. On the social level that transformation should recognise that we are all entitled, it is our birthright to have a share of the Namibian cake, all of us. The only question is, how do you create conditions for each of us to have a stake in the Namibian economy? There must be a recognition that in order to achieve social justice, we should create space for each other so that each one of us has a space in the economic arrangement of Namibia and we must support each other. This thing of saying that this business belongs to this one and I am not going to buy there really is sabotage as far as I am concerned.

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**HON MOONGO:** On a Point of Information. Does the Prime Minister realise that he is contradicting the SWAPO policy which says first priority must be given to the SWAPO members and that a member of another Party cannot be a principal or a director?

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Honourable Member, you must realise that in every situation there must be a leadership. There must be a leader and SWAPO as a liberation movement has taken that responsibility to lead this Nation to a better future, for all of us to feel that we are part of it. That leadership must however be done by SWAPO, because SWAPO has the mandate and the responsibility to do so.

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Nevertheless SWAPO has never been an exclusive club, even you at one time were a member and you left voluntarily. You can come and go, there is nothing wrong with that. SWAPO has always been an inclusive organisation, we do not discriminate. That is for sure, but in terms of leadership we are historically condemned to lead. (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** May I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister a small question? I am sorry, Honourable Prime Minister, I am not yet clear and being a senior, I know that you will be able to educate some of us. You were referring to Article 23 of the Constitution and there was an explanation, but if children born after Independence in 1990 are going to St Paul's, one, for example, the child of Honourable Minister !Naruseb, the other the child of a white labourer, a driver, are you saying that because of the colour of the child of the labourer, there is a justification by law, according to Article 23(2)? What about Article 10(1) which says "*all persons shall be equal before the law*" and (2) which says, "*no person shall be discriminated against on the ground of sex, race, colour, ethnic origin, religion, creed or social or economic status?*" When a person is richer, he cannot be discriminated against according to this Article.

My question is, are you, as the Prime Minister of this country, really saying that there is a justification for us to discriminate against whites because they are whites?

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** In the first place, Honourable Tjihuiko, I am not turning this House of Lawmaking into a Constitutional Court. I have explained that Article 23(2) has already said, regardless of Article 10, nothing prevent this Parliament to enact laws to empower those who were disempowered.

Secondly, I know you are not a good student of Sociology, but I happen to be one. Asset accumulation is historical. My child might be going to a good school today, but my child might not inherit anything from me of value, neither did I inherit anything from my father which I can say is an asset which can reproduce itself. Yes, he gave me two heifers but both died of drought. I am grateful for that gift, but I am saying wealth accumulation is historical and you cannot just say because this child today has a PhD, therefore he is empowered in relation to a

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child who has inherited from his father who inherited from his grandfather who inherited from the grand-grandfather. They inherited it from our sweat as we worked and were exploited on the farms. We empowered them through our sweat. That is thus not really an argument. Let us now look forward, not backwards and looking forward is the historical mission of the liberation movement named SWAPO, to liberate, to empower and to transform society, so that we create a society based upon social justice, equity and empowerment. That is the goal and we are moving there systematically and we are going to get there, unless you divert us from that mission and we are not going to allow ourselves to be diverted.

Therefore, we should support the Motion of the Honourable Kavetuna because that Motion is part and parcel of the process of liberation, of empowerment and of transformation. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Prime Minister for his contribution. Honourable Iilonga.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, I rise to contribute to this very important Motion on economic empowerment of our people by Comrade Juliet Kavetuna.

Economic empowerment is a very important element and we waged the first struggle, which was the liberation struggle to liberate Namibia. (Intervention)

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**HON MOONGO:** Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a tiny question? I know you are a freedom fighter, but why do you not just say you want to empower the SWAPO members? Then you are honest.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Honourable Speaker, our first struggle was to liberate Namibia and currently we are engaged in the second phase of our struggle, namely economic emancipation.

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This second phase of the struggle is a difficult one in the sense that in the first phase one could identify the enemy and I knew what kind of ammunition or shell I would use to destroy a Casspirr or if they came with their Cheetahs or Buccaneers. But this second phase of the struggle is very difficult in the sense that the enemy cannot be identified.

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**HON KAURA:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, is it true that you in SWAPO believe that there are moles within SWAPO, spies?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** There is nothing like that in SWAPO. I do not want to be distracted from what I want to say to the public on economic empowerment of our people.

We have to keep in mind that we are in a capitalist system, a system which is very good theoretically, but what is preached in theory cannot be implemented in practice. That we must not forget. Therefore, in order to empower the Namibian people economically we need land, which we do not have. You need land for anything you want to develop. The water for your garden is on land, everything is on land, but we do not have land.

You cannot even have a house without land. (Interjection)

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**HON MEMBER:** What about fish?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** The fish is at sea, the sea is based on land. It would have fallen off somewhere if it were not anchored to earth. The water of the sea is also based on land.

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The important thing is that in order to empower our people economically, the Government and its parastatals need to participate fully in the economic development. (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** May I ask the Deputy Minister a question? The Honourable Deputy Minister is talking about empowering Namibians, all the Namibians. The Right Honourable Prime Minister was talking about “*our people, the blacks*”, not the whites. Can the Deputy Minister please explain this theory or approach, is it excluding or including the whites?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Honourable Speaker, in the empowerment of the Namibian people we have two words which are commonly known in Namibia. We have those already empowered and that is why we say “*formerly disadvantaged*” and “*formerly empowered.*” Those who were empowered are still the ones who are empowered and we now want to harmonise the empowerment of our people. Those who were empowered before are the capitalists of Namibia, the private owners. The majority of them are those who were empowered all along.

Now we have the Tjihuiko’s who are still struggling to reach the level of Honourable De Waal. We do not need to have any discrimination in empowerment, we are just saying that in this second phase of our struggle for economic emancipation we should try to bring in those who were left out of participating in the economy of this country, namely the workers who do not own anything. That is why I mentioned the land, who has the land? It is your neighbour.

If the money budgeted in this House to buy land is going to empower people who have land, we will not empower the people as we wish to do.

Ownership of property is part of Chapter 3, the holy cow. We came from that system where there is a holy cow. Now the Government budgets money to buy farms and I am saying that if we really want Honourable Kavetuna’s Motion to be realised, Government must not only buy land for resettlement, but also areas

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which would become productive. Resettlement is not for all the people, you only empower certain families. You can have land for resettlement and the land to empower those who cannot be resettled. (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** On a Point of Information. Yesterday I listened to the contribution of the Honourable Minister of Veterans Affairs which was very informative and I learned a lot from that. I remember that the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister also agreed with the sentiments expressed that the Affirmative Action Programme, especially on the land, that we have designed for our people needs to be revisited. It does not empower people, it disempowers people.

Now the Deputy Minister is talking about land and the way he is presenting himself is that you buy land, Ongombo-West, goes to waste and then you advise people to go and buy land get them up to here in debt. Be clear on what it is you are talking about, what is the approach that he wants us to listen to, what the Nation wants to hear? You are just going up and down, left and right. Be more specific.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Iilonga, you will have an opportunity to answer that question and continue tomorrow. The House stands adjourned under automatic adjournment until tomorrow, 14:30

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 14:45 UNTIL 2008.10.09 AT 14:30**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER  
09 OCTOBER 2008  
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, something that I have not anticipated that I am not convinced about, has been drawn to my attention and I ask you to turn to our working manual, the Rules and Orders, Rule 108(a). In terms of Rule 108(a) the Motion tabled by Honourable Kavari is Out of Order. The Motion reflects on an Act of Parliament, which is not allowed in terms of this Rule. That is what the Rule says. The Motion on the Order Paper reads as follows;

That this august House debates the effects of the Shebeens and Liquor Act (Act No 6 of 1998) on our communities and that the Motion be referred to the relevant Parliamentary Standing Committee for further in-depth study and Public Hearings and to report back to the Chamber for further consideration with the view to amend the Act in order to minimise its socio-economic impacts.

I had not heard any concern from the Floor, I did not see the advice being given as being meritorious and I am bringing this to the attention of the House that we proceed with the business as we have started to do. We are talking about the effects and I very well appreciate the implication, that if in the process we find the effects are a consequence of a bad law, then the Honourable Member may be Out of Order in terms of the Motion. However in my own view, the Honourable Member is not really addressing the integrity of the Act of Parliament, rather the implementation part of it. What is the sense of the House? It was my intention to continue, all things being equal, that I did not see the Motion being at variance with the law and the spirit of the law. Honourable Prime Minister.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** The Honourable Member can amend her Motion, not to refer to a law which this House passed, but just to refer to the problem of shebeens.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Is that the consensus of the House?

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**HON KAVARI:** I accept to make the Amendments.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Is that the view of the House. We will advise the Honourable Member just to recast it in a way that it does not question the integrity of the law.

Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? Question 70 is one by Honourable Viljoen. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS**

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**QUESTION 70:**

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

**HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the House, I am rising to answer the Honourable Viljoen's questions. I will start with the question of non-compliance with the collective agreement regulating minimum wages in the Agricultural Sector.

The questions arose out of my statement that I made at an Agricultural Farmers Congress and I think that is from which these questions arose. In my speech at that specific annual congress of the Agricultural Employers Association, delivered on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June 2008, at Arebusch Travel Lodge, reference was made to the implementation of a collective minimum wage agreement in the agricultural sector. To this I stated the following:

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*“I am informed that there is now a rigorous enforcement of this collective agreement that regulates minimum wages in the agricultural sector by both the Labour Inspectorate and the representative trade unions. There has been a noticeable improvement in this respect and many of the farmer employers now comply with the collective minimum wage agreement. There are still, however, cases of non-compliance and I appeal to you to urge all your members to comply with the agreement.”*

The Honourable Member of Parliament, Mr Viljoen, should take note that I acknowledged improvement by some farmers in complying with the minimum wage, but however that there are some cases of non-compliance. Perhaps to shed light to the Honourable Viljoen how non-compliance is detected, annually our labour inspectors carry out workplace inspections. Such inspections were carried out at farms in various districts and in this specific case, inspections were done on farms in the Khomas Region, Omaheke Region as well as the Grootfontein district.

In Dordabis area in the Khomas Region, a total number of 18 farms were inspected during December 2007. Nine farms were found not to comply with the minimum wage agreement. In Grootfontein district in the area of Maroelaboom an inspection was carried out during July 2007. 10 Farms were inspected and six were found not to be complying with the minimum wage agreement. In Gobabis area an inspection was carried out during November 2007, 33 farms were inspected in the Kalahari Constituency and four farms did not comply with the minimum wage agreement. These are just some of the few farms I could now indicate to the Honourable Member of Parliament.

In all the above respects, my Ministry has full details, including the names of the farms, the owners and contact details. I will, therefore, not be in a position to divulge this information as the affected parties would have to be informed and obtain their consent that we intend discussing their non-compliance in Parliament, unless the Honourable MP has a mandate from them to do so. Moreover, in all respects compliance orders were issued to these farmers with specific ultimatums to comply, but none of those farmers thus far were issued with compliance orders despite follow-up inspections by our inspectorate. However, this is information we can discuss with Mr Viljoen, especially in the light of your preparedness to influence these people to comply with the minimum wage.

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On the question of inhuman behaviour and abusive language against employees, I thought my speech then was specific in that regard. I quote from my speech again:

*“The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare received reports that some farmers continue to subject their employees to inhuman treatment and abusive language. This means the master-and-servant concept still manifests itself to some extent in the Agricultural sector.”*

To this end, I referred specifically to a farm just outside Windhoek, a farm called the Kakoonest Farm, owned by Mr Frans Lottering. The owner of this farm is a certain Mr Patrick Bamba, employed as a supervisor who is used to traffic workers from the Kavango Region. They would work for periods of 2 to 3 months without pay and if they ask for their remuneration, that is when they have to endure inhuman treatment. Two young ladies were employed at this farm from Rundu to milk cows, they were not paid for two months and when they confronted their employer, Mr Lottering, they were beaten and dumped alongside the road without their pay. Fortunately they were picked up by the Police manning the roadblock alongside the Daan Viljoen Road and brought to the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.

My Ministry’s Inspectorate and the Namibian Farm Workers Union had to intervene and ensured that they were paid their remuneration and helped the victims to lay charges of assault with the Windhoek Police. The case numbers are available. The case was widely published in the media, including the visual and print media. Similarly, there have been other cases of assaulting employees at the same farm and continue to dump them alongside the roads and traffic others from Rundu. Latata Ludwig and Mapushe Kanyetu were the recent victims of this particular farm.

I hope Honourable Viljoen would help us in addressing this situation on the farm. We have material evidence, including photos, to this effect. Hence, it should not be termed as allegations. The Farm Workers Union can equally attest to this fact. It should, therefore, be noted that the Namibian Agricultural Employers Association did not request for these details and should they have done so, they would have been provided with the information.

I have recently received complaints from the Charcoal Industry on the abuse of farm workers in the Outjo area. A certain Mr W Marais of the Farm Gauas,

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which is situated about 8 kilometres outside Outjo, employs about 24 charcoal cutters whom he exploits, according to our local Labour Office. It is reported that these workers have not been paid since December 2007 and are subjected to inhuman treatment, which includes no transportation for medical care, no protective clothing, substandard accommodation and non-compliance with occupational health standards. Due to the negligence of the farm owner with regard to the transportation of his workers for medical treatment, my Office is informed that a farm worker by the name of Petrus Johannes has passed away after he fell ill and could not receive medical attention on time. I am further informed that the Police in Outjo are investigating a case of possible culpable homicide in this regard.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare has intensified its inspectorate services in the farming sector. The Honourable Petrus Ilonga, Deputy Minister, has recently undertaken a visit to some farming areas, especially those involved in the charcoal production, with a view to create an awareness on the need for this sector to operate on the basis of acceptable labour standards and within law.

I have also been on a countrywide familiarisation tour during which I addressed employers and employees on improving working relationships. I should also inform this august House that I had a consultative meeting with the President of the Namibia Agricultural Employers Association, during which we consulted on the concerns in the Agricultural Sector. He has acknowledge and shared his concerns and he committed the organisation to help in addressing these issues. We hope that these malpractices will be eliminated once and for all by the coming into force of the new Labour Act (Act 11 of 2007) on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November.

It shall, therefore, be highly appreciated, Honourable Viljoen, if you could engage this Constituency who complained to bring an end to such practices and ensure that all farmers comply with the requirements of the Labour Act or any other laws relating to labour. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Minister for his reply. Honourable Viljoen.

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**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, I wish to thank the Honourable Minister for the information. If I can help in any way I am proud to so, because I cannot condone such behaviour from commercial farmers and that is why I asked the question, if we can do something, because presently all the farmers, all the commercial farmers have to suffer because a few are not doing what they should do. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member. Question 71 is by the same Honourable Member. Does the Member put the Question?

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**QUESTION 71:**

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

**HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Thank you for the Floor, Honourable Speaker, to respond to the question by Honourable Jurie Viljoen who wants to know as to whether the Affirmative Action (Employment) Act (Act No. 29 of 1998) also identifies non-Namibian employees as a designated group for the purposes of Affirmative Action. Honourable Viljoen wants to know how many non-Namibian persons are employed in the Public Service.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, on this issue as to whether non-Namibian employees are identified as designated group for the purpose of Affirmative Action, the Affirmative Action (Employment) Act is absolutely explicit on this matter. Section 18(2)(a) of the Affirmative Action Act identifies the designated groups as follows: Racially disadvantaged persons, women and persons with disabilities. The Racially disadvantaged persons are defined to mean, *“all persons who belong to a racial or ethnic group which was or is directly or indirectly disadvantaged in the labour field as a consequence of social, economic or educational imbalances arising out of racially discriminatory laws or processes before the Independence of Namibia.”*

Comrade Speaker, I expect Honourable Viljoen, as a lawmaker, to have been familiar with the provisions of this very important legislation that I have just quoted and I am, therefore, unpleasantly surprised that he found it necessary to

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ask the question. If, however, the Honourable Member has a genuine problem with the interpretation of the provision in question, I am just too happy to give him a brief elementary version of this provision in order to assist him to understand its meaning.

Affirmative Action was designed to rectify the position of disadvantaged being suffered by the previously disadvantaged Namibian employees because of the apartheid discriminatory policies that denied them equal employment opportunities before the Independence of Namibia.

The apartheid policies left a legacy of disparity in terms of the distribution of jobs, the income as well as occupation in Namibia. It is, therefore, designed for Namibian citizens who were the only victims of apartheid policies, who happened to be black, women and persons with disabilities. That is to say, it is not intended to benefit non-Namibians and non-Namibians have not been identified as a designated group.

Comrade Speaker, as to the second question regarding the total number of non-Namibians employed in the Public Service, I would like to advise the Honourable Member to direct the question to the right address. The Office of the Prime Minister is, according to the Public Service Act (Act 13 of 1995), responsible for Civil Servants. I thank the Honourable Member for having, through these questions, shown interest in the affairs of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. I thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Minister for his reply. Honourable Viljoen.

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**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, I thank the Honourable Minister.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Question 72 is by the same Honourable Member.

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HON !NARUSEB**

**QUESTION 72:**

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

**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Honourable Speaker, Sir, I want to take this opportunity to respond to the question by Honourable Viljoen as follows:

I would like to inform the Honourable Member that once a farm is acquired by the Ministry, the Ministry prepares notification notices on the farming units that are being offered for allotment and notification is first sent to the legal drafters in the Ministry of Justice, so as to enable the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement to Gazette and advertise the farming units as per the provisions of the Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act, (Act 6 of 1995).

Copies of allotment farms for the farming units are advertised in the local newspapers and are also forwarded to the offices of all Regional Governors to be displayed at their respective notice boards for public inspection. The advertisements indicate the farming unit's location, its size, recommended production activity and the closing date for applications to be handed in. The Ministry Regional Offices as well as all Regional Councillors' office are provided with resettlement application forms. Members of the public can obtain such application forms from those offices countrywide.

In following a comprehensive approach to resettlement, Regional Councillors also inform the public in their respective Constituencies through local radio and in local languages to apply for the advertised allotments.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I would also like to make it clear to this House and to anybody else out there that anybody who is interested in an advertised farming unit is at liberty to go and inspect the unit he or she is interested in before he or she has actually sent in his or her application form, so that you acquaint yourself with the physical condition of the unit that you would so want to apply for. The latter is very important because many a times applicants do not inspect the units they are interested in and once they are successful and go to the farming unit upon allocation, they find that the unit is not really what they wanted and some simply stay away without informing anybody, resulting in the property being vandalised and this also means that should they have not applied, someone else could have been allocated the unit, thus avoiding

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the destruction of properties on the particular farm.

Honourable Speaker, I hope and trust that the above explanation does answer the Honourable Member's concern in this regard and I thank you.

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

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**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, I wish to thank the Honourable Minister for the clear answer.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Question 75 is by Honourable Venaani. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**QUESTION 75:**

**HON VENAANI:** I put the Question, Honourable Speaker.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I wish to respond to questions posed by Honourable Venaani regarding the employment of Namibians in Regional and international organisations as follows:

Question 1: What is the quota that Namibians are eligible to apply for employment at the United Nations during the current Financial Year?

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Member would be aware that UN staff, including Namibians, are recruited in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and Personnel Policies of that organisation and its agencies. According to Article 101 of the Charter, the primary consideration in the recruitment of staff in the UN system is to ensure a high standard of efficiency, competency and integrity. Namibians, therefore, compete with

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candidates from other countries for jobs in the UN system. To be competitive, interested candidates must have relevant professional experience and an advanced university degree or equivalent directly related to the particular position applied for. Candidates must also be fluent in at least two of the working languages of the United Nations, namely Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Due consideration is also given to the importance of the quota system with respect to the permanent staffing that would ensure that all UN Member States are adequately represented in the International Civil Service. This formula is generally based on Member State's financial contribution to the UN Regular Budget, their population and general membership.

Namibia's quota for employment at the UN ranges between 2-14 and the midpoint is 6-40%. Currently Namibia has four professional staff in the UN system. However, it is below midpoint of our quota allocation.

During the current Financial Year 2008/2009, Namibians were offered to apply for P.2 posts, that means the entry level and were examined in disciplines, namely Administration, Economics, Finance, Information Technology, Public Information, Security, Social Affairs and Statistics. Out of the 21 Namibians that applied, the UN Board of Examiners convoked 18 of them to the written examination. The outcome of the examination would be made known to the candidates once the marking process has been completed.

Question 2: How many Namibians have sat for examination and interviews for the different jobs at the UN during the last two Financial Years?

Honourable Speaker, it should be noted that every year the UN Board of Examiners conducts national competitive recruitment examinations for the nationals of Member States that are not adequately represented in the UN system with a view to establish rosters of candidates to fill vacancies as they occur in the prioritised fields. The Board assesses the qualifications of applications and its decisions to admit or not to the written exam and ultimately to the interview is final and is not subject to appeal or negotiation. Successful candidates may be on the roster for one year or more before they are employed.

The UN Secretariat applies a number of criteria, including age limit of applicants,

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namely that they should not be older than 32 years when they attend the interview.

During the 2007/2008 and 2008/2009 Financial Years, 5 applicants applied. All of them were convoked. However, only three could make it to the written examination. Unfortunately, none of the three were successful. No Namibian applied during the 2006/2007 Financial Year.

Question 3: Why are these quotas not advertised in our local media to allow fair eligibility of citizens of these opportunities?

Honourable Speaker, currently the practice is that once vacancy announcements have been received, they are channelled through to the Office of the Prime Minister or to a relevant Ministry for dissemination. However, this practice leaves a lot to be desired since there is no Government focal point to deal with this issue.

Having seen this difficulty, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has embarked upon a consultative process with the Office of the Prime Minister in order to identify a focal point which will be given the necessary resources to advertise these vacancies to the public.

Question 4: May the Minister inform this august House as to how many Namibians have been absorbed by the UN under the quota system?

Comrade Speaker, since 1992 a total of 72 Namibians applied for different jobs in the UN system, out of which 63 were convoked to the UN National Competitive Examination. However only 10 wrote the examination but were not successful. During this period, three Namibians were absorbed in the UN system in 1992. One was absorbed in 1995 and two in 1998.

Question 5: May the Minister further inform this House as to how Namibians are employed by the African Union and SADC Secretariat up to date?

Comrade Speaker, according to the revised quota allocation as at 31 July 2008, Namibia is entitled to 8 positions in the AU Commission. Currently, positions of the Commissioner for Social Affairs and her Special Assistant are occupied by Namibians. It is important to note here that the commissioner was appointed after a competitive election process. However, two Namibians are formally

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employed by the AU Commission in the position of training officer in administration and human resource department and finance officer at the African Union Mission in Cairo, respectively. A Namibian consultant who served with SADC previously is also employed in the AU Commission on a non-permanent basis.

With regard to SADC, there are nine Namibians serving at the Secretariat, five are on permanent basis, 2 are technical advisers and 2 are on secondment.

Honourable Speaker, at this juncture, let me point out that under-employment of Namibians in Regional and international organisations could be attributed to the high standards required in terms of educational qualifications, knowledge of official languages in these organisations, as well as job experience. Other factors could be lack of interest among Namibians due to unattractive remuneration package, coupled with lack of incentives from the Government for the potential applicants. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for her reply.

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**HON VENAANI:** I would like to thank the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and urge her to step up on this score.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Question 76 is by the same Honourable Member addressed to the same Ministry.

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**QUESTION 76:**

**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Speaker, I put the Question.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I wish to respond to further questions posed by Honourable Venaani related to the acquisition of properties and the opportunities Namibia has to purchase buildings for our Missions abroad.

Question 1: What is the total value of our national properties at all our Missions that we have purchased and may the Minister give breakdown?

Honourable Speaker, the Namibian Government has purchased properties for seventeen Namibian Missions abroad to a total value of N\$256,868,393. These are Ambassadors' residences, officials' houses and chanceries.

Question 2: How many Missions are still renting or leasing their properties as of date?

Honourable Speaker, all twenty-four Missions are still renting or leasing properties. The Government is renting 10 ambassadorial residences and 8 chanceries. It is also worth mentioning that in almost all the Missions, Namibian Diplomats, other than the Ambassadors and High Commissioners are renting their accommodation. At the end of every Financial Year these Diplomats contribute 2.2% of their salaries to their accommodation. However, at the end of every Financial Year they are taxed more depending on the type of dwelling they occupy, as determined by the Ministry of Works and Transport. Therefore, the total value of rentals is N\$47,812,275 per annum and it escalates annually.

Question 3: Is it not a opportune time for our nation to exploit the world economy to purchase buildings at our Missions abroad now rather than later for investment purposes?

Honourable Speaker, the Ministry fully agrees with the sentiments expressed by Honourable Venaani that this might be an opportune time for the Government to buy its own properties for all the Missions abroad. This includes houses for staff members at the Missions. However, since the allocation of money to the Ministry's capital projects is not always adequate, it has not been possible to purchase properties for all the Missions. It is, therefore, incumbent upon this august House to support the allocation of resources commensurate with the needs of the Ministry when the Budget is tabled for adoption. With the limited resources at its disposal, the Ministry has currently decided to purchase two to three properties per Financial Year. This has also been provided for in the Ministry's Strategic Plan for 2008-2012 which was officially launched in May 2008. Already the Ministry was able to purchase the residence for the Ambassador in DRC and efforts are being made to renovate the Chanceries in New York and Vienna during the current Financial Year.

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Honourable Members, due to the time constraints, I am not going to read all the statistics concerning the properties of Namibian Missions abroad, but will rather distribute the list of properties and the amounts involved for your further information. The statistics are available for those who are interested. Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Deputy Minister.

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**HON VENAANI:** I would like to thank my Colleague for her response.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I am glad the Minister is here. The attempt was to invest in real estate abroad and I know of two small countries like ourselves who, when the structural adjustment problem hit them and they had to make up for payment of their debts, had to resort to selling some of those properties in order to make up. Thus, every opportunity that you have, buy. The House shall rise for refreshments.

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

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

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**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE: MOTION ON ECONOMIC  
EMPOWERMENT OF THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE**

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**SECRETARY:** *Resumption of Debate on the Economic Empowerment of the Namibian People.*

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**HON SPEAKER:** When the House adjourned yesterday, 8 October 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Kavetuna. Honourable Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Welfare had the Floor and he may continue.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Comrade Speaker, yesterday before the adjournment I was saying in the first phase of our struggle the enemy was – and now I am going to use a word that would easily be understood by NAMCOL people – easily recognisable, but now the enemy in the second phase of the struggle is unrecognisable. That is why economic empowerment is very, very important and it needs urgent decisions to be taken by the Government in order to empower the citizens.

The system we are in is a capitalist system where the economy is owned by a few and the capitalist mission and vision is not for social responsibility, it is for profit. Therefore, we cannot only quote the Namibian Constitution when it suits us. We have the Article dealing with the mode of the economy of Namibia and the mothers and fathers who wrote the Constitution realised that Namibia as a capitalist country was administered through apartheid and the mode of the economy was run on a capitalist basis and therefore, they brought in a mixed economy.

If we are talking of mixed economy, we must make sure that the Government must own property. The Government must own property... (Intervention)

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**HON T GURIRAB:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Now that the Honourable Member is talking about capitalism, I just want to know whether the Millennium Challenge Account is part of capitalism or whether it is empowerment.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Comrade Speaker, we wanted to take the Floor yesterday, but we were advised by the Speaker that the Debate was adjourned to the 23<sup>rd</sup> by Honourable Venaani and

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then you are going to hear how we pronounce ourselves, whether it is capitalist or whatever.

A question was asked to the Minister of Foreign Affairs by Honourable Venaani which was today answered by the Deputy Minister. That very patriotic question even came from the Opposition, because they saw that it is very important for a Government to own property. When that property is in the hands of the Government you do not have to pay as we are paying now. (Intervention)

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**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? I just wanted to know whether I heard clearly that the Honourable Deputy Minister says, “*a patriotic question even from the opposition.*” Is he insinuating that the opposition is not patriotic?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Yes, there are times you are not patriotic, in most cases, but we give due where it is needed. (Intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Deputy Minister, please do not create problems with the Speaker. Somebody who is unpatriotic to Namibia has no right to sit in this House. This is the National Assembly of the Republic of Namibia and the only people who are able to participate in electing their representatives to this House are Namibian citizens. Thus, every single Honourable Member in this House is here by virtue of having been elected by the Namibian people and our Constitution and political system that we have adopted provide for political pluralism. That is why we have the majority party and minority parties, but one is not more patriotic than others. There are other ways in which that difference manifests and that comes in policy differences. Otherwise, all the Honourable Members in this House, in the view of the Speaker, are patriots, they were elected by the Namibian people.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:**

Honourable Speaker, I am happy with your Ruling, I withdraw the word “*unpatriotism*”, but I thank Honourable Venaani for that question. In my contribution here I just want to enrich the Motion, that if we want to empower Namibian people, you cannot empower individually. You can give the Honourable Prime Minister a mine, but then you are empowering him as an individual and capitalism is based profit.

Therefore, we are saying if the Government owns property, it is owned by the Namibian Nation. I always used to say the Western countries call the African countries Third World countries... (Intervention)

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

On a Point of Order. May I ask my Colleague a question? Honourable Iilonga, I want to understand properly. When you have a farm, does that farm have to be for one hundred people or what do you want to tell us about the property belonging to somebody else?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** That is why I am saying, to give one farm to an individual will never help a 100 people, but if we could have farms owned by the State, then we can have our mode of economy, a mixed economy. We do not say Government must take their properties, but the Government must own properties where they can generate income to help the people, to empower the people, to make sure that when we say schools are free, then we mean it. However we cannot only rely on tax. The collection of tax also depends on the economy and depends on profit. (Intervention)

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**HON VENAANI:** The Honourable Member is moving on very dangerous economic turf. The question I want to pose to the Honourable Deputy Minister is that currently Government has access to resettlement farms, probably to the tune of over 100 or 200 million. Can you just tell us in monetary terms whether Government really got any return on its investment or is it just much worse off?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** I think your question should be put to the Line Ministry so that they can give you the background on what profits they get or whether they get nothing. Iilonga is not in a position to give that answer now.

I was saying that one thing we must realise is that the Western countries know us in Africa and what used to be referred to as the Third World countries as being good in the hundred metres, but when it comes to two thousand metres, we no longer have stamina. We easily forget that is the meaning. That is why we are saying that the only way to enrich and empower our people economically, is to make sure that when the Government buys farms, let us have those for resettlement and those for productivity.

I recall there was an argument that they sell their weaners to South Africa because there is no feedlot there. Some of the farms we bought could be used to grow fodder, just as we had it before Independence. At Mariental there was a heap of fodder as high as a church for the cattle. Where is it today? It is just bushy. We want to make our people also to feel proud like the Asian Tigers. They were just like us, but they changed their way of producing. They do not just rely on the private sector. If it is true what we were saying about the private sector, we would not even have a problem of unemployment in Namibia. We can however sing this song for the next 100 years to come if we follow this system. China is still a communist country... (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Deputy Minister a question? Honourable Deputy Minister, I was trying to listen to your nice presentation and I am getting more confused as you are speaking. Being a Minister responsible for running this country on the principle of this Constitution, are you now trying to tell us that you do not agree with what Government is doing according to the laws and the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia and you have your own thinking that you could have implemented or what is it that you are trying to say? Who is to be blamed in this process if the Government is pursuing a mixed economy based on the Constitution and can you as a Deputy Minister in the Government just explain what is your problem?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:**

Comrade Speaker, we are talking about a Motion on the economic empowerment of the Namibian people, Moved by Comrade Juliet Kavetuna. Therefore, these are the ingredients I am giving to us as lawmakers and I am giving examples of countries which were exactly like us. What we in this House need to do is to put a vision, a programme for future improvement in order to empower not only Tjihuiko, but also other Namibian people who find themselves without anything to eat. That is why I say one of the things we need to do in order to empower our people is to improve the process. The mode of the economy in our country is run on market demand and you cannot empower people that way. Honourable Tjihuiko, you and me passed a law here for the Government not even to have an income. What happened? Instead of the price of bread decreasing, they increased it or it remained where it was before it was zero-rated.

Therefore, we do not have a fair economic system and I advertise that the Government of the Republic of Namibia must also have land because a big part of the land is not in the Government's land. When we get land, let us earmark part of it for crop production and through that you will empower people, because they will have food, they will be in a position to employ people and they will be empowered to start even a small business.

When the Asian Tigers realised the economic crisis in 1994, go to Malaysia and Singapore today, the development there was not brought about by capitalists alone. The Governments and parastatals are the ones who have big plantations. Do we have that in Namibia? In the Green Scheme we are still giving projects to people who have farms in the Cape and they are derailing, they do not want the one in Cape Town to have more competitors.

I want to conclude by saying that empowerment of our people depends on our Government owning property. Only when the Government owns property on behalf of the Namibian people, can we develop parallel to the private sector. The Chinese, which is a communist country, they envy the way the capitalists are working, they have started crying now. I am not defending the issue of the milk, that one was not a State company, they were all arrested, because some people are saying it is because it is a communist country. No, food poisoning happens everywhere. Look where they are today, they are the fourth biggest economy and they can even plunge the US Dollar today if they want. (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? Honourable Deputy Minister, you are talking about the Chinese who do not own properties as individuals in China. The Chinese are now here under your Government, buying land, not chickens, buying land while we are watching. Are you trying to tell us and the people out there that it is only good for the Chinese to have whatever system, not to buy properties in their own country, but to buy land in Namibia, but not for Namibians to buy land because it will become counter-productive to your theory? Is that only bad if Namibians own properties, but the Chinese can come and buy more and more land in this country in an area where 60 to 70% of the Namibian population are living today?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Honourable Tjihuiko, if it were not for Rule 108 I could have quoted for you, but I will not do so because Rule 108 of the Standing Rules and Orders prohibits me to say my say, because I do not want to say anything about the law here. As I lawmaker I cannot do that. I only want to tell you that if we were to say today that no land will be bought by individuals here, you are the one who will first start fighting the Namibian Government. It is true that only in 3 countries in Southern Africa land can be bought that way, but what we know is that even those who ran away from Zimbabwe are in Mozambique and they are producing there, but the land is not theirs. The same with Zambia and Botswana, but only here things are different. It was only three countries, Namibia and South Africa and now Zimbabwe is out.

Therefore, I hope that you would speak to the Speaker one day and ask whether we can do something, but currently that is the reality that in Namibia anyone can buy land. The law on land makes it clear that any farm to be sold must first be offered to the Government. Those questions you could put to the relevant Ministry and you would get better answers than from Iilonga. Let us ask them how they are going to improve our country economically, because the capitalist system has never solved our problem. We talk and talk, but nothing happens.

When Gorbachev came to power in the former Soviet Union, they thought they were going to be in heaven and live in a country of milk and honey, but they came to realise that they are giving everything away. What happened when Yeltsin came? Yeltsin privatised and then Putin came and he started taking back again. (Intervention)

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**HON VENAANI:** May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? Honourable Deputy Minister, would you agree with me in your own personal opinion as a legislator that the party which leads this country's economic policy, according to your narration, is not going to take the people of this country out of poverty, therefore you need to amend your Economic Policy, as you are advocating, to have a better policy that would be able to solve our problems? Is that what you are advocating, implying that the Ruling Party at this point in time and the country is pursuing a policy that is not going to solve the problems of the country?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Our SWAPO Party Manifesto contains all I am saying, I am not coming up with something new. We have parastatals, we only need to ensure that they engage directly in productivity and avoid wasting. From there we will be in a position to empower our people. That is why we say we must defend our Government companies, we must not throw them to the wolves who pretend that they have come to help us with economic development and later they run away and leave us in a mess. Ramatex is an example. (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** May I again ask a question? Honourable Deputy Minister, you are saying that what is taking place now is based on the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto. That is the programme that the Government is implementing and a Member of the Ruling Party brought a Motion that calls for the people of Namibia must be empowered. Are you trying to tell us here that the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto has failed to address the issue of empowerment of the Namibian people to the extent that today you are standing here and discussing a Motion that wants this House to come up with an alternative to what is already in place?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Honourable Tjihuiko, I want to conclude, but you need to learn and understand the truth and the reality of the history of this country. Do not just try to put on the earphones to hear me, go beyond that

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earphone so that you know the issue we are discussing here is a reality which was caused by history. I am saying economic empowerment is a dynamic process and, therefore, we cannot expect to have everything within 19 years.

If you look at what the SWAPO Party Government did in trying to empower the Namibian people economically, then there is concrete proof. I can even take you to see the development brought about by the SWAPO Party Government.

Comrade Speaker, I know the intention of Tjihuike is to derail me from my conclusion, but let us empower the people, let the Government of the Republic of Namibia own property for the Government to support its state-owned companies and then also to guard against waste. The money must be used properly in order to generate something. You cannot depend on tax alone. We have already sacrificed millions but the private companies did not adhere to the request by the Honourable Members of this House and they just carry on because they say it is a free market economy. Therefore, we always need to be reminded and to be reminded by this very important Motion does not mean that we are not doing anything. It is a process.

Therefore, let us support this Motion and see how we are going to strengthen our economic arms, our State-Owned Enterprises, for the Government directly to own land and move parallel with our social partners, the private sector. People do not eat legislation, they do not eat politics, people need something in their stomachs. With those few words, I support the Motion.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Deputy Minister for his contribution. Honourable Kawana.

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I rise to contribute to the Motion tabled by Honourable Kavetuna and allow me to commend my Honourable dear Comrade for this very important Motion.

I will just maybe provide a footnote to yesterday's discussion as elucidated by the Right Honourable Prime Minister and Honourable Comrade Ilonga concerning

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empowerment and the perceived discrimination against a section of our society.

Honourable Speaker, one of the hallmarks of apartheid was job reservation. I have before me here a document that was tabled by Honourable Kaura and I see, according to the list in this document, that because of job reservation in those days blacks were not even allowed to paint a building. That was reserved for the white community in this country.

After scrutinising the occupations of the people who went into exile during the 60's, I see here their occupations were milk services, well digger, travellers' assistant, firewood seller, messenger. Maybe the only viable occupation here is the one that was acquired by none other than Honourable Dr Nickey Iyambo who was a surveyor assistant. We therefore have to analyse the situation today as historical, as the Right Honourable Prime Minister has said, as Honourable Comrade Ilonga has said.

I recall, Comrade Speaker, as the Right Honourable Prime Minister said, that one section of our community which was advantaged during the apartheid system, acquired property and this property, by virtue of succession, has been inherited even by those who were born after Independence and this is the situation that we have to rectify.

Let us take the example of Dr Toivo Ya Toivo, including my late father who was a sergeant during the Second World War. When they were demobilised, they were each given a bicycle. Their white compatriots were given free farms, the farms which today we are buying at exorbitant prices. That is a historical fact, we cannot turn a blind eye. We have to rectify that, it is very, very important, because now that land is very expensive and the Government is budgeting N\$50 million every year because of the willing seller, willing buyer concept. Some of that land was given free of charge and when those farms are bought, those properties remain within that family, while Dr Toivo Ya Toivo languished in prison for sixteen years with nothing.

My father was a sergeant during the Second World War, he just got a bicycle. Therefore, we cannot turn a blind eye on this injustice. What we are doing here is not discrimination, Honourable Tjihuiko, we are rectifying, within the letter and spirit of Article 23 of the Namibian Constitution and we are not violating Article 10 of the Constitution. This must be rectified!

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Honourable Speaker, as you may be aware, after Independence in 1990 our Government embarked on infrastructure development in this country and let's face it, let us go to the Tender Board and check the statistics who got those tenders to build the highways and even this Chamber. Who had the skills because of job reservation? Where did that money go? To the previously disadvantaged community – even after Independence and today we are told it is discrimination when we want to rectify this situation. We are spending billions and billions of Namibian Dollars on development projects, capital projects and up to today those previously disadvantaged are still struggling to acquire those skills which they were denied during the colonial period by legislation. Who is benefiting even today? Let us not cheat ourselves. And if you are a politician, let us tell the nation the truth.

Even today under the SWAPO Party Government those who are getting those millions are communities from the previously advantaged and we now have to rectify this situation and when we rectify this situation, we are not violating any provision of the Namibian Constitution.

Comrade Speaker, I want to agree with my Colleague, the Honourable Deputy Minister, that we will make a serious mistake to privatise public assets. Even today in the heartland of Capitalism, I see that the State machinery is being used to rescue capitalism from the Intensive Care Unit. Billions and billions are spent in North America, Western Europe to rescue capitalism. Let us now compare the scenario.

These countries have resources to do so. Supposing it was here in Namibia where private properties are largely in the hands of foreign domination, what could we do? If we are faced with what is now happening in Zimbabwe, what could we do? The State has no money.

That is why, let us not cheat ourselves if we privatise. Who are going to buy those assets? It is foreign buyers. These assets will largely end up in foreign hands. These assets will largely end up in the hands of those who were previously advantaged and what will be the meaning of our Independence? What would be the purpose of our sacrifice, our struggle to liberate this country? (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** On a Point of Information, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Minister, I think maybe we are looking at this issue from different angles. The Motion is requesting this House to debate on the economic empowerment of the Namibian people. What I know is that the current Namibian Government has since Independence done a lot to address the issue of empowerment. Programmes have put in place to empower the Namibian people. My understanding of the question is that we have to determine whether the programmes the Government has put in place have reached their intended targets. The farms that we have bought for resettlement purposes and our people who have been empowered to be resettled on those farms, have they reached the objective? My understanding of the question is, yes or no and if no, why not? Not the issue of what happened in China, what happened in Zimbabwe. Does Government have programmes? To me the answer is yes. Have those programmes been used effectively by our own people, by the black people like me, the people who have been put on the farms? The answer is no. The question is, what do we do to rectify that situation, not all these things that you are talking about – not the white, not the green, not the pink, it is whether the programmes that we have put in place are being implemented effectively. Let us address that issue and not the colours of the people. What we have been discussing are the people, the whites, but the whites are not the problem, the problem is whether we have done it the right way. That is it!

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, my Honourable Colleague is missing the point. That is why we in SWAPO are saying we know where we came from, we know where we are and we know where we are going, but NUDO and some of those Parties do not even know how they started. In order for us to know where we are coming from, we first have to understand the historical background and that is what I am telling you. This is the SWAPO way of doing things, that is why we are consistent and fair.

Comrade Speaker, we have indeed done a lot, but at the same time we in the SWAPO Party say we still have challenges. We have nothing to hide! Those people who are resettled have a challenge and we are telling that to our people all the time. They need to be resourced so that they come up with programmes to make the land productive and this is the second phase of empowerment. The first phase was to give land, the second phase is to make them productive and those projects

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are there. We know where we are going, we know where we are, we know where we came from.

Comrade Speaker, this Debate is more or less ideological, because it seems there are some of our Honourable Members who glorify capitalism, who hold the view that capitalism is the engine for economic growth. Some of us beg to differ. The State must play a central role for any country to develop. Let us take the example of the Global Positioning System (GPS) in America. Who financed that project? The military. Where did the money come from? Public assets, the National Budget of the United States of America. After that development it was rolled out and became private. When today Honourable Tjihuiko buys a GPS, he is boasting that this is the wonder of capitalism and yet that research was done with public money. Mobile phones, the same thing, the military in the United States of America, using public money developed cell phones. When today Honourable Tjihuiko sees a Motorola, he thinks that this is the wonder of capitalism, but the reality is different. Computers – I can mention a lot of things. That is why we in the SWAPO Party are saying the Government must play a central role, a leading role for this country to develop.

With these few words, Honourable Speaker, I support the Motion and I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Minister for his contribution.  
Honourable Moongo.

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**HON MOONGO:** Honourable Speaker, let me congratulate the Colleague who tabled this Motion, though it is a pity that her Colleagues does not understand the Motion. She realised that after 18 years in power the Party failed to empower the people of Namibia and this is a thorn in the flesh.

From my side I realised that SWAPO completely failed to empower the people and that is why we are having a lot of demonstrations and children camping at the Ministry of Veteran Affairs. What about those who were born after 18 years? Are they also going to camp there? The people are still squatting all over the place and that is a sign of lack of economic empowerment of the poor people. As long as the vendors are pushed around, as long as the shebeens are mushrooming,

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it is a sign of lack of economic empowerment of the poor people. Therefore SWAPO failed completely! (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS:** Honourable Speaker, apologies for interrupting the Honourable Member who also happens to be a Traditional Leader, but may I ask him a question? Honourable Vice-President of the DTA of Namibia, you had seven candidates in Omuthiya and you got five votes, what happened to the other two votes?

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**HON MOONGO:** As long as SWAPO is monopolising the political situation, there will be no economical power for other Parties. As long as SWAPO takes the biggest slice of the political funding, there will be no other Parties which can compete.

I remember that we regulated here in this House that diamonds are free to everybody, anybody can pick up a diamond and sell it. We regulated that, why was it not enforced? It is a monopoly. You condone exploitation, as long as the parastatals are becoming rich, as long as the elite, like you, have enough money. You have already been empowered, but the poor become poorer. This is now the situation.

I, therefore, salute the youth who will be good leaders in the future, better than these very outdated Honourables. (Laughter). (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, I want to know exactly which law is talking about distribution of diamonds to everybody, which Section in which law?

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**HON MOONGO:** We regulated here that if you pick up a diamond, you will not be arrested. The Minister who was supposed to implement it was reshuffled

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and now a new Minister comes in and no more free diamonds for the poor people and we still end up being arrested.

Article 95 of the Constitution says those who were disadvantaged by the previous dispensation should be uplifted and the indigent should be empowered. The law is there and in eighteen years you could not implement it, therefore this is the failure by the SWAPO Government and SWAPO Party. With these few words, I support the Motion.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I did not get the exact article, but the heading is “*Promotion of the Welfare of the People.*” Honourable Angula.

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker, I want to thank Honourable Kavetuna for this very interesting Motion on empowerment.

Empowerment has a variety of forms and it is, indeed, implied that somehow there is inequity in a given social system and organisation, thus the need for empowering those who have less power and empowering could be in the form of financial empowerment. It can be social empowerment, it can be other material empowerment, it can be, in the case of inequity of land ownership, empowerment in land ownership or distribution and/or intellectual empowerment or skills empowerment.

From the beginning of things, that is from the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 1990, SWAPO chose from all these various empowerments and modes to prioritise educational empowerment as a priority area and it would be recalled that until then there were eleven education systems in our country and one of the eleven education systems had all the power and means as opposed to the others which lacked financial support, intellectual support in terms of provision of teachers and infrastructure backlog. In that regard SWAPO decided that education, being the most important ammunition to empower individuals and the collective community of Namibia, should receive the largest share of the cake.

Within the education system, there are however also sub-variations and what was

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to receive the priority? The priority was to build more infrastructure, particularly in those areas previously neglected. Thus Government has spent a considerable amount of money, comparatively speaking to same size of economy on the African and other southern Regions of our beloved planet and the expenditure of infrastructure received the highest share. That, of course, has implications in terms of empowerment, in terms of skills, knowledge and/or quality education. We then encountered a situation whereby in the newly established schools with so many buildings and even water supply and other material supplies, the results were not according to our expectations.

On the other hand, there has been flooding to the previously advantaged schools. The number grew but there has been resistance from the professionals within the previously advantaged schools to absorb because of inability to handle the larger number of students they were not accustomed to and of course, they were not accustomed to handling different cultures and languages. That in itself became a serious challenges with obstacles being put in the way, some invisible, to keep the poorer children out of those schools so as to keep the good results of those schools. That equally has to be addressed.

The skills development was the most neglected and probably continues not receiving the appropriate attention, because internationally speaking, we have committed ourselves to the situation whereby there are target deadlines for all the children at a specific age to be at school. Therefore, there was a rush to empower the children, so that all the children are now at schools, but after going to school, what happened? That empowerment to enable them to have skills, enabling them to be absorbed in the marketplace became a serious challenge. That is why today the ETSIP programme, which is specifically to address this bottleneck in order to empower the people completing the different grades, particularly Grade 10 and Grade 12, so that they have a stream to go into to acquire skills.

Notwithstanding severe criticism from the public about the quality of education, we have achieved one important thing and that is quantitative data, enabling us to have 95% of all our children of school-going age to be in schools. What we should do now is to empower those children, so that when they complete elementary and senior secondary education, to be able to be absorbed in the market place. That is one form of empowerment which has received good attention.

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On the other hand, in terms of empowerment, in terms of accessing the natural resources, the leadership of SWAPO has also paid serious attention to the land issue. A very good amount of the Budget has been set aside to make sure that, within the provisions of the Constitution, land is transferred from the previously advantaged to the disadvantaged. The hitherto disadvantaged or the most powerless have the right to the land, but unfortunately they were not intellectually empowered to handle this newly acquired power of managing the land, but the critics are quick at criticising that we have spent money unwisely to acquire land for the landless without good economic results. I however think what we should bear in mind is that it is not practically possible to address all the challenges and issues on one day or one year, not even in five years, but for now we should be praising ourselves in the sense that substantial farmland, hitherto owned by the advantaged group, has been transferred to the most disadvantaged of yesteryears. The new challenge now is to impart skills to the newly empowered group to make sure they are able to successfully utilise the resources allocated to them.

The same goes for the fisheries sector, which I was honoured to establish. Our first task was to somehow find – even halfway, half a bread is better than nothing – equitable distribution of the rights to fisheries to our people. At the time when this Ministry was established all the fishing rights were owned by the previously advantaged group, but specifically with relation to the secret organisation, the Broederbond. There was hardly anyone who had a fishing right who did not belong to the Broederbond and who was not a major financier of the National Party. There were a few individual small-scale fishermen who had rights to crayfish, line-fish, particularly those of Portuguese or Greek origin and in some cases a few Namibians who knew how to fish, but all the major fishing rights for the major resources were confined to former Broederbond and associates in the National Party.

Of course, when we started this reform process, there was very strong resistance from the establishment. Nevertheless, armed with determination to bring change, we managed to put a regime in place where we would issue fishing rights to previously disadvantaged people in joint ventures or partnerships or as their own full right as a way of empowering the people. This, however, was also not without criticism. Basically the criticism came from the establishment. I remember at one time they even wanted me to appear in Court and they wanted the allocation of fishing rights to be moved from the Ministry to some Independent board, chaired by the Judiciary, but of course we resisted that. We continued to think that there must be direct empowerment.

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The weakness of the system emerged sooner than later, because the moment the fishing rights were really almost allocated. You found that the brothers and sisters were sitting here in Central Café by the time they were allocated the right and they were already calculating the profits to be made without even a boat, without even contracting somebody to fish. That is normal in a system where you have so much poverty and so many expectations, but the critics were very quick to say that the fishing rights were issued to people who have no capacity, neither capability to use them. However, it did not take a very long time before these people found partners.

As could be expected, these fishing rights are real goods, they are not imaginary. The consequence is that a number of people got the cash out of the fishing rights and some of them, because for the first time they are getting such a large amount of cash, even forgot to pay Caesar, the Receiver. The consequence was that they got indebted to the Receiver and they encountered problems. Others were able to transform this cash into other assets, like farmland and other enterprising activities. Unfortunately, in the case of the country where there is so much disparity, we have again attracted criticism, because there will be a difference between the one with money and the one without money. The ones with money built houses, bought Mercedes Benzes, some of them bought farms and those who did not have the fishing rights were saying, "*look at this new bourgeois.*"

However, whatever you give to a person, if the person really is in a position to use his intelligence, there will always be that difference between the one who has received and the one who mismanaged what he has received and the one who has not received anything at all.

In the mineral sector we were a bit slow, but as soon as the licensing started and the reform process started, that now mineral rights were issued to some of the compatriots, the problem of envy and jealousy started. Unfortunately this situation is such that it is not possible to give these rights to something faceless that can produce wealth, it has to be given to individuals, but as individuals we differ. Some understand things quickly, some are very slow to understand and the consequence is that those who have acquired mining licences, legitimately so under lawful authority, have become hated and a target for those who do not have.

The question now to be asked is, what has to be done? Are we proposing that instead of giving these rights to individuals, which is provided for in our

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Constitution, it must be given collectively and that the State must own the mines and because the State owns the mines, the State must invest and run the mines? Is that the preferable solution? Yes, many of those who have a socialist background will say yes, but unfortunately we will still be dealing with human beings. Those with quick minds and entrepreneurship will be the managers and they will still pay themselves ten times more than the Members of Parliament, because in real terms there must be someone managing the mine. It is not possible for the entire 1,8 million to run the mine, somehow someone must run the mines and we will have the same situation we have now, where earlier on we said Government is not in a position to manage a department and director, instead cut the bureaucracy short, let some of these departments be managed as if they were companies. The situation will come back to exactly the same where you are trying to avoid giving the right to an individual and saying, because this individual running this company now has all the power... (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Comrade Angula, when you were Minister of Fisheries, the very first one, did you not think it would be better to give those fishing quotas to institutions such as the National Youth Council or Regional Councils who could not have sold them, as opposed to individuals who sold them and became paupers overnight?

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** In theory that would be the preferable situation, but will it work in practical terms? Even if you allocate to the National Youth Service, it will not be the organisation in its abstract form that will run the business, it will still be an appointee of the organisation that will run the business and that person will set the rates and tariffs of the cost of their input and the consequence is that these people will pay themselves N\$1,6 million per year as opposed to you as a Minister receiving N\$300,000 per year. You will be back to square one. It is nice to say organisation, but there is no organisation which is abstract. Any organisation must still be led by an individual called a natural person and that natural person always has that instinct to better his own position, which you cannot prevent under all circumstances.

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The question is, if you want to enforce, like in some typical semi-communist systems, that an engineer must get only this amount and an architect must only get this amount, what you will find is stealing. If you say this engineer must only get this, he will find a way of not accounting for a quarter or half of the production. That is exactly what happened in the former Soviet Union where people became so knowledgeable and they were supposed to work for a collective effort, each according to his ability, and there was an exodus of all highly trained people to the United States of America, selling information, including critical nuclear information. When that happens it is a type of war, because the moment these people try to run away, they give information and then of course, the animosity will start between the Soviet Union and America and America will just say, *“all these people who are being discriminated are Jews and because they are Jews, the Soviet is now trying to do exactly what Hitler did.”* But not everybody who was a protester was a Jew, many of them were just intellectuals and who were fed-up being paid like an ordinary worker, when they must work day and night.

In Cuba they tried to rectify the Soviet system. They were not against the Soviet system by the way. They criticised the Soviet system because it was too rigid. What the Cubans then started to do in their own way of reform was to empower good workers, good professionals who produced more. If you reached a certain level of performance, they gave you a passport, they paid for your ticket and you could go to Mexico for one month with your wife, you can go to Moscow or Greece. It is your incentive bonus, but you can imagine what happened, all those who got this bonus are the most intelligent people and the other intelligence organisations are monitoring this. When the people are in Greece, they just come and offer free passports to the United States, full citizenship and a guaranteed amount of money. Then it culminated in such a way that at one time 350 000 wanted to jump into the water to go to the United States.

Do you think these people were leaving because they were being whipped? No, they were looking for this life that they think they are denied. He thinks if he is a scientist, if he goes to the United States, he will get a hundred times what he is getting and he will be free to travel through the world.

Even if you say mechanically I will put this, you will not be able to control for a long time that system. What you are producing now is competition and when you allow competition to take place, the result is disparity. The production, of course, will be improved as you go. I am sorry, I diverted because of this question.

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HON H ANGULA**

There is so much to talk about empowerment. The Government gave drought animals to poor farmers, we have been giving bulls to the marginalised communities, we have been giving cattle in the agricultural sector, water infrastructure. Many people are no longer drinking dirty water, they are drinking water from the boreholes. (Intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** The House shall adjourn now until Tuesday, 14:30.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 14:48 UNTIL 2008.10.14 AT 14:30**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER  
14 OCTOBER 2008  
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

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**TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL**

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

1. Bethanie Village Council for the Financial Years ended 31 March 2001 and 2002;
  2. Bethanie Village Council for the Financial Years ended 31 March 2003 and 2004, 2005; and
  3. Bethanie Village Council for the Financial Years ended 31 March 2006 and 2007.
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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Table the Reports. Further Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Honourable Viljoen.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS**

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON VILJOEN / HON MOONGO**

**QUESTION 92:**

**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 16 October 2008, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister or alternatively, the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development the following questions:

In the *New Era* of 25 September 2008, the Electoral Commission of Namibia published the information regarding the continuous registration of voters for the Omusati, Kavango, Erongo and Omaheke Regions for the period 13 October to 5 December 2008. In the light of efforts by stakeholders and the Electoral Commission to embark on an impartial and transparent process for the 2009 elections, why was this notice published only once and only in the *New Era*?

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**QUESTION 93:**

**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Lands and Resettlement the following question:

When farms are being advertised for resettlement, why is it only done once and only in the *New Era* and *Namibia Today*?

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Table the Questions, Honourable Member.  
Honourable Moongo.

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**QUESTION 94:**

**HON MOONGO:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 23 October 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs the following:

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

1. Is the Minister of Foreign Affairs aware that more than 45 Namibians are in prison in Angola in Ondjiva town. Since 29 August until September 2008 those people are being kept in different prisons and they are being tortured and starved in the National Department for Criminal Investigation
2. Is it true that more than thirty other Namibians are being detained at the Angolan Central Prison? No medical treatment, food and every day have to be tortured by the Angolan Police?
3. Is the Minister aware on 5 September 2008 the Angolan authority forced Namibian detainees to vote and they were told to vote for MPLA or otherwise they will never be released? Those who are in Ondjiva are Josef Hainghodi, Josef Kareko, Matheus Shaanika, Elisa Nghidengwa and Ndivayele Kapolo, Timotheus Udjombala, Shiinge, Domingus Wessels, Markus Hishono, Jafet Ndonkie, Haukongo Matheus, Kambode Levi Shoombe, Vatilifa Kandenge, Rauna Kleofas, including others who did not provide their names to me.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Table the Questions. Further Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Honourable Minister of Justice.

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker. I give Notice that on Tuesday, 21 August 2008, I shall Move –

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to amend the Prevention of Organised Crime Act of 2004, so as to construe any reference in that Act to the Criminal Procedure Act, 2004 and the Companies Act, 2004 as reference to Criminal Procedure Act of 1977 and the Companies Act of 1973, respectively; to provide for the reporting of suspicion regarding proceeds of unlawful activities to be made in terms of Section 21 of the Financial Intelligence Act of 2007; to provide

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS  
HON KAVARI / HON DR ANKAMA**

as a possible defence to any person who is charged with negligently committing an offence under Section 2(1), (2)(i), (ii) or (iii) or Section 4, 5 or 6, to raise the fact that he or she had reported a suspicion or knowledge in terms of Section 21 of the Financial Intelligence Act of 2007; and to provide for incidental matters. I so Move, Comrade Deputy Speaker.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Please table the Motion, Honourable Minister. Honourable Kavari.

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**HON KAVARI:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I give Notice that tomorrow, Wednesday 15 October 2008, I shall Move –

That this House debates the effect of shebeens and increasing alcohol abuse in our community and refer the Motion to the relevant Parliamentary Standing Committee for further study and public hearings and report back to this House for further consideration with a view of finding ways how to minimise its socio-economic impact. I so Move.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Please table the Motion. Honourable Ankama.

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**HON DR ANKAMA:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that tomorrow, Wednesday, 15 October 2008, I shall Move –

That this Assembly discusses (as a re-introduction of a Motion that lapsed last session) the seriousness of unemployed Namibians with professional training and qualifications obtained from recognised or credited educational institutions here in Namibia or abroad as well as the plight of those many Namibians we see unemployed day after day roaming our streets and villages and thus, after a serious discussion, this Motion be referred to the relevant Committee in order to seek public input thereon. I so Move, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON DR KAMWI**

**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Table the Motion, Honourable Member. Ministerial Statements? Honourable Dr Kamwi.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:  
TRADITIONAL HEALERS AND WITCHCRAFT**

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**HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. I rise to make a statement on the position of the Ministry of Health and Social Services regarding traditional healers and witchcraft practices in this country.

For quite some time now there have been numerous advertisements by some witchdoctors and traditional healers who come from some neighbouring countries claiming to cure, amongst others, HIV/AIDS, hypertension, impotency of men and making the poor rich. Also in reference to some media statements about the use of witchcraft to treat and/or cure people with different conditions, for example: *“There is an increase in the amount of women in the Namibian community who are resorting to cleansing for female parts or soaps to tighten female parts. These soaps and creams are usually prescribed by herbalists. What is my take on this?”*

I would like to express my Ministry’s position on these claims of witchdoctors. Before I pronounce the position of my Ministry on the issue, I would like to provide the Honourable Members and the Nation with some background information on traditional medicine and its use around the developing and developed world.

According to the World Health Organisation, traditional medicine encompasses *“health practices, approaches, knowledge and beliefs incorporating plants, animal and mineral-based medicines, spiritual therapies, manual techniques and exercises applied singularly or in combination to diagnose, treat and prevent illness for maintaining well-being.”*

Countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America use traditional medicine to help meet some of their health care needs. In Africa, up to 80 % of the population seeks traditional medicine practitioners as primary resort for health care. In

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON DR KAMWI**

industrialised countries, adaptations of traditional medicines are termed complementary or alternative medicine.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, traditional medicine has maintained its popularity in all Regions of the developing world, and at the same time its use is rapidly spreading in developed countries. Please allow me to cite a few examples to demonstrate this reality:

In China traditional herbal preparations account for 30 to 50% of the total medicine consumption.

In Ghana, Mali, Nigeria and Zambia the first line of treatment for 60% of children with high fever, resulting from malaria, is the use of herbal medicines.

The World Health Organisation estimates that in several African countries traditional birth attendance assist in the majority of births. In Europe, North America and other industrialised Regions, over 50% of the population have used complementary or alternative medicine at least once. In San Francisco, London and South Africa, 75% of people living with HIV/AIDS use traditional medicine. 70% of the population in Canada have used complementary medicine at least once. In Germany, 90% of the population have used a natural remedy at some point in their lives.

Between 1995 and 2000, the number of doctors who have undergone special training in natural remedy medicine had almost doubled to 10,800. In the United States, 158 million of the adult population use complementary medicines and according to the US Commission for Alternative and Complementary Medicines, US\$17 billion were spent on traditional remedies in 2000 alone. In the United Kingdom, annual expenditure on alternative medicines is US\$230 million. The global market for herbal medicines currently stands over US\$60 billion annually and is growing steadily.

However, I would like the Honourable Members and the Nation to take note that scientific evidence from well-controlled trials is only strong for uses of acupuncture, some herbal medicines and for some of the manual therapies. Therefore, research is needed to ascertain the usefulness and safety of several other practices and medicinal plants.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON DR KAMWI**

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, unregulated or inappropriate use of traditional medicines and practices can have negative or dangerous effects. For instance, the herb *Ma Huang (Ephedera)* is traditionally used in China to treat respiratory congestion. However, in the United States the same herb was marketed as a dietary aid whose over-dosage led to at least a dozen deaths, heart attacks and strokes. In Belgium at least 70 people required renal transplants or dialysis for interstitial fibrosis of the kidneys after taking a herbal preparation made from the wrong species of plant as slimming treatment.

Cognisant of the need to provide norms and regulations to guide this ever-growing field, the World Health Organisation launched its first comprehensive traditional medicine strategy in 2002. The World Health Organisation is supporting its member states to develop national policies on the evaluation and regulation of traditional medicine or complementary and alternative medicine extracts and create a stronger evidence based on the safety, usefulness and quality of the traditional medicine products and practices.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, Namibia is a Member State of the World Health Organisation. As such, my Ministry is closely working with relevant technical departments of the World Health Organisation, SADC Member States under the SADC Health Protocol, the People's Republic of China which has a wealth of experience in traditional medicine and other stakeholders to test fully and strategically address and regulate the use of traditional medicine in this country.

Allow me to cite some developments in Namibia:

The African Traditional Medicines Day was commemorated here in Windhoek this year for the first time with the participation of the Traditional Healers Association.

A focal person for traditional medicine has been appointed within the Division of Family Health Care.

Currently my Ministry is hard at work preparing a Traditional Medicines Bill which will be tabled in this Honourable House, all being equal, next year after we would have completed the consultations with the WHO and other stakeholders.

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**QUESTIONS ON MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON VILJOEN / HON ULENGA**

At present the traditional healers and their practices are not regulated in this country. Hence, my Ministry has little control over the current practices and products used by the traditional healers. However, we recognise the critical role of traditional medicines and practitioners in this country, and would like to stress that there is a difference between traditional practitioners and witchdoctors.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, my Ministry would like to categorically state that, we do not support the use of witchcraft for treating or preventing any health condition and that witchdoctors are not recognised in the Namibian health system. Persons should seek any assistance from recognised health practitioners for their health conditions and should thus visit any of our health facilities for advice they may require with regard to their health status. I would like to assure the Nation that as soon as the Bill comes into effect, my Ministry will standardise the use of traditional medicine in the country and protect the health safety of the Nation. I thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. I recognise Honourable Viljoen.

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**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, before I proceed, I wish to acknowledge the role of Honourable Dr Kamwi in the health sector of our country. During the past couple of weeks various people referred to the positive attitude and contribution of our Health Minister, especially the recent initiative leading to the Heart Unit in Namibia.

I wish to ask the Honourable Minister, can traditional healers register as healers in Namibia and through which body?

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I have told the Minister of Health and Social Services privately that he is my favourite Minister. He is my favourite Minister in the way that he genuinely looks into emergency situations and take serious and immediate steps, like he did recently in the Kavango Region. Without any further ado action is taken, unlike the majority of the Ministers of this Government.

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**QUESTIONS ON MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON TJIRIANGE**

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the statement, however, made by the Minister is leaving me with more questions than answers and I would, therefore, like the Minister to add complementary explanation so that this concept witchdoctor as different from traditional medicine practitioners become clearer. The Minister said that the two should not be confused and he does not recognise the one, but recognises the other. What is the difference between witchdoctors and traditional medicine practitioners and where would the Minister place seers, the people who see the future. Are they witchdoctors, are they practising a traditional profession or exactly where are they placed?

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Recently I read in the newspaper about someone who was abusing women, claiming to be a traditional healer and having powers to make them conceive. I think it was in the newspaper last week and in the process having sexual intercourse with them. I do not know whether these people are registered anywhere under any other pretext and if they are not, what remedy is there to protect our people against these kinds of vultures?

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**HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, first of all, I would like to thank the three Honourable Members who raised these pertinent interventions.

*Honourable Viljoen*, for now we do not register any of the two, be they witchdoctors or traditional healers. In my statement stated that we are hard at work on the Traditional Healers Bill which, all being equal, will be introduced in this Chamber next year. That is when we will come up with that body which will be decided by the Honourable Members of this Chamber as we would have proposed to you. As for now however, we do not have such an Institution.

*Honourable Ulenga*, witchdoctors are basically those who practice harmful effects with the intention to kill – the majority, not all of them. Theirs is practised in darkness and they are not recognised by the World Health Organisation. However, traditional healers use herbs which are medicinal, with a clear purpose of treating a condition and ailment and we have so many of them in this country.

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON MINISTERIAL  
STATEMENT  
HON DR KAMWI**

As for *Honourable Tjiriange*, this person committed sexual abuse of the highest order. Unfortunately we do not have an instrument, but as of now we have been appealing to my neighbour here, the Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration that the majority of these witchdoctors or traditional healers who are advertising are non-Namibians and we have been appealing to the colleagues to put mechanisms not to allow them to enter this country. She is agreeing here that they are working on that. Thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Minister, you left out one question, the one on the seer.

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**HON ULENGA:** Recently when my car was stolen I went to see somebody and I do not know where to place him, but the Minister will help me. This person told me that he had powers to trace the people who stole the vehicle. He also used some substances, herbs, that apparently were enhancing his capacity and the faculties that he used. Then the person told me that *these are the people who stole the car* and he said, "*the choice is yours, if you want me to do this or that to them, it is up to you.*" Are these amongst those that the Minister recognises as a traditional medicine practitioner, it is a witchdoctor or is it both and does the Minister intend to recognise those, because I understand in developed countries this practice is allowed and it is regulated.

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**HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Ulenga is putting us in a difficult situation. First of all, when he left here he must have known where he is going. Whether they are sorcerers, that is not too clear to us, but did you get your vehicle? We can only suspect that they can be sorcerers but I do not think it is a traditional healer. It could be a sorcerer or a fortune teller or a *sangoma*. There are several of them and it is very difficult to say.

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**MOTION ON WAR VETERANS FROM BOTSWANA  
HON KAURA**

**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. The first Notice of Motion is by Honourable Kaura. Who seconds the Motion? Any objection? Agreed to. Honourable Kaura has the Floor.

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**MOTION ON WAR VETERANS FROM BOTSWANA**

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**HON KAURA:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. I was going to motivate this Motion on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October when the House did not have a quorum and the result was that I could not motivate this on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October, but I was going to remind this Honourable House on that infamous day, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October on which Lothar Von Trotha stood on an anthill and gave the extermination order of the Herero men, women and children, armed or unarmed. I consulted with the Speaker to ask for a minute of silence and he concurred.

However, even though it did not happen, another tragedy struck in the meantime. A grandson of Samuel Maharero passed away in Botswana, he would be buried this coming Saturday. Samuel Maharero was the leader of the Ovaherero in the Diaspora, this grandson, and a recognised member of the Botswana House of Chiefs. I would, therefore, like to request the Deputy Speaker for a minute of silence in memory of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October and the passing away of the grandson of King Samuel Maharero. Honourable Deputy Speaker, I leave that to your discretion.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** We will rise and give respect to our Colleague who passed away.

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**THE HOUSE OBSERVES A MINUTE OF SILENCE.**

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**HON KAURA:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. We are here to serve the collective interest of the people

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**MOTION ON WAR VETERANS FROM BOTSWANA  
HON KAURA**

of Namibia and it is our duty and responsibility as minority parties to exercise our oversight function with diligence and consistency, as we have done for the past eighteen years.

The War Veterans Bill was passed through this House to address the burning issue of the PLAN fighters war veterans. We all supported the Bill unreservedly, however in the implementation of the Bill we found it pigeonholed. The group of war veterans that were sent out by Chief Hosea Kutako, as he did with His Excellency President Nujoma, Father of the Nation and the late Advocate Fanuel Kozonguizi, are left out and are not benefiting from the War Veterans Bill as is the case with the PLAN fighters.

You will find most of the names on the list presented to you and I want to point out the absence or obliteration of the names on numbers 1, 2 and 3. The name of Honourable Chief Riruako is conspicuously absent from the list as we received it from the Registrar's office with compliments of the Magistrates' Commissioner for Bechuanaland Protectorate, but Honourable Chief Riruako was part of the group and most probably his name is number 1, 2 or 3. We are trying to ascertain the other names from the authorities.

Honourable Members, in this document compiled on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April 1964 by the Registrar's office with compliments of the Magistrates' Commissioner for Bechuanaland Protectorate, 168 names appear on the list. It is stated that the majority of the names were offered UN scholarships and wanted to study in Liberia and Ethiopia. Those who were sent out by the Chief Hosea Kutako had no political affiliation because NUDO was not yet founded, except those who were members of SWAPO, such as Honourable Minister Dr Nicky Iyambo or those that were members of SWANU, such as Rebecca Murangi, or Mrs Katjuongua today.

The following is stated at number 167, Nicky Iyambo: "*Hold SWAPO membership card and a certificate signed by J Otto. Admits he has no definite offer of a scholarship, wishes to become a doctor and proceed to Germany via Tanganyika. Immigration declaration is endorsed as educational refugee.*" He accomplished his mission.

Honourable Members, by the time Honourable Iyambo made that declaration, I was already in Tanganyika together with Dr Tjiriange, because I arrived in March in Tanganyika together with Dr Tjiriange. We all had two intentions in mind, to

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HON DR TJIRIANGE**

study and to go for military training, but we did not divulge the military training part, we all said we are going to study.

The 154 that were sent out by Chief Hosea Kutako had one intention and that was military training. However, this secret was divulged to the British authority and they did everything possible to confine them to the area of Omakunda in Botswana. A small number succeeded to proceed further north and got their military training at the Haile Selassi Military Academy in Ethiopia and some in Somalia. The rest were confined to the area of Omakunda for the next fifteen years and a few are settled in Omakunda up to today. Those who came back to Namibia to start their lives from scratch to try and eke out a living in Namibia have sacrificed more than 15 years of their productive lives.

Therefore, in view of the fact that we have a Veterans Bill, which is assisting those who lost their productive years in the struggle for Namibia, I feel they must also be considered under the War Veterans Bill and receive N\$2,000 per month with all the other veterans. I believe this request is not far-fetched and I hope it will enjoy the full support of this august House. Thank you very much.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Tjiriange.

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker. I stood just to give a short reaction on the Motion by Honourable Kaura. I would like to say that the Veterans Act, which was passed by this Parliament is very, very clear on the definition as to who a veteran is and it does not in any way imply that you must be a member of SWAPO or another political organisation in order to qualify as a veteran as defined in the Act passed by this Parliament.

The impression which is created in this Motion is as if all the PLAN fighters are the ones who are getting N\$2,000 per month. It is far from true. The people who are referred to in this Motion have all the right to be registered if they feel they are veterans as per the definition of the Act and they can go through the ordinary procedures that are provided for in the Act. We have verification mechanisms, we have the Board and at the end of the day the Board will decide whether they

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HON NUJOMA**

are veterans or not according to the definition of the Act. Anyone of us here have to go through that process, no matter whether you are SWAPO or whatever party, that is not the criteria.

Therefore, if these people qualify, then they would be given their cards as veterans. It is not automatic that when you are given the card you will get the N\$2,000. The N\$2,000 is only available to a certain category of veterans. Those are the people who are under a certain income threshold and right now I think it is N\$36,000 per year. If you earn lower than that, you may get this N\$2,000. If you earn above that, you will not get it. Therefore, we do not know whether among these 150 people there are those who get below or above the N\$36,000. There are even PLAN fighters who may not qualify, including ourselves. All those cannot qualify to get this N\$2,000. It is not automatic that because you were in PLAN you have to get this money and you do not have to be a member of PLAN or any other body to get this money, as long as you have been accepted as a veteran and you are below that threshold.

Therefore, these people should just apply like anybody else, the Board will determine, they will get their cards and those who qualify who receive the N\$2,000 will receive it irrespective whether they were PLAN or not. This insinuation as if the PLAN fighters are the only ones getting that is disturbing me. I thought I should explain that.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40**

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

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I call on Honourable Nujoma.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Thank you for the Floor, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I also wanted to comment a little bit on the Motion introduced by Honourable Kaura and I wanted to give some brotherly advice to my uncle that it is always good practice not to change a law by way of a Motion. There are procedures to be followed and you know them very well. As you have mentioned, you have been a lawmaker

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HON T GURIRAB**

for the past 18 years and I am sure you know the procedures.

Secondly, I wholeheartedly agree with Honourable Tjiriange and I want to say that the Act does not discriminate at all. It does not discriminate against any veteran. The Act is very clear that those who have contributed to the liberation struggle and those who have consistently and persistently fought for the liberation of this country are entitled. Honourable Kaura passed this Bill and it is very clear that the Act gives the sole authority and the mandate to the Board. The Board has the discretion and anybody who thinks he has fought for the liberation of the country has to meet certain criteria and requirements. I will urge the Members here not to indulge in further discussion of this Motion. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** May I ask the Son of the Nation a question? Are you aware that a group of people who were sent by Hosea Kutako came back to Namibia to join the South African Forces and we are calling those people the South African soldiers because they came back to join the enemy.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** There is no mention in the Bill about those who wavered, so the Bill is very clear on that. Those are some of the criteria which determine who are veterans and one of the requirements is that you should not have wavered, you should have participated consistently and persistently. That is the critical aspect of the Bill and that is why I want to urge Honourable Kaura that he does not need to fear, but to tell his colleagues to go to the Ministry of Veterans Affairs and register themselves and those who meet the criteria will get their N\$2,000. Thank you very much.

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**HON T GURIRAB:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I too will be brief. On the face of the Motion, it would appear that the 154 compatriots, one of whom we are told is in the Chamber, would qualify as veterans. Talking about qualification, Honourable Deputy Speaker, during the tea-break I went to my office to get a copy of the Act and I would like to read the definition of a veteran. It reads:

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“A veteran means any person who –

- (a) was a member of the liberation forces;
- (b) consistently and persistently participated or engaged in any political, diplomatic or underground activity in furtherance of the liberation struggle;
- (c) owing to his/her participation in the liberation struggle was convicted, whether in Namibia or elsewhere, of any offence closely connected to the struggle and sentenced to imprisonment.”

That is the Act that this Honourable House has passed and I think as lawmakers it is incumbent upon us to explain this outside this Chamber and promote this outside and ask all and sundry ... (Intervention)

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** May I pose a short question to you? Honourable Gurirab, are you sure that Honourable Kaura is not aware of those definitions? Do you not think that this Motion is basically a campaign Motion, someone trying to buy the hearts and minds of certain communities? Are you sure that is not the case and this has nothing to do with the welfare of those people, but it is welfare of a politician who is trying to get support from somewhere?

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**HON T GURIRAB:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I believe Honourable Kaura will have an opportunity at the end of the Debate to respond to our contributions. But what I am saying is that all of us agreed... (Intervention)

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**HON KAURA:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question for clarity? Honourable Member, do you not think the Right Honourable Prime Minister is sometimes inebriated by the exuberance of his own verbosity?

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HON MOONGO**

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** May I ask Honourable Gurirab a small question? Honourable Tsudao Gurirab, do you not think that Honourable Kaura is suffering from arena bias?

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**HON T GURIRAB:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I believe the Honourable Kaura will have an opportunity at the end of the Debate to respond to questions. I think we all should encourage those who meet the qualifications, in terms of the definition, to register.

I have been told that during the implementation of what is called the mass registration process some people who meet this definition have encountered problems in registering and have been turned away. I privately discussed with the Minister of Veterans Affairs who was kind enough to ask that I provide him with the names, which I am in the process of gathering. I however think all of us should go out, promote the Act, encourage those who qualify in terms of the Act to register.

As I was saying, in terms of the definition it would appear that these 154 qualify and I think we should encourage them to do so. I support the Motion.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Honourable Moongo.

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**HON MOONGO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. The Veterans Bill is discriminating against people, as those who were detained do not qualify and they made a massive contribution to the liberation. Those detained were detained against their will, not that they committed any crime.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Come to the Motion, we want to talk about these 154 people, not detention.

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HON MOONGO**

**HON MOONGO:** But it is veterans. (Intervention)

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**HON DR ANKAMA:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, may I ask Honourable Moongo a question? Honourable Moongo, Honourable Kaura is very close to you, did you hear he said anybody was sort of referred back or why could the other people not be registered?

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**HON MOONGO:** I am saying the Act itself is discriminating against those who did not stay up to the end, because the words "*persistently and constantly*" does not mean even those who were detained against their will. They did not commit any crime, you do not have any proof in a Court of Law that those people committed a crime.

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** On a Point of Order. Honourable Deputy Speaker, could I perhaps be helped by the Chair? Honourable Moongo is saying that the Law is wrong. That Law was passed in this House and he is a participant to that Bill until the point that it becomes a law. Will it be appropriate for an Honourable Member in the same House where the law was passed now to insinuate that the law is a wrong law? Is it correct?

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It is not correct, Honourable Minister. I told the Honourable Member that he should stick to the Motion. We are talking about the 154 persons and it is no more a Bill, it is a law. Honourable Member, please stick to the Motion.

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**HON MOONGO:** I would like to say that this law is supposed to be a fair law... (Intervention)

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HON MOONGO**

**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** On a Point of Information. It is regrettable that an Honourable Member of this Honourable House has to go so low to distort the facts on the ground. Honourable Tsudao Gurirab came and said that there were some difficulties and I said, go back, please tell me where these difficulties were. He himself has said he is working on that. I do not deny the fact that there were some difficulties within the registration process. It is the first one, we are learning from the mistakes, that is what I said when I was talking here. In the process we are improving. For the Member to however say that the Law which was passed by this House is discriminating and the Board has not yet met and disqualified those people that he is talking about and no way can he stand up and say that they were chased away during the registration and then the forms have not even reached the Board, where did he get that information from? It is not fair?

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, I rule you Out of Order. Stick to the Motion. We cannot pass a law which discriminates.

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**HON MOONGO:** Other colleagues and I who were detained illegally by SWAPO, who did not stay up to the end against our will, went to the registration and were ordered to go back. Therefore, if we were commanders in the liberation, why are we forced to go back and we contributed to the liberation? This is an insult to our history! I, therefore, say that this Act is only supposed to attend to the welfare, but there should be another law for those who contributed during the liberation struggle and everybody is supposed to qualify and those who were detained against their will should benefit from the law. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Moongo, we listened to the Minister when he said the only body which can disqualify anybody is the Board. Those who sent you away were not supposed to do that. Let me give the Floor to the Right Honourable Prime Minister.

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HON DR N IYAMBO**

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** May I ask Honourable Moongo a question? Honourable Moongo, you are saying that you made an enormous contribution to the struggle and you were detained against your will. Can you recall that when some people came abroad, they went there to overhaul the liberation movement and when they failed to do that in the process, their mission was aborted and they got themselves into trouble. Do you remember that?

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**HON MOONGO:** During the liberation struggle some of us who were commanders were members of PLAN and those on the diplomatic and political fronts were not regarded as PLAN fighters and they were not even included during that time. Now you are disqualifying those who were at the front and it is unfair. I, therefore, say that those who participated in the liberation should be recognised because they made the struggle to be successful and this law only caters for the welfare of those earning a little money. We need a law which caters for every person who participated in the liberation, who went into exile and contributed to the true liberation and not a Welfare Veteran Act.

I, therefore, appeal to the Minister if possible to come up with a national law which could cater for everybody. With this, I thank you very much.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I call on Honourable Minister Nicky Iyambo.

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. I will be very brief and only seek clarification.

Of course, I have sympathy with those Namibians being referred to here as you know I was part and parcel of those Namibians referred to here. Although we went at different times, we found ourselves at the same place, Makunda, in the then Bechuanaland, which was a Protectorate then. While there is sympathy from my side, the Motion seems to be missing the point because it wants this House to consider the people concerned and incorporate them in the same number of people that are being considered as veterans and, therefore, to benefit from the

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HON DR N IYAMBO**

amount being mentioned. But this House cannot make a decision that will be binding on the law that we have already passed, unless the law comes back here to be amended.

My understanding is that everybody who have contributed to the liberation struggle of this country, should simply go and register. I myself am on my way to do so. Whatever the outcome will be, I will wait and I think that is what everybody should do, not for this House to decide on a particular group of people to be considered. Their history is there, the path is there that they have travelled through and what they have done and then at the end of the day, the Board will have to sit and decide on those who are qualified. To come here and say, *let us have a particular group of people that should be considered already to be the ones to benefit*, I do not think that is correct, Honourable Kaura, because then we are short-circuiting the process.

The Minister has explained that nobody is excluded and everybody is supposed to go and register. If there are those people registering people who are refusing certain people to be registered, that is a different matter that has to be dealt with. But in this case it is clear, you say they must be beneficiaries. But if they turned up not to be registered, that is a legitimate case and it has to be taken up for them to be registered and not to decide beforehand that they are recipients of the Veteran Fund. That is my understanding. They must be registered first. (Interjection)

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**HON MEMBER:** They have been there, they have been rejected.

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** I thought we are all speaking English here, Deputy Speaker. We are saying if they have been refused to be registered, that is not correct and therefore, that has to be corrected – full stop. Not by this House, by the way. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** On a Point of Information. I would like to emphasise the fact that the form that was being used by the teams is

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a thick one with many questions in order to avoid that people who are pretending to be veterans to come in like crooks. Some people – and I am not saying this group – but many people were refusing to answer some questions because they thought those questions are going to reveal what they are and because of that refusal and because everything on that form must be filled in, they were sent back. You have to answer from the first to the last question. Even some of the PLAN members were saying, “*do you not remember me?*” They said, “*that is not the criteria, fill in the form.*”

Therefore, if you are asked, “*did you consistently and persistently contribute to the struggle*” and you know that in the meantime you joined the Boers, it is of your own making. Yes, you were here, doing what? (Interjection)

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, we are senior Members of Parliament and I think we know how to behave and to conduct business. Honourable Members, do not resort to insults. If an Honourable Member has the Floor, you can speak through that Member, but withdraw the word “*lies*”. Withdraw the word.

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**HON MOONGO:** Is it true that I joined the South Africans? I did not!

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**HON MEMBER:** Did you not come and join the South Africans?

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, he did not mention somebody’s name. If he said Honourable Kaura joined the Boers, I could understand. Honourable Member, withdraw the word “*lies*” because we are encouraging the youth to use the word “*lies*”.

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**HON MOONGO:** No, then it means I joined South Africa. I did not join

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South Africa.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** But we cannot use the word “*lies*” here. Withdraw the word, Honourable Member.

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**HON MOONGO:** I withdraw.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Anybody who has a question has to go through Iyambo, not directly.

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** I thought even if I disagree with Honourable Moongo he should respect the age. Honourable Members, all that I am saying here is that for us to be able to understand one another and do justice to the Motion in front of the House, the Motion is saying there is this group of Namibians and please, without any other question, let them benefit from the Veteran Fund to get the N\$2,000. We are saying it cannot be done that way. Let these Honourable Namibians just go through the process like everybody else. If they have been refused to be registered, as Honourable Tjiriange has explained that there are certain questions that people do not want to answer, it is for us to advise our people, our citizens to please answer those questions. If you do not have anything to answer, say you do not know, but answer. How could the form be forwarded to the Board if the form is incomplete?

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**HON KAURA:** If you are sent away before you have even started filling in the forms, how do you qualify that the person could not answer certain questions? These people were sent away before they have even filled in the forms. Those that Honourable Tjiriange is talking about is not the truth, because these people were sent away on face value, without having filled in the forms.

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** I would then like to say this: Then let the Motion speak to that, the Motion is simply saying, take them. If that is the problem, put the Motion that way, then we can maybe debate it that way, that there are people who have been refused to register on face value, then it is a different thing. However here you are saying, please allow those people to get the N\$2,000. Honourable Kaura, we can also read what is on this paper, and we do not want to appear to be saying that there are certain Namibians who on face value are not worth it. (Interjection).

Honourable Kaura, through the Honourable Deputy Speaker, honestly speaking, please go and reformulate your Motion. Otherwise what you are saying now and what is on the paper does not tally, as far as I am concerned. I have sympathy with the people that we are talking about because I lived with them and I also know a lot of people who misled them to be in the situation where they found themselves that time, and you know what I know as well.

Let us do everything possible to help our people and not do it in a zigzag way. That will not help us at all. Politicking is not what we should play here because some of our people are in dire need of assistance and I think we should work accordingly and not to spoil their cases even before it is heard. Thank you very much.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Colleagues, I think the Motion is so good if we take in a mature way. Let us take it in a mature way, that is my only advice. Honourable Mbumba.

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**HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I would like to make my humble contribution by saying that we have the honour that some of our Traditional Leaders did utilise their high positions and authority to help young Namibians in the sixties, seventies and eighties from all language groups to go into exile for the purpose of studying, fighting for the liberation of Namibia and the promotion of Namibia's Independence by any means necessary. That we appreciate very much.

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**MOTION ON WAR VETERANS FROM BOTSWANA  
HON MBUMBA**

Honourable Kaura, this 154 names you have given us are definitely our compatriots, our exile mates, but there is one problem and that problem is that we only know that they were instructed by Chief Hosea Kutako to go into exile for military training, that one you have told us, and to come back and liberate Namibia. That one you said. However, after exiting Namibia nothing is said, everything is blank, where they ended up, except this place you mentioned, Makunda. Nothing else is said about what they studied, did they really achieve the aim of training militarily. Were they at any stage in their lives really part of a military unit preparing to enter Namibia to gather information, to do sabotage, to do anything? All those things are blank. We do not know anything about the period they spent outside, we do not know how they came back. We really do not even know whether all of them are alive. Are they here, are some of them in Botswana, Zambia, Tanzania, unmarried, married, poor, rich, having cattle, not having anything and therefore, I would like to remind my New York friend, Honourable Kaura, had you and I and others who were there decided to stay, had I decided to stay in New York and showed up 18 years after Namibian Independence, would you consider me a veteran of the war of national Independence in Namibia?

We have colleagues Brian Bassingwaighe, Ben Shipanga, Noah Nujoma, Phillemon Shivute Sylvanus, if they show up today and say "*we are veterans of the war of national Independence*", will you send them to Honourable Tjiriange to register, get their card and get N\$2,000 because they have contributed?

These are the issues we must iron out. There is no discrimination because those chiefs who sent them out to go, come back and liberate Namibia? (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** May I ask the Honourable Minister a question, please? Honourable Minister, I also want to be part of the Debate. The people that you have mentioned, who are they? Why are they special? The way you mention them gives the impression that these are the people who are Namibians but they cannot be regarded as veterans. What have they done? Is there something that we need to know?

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HON MBUMBA**

**HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION:** You must know in the context I was talking about somebody who was with me in the seventies in New York City, Honourable Kaura. By then I do not know whether you were yet in London or not. I want to mention names of people he knows and I know. These are names of people who were part of us, who were academically and otherwise qualified but chose to stay put, did not participate in the struggle the way we understand it and are still there.

I am now asking, if they show up, having earned their salaries and whatever they were doing, and now say, "*Dr Tjiriange, I am a veteran of the war*", will Honourable Kaura take them to Honourable Tjiriange to register them? Will he feel happy that these people are earning this money 18 years after Independence? (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Just a question. Honourable Mbumba, now that you have mentioned some of the names, in particular Brian Bassingwaighe, are you aware of the fact that Brian Bassingwaighe was the first Secretary General of SWAPO who actually signed my membership card and if he comes today, I will not give him that status?

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**HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION:** Thank you very much, Honourable Tjiriange, for clarifying my point. (Intervention)

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**HON KAURA:** Honourable Mbumba, I am talking of Joseph Karuaihe, Rapanda Kaura, Muvi Tjiho, Elifas Kasubel and so forth, Tjamuaha that trained at the Haile Selassie Military Academy. Joseph Karuaihe and Rapanda Kaura were imprisoned in Tanzania because they did not want to join SWAPO.

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am glad that at least Honourable Kaura continues to be willing to give more information and if that is the issue of the dip between SWANU and SWAPO in

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Tanzania, that is a different issue. It is not an issue of being a veteran. Even after that prison of Tanzania, what did they do? How many people were imprisoned all the way from Ongulumbashe, the Ya Toivo's and others, some of them here? Even after prison they continued the underground work, the union work and that is the record we want so that there is no confusion as to the persistent and consistent promotion of Namibia's Independence. If that is clear, the doors are open. If there is something else, let the Ministry be the one, but we cannot be registering people in the National Assembly of the Republic of Namibia. That will set a definite and dangerous precedence and I thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Any further discussion? Does the Honourable Member wish to reply?

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**HON KAURA:** I Move that the Debate be adjourned until Tuesday, next week.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The second Notice of Motion is the one of Honourable Tjihuiiko. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion? Who seconds? Any objections? Agreed to.

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**MOTION ON OLD-AGE PENSIONERS**

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. After this hot Debate it really puts one in a very difficult situation. I am going to motivate the Motion to discuss and consider the unacceptable economic and social conditions under which our old-age pensioners are living at present and I will try to stick to that.

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HON TJIHUIKO**

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the proud liberation history of this country was made by men and women of the Land of the Brave, people who are still walking down Independence Avenue on a daily basis and search for a livelihood. Some of them are at old-aged houses, counting the last days of their lives on empty stomachs.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the people that I am talking about are the founding fathers and mothers of the liberation struggle, the people who were providing shelter and food to our freedom fighters, who faced the Casspirs and Koevoets on a daily basis, the people who have sustained the freedom struggle inside the country, the people who stood shoulder to shoulder with those who were honoured by street names, the heroes and heroines of our liberation struggle.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I sincerely appreciate Government's efforts in addressing the burning issues in our country. For instance, since Independence, Government put a lot of effort and money in addressing the plight of ex-PLAN fighters. Seventeen years after Independence a fully-fledged Ministry was established to further the interests of the main veterans of the liberation struggle. Secondly, Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister is engaged in an effort to address the plight of the most marginalised section of our community, an effort which, apart from negative perceptions from a certain section of our community, which I personally thought it to be a good cause but this effort has some rough corners that need to be properly panel-beaten, but yes, Honourable Deputy Speaker, everything being equal, it is indeed a good cause.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, my concern and the concern that this Motion seeks this House to address is the missing link, the link between those who are known to us, who are positively identified and registered for the N\$2,000 per month and those who are still in gainful employment, earning salaries.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, there is a missing link between these. If one looks at the Motion Honourable Kaura has put on the Table that was disputed so much, it is a fact that it is not possible that all of them have not contributed to the liberation struggle.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2006, I put a question to the Right Honourable Prime Minister, trying to enquire what happened on the 10 December 1959, and who were the people who were there and what happened to them. The Right Honourable Prime Minister provided a list of these people. I do not want to talk

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about the deceased, let me talk about the living ones:

Plus minus 42 names are on this list provided by the Right Honourable Prime Minister. I am not sure whether these people will qualify or had qualified to be regarded as veterans and, therefore, this is the missing link. The people who could not be registered either way, these are the people I am talking about.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, my concern and the concern that this Motion seeks this House to address is the missing link, the link between those who are known to us, positively identified and registered for N\$2,000 and the ones that I have just mentioned. The people that I am begging you to seriously consider is the N\$470 per month, the pensioners. The concern is that the old-aged people who are about to receive the N\$2,000 are sharing the same dormitories with those who are receiving N\$470 per month.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I remember clearly how we black Namibians felt at Independence when white and coloured pensioners were receiving more than the black pensioners. We were up in arms, it hurt by then and it will also hurt by now.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, after the 1959 Old Location, who was not affected? Especially those people who are at the age of pensioners, who were not affected during that time? Can we positively identify them? These are the people that I beg this House to consider. The living conditions of a person (interjection). If your mother were one of them you would have considered seriously. The living conditions of a person I am sharing a room with will improve by N\$1,550, the people I am sharing my last days with and I remain at the same level.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, what is the message that we are sending to the elders, people who are sharing all the concerns together, people who were together during that harsh time and the one is getting N\$2,000, the other one is getting N\$450.

When we propose an increase in the old-age pension, you will hear the old song: There is no money, but when Cabinet or Government decided on the N\$2,000, Honourable Deputy Speaker, that was done before we knew the number of beneficiaries. Before we knew the number of beneficiaries, Cabinet at one decided that these people are going to get N\$2,000, irrespective of the number of those people. That means that money is not a problem and that is going to be a

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problem when it comes to those who have not qualified to be registered as veterans. Therefore, the question of money is not an issue, it is a question of us considering our old-age pensioners seriously.

When it comes to an increase from the current N\$450, I would suggest that this House should seriously consider adjusting the current N\$450 per month to an acceptable level. I do not want to put a figure, saying N\$700 or N\$500 or whatever, because as far as I know, it is only those who know that the number for the N\$2,000 does not matter. As far as I am concerned, let us look at a reasonable increase, but this should not be less than N\$500 per month.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, let me conclude by appealing to your conscience, Honourable Members, to approve this Motion without any delay so as to allow the Honourable Minister of Finance to budget for the adjustment in good time so that we cannot have an excuse that the Motion has come too late. I sincerely hope that you will take this Motion very seriously and support it. I thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I recognise Honourable Katali.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I am going to give my brief contribution to the Motion by Honourable Tjihuike, but before I do so I would like to ask a question: What is wrong with some of the Members of this House, what is wrong? I think there is a need for us to answer that question. We just had a Motion brought here by Honourable Kaura which speaks about something else than what is required of the House to do and I am seeing the same trend again. Honourable Tjihuike has a Motion on the Order Paper, but when he motivates, he speaks about something else, because this Motion is talking about old-age pensioners and to me this is in general, but when he motivates, he is talking of the people who were present on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 1959. I think it is so wrong.

You are talking about the people that laid the foundation for us to be enjoying the Independence that we are enjoying today. They are the people who laid the foundation for the struggle for liberation and now we are discussing them in the

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House as if they are just the laughing stock. I think it is unique in Africa that this Government is looking after its pensioners. (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** On a Point of Information, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I think we should also grow up. The Motion is addressing a specific issue and any in any contribution you give examples and if somebody could not even see the people that we are referring to, the people who have contributed to the liberation struggle are there. I used one or two examples. Why are they so irritated when one mentions certain events? Those events are part of our history, whether you like it or not. It is part of our history and it will remain part of our history and if you want to swipe it under the carpet, we are not going to sit back and watch it being swiped under the carpet. You have been using a lot of examples in your contribution to the liberation struggle, using examples of Cassinga. Why should you be irritated by 1959? Why is one example irritating you so much? That is tribalism and if you want to go down to that, we also know how to go there.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, if you have moved a Motion, you should wait for your response to answer those questions put to you.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** This Government all along had sympathy for the people that we call the old-age pensioners and consistently and persistently this Government has been looking at and reviewing the pension payout that they are receiving. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Comrade Katali, Honourable Tjihuiiko talked about tribalism. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of December all language groups in Katutura, except Windhoek proper, the whites, took part. Now where does apartheid and tribalism come in? All language groups took part on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December. Is everything the Honourable Member sees is just tribalism?

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

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I do not really want to fall into the trap of Honourable Tjihuiko by mentioning tribalism just to try to divert me from the real issue which is the pensioners and their plight and I was saying this Government has consistently and persistently been working towards the betterment of our old-age pensioners and we started from different amounts and now we are N\$450. Just like the Government is caring for all the other people, the Parliamentarians, the politicians, the Civil Servants, they will always get an increment, depending on what the Government is able to do. I do not really think that there is anybody in this House or elsewhere who can say the pensioners are not being looked after.

Of course, even if you take millions and millions and give to people free of charge, it will not be enough, but the Government is doing it at a level where each and everyone in this country knows that the Government is trying its level best. Let us not come up with Motions and say different things while we are trying to paint a picture as if the Motion is talking about the old-age pensioners while we are trying to bring in some other things.

The last request the Honourable Member made was that the House agrees to this Motion. What is the Motion seeking? Nothing, it is just to discuss and consider and now you are asking us to agree to it. What should we agree to? You are not even proposing anything, you are proposing something in a vacuum. The vacuum might be good because it leaves it to the discretion of the Government to see how it can help the pensioners.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, I am asking the question: What is happening to Honourable Kaura? Why is he wearing those specs while I am taking the Floor? Honourable Tjihuiko, maybe there is a need to consult with others, so that you test what you are bringing here, whether it really makes sense or just using the word "*old-aged*" because you know we are talking about the old people and then you want something else. I do not think we are doing justice to this House when we bring some of these controversial issues. I rest my case, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:**  
Prime Minister.

Thank you very much. Right Honourable

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**MOTION ON OLD-AGE PENSIONERS  
RT HON N ANGULA**

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I am going to speak as a junior-senior citizen. I do qualify for a pension and I have every sympathy with those who want to speak on our behalf, even though they are way off from becoming our age.

I know that 2009 is around the corner and the people are trying to define their manifestos for the 2009 elections and obviously social issues do touch the hearts and minds of people. However, there is a danger in this and the danger is that we are developing a culture of a blame-game. You always have to blame somebody and try to make somebody responsible for all the evils in Namibia. (Intervention)

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**HON KAURA:** May I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister a question? Right Honourable Prime Minister, do you remember the saying of President Eisenhower of the United States of America? He said, "*the buck stops here.*" Now at this point in time in Namibia, at this historical point the buck stops at the door of the SWAPO Party Government, full-stop.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** In Namibia, which I know and which I helped in a small way to found, all the power shall vest in the people of Namibia, not in a certain person called Eisenhower or the President of the United States. Here the power is vested in the people of Namibia. Only they can give you a mandate. No, the buck stops with the people of Namibia, the Constitution.

I was saying, in the true tradition of apportioning blame, one politician again is trying to define some kind of message for 2009, came up with one-tribe domination. One wants to ask oneself: Where does this one-tribe domination come from? Obviously some Political Parties are withering away in the true sense of Marx and they are trying to resuscitate themselves from certain death and they have now developed a game called the blame-game, to blame somebody. (Interjection)

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**HON KAURA:** Just as you are blaming Kanime.

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**RT HON N ANGULA**

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I never blamed anybody called Kanime. Kanime is my friend and I have never blamed him of anything. If he did something wrong, of course he has to answer for his own wrongs like anybody of us.

The message I want to give to this House is that poverty in Namibia is endemic. According to the latest Household Survey, 60% of Namibians are classified as living below the poverty line. Therefore, poverty is endemic and this poverty manifests itself in many instances. One of such instances is age and generation. When our parents were working, they never earned a pension as workers. My father used to work at Otjozundu Mine. When he wanted to buy an ox-cart from Diekmann, he spent some two years there, putting together the *halfkroner* to buy an ox-wagon from Diekmann. That is the plight of our fathers, that they never earned a proper pension as workers and that is a historical crime for those who exploited the labour of our parents, that today our parents are not able to take care of themselves, they have to be cared for by Government.

However, Government has many, many responsibilities, including taking care of people on anti-retrovirals, running schools, hospitals, building homes, maintaining safety and security and the cake is not growing, unfortunately. The cake is not growing. So, this historical debt which the exploitative colonial employers owe to our people should be put where it belongs. It belongs to the CDMs of this world, the Tsumeb Corporations of this world, the *Spoorweg*. (Intervention)

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**HON VILJOEN:** On a Point of Information. I appreciate what the Honourable Prime Minister said that it always irritates him when people are playing the blame-game, but is it not exactly what you are busy with? Practise what you preach. Thank you.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** No, I am stating historical facts, that our fathers who were employed at the *Spoorweg*, *in die kombuis*, *op die plaas*, *orals oor die wêreld*, our parents never earned a pension and the further point I should talk about ... (Intervention)

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RT HON N ANGULA**

**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I am following what you are saying, I am completely lost.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** No, that was a private conversation. I was saying our people who were working all over the place, whether on the railways, whether in the kitchens, whether on the roads, farms, that they never earned pension as workers and that is a historical debt those employers owe to our parents, because the poverty Honourable Tjihuike is talking about is because of that.

Honourable Tjihuike is now advocating that since we have given the veterans N\$2,000, we should raise everybody's pension to N\$2,000 so that there is equality. That is his argument. We are saying the circumstances are not the same. (Intervention)

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**HON DIENDA:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, may I ask a question? Right Honourable Prime Minister, on the question of the farm workers, the domestic workers and all those people who worked without a pension, has it now changed and does it mean that we, the Government, will not cater for them in the future? Were there any changes made?

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** At least now there is a minimum wage on the farm and I am a farm owner, renting from AgriBank and in my quest to be a land baron I have to employ some people there. Now I am also a HIP case – Highly Indebted Person. The point I am making is that the difference... (Intervention)

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**HON KAURA:** Right Honourable Prime Minister, are domestic servants, those who come from Katutura and claim they keep Windhoek clean, Ludwigsdorf clean, who clean the clothing of the wealthy and mighty and the farm workers on your farm, are they getting a pension?

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Well, obviously, even if you look at the Government, the pension of the lowest-paid people is very meagre, I admit that. That is why the Government has put up social safety nets in the form of social pension. I am only saying that the reason why you cannot really argue of equalisation between the normal social pension and the veterans subvention, is because the veterans missed out somewhere there, they could not get gainful employment during the struggle because they were busy with the struggle.

We suffer the same thing. The reason why we have to go to AgriBank is because we do not have enough savings. (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, on a point of information. The Right Honourable Prime Minister was saying that I have requested the pension to be increased to N\$2,000. I just wanted to put the record straight that I did not say that. I was reading from this paper and I said, "*the current N\$450 per month should be increased to an acceptable level but not less than N\$500.*" I did not say that all should be N\$2,000. I just wanted to put that straight.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Honourable Tjihuiko, I listen very carefully when the Opposition speaks because I do not want to misquote you. You said, "*How do we explain the fact that a neighbour's welfare would have improved by a difference between N\$2,000 and N\$450.*" You said that. You were trying to say we should equalise so that there is no discrimination. That is what you were saying. Perhaps when you read your speech you do not listen to yourself.

The point I am making is that those who devoted their time to the struggle could not earn anything to establish themselves, in the first place, to have a house or a dwelling. Some went to prison, some went into exile, some were harassed all over. Jerry knows all those places, Osire and others, where people were being detained. The other base at Hou Moed, the other base at Osire, the time you come back your house is destabilised, you were at Robben Island, so you did not have stability in your life and we are saying we should help these people to establish themselves so that they can leave something for their children. This is a social justice programme.

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**RT HON N ANGULA**

Honourable Tjihuiko, this is a social justice programme to help those who were destabilised by the struggle to re-establish themselves and we should not try to score cheap political points on the back of the poor when we know that this poverty is historical. The poverty of the pensioners is historical because they never earned a proper pension as workers and that is the problem we have.

Government is however committed to increase their pension consistently, provided the resources are available. (Intervention)

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**HON KAURA:** May I ask the Prime Minister a question? Honourable Prime Minister, when Honourable Minister Jerry Ekandjo says at Omuthiya that SWAPO supporters should not buy in the shops of RDP members, is that not trying to score cheap political points?

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Were you there when he said that or did you hear rumours? Were you there? Did you hear it? Rumour-mongering is not part of our culture in this House. This is an Honourable House, we must have our facts right.

I was saying the Government is committed to address the plight of all our people, especially the builders of Namibia, the old pensioners, our senior citizens. We as young people must work hard to increase the cake so that the Government will have more money to share, including to the pensioners. I told you that I am a junior senior citizen, I also qualify, I am speaking for my own interest.

Secondly, we, the offspring of these pensioners, should also assist our parents. Some of you do nothing, you send your parents to old-age homes. You discard them and forget that one time you were crawling and somebody was cleaning you. We also have a responsibility of caring for our parents as the offspring of those people, not just to wait for the Government. Government will do its level best, but the responsibility you have is to work hard and grow the economy so that the Government can have a larger cake to cut from.

Secondly, for us to take our social responsibility, as the sons and daughters of those people, that at least match up with the Government, that every month you

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put N\$470 in the Post Office account of your mother or father. They will be very happy. Just N\$470 every month like the Government does will make a big difference.

The point I am however making to the conscience of Honourable Tjihuike is that Government is very much aware of the plight of our senior citizens and it is because of that, that every year Government increases their pension. It started at N\$50 and it went up, but we know that elections are around the corner and this is the very soft point he wanted to touch, but at least be honest to recognise that the Government has been doing its level best to lessen the plight of our senior citizens, the people who built up this country before we were born. We have a responsibility to them, all of us, but do not blame just one party. You also have to blame yourself. Why do you not put N\$470 per month in the account of your mother and your father at the Post Office? Then you will meet the Government halfway. That is the right thing to do. Thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. On that note the House stands adjourned in terms of Rule 90, automatic adjournment.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2008.10.16 AT 14:30**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER  
16 OCTOBER 2008  
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**ANNOUNCEMENT:  
DISABILITY AWARENESS WORKSHOP**

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** First announcement: Honourable Members are hereby informed that a Disability Awareness Workshop for Parliamentarians, organised by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resources, Social and Community Development will be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2008. Venue is the old Cabinet Chamber in the Office of the Prime Minister, time 08:30 to 13:00 each day. All Members are invited to attend this important workshop and programmes will be distributed to the Members. I am inviting you to attend in big numbers.

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

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**TABLING: REPORTS ON SESSIONS  
OF PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT**

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**HON T GURIRAB:** I lay upon the Table for information, the Report of the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Sessions of the Pan-African Parliament which took place from the 15<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> of October 2007 and from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2008, respectively.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Table the Reports. Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Right Honourable Prime

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS  
RT HON N ANGULA**

Minister.

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**UNOPPOSED MOTION: CONDITIONS OF SERVICE  
ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION**

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I Move an unopposed Motion:

That the National Assembly confirms the conditions of service of the Director and Deputy Director of the Anti-Corruption Commission in accordance with the provisions of the Anti-Corruption Act (Act 8 of 2003) as follows:

1. On the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2005 this Honourable National Assembly by way of Motion approved the appointment of Mr Paulus Noa and Mrs Erna Van Der Merwe as Director and Deputy Director, respectively, of the Anti-Corruption Commission. They assumed their offices from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2006.
2. The Amendment of the Second Schedule to the Judges Remuneration Act of 1990 was issued by way of Proclamation 11 of 2007 by His Excellency the President, establishing new salary ranges for the Judiciary, a copy of which is here attached. The Director of the Anti-Corruption Commission was recruited on the basis of the salary package of an Additional High Court Judge. The Deputy Director's salary has been determined at 80% of the salary package applicable to the Director.
3. In accordance with Section 7(2) of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act of 2003 (Act 8 of 2003), the National Assembly must confirm the conditions of service of the Director and the Deputy Director of the Anti-Corruption Commission, as approved by His Excellency the President. The revised annual salary of the Director and Deputy Director has been approved by His Excellency the President as from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2008 to bring it in line with the aforementioned adjustment to the annual salary of an Additional High Court Judge in

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HON T GURIRAB**

respect of the Director, whereas the salary of the Deputy Director has been approved as being 80% of that of the Director.

4. In view of the aforesaid change, the Director and Deputy Director's conditions of service, in addition to the salary package as aforementioned, will also comprise the following categories, namely a pension benefit equivalent to that provided for under the provisions of the Members of Parliament and Other Office-Bearers Pension Fund Act, 1999; Medical Aid Benefits equivalent to that provided for under the Medical Scheme for the Members of the National Assembly, Judges and Other Office-Bearers Act, 1990; a Motor Vehicle Scheme similar to those applicable to the Judiciary and Other Transport for purposes of Protocol and where the Motor Vehicle Scheme benefits provided for is not suitable for official travel under extreme road conditions; Leave Benefits equivalent to that of a Deputy Minister, in the case of the Director and for the category of Permanent Secretary in the case of Deputy Director; Subsistence and Travel Expenses equivalent to that of the Deputy Minister in the case of the Director and for the category of Permanent Secretary in the case of the Deputy Director; entertainment allowance equivalent to that of a Deputy Minister in respect of the Director and equivalent to that of Permanent Secretary in respect of the Deputy Director; and security in respect of the person, property or house of the Director and Deputy Director, respectively, as are considered appropriate by the Inspector General of the Police.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I so Move. Thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Please table the Motion, Honourable Prime Minister. Who seconds the Motion? Any objection? Any discussion?  
Honourable Tsudao Gurirab.

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**HON T GURIRAB:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am at a disadvantage because I do not have a copy of the said Act in front of me and secondly, the Prime Minister is moving this as a Motion without Notice. I do not know whether that is procedural, because I would have thought we would have an opportunity that

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once we had sight of a copy of the Motion to ask questions or may wish to even debate what the Prime Minister is presenting. So, I am at a little disadvantage. I seek your guidance, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** That is why I invited discussions so that you could even adjourn it. I understand your concern.

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**HON T GURIRAB:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I therefore Move that this Motion be adjourned to Tuesday, next week for discussion.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Who seconds? Any objection? The Honourable Minister of Justice objects.

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Motion is catching us all unawares, but my conscience is just telling me that it is not fair that we open a Debate on the benefits and salaries of persons who are already in the system and the salaries and benefits, in terms of what I heard from the Prime Minister, are in line with persons in the same category of service of those that are already regulated by an Act of Parliament. Therefore, I just felt it is unfair because these members are not part of this House and for us now to start analysing and debating these conditions would probably not augur well for themselves and others in the same category. Thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Yes, because it was Moved as an unopposed Motion.

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**HON MOONGO:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Parties are supposed to be given an opportunity to meet with the Mover of the Motion to consult if we feel salaries and benefits ought not be debated. We do not want to regulate anything which is unfair to the members and we need a fair adjustment. Maybe the Mover can organise a meeting with all Parties, but to Move an Unopposed Motion like this is unfair.

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I tend to agree with my senior Colleague, Honourable Minister of Justice, but just to give the information to the Honourable Members of this House: Indeed the terms and conditions of service of the Director and Deputy Director were already approved by this House, therefore it is not really a new thing. What the Right Honourable Prime Minister is doing is merely to improve upon the previous conditions that were already approved by this House in order to further enhance the Independence of the Anti-Corruption Commission, to give them better terms and conditions so that they can perform their duties and functions independently without any constraint.

I thought this was a very straightforward issue and as the Honourable Minister of Justice and Attorney-General and Secretary-General of our mighty SWAPO Party has said, I feel uncomfortable to go into detail and discuss a package of a public office-bearer who is already in office, to discuss a package which is merely an augmentation of what was already agreed upon by this Honourable House. Honestly, I do not know what issues Honourable Gurirab wants to raise, but I want to remind him that this is not a new issue. I would have gone along with him if this was a new issue. We are only enhancing those benefits and, therefore, I fully agree with the Secretary General, the Honourable Minister of Justice. Thank you very much.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. I recognise Honourable Tjihuiiko.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I do not intend to discuss the package of the two colleagues, but this is an issue that has been presented to the

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House for us to approve and I believe it would be very unfair for one to expect us to say yes to something on which we are not properly informed. I do not think it is a bad thing for us as Party leaders or Whips to sit down with the Right Honourable Prime Minister, ask the questions that we want to ask until satisfied and then to approve the Motion. Then we know what we are talking about. We are not saying that the whole thing must be opened, but at least we must know what is it that we are going to support or oppose at the end of the day. That is all what we are asking for.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Ulenga.

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I really hate to recapitulate what has already been said by others, but Honourable Deputy Speaker, it looks like a case of taking away with left hand which you placed there with your right. If I heard the Honourable Mover correctly, apparently this whole measure needs to be reconfirmed by this House and that in itself entails Debate and indeed, if I hear the Honourable Attorney-General correctly, he is debating, he is putting an argument forward, he is saying this is a straightforward question and that is debate.

Whether we want to measure the extent to which we can debate this issue is a matter which can be agreed upon by the House. Like the speaker before has already said, one does not even know where you are on or off with the documents, they just appear before us now. Therefore, the best would be for us to agree on an adjournment of the Debate for now and then consultations or even further debate, if necessary, can happen. I cannot quite see how the Prime Minister can put down a Motion clearly for debating and reconfirmation and then another prominent member from the very same Ruling Party shoots the whole thing down. I thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Let us not prolong the issue.

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Comrade Deputy Speaker, I might have been misunderstood by other Colleagues. What I said is in support of the Motion by the Prime Minister, an Unopposed Motion, and I explained why possibly an Unopposed Motion, because of the nature of the people involved, that they are already in the service and if we open up the Debate here, how will they feel? In actual fact, I am opposing the proposal by Honourable Gurirab, not that I am opposing the Prime Minister's Motion.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, these people have already been appointed, they are already in office and they are receiving these salaries. It is just for us to confirm that they should get this, that is all.

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I understand the principle of consultation and debate and I blame myself that I was not able to get hold of the Members of the Opposition to warn them before. The point being made by the Honourable Minister of Justice is valid. What we are trying to do is actually to make a correction to something which happened. The history goes like this:

When the post of the Director for the Anti-Corruption Commission was advertised, it was advertised that the Conditions of Service will be equal to that of an Additional Judge of the High Court and he was recruited on that basis. After the recruitment the President decided to adjust the Conditions of Service of Additional Judges and this is just a technical way of saying the Conditions of Service of the Director should also be adjusted.

The dilemma now is that I did not consult the Colleagues, I wanted to consult them, but at the same time we are also dealing with another leg of the Government, the Judges, and also a very sensitive institution called the Anti-Corruption Commission. I do not know who is being investigated, if you start talking too much it could be said Tsudao is now hitting back or something like that. I am open for consultation, but an open Debate here might not be appropriate. Thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Booyis.

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**HON BOOYS:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, having listened to the Honourable Prime Minister, I have to agree with the proposal by Honourable Tjihuiko for the Whips to meet with the Prime Minister. Thank you.

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**HON T GURIRAB:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I have from the beginning raised two issues: One is one of procedure, whether and why there should be a Motion without Notice and you have to give a ruling. The second one is one of substance and it is incredulous to hear Colleagues saying here that the matter is brought to Parliament but that we have no right to debate. What do we want Parliament to be? Whether salaries are being increased or being decreased, we have an opinion on it. That is why we come here every afternoon, to express our opinions on matters placed in front of the Parliament it is unbelievable for Colleagues to stand up and actually to say we have no opinion because the Commission is already in place. Who cares? We know how to say it is a good thing and we know how to say it is a bad thing, but we must have an opinion, we must express an opinion. I think the Parliament must express an opinion. I see the Right Honourable Prime Minister says "*that Parliament confirms*" and I know how to say why I am supporting that or why I am not supporting that and that is why we come here for.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Can we do it this way to save the situation? As the Honourable Member has postponed the Motion, why can you not during that time consult and by Tuesday come up with an answer to the problem we are facing now? Maybe that will save the situation. Honourable Gurirab, can you adjourn the Motion?

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**HON T GURIRAB:** I wish to Move for the adjournment of this Debate until Tuesday.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, the Motion is adjourned until Tuesday.

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS  
HON DIENDA**

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

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**HON DIENDA:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on Tuesday, 4 of November, I shall Move –

That this House debates the issue of girl-child versus boy-child and how they both play an important role in our society.

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**HON DIENDA:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I also give Notice that on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> of November, I shall Move –

That this House debates the GIPF and the Public Office-Bearers Pension Fund policies on loans for housing with the aim to expand it for loans for any other purpose from those funds and this Motion to be referred to the relative Standing Committee for further investigation.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Table the Motions. Ministerial Statements? Honourable Members, I forgot to inform you about the victory which our Speaker has scored in Switzerland yesterday. I have been accused by the media that I did not give the results yesterday while the results were not yet out. I received the results yesterday evening while we were out. The Speaker scored 200 votes against his opponent who scored 113.

Question 77 is the one by Honourable Schimming-Chase to the Minister of Education. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS**

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**RESPONSE-QUESTIONS HON SCHIMMING-CHASE  
HON MBUMBA**

**QUESTION 77:**

**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** I put the Question.

**HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. First I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate my friend and neighbour and the best diplomat the Honourable Doctor Theo-Ben Gurirab, we as a country ever produced as a country for once again winning the position of presidency of an international body.

To come to matters of education, the question by Honourable Schimming-Chase: It was reported in the newspapers that 100 scholarships for studies in South Africa were given by the said Government to the Ministry of Education but none were taken up. The premise is totally wrong. I hate to disappoint Honourable Members, there is no scholarship offers from the Republic of South Africa. Namibians, you must now learn that you are an independent country, that South Africa owes you nothing. They may be our neighbours, our comrades and our friends, but they are not responsible for the education of our children. No scholarship whatsoever!

It is reported that one of my officials may have given a faulty explanation, which is also totally false and wrong, because no other official below the Permanent Secretary was ever involved in discussions concerning any study opportunities in South Africa.

Is it true whether any advertisement was done – we do not advertise non-existing things. How many applications were received – you do not receive applications when you have not advertised anything. Then, whether the Minister is aware that there are many Grade 12 students who need scholarships? Yes, I deal with them on a daily basis. They come to my ministry more than they come to Parliament. They are many and there is competition.

We have over 8,000 students in South Africa. They are studying with Government bursaries, with money from their parents, with money from companies, institutions and friends. Therefore, there is no question whatsoever that a student who passed Grade 12 in Namibian schools with good marks will not be allowed to study at South African universities.

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HON MBUMBA**

The other day I was at Khomas High School and I was introduced to two students and it is the first time I saw students with such marks. One had 40 points and the other one had 42 points. There are bright children out there who are capable of passing and they can definitely compete with any other students who are looking for entrance to South African universities. The question is not the qualifications of Namibian students.

The Honourable Member wants to invite me to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resources. I have no problem being invited to any Standing Committee of this Parliament, but not on this one, because there is nothing to discuss. On any other item I am ready to come and if you want to investigate, you can make your own investigation. But there is nothing to investigate because there was no offer from South Africa.

Let me provide information to the Honourable Members how this programme started. You have your own President, your own Head of State, his name is Hifikepunye Pohamba, you do not have a President in South Africa. That one belongs to other people, he is not yours. President Pohamba is the one who decided to approach his counterpart, His Excellency President Thabo Mbeki saying: *“Look, we were together in Lusaka, our countries share the same history, we would like, in line with Vision 2030, to educate more people, can South Africa provide us space in South African Universities?”* That was agreed in principle, but it came from your President, not from South Africa.

Another thing is that once that is possible, you as a parent, community or country have to pay for your students to study in South Africa – not that South Africa gives you space, give you money and on top of that gives you 100 spaces every year.

This is not the first time President Pohamba is involved in matters of education. Remember when we had the case of Grade 10 problems, he shaped the system and made sure that we get extra funds to accommodate those learners. We had other students who went to Cuba two years ago, some political and scientific studies, it was his initiative.

I used to be a Minister in Ministries where they said you are the Deputy Minister, a Minister and a Senior Minister. When I was in the Ministry of Agriculture, President Nujoma loves agriculture so much, he travelled so many times and then the ministry started saying, *“you are just a Minister when the Senior Ministry*

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HON MBUMBA**

*calls.*” Now I am again the Minister of Education with a Senior Minister and a Prime Minister who knows more about education than I do. Therefore, that is allowed, but please be grounded at home. If you think that other people are the ones to rescue you, you are mistaken.

Exactly the same day this question was asked, I went to my house, picked up my bag and went to South Africa. I met the Minister responsible for Science and Technology, Honourable Mangena, and I equally met Minister Pandoor of Education. We now have a draft agreement to formalise this and the Universities in South Africa are willing to participate, with a few exceptions. Medical schools are very competitive, first in terms of accepting students, it only accepts the best and the brightest.

Secondly, they informed me that countries up north, East Africa, Middle East are sending their students to South Africa to study, but the willingness is there to accept our students and as long as we pay for them.

For the first time I went to the University of Pretoria, a big university in the middle of Pretoria and I was asking myself, “*why the hell did I have to walk from here to Botswana, to Zambia to go to schools far away when the school was near here?*” The doors were however closed then. They gave me a tie, I wish I had put on that tie, now I have a tie from the University of Pretoria which I could not attend. Such is life!

I can however tell you, get the money, let your students with good marks apply, we will facilitate. But Namibia will have to pay. Thank you very much for understanding.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Question 85 is one by Honourable Viljoen to the Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**QUESTION 85:**

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

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**RESPONSE-QUESTIONS HON VILJOEN  
HON SHIFETA**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I would like to thank Honourable Viljoen for the questions.

The first question is: Which Youth Organisations are affiliated or registered with the National Youth Council? The answer to this question is that we have about 46 National Youth Organisation affiliated to the National Youth Council and they are as follows:

AM Young People Division; !AE Gams Student Empowerment and Development Initiative; Bringing Youth Together, Change of Lifestyle, Vision Student Fellowship, Church of Africa Youth League, Council of Churches in Namibia Youth Desk (CCN); DTA Youth League; Eben-Eser Youth of Namibia, Evangelical Lutheran Church Youth Desk; Family Life Service Association; Koblenz; Interdenominational Youth Society; Junior Chamber Namibia; Kasoyeto Youth of Namibia; KAYEC Youth; Namibia Catholic Youth; Namibia National Students Organisation (NANSO); Namibia Congress Students (NACOS); Namibia Students of Education Movement (NASEM); National Youth Programme; Namibia Young Men Christian Association; Namibia Young Women Christian Association; Namibia Young Christian Workers (NACAM); Namibia Skills Share; Namibia Teacher Focus Youth; Namibia Challenge Score Agency; Namibia Rural Youth Development Trust; Namibia National Union for Student-leavers and Unemployed Youth; Namibia Christian Student Association; Scouts of Namibia; Christian Union of Namibia; SWAPO Party Youth League; SWANU Youth League; Wee-Kad Crew; the Youth of Assembly of God; Ovambanderu Youth League; Youth with a Mission; NUDO Youth League; Young Democrats, True Love Waits; Child-care and Youth Development; Teachers Union of Namibia Youth Desk.

The second question: What are the conditions for registration? There are two types of affiliation, one at national level and all those organisations I have just mentioned now passed their test and that is why they are affiliated at national level. They have fulfilled the requirements.

The requirements at national level: An organisation to affiliate has to have a Constitution, a last Audited Financial Report, registration certificate from the Ministry responsible for Youth Affairs, bank account details, letter of confirmation from the Regional Youth Forum, have offices in at least seven of the thirteen Regions and last but not least, have names and addresses of fifty card-

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**RESPONSES-QUESTIONS HON VILJOEN  
HON SHIFETA**

carrying members from each of those seven Regions.

At the Regional level it is almost the same, but the names and addresses of 25 card-carrying members from majority Constituencies in the Region. If you have 10 Constituencies in that Region, that organisation has to be represented at 6 Constituencies.

How many members every youth organisation has respectively? This is a very technical question and to respond to this one means that you have to ask each and organisation, because as we are speaking now, many organisation are receiving new members. When they give annual reports, it is not a requirement that they have to mention how many members they are. We do not really require them to stipulate how many members they have, but the most important thing is that they have to fulfil those conditions. Apart from that, they have to pay the membership fee for them to remain member organisations.

At Regional and Constituency level we are talking about more than 500 youth organisations that are below the structures of the National Youth Council. I think I am done with the questions and I thank you very much once again.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Honourable Viljoen.

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**HON VILJOEN:** I thank the Honourable Deputy Minister, I am satisfied with the answer.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Question 86 is one by Honourable Tjihuike to the Right Honourable Prime Minister. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**QUESTION 86:**

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**RESPONSE - QUESTIONS BY HON TJIHUIKO  
RT HON N ANGULA**

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

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. First I would like to thank Honourable Tjihuiko for his question. My answer is as follows:

In 1999 this august House passed the Members of Parliament and Other Office-Bearers Pension Fund Act. This Act repealed the Members of the National Assembly and Other Office-Bearers Pension Fund Act of 1990. The difference between the two Acts is that Act 21 of 1990 was based upon the idea of a defined benefit pension fund. The Act of 1999 was based on the principle of defined contribution pension fund. At the time of conversion from the defined benefit pension fund to the defined contribution fund, the conversion value of each member was determined by the pension entitlement under the old pension regime and the age of a member at the conversion date.

The conversion values resulted into a difference in benefits for two members with the same salaries and the same level of service. This problem was inherent in the nature of the benefit scheme of the defined benefits.

Article 10 of the Namibian Constitution states: *“No person may be discriminated against on the grounds of sex, race, colour, ethnic origin, religion, creed or social economic status.”*

The conversion values of the defined benefit pension regime discriminated against those of advanced age, including myself. This was discrimination on social grounds, which is not permitted by our Constitution. The State was therefore faced with a dilemma as to whether to respect the Constitution or follow the procedures of the defined benefit pension regime. The State decided to be guided by the Constitution. Cabinet, therefore, directed the Minister of Finance to budget an amount of N\$38 million to ensure equal treatment of the members of the pension fund for Members of Parliament and other office-bearers.

This social justice decision was never secret. Cabinet deliberated on this issue several times. It is, therefore, malicious for a newspaper to imply that this was a secret payment or an irregular deal.

Regarding *“the money that was budgeted in 2008/09 Financial Year for the salary adjustment of the sitting MPs,”* I am not in a position to shed light on that.

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HON DIENDA**

I am not aware when the MP's salaries will be adjusted. I thank you for your attention.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. On that note the House stands adjourned for tea-break.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:45  
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:20 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The first Notice of Motion is the one of Honourable Dienda. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion? Who seconds the Motion? Any objection? Agreed to. Honourable Dienda.

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**HON DIENDA:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. It is with great pleasure that I am motivating this Motion to this Honourable House.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, by tabling this Motion, allow me to put on three hats. The first one is a hat as a former teacher, secondly the hat of a parent and thirdly, the hat as a lawmaker. I would like to address not only the lawmakers sitting in this Honourable House, but most importantly, the parents and children outside this House.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, during a mother's pregnancy she already started communicating with her unborn child in her own language. The person who is spending the most of the time with this child is the mother. As the child grows the family starts communicating with the child in the home language. First they will use one word, pointing to it and then the child will form his or her own way of responding. This is how the five methods of teaching came in: listening, understanding, speaking, reading and writing.

Vocal sounds are the first things that a child will associate him or her with. The

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child will form his or her interpretation on the five leading methods. “*Bottle*” might become “*bottie*”, milk might become something that you as a parent did not expect it to be. On a daily basis the child will communicate with his family members in this way and we call it mother-tongue, but I would rather call it home language. This is the only language that the child knows. Maybe another language might be picked up in the street, but this is not used frequently.

Normally we put our kids in kindergartens close to our homes. This in adherence to the policy of the same Ministry that comes up with a policy on mother-tongue instruction. The language used in that kindergarten is the language used in that area.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the language policy for schools in Namibia says the following; “*Grades 1 to 3 will be taught either through the mother-tongue as a predominant local language. If the parents or the school wish to use English as the medium of instruction in the lower primary phase, permission must be obtained from the Minister of Basic Education, Sport and Culture with well-grounded convincing motivation.*”

The language options available are at first language level, Afrikaans, German, Damara>Nama, Oshidonga, Oshikwanyama, Setswana, English.

Second language level, Afrikaans and English. Other second languages will be developed according to demand in a school where there are a substantial number of learners. Twenty or more learners from different language groups, the school must make arrangements to provide instruction in the different languages.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members this is in a nutshell what the policy says and I like this policy so much. This is what we Namibians want our Government to do: Protect the culture of this country and its inhabitants. The Constitution of Namibia, Article 3.3 reads as follows: “*The official language of Namibia shall be English.*” Namibia has so many national or call it, mother-tongue languages, and according to the language policy all these languages will have the same weight for promotional purposes. What more do we want?

The education statistics of 2006 show the following: Enrolments for home language for lower primary, Grades 1 to 3: The home language for Afrikaans children registered in lower primary were 14,000 and the medium of instruction were only 11,000. English, only 1,515 indicated that it is the home language, but

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HON DIENDA**

the medium of instruction was 38,457 children got instructed in English. German, 604 registered, medium of instruction 495. Damara>Nama 26,000, medium of instruction only 9,000.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I have a whole list and I am so ashamed of this list. I will distribute it to the Honourable Members.

We as parents are labelling our kids and ourselves by insisting that they must be taught in English Grade 1 to 3, rather than in their home language, forgetting about our roots and culture. Parents are asking, where will my kids use this mother-tongue since English is the official language in our country? How many international leaders are addressing big audiences in their home languages, making use of interpreters? Do we have an identity problem or are we just ashamed of ourselves? English might be the best way for communication purposes, but this international foreign language was adopted as official language and it is not even the most widely spoken language. Take note of the many times that interpretations are being used on international forums. We treat it just the way our colonial masters have treated Afrikaans which now has become the mother-tongue of some black people like me myself.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, what are the challenges we are facing with mother-tongue instructions and the findings of my investigations?

Policy implementation: If the policy is in existence, why do we fail to implement it, starting from public schools? If schools do not adhere to the implementation to the policy, what mandate does the Ministry have to enforce it in illiterate teachers? This language policy was a good idea, but in practice it does not sound good if it cannot be implemented.

The labelling of schools: Children do not want to attend schools which are labelled by parents and the wider community as Herero, Coloured, Damara or whatever schools. Children who are taking the mother-tongue as a subject are being put all together in one class instead of separating them and only put them together for the mother-tongue. If all schools can at least accommodate three of the mother-tongue languages on Grade 1 to 3 level, it might solve the problem of labelling and also school subjects from Grade 4 upwards.

Teachers to be trained first: Most of the teachers before Independence were only trained to teach in Afrikaans. After Independence the curriculum for the BETD

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HON DIENDA**

enabled students to specialise in indigenous languages. However, the employment of these teachers in Grades 1 to 3 is not done in adherence to the language policy. If we do not have trained teachers for the market demand, then we have to train those already in the market.

The education of parents pertaining to the effect of mother-tongue education on the development of the children needs to be enhanced in order to cultivate pride and dignity of the owners of the next generation: Challenges faced by the current status quo are questionable. For instance, a Grade 1 teacher who is sitting with forty learners in the classroom of which one is a Chinese, 6 kids Damara>Nama, 11 Afrikaans, 5 Silozi, etcetera, and a teacher whose home language is Setswana, what are we aiming to achieve and which mother-tongue are we talking about? May I advise that schools adopt a more favourable and realistic approach with the enrolment of Grade 1 to 3, which is conducive to the future development of learners. The failing and non-performance of learners have nothing to do with the education system which we are following, but because of the fact that things went wrong during lower primary education. Our children cannot read, they cannot write, they cannot spell, they can only speak the language.

Communication at home between learners, parents and teachers: It does not help parents to opt for English as medium of instruction in Grades 1 to 3 where the foundations of the child are being laid. Parents and children are exposed to different languages and it might not be easy for proper communication and thus, miscommunication.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, exams being translated for learners, if possible, and under which circumstances: There are enormous issues that need to be addressed if mother-tongue language policy is to operate in the interest of the inhabitants of this nation. The solution is clear, do it now and do it right.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like this Honourable House to address the problem and get towards a solution. I thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:**  
discussion?

Thank you very much. Any further

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**MOTION ON LANGUAGE POLICY  
HON DR KAWANA**

**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I rise to commend the Honourable Member for tabling this very important Motion.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, I will maybe to some extent concur with the Honourable Member. Namibia, as a young Nation, are committed to building a Nation called the Namibian Nation under the slogan, '*one Namibia, one Nation*'. We are trying to move away from the legacy of apartheid, but as it stands today, I am not so sure whether the language policy, at least at the primary level, is in accordance with our desired principle of one Namibia, one Nation. I will use a few examples:

The Namibian Constitution guarantees freedom of movement of every Namibian to settle, of course with permission, in any part of Namibia. Supposing there is a Namibian citizen from the Oshikoto Region who wants to settle in the Caprivi Region or the Kavango Region, that child will be disadvantaged because the language policy says in the primary school that child must learn the mother-tongue and yet, within that environment there is no mother-tongue and as the Honourable Member has pointed out, in our endeavour to strive for '*one Namibia, one Nation*' there is also cross-fertilisation – if I may put it that way – whereby you find parents who come from different communities. Now the question is, what is the mother-tongue of this child?

It is even more disappointing to me when this language policy is applicable even in our capital, so much so that those Namibian citizens who come from smaller communities are disadvantaged, because when the children come to Windhoek, they will not be able to be enrolled in schools because their mother-tongue is not offered in a particular school and to me that is definitely most regrettable. I really do not know whether policy is in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Namibian Constitution.

Within Windhoek you find that if the residents are predominantly Otjiherero-speaking, for example, that school will adopt Otjiherero as a requirement. Likewise, if it is predominantly Oshiwambo-speaking, the neighbouring schools will adopt Oshiwambo as a requirement to enrol.

This to me is definitely is a policy which we rejected yesterday, because it promotes ethnicity.

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That is why I appeal to my Colleague, the Honourable Minister of Education and also the Deputy Secretary-General of our Party, to look into this issue so that there are at least exceptions. Of course, we are not opposed to promoting our indigenous languages, not at all, we should not be misunderstood, but the way the policy is applied leaves much to be desired and it is against this background that I join the Honourable Member and support the Motion. I thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Kavetuna.

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**HON KAVETUNA:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I Move that the Debate be adjourned until 4 November 2008.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Debate stands adjourned until 4 November 2008. The second Notice of Motion is the one of Honourable Kavari. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion? Who seconds? Any objection? Agreed to. Honourable Kavari.

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**HON KAVARI:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House. I am introducing a Motion that affects the moral fabric of our society and it is my humble appeal that I would receive your support.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, alcohol abuse affects a wide circle of people close to the alcoholic: relatives, friends, neighbours, employers, co-workers, classmates, teachers, doctors, community workers and it is closely linked to many of our most difficult social problems, including crime, homelessness, teenage pregnancy, domestic violence, gender-related violence, unemployment, productivity, education and the general moral fabric of our society.

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A recent study commissioned by Women Action for Development, University of Namibia, the Namibian Prison Service, sponsored by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation on understanding the perpetrators of violence crimes against women and girls in Namibia, revealed that there are several factors that are prominent and alcohol was topping the list. In fact, the majority of the perpetrators were under the influence when they committed the crimes.

The inhibition theory suggests that the physiological and psychological changes which occur while under the influence explain the high incidence of violence. Errors in thinking occur, such as impairment in choice-making or misinterpreting others' intent and behaviour. Perception and time distortion coupled to create an overreaction to current events rather than assessing future consequences. This concept implies that domestic violence is a direct outcome of the inhibiting effect of alcohol and other drugs.

It is important to recognise however, that domestic violence is a selective violence, in that people who perpetrate domestic violence do not usually become violent with other people, such as co-workers, bosses and friends and those that are stronger than them.

Alcohol consumption can have adverse socio-economic effects on the individual drinker and drinker's immediate environment and a society as a whole. Alcohol abuse affects the work performance of the individual, which trickles down and affect the productivity of the employer's organisation. Alcohol abuse may lead to unemployment, which may lead to increased drinking. A person who lost his job because of alcohol often experience difficulty in entering or re-entering the employment market.

Problematic alcohol use can be associated with difficulty in finishing school or acquiring further education. We all know family members or relatives or acquaintances who messed up their future because of alcohol abuse and today we look at them with sorrow and regret.

There is a link between poverty and alcohol abuse. Apart from the money spent on drinks, heavy drinkers may suffer other problems, such as lower wages, loss of job opportunities, increase medical and legal expenses and limited access to financial and economic resources. There is a direct link between the health, prison and Police force of a country and alcohol abuse of its citizens.

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Alcohol abuse has an impact on access to housing. People lose their properties because of alcohol abuse. Being homeless or living in substandard housing is solely associated with a high degree of substance abuse. No bank is able to give a loan even if the salary warrants that the person qualifies. Rental businesses cannot give them access to a house to rent and the appropriate references are so valuable to qualify for a loan.

There is also a link between alcohol abuse and violence between partners or domestic violence. Studies done in Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, India and Columbia show that a large fraction of reported domestic violence incidents are related to alcohol abuse by the male partner. Alcohol abuse has economic as well as social costs. These costs cover the negative impact of alcoholism on the material welfare of the society as a whole. These comprise both direct costs and the value of goods and services delivered to address the harmful effects of alcohol and the indirect cost, the value of personal productive services that are not delivered as a consequence of drinking.

The breakdown of family and social networks experienced by many people with alcohol problems adds to the list that will be affected by poverty as financial and motivational supports are also withdrawn by family members. This also leads to the health and well-being of family members to the point where they are no longer able to provide material and emotional support to the alcoholic person. The withdrawal of this support can place them at heightened risk of homelessness and poverty.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the following statistics about alcohol consumption in our country are shocking, fascinating, worrisome and challenging to any positive thinking Namibian, because if we continue with this trend, Vision 2030 will remain but a dream.

Elsabe Van Vuuren, Junior Mayor of the City of Windhoek, once said: *“Alcohol is a factor and a core leading process of death amongst persons aged between 10 and 24, contributor to motor vehicle accidents, unintentional incidents and homicide. 50% of Namibian youth between ages 13 and 16 begin experiment with alcohol despite the law that states no alcohol should be sold to persons under the age of 18.”*

Honourable Members, according to a report published by the Ministry of Health and Social Services in 2003, almost 50% of men in Namibia consume alcohol

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regularly compared to 20% of their female counterparts. Nearly 70% of Windhoekers drink, 55.6% of adult Namibians drink 33 bottles of beer. Can we say then that the average consumption of beer is approximate 35 bottles per week per person and further assuming that there are those of who do not drink, it must mean therefore that some citizens drink up to 70 bottles per week.

Honourable Members, going to the Yellow Pages you will find that in Windhoek there is one specialist educational toyshop, there are two public libraries, three public tertiary education establishments, four bookshops, 500 drinking places in Windhoek alone. In 2004 the *Namibian* reported that there were close to 110 shebeen owners in Karasburg serving the tiny population of about 2,000. By now I am sure they have doubled or even tripled. In Kuisebmond it is estimated that one illegal bar is available for every 100 members of the 37,000 community.

Honourable Members, Honourable Deputy Speaker, all this after the President signed the Liquor Act in 1998 with the objective of addressing the alcohol problems amongst others. Yes, the Act must address the alcohol problem by maximising the availability of alcohol to its citizenry. Shebeens are authorised to sell alcohol every day from 10:00 to midnight, except on Sundays, from 10:00 to 14:30 and again from 18:00 to midnight, making alcohol available seven days a week until midnight.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the Act places a restriction on the sale of alcohol on credit, but you find that people are given credit and then their bank cards and even pension cards are confiscated and then the creditor will accompany the debtor to the bank or to the pension pay point to get their money before the pensioner could even pay for food for his family.

The Act prohibits the consumption of liquor in public places, but nothing happens to those who make themselves guilty of this offence. The law authorises Committee Chairpersons, the Police, the Traditional Authorities to inspect the shebeens from time to time to check adherence, but when the Police do their work and close the establishment for non-compliance, shebeen owners will come to State House put pressure on Government for reopening of their business without any promise of compliance.

It is time-wasting for us to enact laws to be implemented and Government should guard against being controlled by pressure groups. The residents are empowered by the Act to petition should they find irregularities, but they all perish because of

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lack of knowledge. They do not know that they are accorded the right to do it and in the end they cannot do it. Unfortunately the majority of us are not even aware that we have the right to object when shebeens place notices in the newspaper.

Honourable Members, to be honest, shebeens are currently creating chaos and break down the moral fibre of our society, as was stated by the Bishop Kameeta. If at all, shebeens can be termed as lucrative businesses, then its benefits accrue only to the owner and his immediate family, save to say that his immediate family are not his customers. Shebeens are breeding grounds for all sorts of evils and they have no regard for the neighbourhood, no regard for school children or anyone else in society.

The situation in the vicinity of shebeens has become so bad that small children are found playing with used condoms, even putting used condoms in their mouths, using them as balloons, because these acts are done around the perimeters of shebeens.

When the Act was implemented many people expressed sentiments that it was a way of sending people into poverty and hopelessness and today one can say that their predictions were but correct to the letter. Some people had positive expectations that the Act would rid the Nation of the chronic misuse of liquor which often results in all sorts of evils, but to their disappointment the opposite happened, alcohol availability has increased and so has crime in direct proportions.

As my humble contribution to the solution, I would like to make the following recommendations:

- Government should embark upon an awareness campaign against irresponsible use of alcohol.
- The law enforcement agencies should be empowered to do their work, but not be disempowered when culprits come to State House and the status quo is allowed to continue.
- Communities should be educated about their responsibilities when new laws are passed by Parliament.
- The shebeen owners should be encouraged and assisted to consider other business options.

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- Government should intensify its employment creation programme because many people open shebeens because of unemployment.
- The Ministry of Trade and Industry should devise policies and assistance to SME's that promote true entrepreneurial development of our people.
- The Ministry of Health and Social Services should embark upon alcoholic rehabilitation programmes to curb the socio-economic impact on our nation.
- Awareness creation should start at early childhood so that our children grow up knowing the danger of drinking alcohol.

It should be noted that increasing tax on alcohol does not minimise the use of alcohol, but it is merely increasing Government revenue while increasing poverty and homelessness. Alcoholics are not deterred by the price of alcohol, they do not even know the price of liquor. Taxes on alcohol should rather be used to rehabilitate the alcoholics so that they can contribute to Government coffers in an honourable manner.

Honourable Members, in conclusion, above all these recommendations, since our Nation is known to be more than 90% Christian, churches must be encouraged to bring the living message of Jesus Christ to the Nation because they have got the answer.

With these few remarks, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I hope we are going to deliberate on this question and find solutions for this pandemic. I thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Any further discussions? Honourable Ulenga.

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, in standing up to support the Motion just moved by Honourable Kavari, I would like to say the following:

Many years ago – and I want to present this by means of a very ironic example – we were having a social discussion with a few colleagues of mine together with whom I was in prison. The man whom I used to call my neighbour said he would put a quiz to us, he said name one single beneficial act of apartheid and of course, we were jumping up and down, saying there was not a single good thing that apartheid has done for our country. He insisted there was one and we could not think of any until he said the only one thing that apartheid has done to the black

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people is to prohibit by law the selling of alcohol to black people. I did not know how the law worked and exactly how it was formulated, but apparently there was that kind of thing, probably not to do any good to the black man, but apparently, ironically, that is how it came out.

Anyhow, Honourable Deputy Speaker, my neighbour, the man who slept next to my *kooi* in prison was hundred percent satisfied that apartheid was right in that specific regard because it made sure that the black communities, which were the majority of the poor communities in southern Africa, were not corrupted by the uncontrollable use of liquor.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I agree fully with my Colleague here behind me. (intervention)

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**HON MOONGO:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Is the Honourable Member aware that if you entertained and you did not brew some beer, that function would not be nice and can you remember in the Bible that Jesus turned water into wine to entertain people? Do you know about it? Therefore, you ignore the fact that it is to entertain and make the community happy.

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, one issue that I would sincerely hope for is to keep this very serious issue above jocular remarks. I would say it is most probably a good thing that nowadays there is no one like Jesus who can come around and turn every container of water into wine.

However, let me remind you that if you read a little booklet by Andreas Shipanga, he relates in that booklet that he had to falsify documents and declare himself a “*Coloured*” before he could qualify to buy a few bottles of wine in Cape Town.

What I want to say is that perhaps we do not realise, and this goes together with what the Honourable Member is saying, alcohol is a cultural problem in our communities. It is not just a social problem in the world, as defined by my Colleague, it ends up being a cultural problem in many ways. Again I would like

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to get to the examples of the past.

In the Herero language there is not such a term I understand – and you will help me out – as “*beer*” or “*alcohol*”. The elders and the fathers of the Herero language speak of *omeva*, water. You can just imagine how deceiving the terminology is and you can imagine how deceiving it is to people when they are brought to believe that most probably the effects of this water is just water, just like the effect of water.

Again, a few years ago or in the past, for example, communities would drink for social purposes. Like you said, if there is a wedding and there is no kind of beer, there is no pleasure. Let me take the Prime Minister’s community, for example. They would have big *ondjupa* (*Calabash*) and the liquor in there would be so mild and the pot is supposed to be consumed as a whole... (Intervention)

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** May I ask Honourable Ulenga a question? Comes the Marula season, what happens?

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**HON ULENGA:** If you want me to touch further on the issue of culture, the Kwanyama, both from Namibia and Angola, would have a rule that during the Marula season no hearings or any court or related activities... (Interjection). No, I do not want to confuse people to talk about Owambos, what are Owambos? I am talking about the Kwanyama because that is a clear community. Let us talk about one thing at one time, we can talk about the other things later.

What I am saying is that amongst the Kwanyama by law and by strong custom, they will not be conducting any hearings or court cases. It is prohibited during the Marula season. The idea is the same as do not drink and drive. You cannot be drinking the same time you are conducting hearings.

What I however want to talk about is the confusion which has come culturally to our people, because this strong liquor is still liquor and beer that comes from distilleries and breweries. It is not traditionally and originally the stuff of the communities of Namibia or Africa, for that matter. But the way it was introduced by colonialism, it was introduced in such a way that the people were deceived to

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believe that this is just ordinary stuff. For example, for more than 400 years the people of especially the Western Cape and southern Namibia have been paid in wine instead of being paid in cash. For hundreds of years the custom and tradition has grown so much that when you thought about your salary, you thought about it in terms of getting drunk.

Again going back, the Prime Minister wanted me to talk about the Owambos and I am going to talk about the Ndongas now, the people of the Prime Minister. They would put up a big *Ondjupa* like this and the tradition is that they have to drink it until it is finished, because they have been doing it for the whole night and when it is finished, they can stand up and go home. Now just replace that big *Ondjupa* with a full litre whisky bottle. Either the wife brews a big *Ondjupa* of beer or the young man comes with two litres of whisky. It is more or less the same thing. He puts it there between the old men and they start to drink it just like they drink from *Ondjupa* and they have to finish it because that is the tradition. That is culturally so, you do not drink two tots from the bottle and go, because people of Namibia, Africans, drank for social enjoyment, not to get drunk.

Because this thing is so new culturally, it is not understood properly in terms of its effects to the body physically and to the society. Hence what my sister is talking about.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, therefore, addressing this kind of problem in terms of a solution will have to go beyond shebeens. I understand the obsession that some of the people in society take towards shebeens, because the shebeens are the most visible symbols of alcohol abuse. We have to, however, think beyond shebeens if we want to hit alcohol at the centre of the evil. We have to talk about the sources of alcohol and the way it is treated... (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question, please? Honourable Ulenga, I am really enjoying your explanation. The cultural drinking you were referring to, whether it is Ondonga or whatever, does this go on from 7 o'clock in the morning until 12 o'clock in the evening with loud music, not allowing neighbours to rest twelve months a year? Is that the same thing like the shebeens, where every second house is a shebeen that is playing this loud music, disturbing kids?

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, it seems that my contribution is having unintended consequences, but suffice to say we have to go beyond shebeens. Shebeens are where liquor is distributed. However, if you want to deal with the moral problem, we have to get to the sources of alcohol and I mean even the international sources of whisky, vodka, gin, all kinds of distilleries that end up bringing their foreign stuff to Namibia. To tell you the truth, this hard stuff is not Namibian culture and, therefore, it is not properly understood. Can you imagine a community saying this is water, only to end up falling around because of drinking this funny water? In Portuguese it is called *Aqua Verde*, this *Verde* has its evil roots, beyond the social abuse... (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY:** On a Point of Information. Honourable Ulenka has spoken eloquently about the type of drinks of Oshindonga communities prepare and drink from sunrise to sunset and nobody gets drunk, but he seems to forget that Oshindonga there is not only a type of beer, which one might call *Omalovu*, there are also some stronger drinks. You talk about distillery from foreign countries, but why do you forget some of the local drinks also in the other communities. Give complete information about the type of drinks available so that people can understand and if you say people should go beyond that, why are you leaving those which are even stronger, like gin, whisky, Johnny Walker. Can you give complete information so that people can know how many types of drinks are there.

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Minister can of course make a contribution. (Intervention)

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** On a Point of Information. I agree with Honourable Ulenka that traditionally drinking was respected, especially in Uukwambi. When the Marula time comes, every household makes sure that the Marula is taken to the Headman and if you want to drink, you have to go to the headman's place. But since after sunset there is no light, you are not encouraged

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to stay there at night, so you only drink during the day under the control of the Headman. That is controlled drinking traditionally, beer drinking.

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**HON ULENGA:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I fully agree with the Prime Minister. This is not an issue on which we have to disagree, but my studies and observations are more with Ndongas than the group that the Prime Minister is talking about, Ndongas and the Kwanyamas and the Hereros. (Intervention)

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**HON VILJOEN:** Deputy Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Ulenga, you referred to a lot of issues. You referred to some apartheid laws, the good or the bad of one law. I want to ask you a question, are you aware of the incident that took place where a number of white people were on a ship and they were celebrating the birthday of one of the group? Those people were very rich and they drank from the morning until late the evening. Then suddenly they realised that something was wrong, there was a tornado on sea and they realised that the ship was doomed to go under. Then they decided to pray. Unfortunately no one of them knew how to pray. They knew how to drink but they did not know how to pray and they decided to call the waiter and said, “*Sir, can you pray?*” He said, “*yes, I live in Oshakati and I go to church two times on Sundays*” and they promised they will pay him a large sum of money if he would pray for this terrible situation. He agreed, he said, “*please close your eyes*” and he prayed. He said: “*Father, I have a problem, when I go to the toilet there is a sign, “whites only”, if I go to the bar, there is a sign, “whites only”, please help us. If it is your will that we shall die today, let it be whites only.*” (Laughter).

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, given the white prevalence of apartheid at the time, I will not dispute that story. However, I have to reiterate that I am not so well-acquainted with the customs of the people of that area. It could be or it could be different.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, let me quickly conclude. Society must realise

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where the problems of drinking and its evil consequences come from. We must minimise the availability of alcohol and this we should be doing by taxing very highly and keeping alcohol just out of reach of ordinary poor people. It must be very difficult to get especially these very expensive distilled drinks.

Culprit number one, my dear sister, is the breweries. Let us not shy away from them. I have driven throughout this whole country... (Intervention)

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I agree with Honourable Ulenga, may I ask him a question? Are you aware in the Scandinavian countries there is only one particular type of plastic bag in their liquor shops. When you buy liquor, you have to put it in that plastic bag, so that when you carry it outside everybody knows that you are carrying liquor?

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**HON ULENGA:** That would perhaps be one of the appropriate measures that we need to put in place. However, as a Nation and a society we really need to put measures in place which will positively affect this problem of drinking.

Driving from Oshakati to Rundu one early morning, honestly speaking, when I was passing Mpunguvlei 7 o'clock in the morning, nothing else was working but the cuca shops were already working. The cuca shops were already open. There is just no regulation in the country with regard to the brewing, the manufacturing and the distribution of liquor. I drink myself just like 90 % of this House, so they are right in the middle of it. We will have to design measures which not only seem to penalise shebeen owners, but which must be seen that drink itself is a source of a lot of evils. Make sure that there is as little as possible distilled liquor and sell the beer outside Namibia if you have to sell it. (Interjections). I am not so much worried about *tombo*, because *tombo* again is on the lower side. Some of the minor liquors can be controlled.

Another control measure that was proposed here is to make sure that at least society has something to keep themselves busy with. You do not just stop drinking, you must also create other positive and recreational measures that people can carry out as a society.

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Otherwise, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I support the Motion and the suggestion that this Motion should go to a proper committee that would look into the entire problematic practice of drinking and make the necessary recommendations. I thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Honourable Moongo.

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**HON MOONGO:** I would like to make a small contribution, if possible. First of all, I thank the Colleague who wants us to control and minimise the abuse of alcohol within the Namibian society. I support that spirit, but traditional drinking has been done by our forefathers if someone says we want to stop it, then I do not want to support that idea, because when we were under the South African regime, they felt the communities were not educated, they were too low to be allowed to drink. Are you still low? Something is wrong with you if you are still at that period... (Intervention)

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Honourable Speaker, is it allowed for a shebeen owner to come here and advertise his specials? Is it proper?

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It is not proper and it is not allowed. It is a conflict of interest.

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**HON MOONGO:** When I was young, every weekend at every house there was a big calabash home beer and if there was work to be done, you will have a calabash and goat meat to eat. This is a sort of entertainment for the people who are working and I support that this. (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question, please? Honourable Moongo, have you noticed that every time Honourable Minister Jerry Ekandjo takes his seat, Honourable Henk Mudge walks out? The time that Henk Mudge sits in his seat, Honourable Jerry Ekandjo is hiding.

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**HON MOONGO:** I did not realise it. I was saying that if the Namibian community thinks that drinking of liquor in Namibia must be minimised and the factories and breweries have to be closed during this time, I think we are lacking something. We have to educate our community, like in Europe. The Europeans have breweries and everything, why do they not close their businesses? They were educated to understand the consequences of drinking too much, but if you want to close all the shebeens, the shebeens are the ones generating money and paying school and hospital fees. While you are giving N\$450 to the old people, the shebeens are the ones generating money for the poor communities. I can tell you, if you close the shebeens, you will invite hunger, you will invite trouble. I would like you to control liquor (Intervention)

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**HON KAVARI:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Moongo, are you aware that the N\$450 pension money is mainly used for alcohol?

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**HON MOONGO:** I am a Headman and I used to call the elderly people in my village and tried to educate them. I educated the women on domestic violence. (Intervention)

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**HON BAYER:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Does the Honourable Member know that the shebeen owner can pay his children's school fees, but the people who buy the alcohol take the school money to buy the alcohol from the shebeens?

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**HON MOONGO:** Yes, I am aware of it. But what is the duty of a Minister of Information? You should send a Committee to educate communities to understand the danger of alcohol. Do you control sex? It is the same thing. You give condoms, but people are still having affairs. My Colleague, you have to educate the community to understand the danger of alcohol, but if you do not and only blame the shebeens, the shebeens are here to stay! But control the danger of alcohol.

My Colleague, if you want to go back a hundred years backward, it will not happen. We also have dangerous liquor in our tradition. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,  
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** My I ask my friend and Comrade a question? Honourable Moongo, I have observed that when the Honourable Members of DTA are here you are always quiet, but when you are alone there is nobody to control you and then you speak your heart out. If one of them comes in, then you keep quiet. Why?

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**HON MOONGO:** That is only a sign that I can handle the two-thirds majority, no problem. I would only like to say that let us march with the situation like other communities in the world. Let us be educated and understand the danger of alcohol and not close the shebeens. It is impossible! How many people are working in the shebeens which you failed to give employment? They are paid by the shebeen owners and the shebeens keep the economy going or the rural masses who do not receive anything from your Government. They are generating money from the shebeens.

That is why I want to advise the Government to establish committees through Ministries and try to communicate the community to be like the European people who have big factories but they are not drunkards. (Interjection). Oh, they are also drunkards? You have to be at that standard, but to say that you want to close the shebeens because they are the cause of violence is not true. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY:** Honourable Moongo, how much did the DTA spend on alcohol in the 1990 elections?

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**HON MOONGO:** I do not know. Anyway I did not catch you correctly. The shebeens provide jobs to the poor communities and school fees are paid. It caters for poverty in the community and you did not realise it. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Moongo, you are really advancing your cause and I just want to know whether you are aware of any country internationally which has specific opening hours for beer houses?

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**HON MOONGO:** I have been in Germany, France and I always thought in Finland the people do not drink, but I discovered that they drink more than us here. Let us establish a committee to control alcohol and to make people understand the dangers of alcohol.

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**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** On a Point of Order. I am just wondering the bar here was open or what happened to the Honourable Member? Is the bar open? Were you there?

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**HON MOONGO:** That is why I say this Motion has already been defeated if you have a bar within the Parliament. You want to control the use of alcohol and you have a bar within the Parliament. You are defeating yourself. That means you are fighting against something that you will never win. But I join the war which I know I will win, but if you already have a bar within Parliament, then this is a daydream. With this I partly support the Motion.

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16 October 2008

**NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL BILL  
HON DIENDA**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would like to postpone the Debate until Tuesday next week, the 21<sup>st</sup> of October 2008.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Debate stands adjourned until the 21<sup>st</sup> of October 2008. The Secretary will read the first Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING:  
NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL BILL**

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**SECRETARY:** *Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – National Youth Council Bill.*

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** When this Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, the 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable Dienda adjourned the Debate and she now has the Floor. Honourable Dienda.

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**HON DIENDA:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I will be brief. Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Bill talks about both individuals and groups, so I want to know from the Minister whether they will receive the same benefits or how will the distinction be made? Only youth forums and youth organisations can register as members of the National Youth Council, so how will the individuals be assisted financially? Is it not better, Honourable Deputy Minister, to fund an organisation whereby all its members can benefit instead of funding individuals stipulated in paragraph 7, page 16?

I would also like to lead my argument with paragraph 8, page 24, which reads as follows: “A youth organisation or association, upon registration with the

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**NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL BILL  
HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

*Council as an affiliate, is entitled to a subsidy from the Council.*” How does this individual feature in this context?

Could the Honourable Minister, please specify the marginalised groups mentioned on page 8 of the Bill? The new generation is currently the marginalised groups, people like me who have so much black blood. Please specify those groups now as it will be a problem for us in the future.

Also on page 8, why should the Minister be informed to give approval? Is the Board not the executive organ of the Council?

Then, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I want to take the Honourable Deputy Minister to page 4. According to our Constitution and the position of youth, as defined by the Constitution of Namibia, persons under the age of 16 years old are minors. The Youth Bill is saying 16 to 30 are youth and then the Youth Service Act also refers to them as 16 to 30 years and the African Charter, 15 to 35. I do have a problem with this and I want to know whether we could adjust this Bill to be in line with the African Youth Charter, which may cause certain Amendments not only to the Youth Service Act but also to other parts.

Then I have some questions on this age structure; which Ministry will then be responsible and to which extent will they follow these three examples? I also want to know whether the needs of all the categories of the youth that I have mentioned be taken into consideration if we amend this Bill?

If we cannot reconcile the three, maybe we should consult wider, otherwise we will need to amend the laws in the future.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I support the Bill with these few questions, I have waited for it for so long.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Honourable Ncube.

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**HON MANOMBE-NCUBE:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, due to the lateness of the hour, I will postpone the Debate to Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2008.

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16 October 2008

**MOTION ON ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT  
HON H ANGULA**

**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Debate stands over until next week Tuesday. The Secretary will ready the second Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE: MOTION ON ECONOMIC  
EMPOWERMENT OF THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE**

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**SECRETARY:** *Resumption of Debate on the Economic Empowerment of the Namibian People.*

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** When the House adjourned on Thursday, 9 October 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Kavetuna. The House adjourned in terms of Rule 90. The Minister of Works and Transport had the Floor and he may now continue.

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I have a lot to say, and due to time constraints, may I adjourn the Debate until the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October?

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Motion stands adjourned until the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October. The Secretary will read the third Order of the Day.

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**MOTION ON PREVAILING POVERTY IN  
THE COUNTRY**

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**SECRETARY:** *Resumption of Debate on prevailing poverty in the country.*

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**MOTION ON PREVAILING POVERTY  
HON T GURIRAB**

**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** When this Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, 1 October 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Tjihuiiko. Honourable T Gurirab adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

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**HON T GURIRAB:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I think the meeting of the SWAPO Party has been delayed and I think they should start the meeting. Therefore, I adjourn the Debate until Tuesday.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. The Secretary will read the Fourth Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE: ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF OLD-AGE PENSIONERS**

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**SECRETARY:** *Resumption of Debate on Economic and Social Conditions under which Old-age Pensioners are Living at Present.*

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** When the House adjourned on Tuesday, 14 October 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Tjihuiiko. Any further discussions? Honourable Moongo.

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**HON MOONGO:** I Move that the Debate be adjourned until next week, Wednesday.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I call upon the Right

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House to next week Tuesday.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** The House adjourns until next week, Tuesday, the 21<sup>st</sup> of October 2008 at 14:30.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:45 UNTIL 2008.10.21 AT 14:30**