

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 & 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 & 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 | <i>(Chief Whip)</i> |
| Mr K Kaura | <i>(Party Leader)</i> |
| Mr P Moongo | |
| Mr M Venaani | <i>(Deputy Whip)</i> |

MONITOR ACTION GROUP

| | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| Mr J Viljoen | <i>(Chief Whip)</i> |
|--------------|---------------------|

NATIONAL UNITY DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION OF NAMIBIA (NUDO)

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Mr A Mbai | |
| Mr K Riruako | <i>(Party Leader)</i> |
| Mr A Tjihuiko | <i>(Chief Whip)</i> |

REPUBLICAN PARTY

| | |
|------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mr H Mudge | <i>(Chief Whip and Party Leader)</i> |
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SWAPO OF NAMIBIA

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Dr L Amathila (Ms) | <i>(Deputy Prime Minister)</i> |
| Dr M Amweelo (Mr) | |
| Mr N Angula | <i>(Prime Minister)</i> |
| Mr H Angula | |
| Dr S C Ankama (Mr) | |
| Ms L Basson | |
| Ms A Bayer | |
| Ms C Bohitile | |
| Mr H Booyo | <i>(Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee)</i> |
| Ms H Christian | |

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|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mr Dinyando | <i>(Deputy Minister)</i> |
| Mr J Ekandjo | <i>(Minister)</i> |
| Mr B Esau | <i>(Deputy Minister)</i> |
| Dr G H Geingob (Mr) | <i>(Minister)</i> |
| Dr T-B Gurirab (Mr) | <i>(Speaker)</i> |
| Ms P Haingura | <i>(Deputy Minister)</i> |
| Mr M Hausiku | <i>(Minister)</i> |
| 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> |

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

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

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Mr R Diergaardt | |
| Ms I Hoffmann | |
| Ms A Manombe-Ncube | |
| Mr C Namoloh | <i>(Minister)</i> |
| Dr R Ndjoze-Ojo (Ms) | <i>(Deputy Minister)</i> |
| Mr P Smit | <i>(Deputy Minister)</i> |

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
21 OCTOBER 2008
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, thank you very much for the very warm and patriotic welcome back home. I thank you for your support throughout and I am able to report victory – victory for the SADC Region, for Africa and for the world, because the Inter-Parliamentary Union is a Union of the old world.

I would like to remind you, that the House will go into recess on 26 November as per our Parliamentary Calendar and will resume in February 2009. As is practice, no Bills or other new business will be tabled after 1 November this year. This will allow us enough time to prepare and dispose of all the business timeously. The reason for this reminder is that, in spite of that having been announced earlier, we seem not to have indications of what is likely to come before the House ahead of date I have indicated of adjournment. Therefore, we are reminding the Honourable Members.

We have been approached by Penduka Namibia to facilitate their request to stage a tuberculosis awareness drama demonstration session for Members of Parliament at the National Assembly as part of the Penduka TB Programme. It was agreed that the event be held tomorrow, Wednesday, 22 October 2008, in the National Assembly courtyard at 15:00. All Members are therefore invited to attend that demonstration.

I also have the honour to take advantage of this slot in the programme to submit in terms of Section 6(1) of the Ombudsman Act, (Act 7 of 1990), a

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**NOTICES OF QUESTIONS
HON MOONGO**

special Report on conditions prevailing at Police cells in Namibia of the Office of the Ombudsman, 2008.

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

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 95:

HON MOONGO: Mr Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 30th of October 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs the following:

1. Is it true or false that in many Angolan prisons and Police Cells, Ondjiva and Peu-Peu in particular, there are long death lists of those who died in detention and that most of the names are of Namibian nationals?
 2. Can the Minister instruct the commission of inquiry or the Red Cross to investigate and report to this august House accordingly as everybody knows hundreds of Namibians disappeared during Independence?
 3. Can the Minister explain as to why the Convention on Missing Persons was not ratified in Namibia?
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HON SPEAKER: Can the Honourable Member table the Questions? Any further Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Any

21 October 2008

**PREVENTION OF ORGANISED CRIME BILL
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

Ministerial Statements? The First Notice of Motion is the one by the Honourable Minister of Justice. Does the Honourable Minister Move that the Bill be now introduced?

**INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING: PREVENTION OF
ORGANISED CRIME AMENDMENT BILL**

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

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

SECRETARY: *Prevention of Organised Crime Amendment Bill*

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Justice Move that the Bill be now read a Second Time? Who seconds? Any objection? Agreed to.

**SECOND READING: PREVENTION OF
ORGANISED CRIME AMENDMENT BILL**

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members. Before I motivate the Bill on the Prevention of Organised Crime, allow me the opportunity

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**PREVENTION OF ORGANISED CRIME BILL
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

as one of the few founding mothers of the Namibian Constitution still in the National Assembly to record with pride and congratulate, on behalf of the SWAPO Party leadership, rank and file members and that of my own, our own Speaker, Comrade Theo-Ben Gurirab for the victory he scored in assuming that important seat of the presidency of the IPU. Comrade Speaker, you have made Namibia proud, you have made Africa and the whole world proud. Keep it up!

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, this august House will recall that in 2003 this House enacted the Prevention of Organised Crime Act (Act 29 of 2004), hereinafter called “POCA” and to date POCA is not yet in force.

Honourable Members, you will further recall that in 2007 this House enacted the Financial Intelligence Act (Act of 2007), hereinafter called “FIA”.

At the time we considered to commence POCA, we realised that we have to develop an effective strategy to look into the deficiencies in our financial system and the criminal justice system to combat criminal activities, especially money-laundering, financing of terrorism and human trafficking.

To this end, Namibia, as a member of the Eastern and Southern African Anti Money-laundering Group (ESAAMLG) requested a mutual evaluation to be made in 2005 and this was followed by a Financial Sector Assessment Programme that was finalised in 2006 by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

Informed by the Mutual Evaluation and Financial Sector Assessment Report, and our efforts to develop effective strategies to combat criminal activities, Namibia decided to bring together several distinct but related aspects of the financial systems and criminal law.

The Financial Intelligence Centre that we established in terms of FIA constitutes an important component of these strategies. To commence

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**PREVENTION OF ORGANISED CRIME BILL
HON T GURIRAB**

POCA it was, therefore, necessary to have established a functional Financial Intelligence Centre that is responsible for receiving, analysing and transmitting disclosures on suspicious transactions to the law enforcement agencies.

To ensure that our efforts are successful, traditional law enforcement methods must be supported by the contribution of the financial system itself, hence the Amendments.

The Amendments to the POCA seek first to change references to laws that are not yet in force and secondly, to ensure that all suspicious transactions are reported to the Bank of Namibia only in terms of FIA and thirdly, to create a defence for having submitted suspicious transactions to FIA.

The Amendment further seeks to change reference to the Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration with the Minister responsible for Policing; and to increase the number of persons the Minister of Justice may call to the meeting of the Criminal Asset Recovery Committee. Finally, the Amendment would enable members of the Criminal, Asset Recovery Committee to be represented by their deputies.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg your indulgence to support the proposed Amendments.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for her motivation. Any further discussion?

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Speaker, I Move that the Debate be adjourned until Thursday.

21 October 2008

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON DR ANKAMA**

HON SPEAKER: The consideration of this Motion stands adjourned until Thursday, 23 October. The second Notice of Motion is the one of Dr Ankama. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion? Who seconds? Objections? You have the Floor.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE: MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED
NAMIBIANS WITH PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND
QUALIFICATIONS**

HON DR ANKAMA: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. First I would like to echo my congratulatory remarks for your success and victory for Namibia, SADC, Africa and the world as President of the IPU. We feel very proud of you and, indeed, honoured to have you in our lifetime, so experienced, so eloquent and so practical. We congratulate you.

Comrade Speaker, the Motion that I am going to table this afternoon lapsed during the last term when Parliament went into recess and is now being reintroduced with a few Amendments.

The Motion seeks to:

1. Discuss, assess and ascertain the seriousness of unemployed Namibians with professional training and qualifications obtained from recognised educational institutions here in Namibia or abroad;
2. Consider the general unemployment of all able-bodied Namibians in view of Government sponsored or initiated projects, such as Etunda, agricultural colleges in the country, aquaculture and vocational or technical training institutions as a matter of example.

Correspondingly, this Motion urges that unemployment be investigated in relation to our national investment policies and further discover reasons

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**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON DR ANKAMA**

for the employability of all the abovementioned people for recommendation and appropriate action in favour of their predicament.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, the rationale behind is that I keep on meeting a substantial number of Namibian graduates from the University of Namibia, Polytechnic, vocational training institutions, colleges of education and some with foreign qualifications. Individuals as they are, they talk about their disappointment and frustrations with regard to institutions where they obtained qualifications because they are unemployed. They also talk about a “*corrupt*” recruiting system in both the public and private sector, that people with no professional qualifications, for instance with Grade 12, are being preferred for job opportunities above trained candidates.

Further, you and I on a daily basis as we come to work happen to see so many able-bodied Namibians sitting at traffic lights or along the street pavements in hope for someone to pick them up for a casual one-off job for a day, if lucky. Many of these are very young Namibians whose energy could be utilised for the good of this country. It is also possible that you know of people with or without qualifications who are unemployed, yet they are in a productive age group, whether they live with you or in your neighbourhood.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, we are all witnesses to this humiliating situation of unemployed Namibians without qualifications and those with qualifications from our national recognised institutions of higher learning but both who are able to do some good work, thereby contributing positively to the growth of the economy of our country.

As for the professional trained ones, in particular, one would want to know for what reasons we keep on raining people for fund while Namibia is in dire need of skilled people. Which institution is supposed to direct careers and on what basis, so that people could get training and skills and then get employed?

In my Motion I would like to suggest the following approach: I feel the

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**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON DR ANKAMA**

need for the establishment of a centralised research unit in the country, with decentralised databank to inform and direct the country on careers on demand, the number of trained cadres in a particular field, just to make sure that people are directed and people know that we have so many people in a particular field and we lack so many, and also to direct that job opportunities for the unemployed, etcetera, are known, that we need so many in this field and we lack the others.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, this will help facilitate access of data for individual and collective research and planning. It will also help individual students, Ministries and private entities to do informed planning when advising, funding and prioritising students' careers in choosing courses at institutions for training or higher learning in order for us to meet our national developmental agenda.

With the above in place, Comrade Speaker, we will be able to refer those with no qualifications to institutions with practical skills courses, where they can be apprenticed while paying in kind, meaning you get training. That means that if you do not have money, you can at least do something for someone.

At completion of their skillfulness courses, those who want may get into small business enterprising programmes or be recruited into a range of Government sponsored or private projects. Should we do these, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, we will bring down the unemployment number of both unprofessional and professional trained human resources roaming our streets and in this way we will be in a better position as Government to tackle the overall unemployment situation countrywide, now standing at 30%.

In conclusion, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I appeal that this Motion be discussed with the zeal it deserves, to lead to a desirable resolution. Further, it is my appeal that finally this Motion be referred to an appropriate Committee for research and proper recommendation. I so Move, Comrade Speaker, and I thank you.

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**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON P MUSHELENGA**

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Mushelenga

HON P MUSHELENGA: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to make my modest contribution to the Motion by Honourable Dr Chief Ankama. Before that, let me join the previous speakers by extending my personal congratulations to you, Honourable Speaker, for your recent election as President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. You have a rich history, full of outstanding achievements and your weight in international relations and diplomacy is heavy and unparalleled. Your recent victory in the international City of Geneva brings pride and hope to Namibia and the African Continent. Congratulations.

Coming to the Motion on the Table, Honourable Speaker, perhaps we should really look in a broader context as to what went wrong that we have these young professionals in the streets. Many arguments could be brought forward.

One, is it a question of the supply being more than the demand or is it a question of affirmative action? Because if you look at these young professionals roaming the streets, from which groups of our society are they and why is it not happening with some other groups in our society? It is a question that we also need to interrogate, because there are some groups where you do not find the professionals roaming the streets. Why is it like that? We need to interrogate that so that when we talk about equal opportunities in the job market, we should mean just that.

I see a lot of young people who have done science courses who are unable to get employment. Perhaps the type of training we give them is concentrated on being employed rather than being self-employed, that most of them would be able to find something to employ themselves. A lot of projects can be created, like aquaculture for those who have done Marine Biological, and other agricultural projects. We are talking of food shortage and I know of a number of students who have done courses in

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HON P MUSHELENGA**

agriculture, but they are either employed in other fields because they cannot find employment in agriculture and we need to diversify our economic activities so that we come up with projects where they become self-employed.

I support Honourable Ankama when he says we need a centralised research unit where we have a database, where employers will be able to go to this research unit to find professionals. I know, for example, that there are employers who currently go to the Polytechnic, hunting for students who do business computing. When you have a database of these people, the institutions will come hunting for employees and not only the unemployed people hunting for jobs.

The other time before this Motion lapsed I spoke about the attitude among some people in this country towards people who studied in former East Bloc countries. Unfortunately there is a general perception among some quarters that people who studied in former East Bloc countries either did not receive proper education and they are unable to do the job. This is just part of the Cold War propaganda, we have best qualities even in this House, the likes of Honourable Iyambo, the likes of Honourable Nambahu and others. We need to delete this perception from our minds.

If you travel to a number of these countries, you will find the best engineers, best doctors, etcetera. We even have them here. Why is it that we have this perception, discriminating against these people eighteen years after Independence? It does not really augur well.

There is something we need to prepare our children for especially at secondary school level. Some people are gifted as academics, some are gifted in vocational training fields. This is something that we are also not doing too well, either because resources are limited or perhaps because we are not doing enough to prepare children that those who are good in academics should pursue the academic fields and those who are good in vocational training should pursue vocational training. When we have this database we should include everybody. As I said last time, it should not only be for professionals who went to universities, it should be for

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everybody.

Some people have skills that will not necessarily need training, some people are artistic from birth and we need to have that in our database and we need to support them in the market so that it can contribute to lessening the burden of unemployment. With these few words, I express support for the Motion and I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. Any further discussion?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I also join others in congratulating you, but I was wondering whether I have to do that or not because I did not doubt that you were going to get it. Nevertheless, I do it for the record.

Comrade Speaker, I will be very brief. These are some of the things that we as policy-makers and lawmakers could easily solve and could have solved. I am talking about the discrimination imposed on some of the people who have studied elsewhere rather than in South Africa. Eighteen years since Independence we still have this problem. We inherited some bodies here, let us find out where is the problem. Why are we entangled in this problem? We had organisations here before Independence which were composed of people who only knew about South African education, because they could not go anywhere because of the political situation at that time and everything was judged by that level. Those people continue to be running these organisation until today and what they know is what they feel is the bottom-line. I am talking about organisations such as the Law Society, Engineering Society which we found here and they still have that perception and we are captured by these organisations and held ransom. We cannot even tell them that things have changed, the conditions they have put twenty years ago are still the ones we find today

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HON DR TJIRIANGE**

and those are the things that are excluding others.

We seem to be accepting these conditions without questioning them. As long as we do not intervene and say that was yesteryear, things have changed, we have people who come from all the corners of the world, their acceptance must not be based on what we have done 25 years ago... (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Minister a question, please? I am sorry to disturb the Honourable Member. I know that you have so much on your hands with the kids still in front of your Ministry. I know that you have many problems, but let me ask this small question. Honourable Minister, you are saying that there were institutions that we found in this country at Independence eighteen years ago, is my impression correct that eighteen years after Independence nothing has changed, to the extent that we are facing this problem that we have now? Is that what you are saying?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I do not understand the relevance of some of the things that have been said here. Nevertheless, let me go ahead.

I am saying all of us here, not all but most of us here, have been sitting in this Parliament since 1990. Some of us have been in the Government since 1990, some of us have been in the Judiciary since 1990 or a little bit later, I am not apportioning blame on any of these bodies, I am apportioning blame on all of us. What the gentleman is trying to say is, as usual, that your Government, SWAPO, ask yourself, do not ask anybody else. I am asking all of us because we are all elected people, we are here to change things and make them work. That is what I am talking about. There is nobody who can exonerate himself and what is happening in this country. Whether you are in the Ruling Party or outside, you are sitting here, representing your own parties with the mandate that you got. In this

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Parliament it is only Kosie Pretorius who once brought a private member's Bill here. Why do you not do these things? Who is stopping you?

Therefore, I am not blaming anybody; I am blaming all of us that there are certain things happening that all of us could have changed a long time ago. This is what I am saying. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: May I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Will SWAPO start changing their attitude of saying the directors and principals of schools who do not belong to SWAPO must lose their positions?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: The problem with Honourable Moongo is that he does not realise that he is no longer a member of SWAPO and he has to talk on behalf of SWAPO. Who told you that we say those things? You do not even attend our meetings. Talk about your organisation, leave SWAPO alone! Whenever you stand up you talk about SWAPO. You are not a member, leave it alone!

What I am saying is that these organisations are there, they have their rules, some of which are archaic and these are the things... (Intervention)

HON KAURA: May I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Honourable Minister, do you know that the private member's Bill that was brought by Kosie Pretorius to this House cost him N\$72,000? Would you be able to do that in your own private capacity to bring a Bill before this House?

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HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: There is no private capacity in this House. You are representing your Constituency who brought you here. You have been voted in, I do not think that you sneaked in here, and you must have a Constituency that can finance you. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: On a Point of information, Honourable Speaker. In countries like the United States or Great Britain, there are lawyers attached to Parliament and each Member of Parliament can go to those lawyers and they draft a Bill for him free of charge. That is provided for in other Parliaments. Please provide it for the Parliament of Namibia if you want us to bring private members' Bills.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: If you are a Political Party you have to know how to run your affairs. If you are a Political Party you must have the capacity to do so. If you do not have the capacity, dismantle it. The fact is that you are a Political Party, you have a Constituency that brought you here, appeal to your Constituency, do things, but do not escape because you do not have a lawyer. (Intervention)

HON DE WAAL: Does your Constituency pay? They do not!

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I have no problem as a member of SWAPO if I want to do something to appeal to my organisation and tomorrow I will do it.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNED AT 15:40
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:16 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I was addressing what Honourable Kaura has said. I do not want to be seen to belittle the point he has made, but I am looking at it from two angles. One is that as a Political Party and as a representative of people out there who have voted for you, you must have a certain capacity to do things by yourself as a Party. It is not a question of an individual, it is a question that you represent a certain Constituency and if you want to do something, you may rely on that Constituency.

Secondly, the point of lawyers being at the disposal of lawmakers is not a far-fetched idea, but the fact is that you cannot sit here and dream about it. If you want certain bodies to be created within Parliament, including a department of that nature, then we decide here and it will be budgeted for. Nobody has brought it here. We are improving every day in what we are doing through what we are experiencing. If the Parliament feels that the time has come to have a department of this nature, let it be a decision of the Parliament and the Parliament can budget for it and then we have access to that. In the absence of that, you have to do it as a Political Party like Pretorius has done. Nobody is prohibited from bringing this idea here to be discussed and if it is a decision of Parliament, it can be implemented.

Finally, I was just trying to say that there are certain things that are haunting us and this is why I am talking about these institutions that we found here. They had their own standards and motives to put certain things in place, which were maybe good during that dispensation but which are no longer relevant and we are still being subjected to these demands which were put there for other reasons. By not intervening or overruling these people, it seems that we are collaborating with them at the expense of the people we are talking about.

If the standards set by these institutions are not acceptable to us, we have

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the Parliament, we have the Courts and we have to make sure that what is being done is done according to our political desire. That is why I say I am not going to blame anybody else, the conditions that exclude these people have been set by these bodies and we are accepting them as a bible that we do not amend. I think we have all the capacity to bring into play those things that we think are relevant now, in order to accommodate the people that we are concerned about. That we can do as a Parliament, as a Government. This is what I was talking about.

Therefore, to leave people out just because they were educated elsewhere and for somebody to sit there and judge whether this person should be accepted will take us nowhere. We just have to firm. These people are excluded, some of them were sent by ourselves, they are coming from countries with a record of well-qualified people and when they come here they are being ridiculed as if they have no education. (Intervention)

HON NAMBAHU: May I ask Honourable Member a question? I think you are making a very good point, but I would like you to analyse something before you sit down. The fact that we got our Independence in 1990 and that was the time of the collapse of the former Eastern Bloc, do you not think that might also have contributed to some of us wanting to disassociate ourselves with whatever smells of socialism? I was looking at a cartoon in *The Economist* where Sarkozy is actually consulting *Das Kapital*. Now that the people are saying Bush is quicker in nationalising than Hugo Chavez, do you not think this is the time for us to re-examine some of these things and come back to proper thinking, now that the Americans are even thinking of the second package to bail out the financial system?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: You see, the problem is that if the politician is not confident about his own understanding of things or is not confident about what he wants to achieve, it is easy to be carried

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along by winds of that nature you are talking about. I will not rule out the scenario you have painted. Anyway, this is not only affecting those who have been trained in the former Socialist countries, I know people who have been trained in France in nutrition who up to now do not have jobs and I do not think France was behind the Iron Curtain. Those people who put these demands isolated themselves, they did not know what is happening in France. Maybe they heard about the French Revolution.

I think the bottom-line is that there is no one to blame than ourselves if we allow these people to be around there. The conditions put in place by these associations can be overruled by us and we have the capacity to do so. Let us just see what are the problems why the things are happening and let us correct them. This is what I am trying to say.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for his contribution. Honourable Nujoma.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. I also rise to support my brother, Honourable Ankama, who introduced this very important Motion which requests this Assembly to discuss, assess and ascertain the seriousness of unemployed Namibians with professional training and qualifications obtained from recognised, credible educational institutions here in Namibia or abroad, as well as the plight of those many unemployed Namibians we see roaming our streets and village every day. I also support his request that this Motion be referred to the relevant Parliamentary Standing Committee in order to seek public input thereon.

Comrade Speaker, before I embark on the discussion, I would also like to join the previous speakers in congratulating you for your well-deserved victory on behalf of the Namibian people, on behalf of SADC, on behalf of Africa, on behalf of the Diaspora and all the progressive-minded people

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of the world. Comrade Speaker, you have been moulded in the liberation struggle as a seasoned diplomat. You have been involved in the negotiations which led to the Independence of Namibia and I know that your experience will be useful to address the many challenges facing the developing countries, such as economic development and poverty alleviation. Congratulations, Comrade Speaker.

Coming back to the Motion, I said I support Honourable Ankama and I think he is disturbed by seeing so many qualified Namibians roaming the streets, particularly from credible educational institutions from Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Russia and now we have heard about France and all the other countries as well.

Comrade Speaker, I think we need to establish what is the problem. I think the problem stems from the fact that our economy is 95% owned by our white compatriots and mostly foreigners. If you put together the little resources we have here, they will maybe not even make up 5%, probably only 1%. These are the most important things we need to interrogate. How do we unlock this? We have to unlock this mystery why we cannot benefit from our resources, from economic development. Let me just give you an example:

If you go to the City of Windhoek, you see development taking place, but how do these people get the tenders to construct? (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: The Chinese.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I am not talking about the Chinese, these companies which are operating here are mostly foreign-owned. You cannot tell me that the Chinese companies are different from the South African companies. What do we get from there? The money goes to South Africa, the money goes to China. I am talking about

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economic empowerment of the Namibian people, that is what we need to interrogate.

I am happy that there is a document coming up, called the Black Economic Empowerment (TESEF), which is being spearheaded by the Right Honourable Prime Minister. It will probably address some of the challenges and, of course, there will be mistakes but as we advance we will be able to correct those mistakes. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, why are you talking of South Africa as if it is not a sister country in the SADC Region? I mean, you are talking of South Africa as if it is the despicable old South Africa. Why are you talking like that?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: When I am talking about South Africa, they face the same problem. Poverty is rampant in South Africa. Why? What is the reason, Honourable Kaura? Can you tell me why there is rampant poverty in South Africa? Recently foreigners, Namibians and other people from the SADC Region were attacked because people were fighting for the bread crumbs. (Interjection)

HON KAURA: But you do not like South African companies.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: No, the South Africans are also trying to address the problem that the ownership is not South African, the ownership is British, American. Honourable Kaura, why do you pretend to be blind? (Intervention)

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HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question, please? You made reference to Africa and South Africa. Deputy Minister, do you remember that recently African countries in the SADC Region signed what we call a Free Trade Agreement? What does that mean to you?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Well, I am discussing the empowerment of our people. EPAS is something which is being dealt with by the Ministry of Trade and Industry and we have the relevant qualified people here who will be able to answer. But I hope we will get the best deal out of that. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask the Son of the Nation a question? Honourable Nujoma, are you aware that Honourable Tjiuiko was a Deputy Director in the Ministry of Trade and Industry? He was supposed to develop the people and he ran to Parliament to ask questions.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I agree with you, Honourable Deputy Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare. The problem with us is that we tend to complain too much. There was a gentleman called X, he was employed in the Ministry of Trade and Industry to contribute towards economic development, economic planning. He had all the opportunities to come forward with a document addressing the plight of the Namibian people and Mr X continues in this Parliament. Instead of Mr X contributing in a unique position, a high position in that Ministry.... (Intervention)

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HON SPEAKER: Does Mr X stand for Honourable Tjihuiko?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Yes, you are right, Comrade Speaker. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, with due respect, I would like to ask, through you, the Honourable Deputy Minister to withdraw that name. Call Honourable Tjihuiko the NUDO Chief Whip, Honourable X is unacceptable.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Speaker, I was just speaking about Mr X and if Honourable Tjihuiko is so worried that he fits the description, then I am really sorry. I withdraw if you are insisting, but that is not the point. I was saying that the problem with us is that Honourable Tjihuiko was appointed as a Deputy Director in the Ministry of Trade and Industry, he is a qualified Economist apparently, he is supposedly an Economist, and this gentleman resigned from the Ministry of Trade and Industry where he could have made a difference in terms of contribution, in terms of administrative management and planning so that we unlock the wealth of this country. Do you know what did? He resigned, using his package to finance a tribal Political Party. This is the problem. (Interjection)

HON KAURA: Who is Hidipo Hamutenya? He was a Minister of Trade and Industry.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: This is the problem we are facing. There are also others who resigned from this side. (Intervention)

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HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Deputy Minister, are you trying to tell the world out there that Members of Parliament cannot make contributions, only Deputy Directors?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: No, of course Honourable Members of Parliament can make a contribution and we appreciate the contributions they make from both sides. We appreciate that and we want to encourage you, but there are also people from this side who resigned and we were told when they will come back to Parliament ... (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: On a serious note, Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? Honourable Deputy Minister, you were referring to Honourable Tjiuiko having resigned from the Ministry of Trade and Industry because he apparently did not contribute, according to your definition. Are you aware that Honourable Uutoni Johannes Nujoma was the Law Reform Commissioner of this country and the legal system in the country is in a chaotic situation? Are you aware that he resigned because he could not perform?

Secondly, are you aware that he has joined Parliament to cause the same confusion that he has caused in the Law Reform Commission? Are you aware of that?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I am not here to judge

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myself, but I know what I have done with all these laws which have improved the quality of life of our young children and our women. You can mention it, the Combating of Rape Act, the Domestic Violence Act and so many others. I cannot mention them because I am not here to promote myself.

HON SPEAKER: Can we re-read the Motion and pay accolades to Honourable Ankama who brought this important Motion? Can we stick to the letter and spirit of the Motion?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL: Comrade Speaker, may I ask the Deputy Minister a small question? Honourable Deputy Minister, are you aware that law reform and lawmaking are one and the same thing?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Correct, I agree fully with you and there is nothing which prevents this Parliament from introducing new laws, for example affirmative action. We are always talking about 18 years down the line, 18 years every day. This man repeats this like a parrot, *18 years down the line*. I hope this is the last day to say that.

Coming back to the Motion, as the Honourable Speaker, has requested, I fully agree with Honourable Tjiriange and I was talking about the unlocking of the economy as a first serious problem and I think the second problem lies with our professional bodies, the Health and Dental Association, the Law Society of Namibia, Engineering Council, mention them. I think it is high time that we have to look at these professional bodies, we have to interrogate them and set up a kind of quota system. As Honourable Tjiriange mentioned, these people behave as if they are a law

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onto themselves and what they believe in, the standards they set is like a bible. Here we have thousands and thousands of unemployed Namibians, how can we develop this country if we set unacceptable high standards? (Intervention)

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, may I pose a question to the Honourable Nujoma? Honourable Uutoni Nujoma, can we adopt the correct pronunciation of your first name, because every time people pronounce it “*Outoni*” I cringe, because it means something else. “*Uutoni*” is success. Can you teach us to pronounce it correctly, because “*Outoni*” means something else?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: A name can mean anything. This is an Oshiwambo name. (Interjection). That is not the purpose of this meeting, we can meet outside and I can explain to you. I know what you are aiming at, “*Outoni*” or something in Otjiherero, but in Oshiwambo it is Uutoni. The problem is that we are not patriotic enough. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: The Honourable Member wants it his way, it is his name.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Yes, whatever way, it is my name. The problem with us is that we are not patriotically stubborn with regard to our culture, with regard to our ideology, with regard to believing in ourselves. You want my name to be changed to an American name, I am not American and I will never be American, I never wish to be American. (Interjection)

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HON KAURA: It is a Herero name!

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: No, Honourable Kaura, you are wrong, that is the problem.

I was saying there is a problem with these professional bodies and it is high time that we set quotas, like the Dental Association of Namibia. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? Honourable Utoni Nujoma, you are doing well. Just on a serious note and I think the Mover has raised a very important Motion, but I want to ask you a question just to be able to quantify. How many people, in your opinion, that are qualified from all these institutions that we are talking about are outside in the streets? Are we talking about more than 200 people, a thousand? In terms of numbers, could you just try to quantify so that we will be able to grasp the gravity of the problem?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I think if you have read the Motion correctly, what Honourable Ankama is saying is that we must set up a research centre so that it can collect all the data of the people who have qualified. I do not think we have that as yet and it is very important so that we can know who has qualified where and when.

Just to give you one example, there is this Dr Itula who has performed some operations, including on a white couple who could not afford the high fees to be paid by the family and this man came and volunteered his services. This girl had cancer and I saw it on television. That is one example. This boy is struggling to be recognised by our own Health and Dental Association of Namibia.

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The second example I must give you is Dr Sakkie Akwenda, a doctor who qualified in the UK. He was subjected to humiliation by the Advocates Association here in Namibia. He could not qualify, simple little things which are being put as a stumbling block. Those are the things we say need to be addressed.

Comrade Speaker, I do not want to dwell further on this matter...
(Intervention)

HON VILJOEN: I want to ask the Honourable Member a question. Honourable Speaker, I want to summarise what a political analyst in South Africa said and I want the opinion of the Honourable Deputy Minister whether he agrees or disagrees. He said: BEE benefits the people in power, but what about the poor? It is more a problem than a solution. He said it only benefited top ANC leaders. He further suggested that the Government should look at wealth creation rather than fight the ghosts of the past. The ANC experts waste a lot of experts on BEE in an attempt to correct the past. The only way to go to bridge the gap between the rich and poor was to sort out the education system and concentrate more on the development of small and medium businesses. The name of the political analyst is Muletsi Mbeki. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Has he said anything about Namibia?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I think that was a mere comment than a question, because I do not understand what is the question and secondly, I would also like to know who is the author. (Interjection). Muletsi Mbeki, oh it is Thabo Mbeki's brother. Of course, it is obvious. (Intervention)

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HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, my question is, what is the opinion of the Deputy Minister and I have mentioned the name, Mr Muletsi Mbeki, the brother of the previous President.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Viljoen, what we are discussing here is the serious unemployment in Namibia. We are addressing a Namibian issue, an unemployment issue in Namibia of qualified Namibians. We have to find answers if we are really serious from that side and this side and talking in the interest of our own people. That is the challenge we are facing. (Intervention)

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? Honourable Deputy Minister, you are mentioning examples of highly qualified Namibians sitting on the street. Just a few weeks ago the Honourable Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, in an answer to a question as to why Namibians are not working in international organisations, said that their qualifications were not sufficient. If we really want to deal with this problem, is it not time that those highly qualified people be brought in touch with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs so that they can fill those vacancies for Namibian quotas?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Well, I know that the UN system normally starts at a very low entry and some of the highly qualified Namibians are really not interested, because you need to build a career in the UN. A clear example is Kofi Annan. He started going through the ranks and that is how he became Secretary-General. But we are not prepared to accept that. It is important to encourage these young Namibians so that they start and I am pleased that we now have several of them at the UN, some are clerks, some doing other work. The problem is that we are not vigilant enough. I understand a quota is allocated to

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Namibia at the UN, the AU, everywhere, but because we are not vigilant enough, foreigners come here, get attached here and they apply.
(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: On what Honourable Schimming-Chase has said, I do not know exactly what the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs has said, but I have information and I know that we have quotas in the United States, AU and so on and people were wondering why Namibians were not taking up these posts, but we had some of them who even went up to Addis Ababa and turned down the jobs and came back. They were saying that they could do better at home than in those positions. (Interjection)

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: How can they do better if they are unemployed?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I am not talking unemployed, I talk about Namibians. As we are talking now there are many in New York.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Tjiriange, I agree 100% with you and I think it is now time to give the other speakers an opportunity. I support the Motion as introduced by my Colleague, Honourable Ankama and I think this Motion deserves our undivided attention. I thank you.

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HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Deputy Minister. Honourable Kazenambo.

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

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I rise to wholeheartedly support Comrade Ankama's Motion to discuss, assess and ascertain the seriousness of unemployed Namibians with professional training and qualifications obtained from recognised, credible educational institutions. I do not need to repeat what the previous speakers have said and before I go on, I wholeheartedly congratulate you.

I support this Motion wholeheartedly. My own observation as a citizen is that many motions that have come to the Floor of this House tend to overlap and address similar problems. Even in this one there are many that are identical, because they talk about how to share the cake and all heading into one direction, namely the redistribution of the economy of this country and our structural economic set-up and I think as a country we need to wake up and confront the ugly reality.

I know we were told we will not, either by commission or omission, follow nationalisation of the economy and so on. Perhaps there is consensus on that, but really we ought to face the ugly reality that our economy needs restructuring. It needs reform, it needs restructuring. How that restructuring is going to take place can be subjected to processes by engaging our expertise in different fields, be it Economists, be it the legal minds that we have in this country and all our expertise. They need to recognise it and restructure this economy.

For lack of a better word, I think as we are feeling the pinch we are also in a way risking to throw out the baby with the bath water and I not think that we lack the capacity to address some of these problems. What do I mean by saying this?

Before I go to the analysis and Comrade Nujoma has said what is the

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cause of this whole thing and I do not want to repeat it, although in trying to address what is the cause I may differ from him, but I agree with him that we need to go to the root cause of the problem. However, we may differ in how to address it.

The root cause goes to competitive advantage. When you read Adam Smith in Economics, he talks about the wealth of Nations and a communist from the University of Kahitua will know what is the wealth of Nations and surely Nations are competing, Nations are dealing with their economies and they are also living in a competitive economic environment. There are economies that are performing very good in the world, like the economies of Singapore and other economies in the Far East, but the miracle which these economies did is to identify a niche in the global economic set-up. They identified a niche, what are they good at, what are their competitive advantages and how do they organise and manage their economies? Is it tourism, is it technology, and they concentrated on technology advancement and invested in manufacturing computer parts and marketing them to big economies. The concentrated on those and some of these economies are small economies with no natural resources. However, they identified the product, concentrated on that product and marketed it in the global market.

When it comes to our situation, even when I am diagnosed by a doctor that I am HIV positive, I will live in denial that I am not HIV positive. I will want to hear the message that I want to hear and that is that I was bewitched by Honourable Mr X. Then I will believe in that, but I am not addressing the problem. Rather than just facing the reality to say that yes, the doctor with scientific research has diagnosed me that I am HIV positive, I do not need to blame anybody, but I need to live according to the programme, I start doing other things that are not useful to the problem and blame somebody. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Comrade Kazenambo, may I ask you a

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tiny question? You are moving in the right direction, but I want to ask you a small question. Are you aware that Namibia is one of the few countries in the world whereby the difference between the gross national income and the net national income is so huge, meaning that the difference is what other people take out of the economy? If you agree, what should be done?

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

Firstly, I must agree with what the Prime Minister has said, it is a fact and to answer it will also go to the issue of the balance of payment in this country. The ordinary people who can contribute, the people who work outside who bring something here are only cleaners in London and New York, domestic workers, while the question which the Prime Minister has asked is clear, our economy goes abroad and a little remains here.

On the issue of the transformation of the economy, to expand the cake, we are stifling it in many respects because of our mindset, because of our attitude, because of the professional bodies. If you can allow young lawyers graduating from universities to set up companies, you know you are contributing to the expansion of the economy and the cake and address the very heart of the question by the Prime Minister, because these Namibians who will be opening firms will also get something from the cake. They will employ others as cleaners, as secretaries. Now there are only a few firms in the legal fraternity, some of them with foreign connections and the cake does not expand. This is not a question of whether it is affirmative action or BEE, as simplified by Honourable Viljoen, it is a question of the economy not expanding and the wealth is concentrated on a few. This goes to all sectors of the economy.

What we have in this country is protectionism in the economy. Tourism, it should only be a few companies in this industry. Who are in tourism? It is totally under-developed and there are no effective mechanisms to address our tourism. When I arrived in Okahitua, instead of supporting the local people there and pump money for them to build guest houses in

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Okahitua and Opuwo or somewhere in the south, we are ignoring that sector. That is what I was talking about, the competitive advantage in economic development. We need to address that factor to expand the domestic economy.

What is happening in our economies especially in Africa, we are dependent on extracting sectors and the extracting sectors, because we do not have the technological know-how and advancement, it extracts a lot. We are importing this mining equipment from foreign countries and the mining companies are owned by multi-nationals and the global business has no allegiance to any Government or any country. The headquarter may be based in Hong Kong, their origin is Britain and they have no allegiance. They talk about no borders in the global business environment.(Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? Honourable Deputy Minister, do you remember that in March 2008 in your Budget motivation speech, page 18, Rural Development Process, you said this: *“The Ministry has initiated and undertaken a process of realignment of the current rural development focus and restructuring of process of rural development has been completed and approved by the Office of the Prime Minister with the key result of focus areas being rural industrialisation, natural resource management, social infrastructure development, food security, planning, monitoring and evaluation and statistics and research.”*

In your presentation you are talking about broadening the cake. What have you done so far on the project that was supposed to broaden the cake and that we budgeted money for? Can you just give us a report on that? (Interjection)

HON KAURA: Did he write the speech? (Interjection)

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HON TJIHUIKO: No, I do not think so.

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

Briefly on rural development and really, I will not allow myself to be deviated from what I was saying, go to the rural areas my friend, there are rural roads, programmes going on there to address the plight of the rural people. There is rural water provision taking place, rural electrification, potable water and there is a list of programmes going on the rural areas. There is access to the markets by farmers, rural telecommunication in Okahitwa, in Gam. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: It is not the Government, it is MTC!

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

MTC is a parastatal, Honourable Kaura, owned by the Government of the Republic of Namibia, with due respect. The policy environment that facilitated that is also Government and those are part of it. To say that it is not Government, it is MTC, my father-in law, I do not think you got it right. Anyway there are many, many programmes, but let us go to the heart of the issue here.

I said I do not want to repeat what the Honourable Members have spoken, like the way we are stifling our participation. It is we, the Namibian people, who are tying our own hands because of our own mindsets. We are not ready for a competitive environment. A professional body like the Dental Association of Namibia may stifle, it may put blocks for Kazenambo to participate, but under the free trade agreement, a company from elsewhere will be set up here and it will be expanding and making

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money here. Therefore, we have disadvantaged ourselves with our narrow-mindedness, with our selfish attitude, but other people are coming to participate and get the cake.

We hear complaints about Chinese companies who are competing in the global market under global conditions, but I will not support Honourable Tjihuiko or Honourable Kaiyamo's company because of petty jealousy. I will not recruit your services even to construct my house. I think collective as Namibians we need to know our role and that Nations compete and mind you, whether we like it or not and it is a fact of life... (Interjection)

HON KAURA: Do you like Chinese milk?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: I like the healthy one, but not the contaminated one. It is a fact of life that while we as Namibians are busy watching one another, hating one another, whether this person is Oshiwambo, whether Otjiherero, whether this one is an Afrikaner, a black American will advance the American interests. First of all it is the American interest. I am in business in this country and I have seen it in business negotiations where a white person from South Africa might respect me more than a fellow white person here and because of assertiveness some of our white people pay allegiance to America but the black American does not consider them by virtue of being Namibians and we have not yet waken up to the call that in global politics, in global business it is your identity, your Nation, your patriotism. If you negotiate you must negotiate as a Namibian company.

Some were cheated in the global market because they clustered religiously because it is a German white company. After they lose and they are mistreated, they run to the Namibian Government, but when there is a national programme, they do not do that. What I am however saying is

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that we must identify competitive sectors that can broaden the cake.
(Intervention)

HON NAMBAHU: May I ask a question? Honourable Kazenambo, for us to be able to identify those strategies and to be able to interrogate some of the things that we should interrogate, do you not think that it is time that Africa also considers investing in its own think-tanks, because when other countries go to these negotiations, they are actually advised by the Centre of Studies. We however jump into these things without the advice of any special think-tank. Do you not think it is really time for us to start investing in our own think-tanks that can really provide options to whoever is going to these negotiations, so that they can enter than tunnel with a torch? We as Africans sometimes go there without anything and now we are talking about this global crisis and we will go into those negotiations without the benefit of think-tanks. Is it not time that we think in this direction?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Tate Nambahu, Comrade Nambahu, you have read my mind. (Interjection)

HON KAURA: Honourable Nambahu, he is younger than you.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Honourable Nambahu. “*Tate*” is a respectful word in Oshiwambo, even your young kids say “*tate*”. It is a cultural thing. We do not know ourselves, that is the problem.

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Honourable Nambahu, in global politics and in global economy there is no magic place where you go like we go to church to pray for rain. Economics is about rules, about orders, about negotiations, it is about feeding your people and if we think that we may go to the Americans, to the Batswana, to the Angolans, to the South Africans to cut the cake for us, we will keep praying and praying. It is not like rainy weather, where we know we are now in the dry season and the drought will pass, in economics it is about manoeuvres, tactics, negotiations, informing yourself. There is no way about it. The economy is why we are crying about unemployment, people sitting in the street. The very economy of this country is the one that is making the house shines in New York, in London, in South Africa, in Johannesburg. Even our own GIPF money is invested in South Africa and it is not hate against South Africa, it is about time to say no and it is a question of instruments, mechanisms and the rules of organisations. You cannot do otherwise if you do not engage strategists, think-tanks, people who research the economy, the tactics that are being employed.

If we religiously sign now, thinking that economic management is just like weather, no it is manipulated, it is manoeuvred, it is manipulated for best interest.

What I am saying is that Namibians must always be vigilant, knowing the reality of global economic operations. We are not with our fathers and mothers who will always think for us, we have to compete and we have to put instruments, strategies and policies that will expand our economy. Eighteen years into Independence we are guarding against one another.

How much do the white Namibians have, who are the blacks coming into the market? There must be corruption, but when a black American comes here ... (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: On a Point of Information. I agree 100% with what the Honourable Deputy Minister is saying, I think he is doing extremely well, we must support one another. That is the beginning, we must

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support one another, we must buy from one another, we must do everything possible to assist one another as Namibians. It is very important for the Honourable Deputy Minister Kazenambo as well as the Deputy Minister Uutoni Nujoma to buy from shops owned by RDP members. Support them because they are Namibians.

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

Thank you very much. What I was saying is that as a country we must identify sectors that will contribute to our competitiveness as an economy and on the question of RDP versus SWAPO, there are many ways of drawing attention and if a person is trying to draw attention in politics, then I have no business with drawing attention. Some of them cry that they are victims although they are trouble-makers. We have been through it, we know the story of the *likengelela* who used to put on SWAPO uniforms and pretend they are guerrillas. That is not a new thing. And I know NUDO is also drawing attention.

Just to conclude, Comrade Speaker, economies in societies are geared by mindsets. If you have a family of complainers, a family who believes in superstition, witchcraft, who do not believe that for you to cook food and eat, you have to make a fire and cook. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask a question? You mentioned another critical point and this is national interest. It is also one critical component. You talk about countries like Singapore and others who have identified a niche market in the global economy and they decided to develop human resources, let us develop computers or whatever, but unfortunately the media here always try to portray Namibia as a sad story if you look at the headlines. However, in Singapore you can see they always look at the national interest first.

We are saying to our white compatriots and newspapers that we must be

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of one mind and try to defend the interests of this country, because if this country goes down, all of us will lose. It is not only Uutoni and SWAPO, all of us, NUDO and the others will sink together. Comrade Kazenambo, the issue of national interest, the Americans go and negotiate, but the national interest comes number one. Wherever you go, for the Americans it is national interest and that is what we need to do in this country as well.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Your question emphasises national interest and I cannot over-emphasise national interest. (Intervention)

HON T GURIRAB: Before you conclude, if you wake up in the morning and look at yourself in the mirror and you do not like what you see if and you smash the mirror, does it improve your image?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Honourable Gurirab, you have asked a very critical question and that question goes to the heart of the problem. This is what we are saying and this is what Honourable Nujoma also said, in this country we as citizens of this country, irrespective of whether we are blacks, whites, irrespective of our political differences, all of us as citizens need to say that at this line all of us as Namibians will finish, this is the holy cow, here we collectively stand together. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY -GENERAL: On a Point of Order. I would like to be on the same wavelength like everybody else in the House. I know Honourable Kazenambo is

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answering Honourable Gurirab's question, but I just want to understand the context and the meaning of the question of Honourable Gurirab.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: It is a loaded question that is capable of being interpreted as being sympathetic to RDP. Maybe RDP is the mirror or whatever.

Anyway, in another context I was saying there is a point where we used to say that irrespective of what, here we have to stand as Namibians. I know there are some Namibians who are really committed and patriotic to their country, but some Namibians are happy knocking over the mirror, because they see that there is a problem, it is being reflected and they will knock the mirror, thinking the reflection is SWAPO and if they knock the mirror they will knock SWAPO.

If the reflection in the mirror is CoD, I will knock at the mirror instead of dealing with CoD, not realising that I am knocking the mirror to the point that the mirror will disappear tomorrow and all of us will not have a reflection. For me to have differences with CoD, for me to criticise the SWAPO Government I do not need to knock at Namibia. I should knock at SWAPO and protect Namibia, because what are you going to rule if Namibia is gone? Are you going to start from zero? This is the mindset here. The mindset here is to knock Namibia, thinking that you are knocking SWAPO. Knock SWAPO, leave Namibia intact, knock CoD, knock Kazenambo, do not knock SWAPO. This is why I said we tend to throw the baby together with the bath water and the baby is gone and the water is gone.

When the Americans are approaching an issue, whether it is from the Democrats or the Republicans, they know the parameters and America remains America for them. Britain will remain Britain. Though they are critical, they will know they are critical of themselves, but in this country we have people who think they can disconnect themselves, they are going to have a no-man's land. There is no-man's land in economics, there is

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no-man's land in politics. Therefore, we have to develop an attitude of identifying what are to our competitive advantage.

As we are building Namibia and as much as I am worried about how some Namibians behave in some quarters, surely to be honest, there are some white Namibians in this country who, when it comes to the line and if Kazenambo is crossing that line, Kazenambo has to be called to order. There are lines. Do not be surprised if you see me sitting with an RDP drinking coffee with me, he cannot change me to be an RDP, why should I be afraid of him or her? I can just sit and discuss with RDP and argue ideologically. That is the rule of engagement and Kazenambo cannot be changed.

What I am saying is that as we are building society and I am driving to a point here, and I do not choose issues that sound good to me and those who do not, we are building a Namibia eighteen years of Independence and the social, democratic and economic sectors have shifted. In this country there are white people who are poor. We must wake up to it. We saw last night a white person settling in the North and while some of us may be sitting in our cocoons, the people at the villages there are accommodating them. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Comrade Kazenambo, are you aware that there are whites who have cattle posts in the North?

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

Exactly, Honourable Prime Minister, this is what I was saying. The point I am emphasising here is that if we are building a society, we must constantly check the pulse of the society, the emerging dynamics in the social and demographic set-up. There are white people in this country who do not know what is next for them tomorrow and please, as we are building one Nation, let us not leave these people behind, let us not leave these citizens of Namibia.

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You know, I felt bad one day because I saw a white young lady who is employed at our Ministry and you know my attitude and my mind-set, I thought this white person, if she is working for the Government, should be from abroad because the attitude of some of the whites has been that whites will not go into public service and it was either deliberate by choice or not by choice. I asked her where she comes from and she told me that she is from Namibia. I felt bad, because that is the mindset. The mindset is that whites cannot... (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: It is a very important point that the Honourable Deputy Minister is making. May I ask him a simple question? You are making a very good point, but all of us in this country are poor. There are communities which are right and there are communities that are poor, but I remember last week there was an issue of empowerment where somebody high from that side was saying that the white kids should not benefit from the system because their parents were already empowered. How does your concern fit in with the concept which was expressed?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Comrade Speaker, I am concluding with the answer to him. My concern is exactly that type of distortion. The reality is that in this country there are institutions that have accumulated wealth, such as the Namibia Breweries or Woermann Brock and they belong to families, they do not belong to ordinary white folks. What I am saying that we must not look at whites as white, the white Namibians must be part of the economic process in this country. With these words, I rest my case.

HON SPEAKER: Minister Kawana.

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HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, due to pressure of time I beg the indulgence to adjourn the Debate until tomorrow.

HON SPEAKER: Before I call on the Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House, I want to remind the Honourable Members of the Disability Awareness Workshop for Parliamentarians being organised by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resources, Social and Community Development that will be held from 22nd to 23rd October 2008 at the old Cabinet Chamber from 08:30 tomorrow.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I Move that we adjourn now and return to the House tomorrow 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2008.10.22 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
22 OCTOBER 2008
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I have the honour, on your behalf, to acknowledge the presence in the gallery of Honourable Hendriete Mokabate Zulu, Member of Parliament of South Africa and her spouse, Mr Simon Zulu, Mr Mbeki Zele, Director of Social Disability in South Africa and his assistant. Kindly welcome.

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

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 96:

HON MOONGO: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 30 October 2008, I shall ask the Minister of Justice the following questions:

1. When will the Community Courts Act, 2003 (Act 10 of 2003) be put into operation?
2. What is the delay in the Act not being implemented?
3. Have the regulations in terms of Section 32 of the Act been drafted and gazetted?

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4. In terms of Section 8, read with Section 3(2)(c) and 7, what number of justices does your Ministry envisage to be recognised for each Community Court?
5. In terms of Section 10 of the aforementioned Act, the justices, clerks and messengers of the Community Courts will be paid allowances and remuneration. Does these allowances and remuneration include benefits for the staff and Traditional Leaders , such as medical aid, pension, death cover, etcetera?
6. Has your Ministry made provision in the current and the next Financial Year for the allowances and remuneration mentioned in Section 10 of the Act?
7. Are there provisions to meet the Labour Act requirements in Community Courts?

HON SPEAKER: Any further Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? The first Notice of Motion is the one of Honourable Schimming-Chase. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion? Who seconds the Motion?

**CONSIDERATION: REPORT BY NATIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION ON PEOPLE OF THE SOUTH**

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Speaker, Sir, after consultations with the National Planning Commission and considering the sensitivity of some of the observations contained in the Regional Poverty Project Research Reports, I wish to Move that the subject of the Motion be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resources, Social and Community Development for an in-depth investigation and consultation with all stakeholders, with the purpose of reporting back with

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recommendations to the House. I, therefore, ask the concurrence of the House. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker, I should not be misunderstood as opposing the Amendment by the Honourable Mover of the Motion, but I just want to get clarity as to whether a Mover of a Motion, before it has been motivated, can I propose that the subject be referred to a Committee of Parliament. If the issue is so sensitive as to warrant withdrawal from the Debate here, what is so secret that it would not divulge when it is considered by the Committee? I seek clarity on that.

HON SPEAKER: Before the Honourable Member speaks, this matter was brought up before the Rules and Orders Committee. As a matter of fact, the Honourable Member is quite pleased to motivate the Motion, that is the understanding of the Chair. As the Honourable Member said, there are some matters in that Report the Speaker has not read that are so explosive and perhaps would need verification.

But if it is the sense of the House, then let the Honourable Member motivate the Motion. You have the Floor, Honourable Schimming-Chase.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Sir. Honourable Minister of Justice, it is indeed a public document. However, if you would have followed discussions in the newspapers, views have been expressed which can be construed as being tribalist, sensationalist, trying to call certain people drunkards and lazy and then there were explanations by the National Planning Commission.

Apart from that fact, it is not only this Report that contains some issues that might need serious consideration, but actually some of the others as

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well.

The research was conducted on the basis of asking people questions and the answers were published without trying to at least put them academically as a research paper should be, to try and find whatever the problems may be, are they of a historical nature, are there explanations. I do not wish to bring it here to make it something for public consumption, for people just to shoot off their mouths. The civil society has been involved, churches have been involved and I believe that it would be of greater use if we get the proper information, because it has had ramifications even with donor agencies abroad which have picked up some of those statements and used it as excuses not to help developing communities and I think it is too sensitive to bring it up here.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker, I am really trying to understand the whole purpose of bringing this Motion here. If the matter is so sensitive and we want to Debate it here and now refer it to a Committee, yet the Report has not even originated from this body, it is originating from somewhere else, then what is it that we are trying to achieve?

HON SPEAKER: The House has two choices: To let the Honourable Member motivate the Motion and we take it from there.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: The Honourable Member has made an agreement with a body which is not here, for a particular reason, and I think we should respect that agreement.

HON SPEAKER: The Speaker does not really have any interest in this, we can allow the Honourable Member to motivate the Motion.

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HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, may I respectfully request my senior Colleague, the Honourable Member, to temporarily withdraw the Motion until those issues have been sorted out. After that she can reintroduce the Motion and refer the matter to the Committee. Otherwise it puts our Members, particularly the Members of the SWAPO Party in that Committee in a very awkward position. I plead with the Honourable Colleague that she withdraws the Motion, sort out those issues and thereafter motivate and then refer to the Committee for further action. She can choose in her motivation to avoid those sensitive issues, because at the moment we have not even seen that Report ourselves although it is a public document. I request her, for the time-being, to withdraw the Motion until those issues have been sorted out. I so Move.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Speaker, the reason for referring to the Committee is to enable the relevant Standing Committee to sort out the issues. It is specifically for that purpose. Honourable Speaker, I am prepared to motivate if the House wants to discuss it. I just believe it is a sensitive issue, but if it is strongly felt, I have no objection.

HON SPEAKER: There are two ways: The first is that we let the Honourable Member motivate the Motion. If that is not agreeable, instead of withdrawing the Motion the Honourable Member defers the motivation of the Motion to some later date and continue with the consultations. By that time everybody would have read the Report. I ask Honourable Schimming-Chase to defer the motivation of the Motion until such time as the Honourable Members would have had the opportunity to read the Report and through consultations agree on a date or otherwise.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Speaker, the document comes from the National Planning Commission under the letterhead of the Office of the President and the Advisor of the President has not read it.

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HON VENAANI

Therefore, I became concerned, who is going to ensure that the consultations would go on?

HON SPEAKER: In the meantime the Speaker is requesting you to defer the motivation.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: It is a Government document issued from the Office of the President of the Republic of Namibia. I will motivate it on Tuesday. I would have preferred not to, but you insist.

HON SPEAKER: The motivation is deferred until Tuesday, next week. In the meantime all the Honourable Members will make it their business to read the Report. The Second Notice of Motion is the one of Honourable Venaani. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion? Who seconds? Agreed to. Honourable Venaani has the Floor.

MOTION ON RURAL WATER SUPPLY

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, first and foremost, I rise to congratulate you on your victory as IPU President and put a clarion call on our Parliament that now that you are the IPU President, the international community is putting our own domestic Parliament in the spotlight to see how we conduct our business here. It is therefore important for us not to let the international community down on that score.

Honourable Speaker, I rise again to bring to the attention of this august House the looming crisis, coupled with various international economic meltdowns and credit crunch globally, food prices that have hit devastating proportions, yet our rural communities are confronted with a water crisis. The crisis of debt that are bringing down the livelihoods and probably in the long run their subsistence existence to lower proportions

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of poverty.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to paraphrase St Francis of Assisi who once said: *“Where there is error, may we bring truth; where there is doubt, may we bring faith and where there is despair, may we bring hope.”*

Honourable Colleagues, we as leaders have a daunting task ahead of us and perhaps it is a political assignment of leadership. When all of us travel to villages through our work in and outside our country, we see the clearest signs of poverty that confront our people and humanity in general, yet many of us who dare to care have great empathy with our fellow human beings.

However, empathy and understanding cannot and will never be enough to address the plight of those who are poverty-stricken, but leadership demands and it is judged on the decisions and actions taken to alleviate the situation. Our duty cannot be to castigate one another on character and shifting blame back and forth, but our collective resilience must be to unmask and free our fellow compatriots out of the exile of poverty and to bring them to the world that you and I call our world and they warrant that expectation from us.

Honourable Speaker, our rural communities are trapped in a vicious cycle of water debts that have reached the proportion of unaffordability and unbearable to the meagre small rural economies. The situation, as reflected from my research in the country and NamWater is as follows:

Honourable Speaker, in the northern Regions, the Cuvelai supply area, the communities in the northern Regions currently have outstanding debts to NamWater to the tune of N\$38,7 million, debts which are older than four years. These communities were recently confronted by serious food shortages and confronted with the climatic calamity of floods and many of their animals were wiped out by severe drought.

The Erongo-Brandberg supply area has an outstanding debt of N\$48 million. (Interjection). You are believing others to be that, but you are

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just that. But I will never be you, I am just me.

Honourable Speaker, in Eastern Water Carrier: There is an outstanding amount of over N\$58 million. It is the second largest communal area that exports beef to foreign markets where our country earns foreign exchange.

Kavango Water Supply owes N\$166,000, the second poorest Region per capita. Karas owes N\$61,000 and Namib N\$114,000, Khomas N\$380,000. (Interjection) I am talking about water supply, NamWater classifies them as such, the rural farmers, do not be ignorant. I want you to be seen as serious when I raise this issue and I am sure some of the people on the other side of the House are jittery because I am raising a very serious issue.

The argument which is advanced by the Honourable Uutoni Nujoma and his surrogates –withdrawn with all due respect, Honourable Speaker, it is a customary remark. Honourable Speaker, the argument by people is that people have too many cattle and they must sell it, but the reality of the situation is this:

If you take the number of cattle in the northern areas and prices that the people are receiving due the disparities by the red line, if they have to sell all their cattle, they are not going to pay N\$38 million. In Okakarara we have over 154,000 and if all these cattle are today sold at the current price, we are going to fetch N\$52 million, taking an average of N\$3,000 per cattle. Therefore, the argument that people must pay the water with cattle, the economy would go down because if all the cattle are sold, the people cannot make a living, they cannot take their children to school and that is the reality of the situation. Selling is not a problem, the question is affordability and I think the water prices at this point in time are not affordable.

There is a need for us to silently ask ourselves in our hearts whether the commercialisation of rural water supply has helped our people in any way and whether it is sustainable. I submit that it is not sustainable and we need a critical overhaul, now more than ever before.

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Sometimes, Honourable Speaker, we as a country neglect to gauge the economic capacity of our people before we implement schemes for communities. The monthly bill of the rural communities collectively is over N\$14 million. Every month the rural communities must cough up N\$14 million to pay for water, but if you look at the projects and businesses that are there, this cost is becoming unbearable to our rural economy.

The one issue which I think is very important for us to critically address is the pricing of water to rural communities. For example, the Caprivi rural communities are paying more on water prices, yet they are the closest to the big rivers. Therefore, one would ask the question as to why those people from that Region have to pay so much for water, yet they are closer to the rivers? (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: That is a campaign speech.

HON VENAANI: If it is a good campaign speech, then it is a good one, because it is raising a serious problem. It is very factual.

Honourable Speaker, if foreign Nations are bailing out their banks and financial institutions with multi-billions of dollars to stay afloat, then it would be fair for me to believe that we too should bail out the most-needed commodity for survival, namely water. The outstanding debt of over N\$155 million must as a matter of urgency be considered to be written off to alleviate our communities from sinking deeper into the exile of poverty. By doing so shall we bring hope where there is despair, as St Francis of Assisi once said.

Namibia as a country must reflect on the water laws that they have legislated. Therefore I ask for this Motion to be referred to a relevant Standing Committee for scrutiny and report back to this August Assembly. Honourable Speaker, I so Move.

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HON P MUSHELENGA**

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

HON P MUSHELENGA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I rise to make a brief contribution to the Motion by Honourable Venaani regarding the issue of water debts by rural farmers to be written off with a view to ease the burden put on rural communities.

Honourable Speaker, first and foremost, I would like to say that Government, just like everybody else, is concerned about the general economic trends going on the world and where everything is going up. However, I would want us to look at this issue carefully, that we do not adopt an approach of free lunch. We should be very careful about that.

It is true what Honourable Venaani has said about people being unable to pay and they are told to sell their cattle, but even if they do so they will be unable to pay this amount. However, we must also know that these are not the only people in debt and we must be careful about the precedence that we are trying to create as a country. We have old-aged people who are raising orphans, unable to pay water as well, but they are meeting their obligation, making their contribution. Let us therefore be careful about the precedence that we are trying to create.

If they say even if they sell all their cattle they are not able to pay the debt, why not write off the debt? Why are they not at least making a meaningful contribution towards settling these debts? Why do we just want to write off the debts? Obviously, if NamWater now writes off these debts, somehow someone has to pay for these debts and the question is, who will pay for these debts and where is the money going to come from? Therefore, we must be careful about that.

I know some farmers share water points, whereby the cattle of five farmers share the water point and each and everyone makes a contribution. It works in many areas, because if you do not make a contribution, your animals will not drink at that water point. We must also define

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communal farmers. It is true that some people may have ten or twenty cattle, but they are also communal farmers with a thousand heads of cattle. Should these thousand head of cattle just drink water for free while some other people are paying for services? I hope this is not what we are saying. We must be careful not to make some people better off at the expense of making others worse off.

We can talk about the question of reviewing water tariffs, water tariffs in rural areas, water tariffs in urban areas and so on, but I am also disappointed Honourable Venaani that you remarked that people in the Caprivi Region are staying close to the rivers but they are paying high tariffs. I am sure the Honourable Member knows that the water they are using is not coming from that river. When we discuss these important and sensitive issues in this Parliament, we must not use this platform for electioneering purposes to appear that we are more concerned than Government, more human, more kind, more sympathetic to the people than Government is. Everyone is concerned. With these few words, Honourable Speaker, I rest my case.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Minister Mutorwa.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:
Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Sir. The issue of water in a country which is largely arid is a very important issue indeed. We would like to guide the Debate as the Line Ministry, considering that the Cabinet is seized with the matter of water tariffs and unless somebody would like to take the Floor now, it is my intention to postpone the discussions on this very important topic to next week Wednesday.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister. Honourable Dr Tjiriange.

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**MOTION ON RURAL WATER SUPPLY
HON DR TJIRIANGE**

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Just one or two words before we adjourn. I agree with the guidance to be provided by the Ministry and before he is going to do that, I am just prompted to say one or two things that you also need to take into consideration.

It is true that this issue is very, very important. It is an issue that affects a lot of our people and there are no two ways about it, we have to address it one way or the other in a genuine and pragmatic fashion. However, Honourable Minister, I want you to bear in mind that in some of these areas some of these debts have been accumulating because of political interference by Political Parties, and I know what I am talking about. Some people were encouraged not to pay, for political reasons, in order to embarrass the Government in power, and I know what I am talking about.

Where have you seen a Local Authority Councillor or elected people encouraging people not to pay water? That happened and the debts accumulated as a result. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: May I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Honourable Minister, are you aware of the fact that the biggest defaulters in paying for water, which has led to water being closed down in places like Okakarara, Keetmanshoop and many other places, are the Ministries, in particular the Ministry of Education. They do not pay for water, they are the biggest defaulters. Now is that politically motivated to put the Government in a bad light?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I do not think there is anybody from this side who have asked the Ministries not to pay and we shall have to take appropriate action to make them pay. I am talking about politically motivated instigation in Okakarara, for your information. (Intervention)

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HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, I want to find out who is instigating the Ministries not to pay for water to put the Government in a bad light. That is the question.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: The Ministries are normally paying and they do pay, but sometimes there are bureaucratic delays. That will be handled, but there is no ways that the Ministries are doing this with a political motive.

What I am trying to say is that there were incidents, particularly in Okakarara, where people were instigated by Political Parties not to pay and it is a known fact. (Interjection). Sometimes we do not want to hear the truth, that is the problem. I am deliberately not mentioning any Party's name. Those who are irritated must know that they are doing very bad things.

Minister, on that day you are going to speak, you are going to give us guidelines, but take these things into consideration that some of these things are of our own making politically. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? If not, the Debate on this Motion shall stand adjourned until Wednesday, next week. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE: CONSIDERATION: CONDITIONS
OF SERVICE ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on the confirmation of the conditions of service of the Director and Deputy Director of the Anti-Corruption Commission in accordance with the provisions of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act (Act 8 of 2003).

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**RESUMPTION: CONDITIONS OF SERVICE
HON T GURIRAB**

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Thursday, 16th October 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Right Honourable Prime Minister. Honourable Tsudao Gurirab adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Speaker, allow me to speak into the record by extending our felicitations to you on the election to the high office of IPU Presidency.

Honourable Speaker, I am grateful to the Deputy Speaker who has allowed this Debate to be adjourned when it was introduced last week, to allow us to look at the principal Act.

The Anti-Corruption Commission Act (Act 8 of 2003) in Section 7 sets out the responsibilities of the Parliament in terms of the Conditions of Service of the Director and the Deputy Director, respectively. In terms of that clause it is clear, as the Right Honourable Prime Minister has said, that it is the President who sets out the remuneration for the Director and Deputy Director respectively; and that the Parliament is being requested to confirm that.

The remuneration was set out already more than a year ago on the 1st of April 2007 and we are being asked to confirm the same. The salaries, as set out in the Schedule, are matters of public record, so we are not debating anything new and we are not revealing any secret as has been feared here, because the salaries are set out in the Schedule.

Just one or two things by way of concluding. Sub-section (5) of Section 7, among others, requires that the Director and Deputy Director must furnish to the Prime Minister a statement setting forth particulars of their assets and liabilities *“including the nature and extent of any interest which they may have in any business or occupation or in any company or close corporation.”* We should hope that that has been done and that the Prime Minister has been furnished with that information as required in terms of the Act.

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**RESUMPTION: CONDITIONS OF SERVICE
RT HON N ANGULA**

Honourable Speaker, the adjournment was required only for us to check the process and we are happy that what has been done is in terms of the law. We support the Motion tabled by the Prime Minister.

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Prime Minister wish to reply?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, I wish to thank the Honourable Members for their understanding. The idea was not to curtail the oversight responsibility of the House and contributions to decision-making. That was not really the intention. We thought this was a straightforward Motion because we were just making a technical correction, but nevertheless, it is good that Honourable Gurirab was able to express himself and let me just make a short correction on what he said. The gazetting which he referred to was the gazetting of the changed condition of judicial officers – the Chief Justice, Supreme Court Judge, Judge President, High Court Judge, High Court Acting Judge. Once that has happened and the Conditions of Service of the Director of the Anti-Corruption Commission was pegged at that one of High Court Judge, there was an oversight on our part that we did not make a quick correction to adjust to that level and this is what we are doing now. I just wanted to explain that to Honourable Gurirab.

With regard to the declaration, last year they did declare and I am waiting for their new declarations. When I get these papers I read them with interest. I do not know whether the Members of Parliament are entitled individually to come and check if they so wish, but they did it once and perhaps I should remind them that they should also do so this year. I hope that you Members of Parliament did also declare your interests, as required.

Having said that, I thank you very much for your understanding. Thank you.

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HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

HON SPEAKER: I now put the Question that the Motion be adopted. Any objection? Agreed to. We are invited to attend an event, which is TB Awareness, staged by the Penduka Group. We rise for refreshments.

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:42
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:30 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

HON SPEAKER: The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

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

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

HON SPEAKER: When the Assembly was adjourned on Wednesday, 8 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 Manombe-Ncube adjourned the Debate and I now give her the Floor.

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: Honourable Speaker, I would also like to join the others and congratulate you on your landslide victory in Geneva against your opponent.

Allow me, Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members of this

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distinguished Chamber to add my humble contribution to the National Youth Council Bill. The tabling of this Bill is indeed a critical milestone which will go a long way in furthering the hopes, aspirations and industry of the young people of our country.

Allow me, Honourable Speaker, to commence by acknowledging the work and contribution toward these milestones of Honourable Konjore and all his predecessors, which include Honourable Mutorwa, Right Honourable Nahas Angula, the Prime Minister and the Honourable venerable Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana. Also allow me, esteemed Members of this Chamber, to further acknowledge the generation of youth leaders of both the National Youth Council and of the vanguard SWAPO Party Youth League. Included herein are the likes of Comrade Phaniel Kapaama, the late Comrade

Swapo Ankama, Honourable Pohamba Shifeta, Honourable Juliet Kavetuna, Honourable Peya Mushelenga, Honourable Evelyn !Nawases-Taeyele, Honourable McHenry Venaani, Comrade John Mukaya, Comrade Heather Sibungu, Comrade Anneline Van Wyk and many others.

Allow me to also pay tribute to the list of SWAPO Party Youth League who have, through patriotic diligence and sacrifice, acted in the interest of the Namibian people. Included are Honourable Jerry Ekandjo, Honourable Alpheus !Naruseb, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Honourable Kazenambo Kazenambo, His Excellency Martin Kapewasha, Honourable Petrus Iilonga, Honourable Bernard Esau, Honourable Ida Hoffman, Honourable Lempy Lucas, Comrade Kapia and Comrade Eliah Ngurare and many others whom we honour and salute.

Allow me now to address the House on the merits of the National Youth Council Bill. The National Youth Council Bill is an important, practical and symbolic institution through which young people channel their hopes and aspirations. Adopting the Bill will once again put Namibia at the forefront of the Nations of our world in relation to youth development support offered by the Government of the Republic of Namibia.

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Namibia, having ratified the African Youth Charter and having put a National Youth Policy in place, stand as proud testimony of the youth development legacy that Namibia has nurtured over 18 years. Furthermore, it is my considered view that this long-awaited legislation shall further allow Namibian young people to share in their own advancement, the principal foundations that underpin the National Youth Council which are critical.

The National Youth Council must always, as this Bill guarantees, keep its autonomous youth-driven and democratic foundations. Amongst the innovative mechanisms introduced in the Bill to contribute to the above are the Youth Development Fund, Regional Youth Forums and its renewed operational mechanism and the fact that affiliate organisation shall be expected to account and report on their activities and spending.

All these will, in my view, only strengthen and professionalise the youth development sector which has long been regarded as an extramural endeavour.

However, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I wish to raise the following additional matters brought to me after consultation with various youth leaders, including those within the current National Youth Council, the overwhelming majority of whom feel that the current size of the Board, in particular those elected by them, is far too low. I have also come to know from the youth stakeholders that youth organisation and regional youth forums are somehow let down by the reduction of the number of delegates from regional youth forums and member organisations to the General Assembly.

I hope, Honourable Members, that we put emphasis on more representation rather than less. In this respect, allow me to propose that the number of the representatives to the General Assembly be increased to ten.

It is my hope that the Bill, once enacted, will foster the ability of young people to implement the National Youth Policy, the African Youth Charter and the Third National Development Plan.

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Like Honourable Mushelenga and Honourable Kavetuna and many who have supported the Bill, allow me also to emphasise the critical need for the National Youth Council to be able to promote and develop small and medium enterprises among the young people if the country is to sustain significant economic growth in the job market. Clearly it is evident that the economy at its current pace will not stimulate the necessary job creation, thus innovative and alternative means of economic participation must be encouraged by Government and private sector in consultation with the young people.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I am extremely happy to see the Bill making provision for a representative from the National Federation of People with Disability on the Council's Board. The Ministry needs to be commended for this effort. This is always our plight and I strongly wish that we can general all positive ideas from this Council to benefit all of us and for the next generation. Young people with disability make up 5 to 10% of the youth population in this country. Therefore, there is a need for them to be represented proportionally and to be fully mainstreamed into the decision-making and implementation stages of the various processes that will underpin the Council's work.

Further, Honourable Speaker, Namibia needs to invest massively in the education and training of our children to give them the kinds of skills that will make them compete effectively in the marketplace of our country and the wider southern African region. The objectives of Vision 2030 are achievable provided we carry out the actions that will move us to the achievement of those key objectives, such as building a modern industrialised Namibia that can compete globally but most importantly, a Namibia that is able to provide opportunities for its citizens. This is going to be one of the key factors shaping the attitude and sense of stability of our youth. We should try our level best to achieve the possibility for young women to achieve economic Independence, equal access for girls and young women to education, health and social life, including equal opportunities for them to develop personal ambitions, interests and talents and, indeed, freedom from gender specific violence.

While one cannot but acknowledge that much has been done in the general

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empowerment of young women, including most strikingly in access to education and improved enrolment rate, there is more that must be done in the absorption of women into the formal economy, especially in leadership and management positions.

The National Youth Council should be at the forefront of mainstreaming ambitions and expectations of young women in their programmes, activities and strategies. We always talk about youth to be leaders of tomorrow, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, but while some people are born leaders, others need to be trained to become leaders. If young people are to become future leaders of their respective communities, they need to be trained in order to acquire the skills of good leadership. The question of leadership development within the youth sector is critical and important. Therefore, the National Youth Council must be seen to be doing its best in order to craft patriotic knowledgeable leaders.

If today's group of young leaders is anything to go by, then certainly Namibia stands in good stead in its desire to achieve development status by 2030.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, youth, by virtue of being young, progressive and patriotic, are leaders of today and are therefore elders and leaders of tomorrow. Let us develop strategies that will help their lives and their fullest potential. I wish to express my full support for the Bill and I further have no reservations and I am recommending that all Members of the House do so as well. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for her contribution. Minister of Justice.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. At the outset, allow me to congratulate Honourable Reverend Willem Konjore,

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his Deputy and staff of the Ministry of Youth and Sport for tabling this important Bill. I would also like to commend all those who spoke before me on the contestation and cross-fertilisation of ideas and I, therefore, wish to put down the gist of my thinking on the National Youth Council Bill on paper which is under discussion in this august House, which was rightly and timeously introduced by the Honourable Minister.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, there is no doubt that rich western Nations are currently witnessing increased unemployment and indebtedness, which might send ripple effects to developing countries in its quest to address unemployment and underdevelopment. In the past few weeks we have seen hundreds of billions of US Dollars written off as many of these financial instruments in the United States of America and now elsewhere have been caught off-guard. Overstretched bad loans and reckless lending have been exposed due to the collapse of the United States housing market. Indeed, this is likened to a the Great Depression. The only difference is that at the time of the Great Depression, there were few effective Government-owned central banks and there was little global economic coordination.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, as we move majestically in the 21st century, which many have called as the African Century, it is imperative that we need to pay special attention to the youth component of our population, not only in the sense that they are future bedrock of our society, but that indeed the hour of the youth has just struck. We have witnessed the formation of continental youth bodies in the form of the African Youth Union. We have also seen vocal structures, as the Southern African Students Union (SASU) and other interest youth bodies, such as the African Youth Parliament and SADC Youth Council. All their efforts are aiming at creating a better life for all the youth of Africa.

Out of efforts to create a better life for all African youth has aroused in African Youth Charter that was duly ratified by this august House on the 12th of March this year. This is indeed a milestone.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, it is within this context of harsh global economic environment and the way it impacts on smaller countries

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like Namibia and the resultant effects more especially on the productivity of youth and African Youth Charter that we should gauge this important draft piece of legislation. It is my humble submission though that it does not serve a purpose to create institutions with no real teeth to penetrate the economic divide and serve as a springboard for the creation of a better life for all.

We all know and say youth are the trustees of prosperity. In essence, without youth being involved in the economy and in social issues, there can be no prosperity in the future for this country.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, it would be a historical remiss if I omit the evolution of the National Youth Council. I recollect traces from my vivid memory that when I was Minister of Youth and Sport just after Independence, I attended the SWAPO Party Youth League Congress in the company of late Comrade Moses Garoëb in 1992 at the Augustineum Secondary School where I proposed a need for an all-embracing body that will embody the hopes, aspirations and interests of the Namibian youth. The Congress duly endorsed my proposals and all the motions were set for the consultation with relevant stakeholders. I vividly recollect the participation of Honourable Comrade Peya Mushelenga, Fanuel Kaapama and Lahija Aupindi then and now Hailulu.

I consulted widely and remember travelling to Malaysia in order to study their model of a vibrant and energetic National Youth Council. As history has it, the proposal was endorsed by Cabinet to establish the National Youth Council, which was officially launched in 1994. I salute all the cadres who pioneered in the establishment of the National Youth Council from the nineties to date for their sacrifice and it is where it is.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, it is in this regard that I welcome the proposal on the creation of a fully-fledged Council, independent National Youth Council and the Youth Development Fund. It is a welcoming move and doing business as usual in our efforts to empower the youth.

Comrade Speaker, the proposed Youth Development Fund seeks to

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promote youth in business. In addition to the above, I further would like this exercise to be supplemented by the establishment of a youth enterprise incubation park, focusing on specific high-value and high-risk sectors. Such centres could be affiliated to centres of higher education or research such as at the Polytechnic of Namibia and the University of Namibia. Such centres could link youth entrepreneurs to international reputable members, pension funds and state development funds. The focus should initially be on small business with potential to grow.

In the United States small firms represent 99.7% of all employer firms and are paying more than 45% of total private sector wages. Such centres could also serve as a platform for showcasing youth entrepreneurs and exchanging business ideas on benefits from Government funding process.

I also see this opportunity and call on the Development Bank of Namibia to develop youth friendly products to finance their business projects. The Development Bank of Namibia could offer bridging finance facilities for youth enterprises. It could, for example, offer short-term finance and/or performance guarantees for entrepreneurs who have secured contracts or tenders with Government, parastatals or private sector companies and support companies needing to develop their operations on the basis of contracts.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, having embarked upon the economic emancipation agenda of our country and our youth, we should rethink and strategise on how we could repackage strategically positioning and remarketing our youth to assume their rightful place in the global market and be immune to the challenge of globalisation.

The National Youth Council must work in close proximity to key Ministries, economic Ministries and involve private sector to generate the much-needed income to fund its activities, programmes and projects.

Comrade Speaker, I propose humbly that we must insert in the Bill a paragraph containing Government Ministries, offices and agencies to set up youth focused desks to mainstream youth involvement, empowerment and development in all spheres. The National Youth Council should be

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empowered to do more with less at their disposal, such as the development of a youth integrated development strategy. This will ensure that the youth are represented at all levels fairly.

Comrade Speaker, I also propose that the National Youth Council should expand its area of specialisation from the current structure of employment creation, international relations, treasurer, to assume a more radical and paradigm shift of pro-youth enterprise development and empowerment. The National Youth Council should promote public works programme to encourage more labour-intensive activities through construction of infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, railways, sports, schools, hospitals, housing, including rural housing programmes, Cement plants and in many other productive sectors of our economy where meaningful and sustainable jobs can be created. Value addition to raw materials must be mandatory.

I also provide that the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology must immediately be approached to implement the concept of information centres based at the Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centres wherever they exist. This will assist in expansion of information communication technology availability in the country.

Comrade Speaker, equally important is the land reform programmes in the context of youth empowerment. Systematic but immediate focus on agrarian reform programmes, with special emphasis on emerging youth farmers and financial assistance to run profitable agricultural enterprises. Currently our agricultural graduates seek for Government employment instead of contributing to food production and farming.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I also propose the creation of arts, culture, heritage and sport centres to cater for diverse needs of the youth and also to supplement the National Youth Council Bill and give more teeth to the Ministry of Youth and Sport itself. The promotion and value addition to youth talents in the area of art, heritage, sport and cultural activities is critical. These sectors do not only have entertain value, but also have huge and as of yet unexplored economic empowerment potential. The Government should, through the Ministry of

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Youth, establish this centre.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, the National Youth Council Bill was tabled at the right time in the history of our country, whereby we have to protect and advance our youth in the face of gloomy economic outlook and should be strengthened to assume and offer room for economic emancipatory projects, activities and programmes for our youth. In this regard I call upon the line Minister to monitor and streamline all youth activities to avoid duplication of work between the future National Youth Council and the Directorate of Youth Development. I also implore the National Youth Council to devise strategies to capture data and attract professional youth. The current perception that the National Youth Council only accommodates unemployed youth and school leavers does not auger well for its future and image. The National Youth Council must tap into professional youth and engage them on issues of common interest.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, with these very, very few words I support the National Youth Council Bill. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for her extensive contribution. Any further contributions? Does the Minister wish to reply?

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Comrade Speaker, as the Acting Minister of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture, I would like to beg for your indulgence to postpone the response of the Honourable Minister to next week, Tuesday.

HON SPEAKER: The Minister's reply will be delivered on Tuesday, next week. The Secretary will read the Third Order of the Day.

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**MOTION ON NAMIBIANS SENT INTO EXILE
HON KAURA**

**RESUMPTION: MOTION ON NAMIBIANS SENT INTO EXILE
FOR MILITARY TRAINING**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Namibians that Went into Exile on the Instruction of Chief Hosea Kutako for Military Training and to Return to Liberate the Country.

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, 14th October 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Kaura. Honourable Kaura adjourned the Debate for his reply and I now give him the Floor.

HON KAURA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, let me hasten to join the chorus of many others in congratulating you on your election as IPU President. I will rather say, *“ride on, brother.”*

Honourable Members, on the weekend of the 18th and 19th of October, myself and Honourable Deputy Minister Kazenambo were in Botswana to attend the funeral of Kaumo Maharero, which was graced by the presence of former President Mogae, Vice-President Mirafe, Member of Parliament from the Mahalape Constituency. There were more than two thousand mourners from Namibia and Botswana. Honourable Members, I was amazed by the amenities accorded to Traditional Leaders in Botswana. Their courts are not held under trees, but in beautiful constructed structures. More than twenty of Ovaherero and Ovambanderu Traditional Leaders are recognised and gazetted in Botswana, while only seven are recognised in Namibia, the country of their birth.

Honourable Members, I would like to thank *Tsudao Gurirab* who supported my Motion on the 154 veterans that were sent out by Chief Hosea Kutako in 1964 to go and get military training and come back home

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to participate in the liberation struggle of their country. *Honourable Tjiriange* said that they must apply because the Act is not there to provide for PLAN fighters only. *Honourable Nujoma* and *Honourable Dr Nicky Iyambo* echoed the same sentiment. *Honourable Mbumba* had several questions and I want to answer.

One question was: What did the 154 do to be regarded as freedom fighters? My answer is as follows and I would like to mention only a couple of names of the people that received military training. There are more than the ones I am mentioning here: Kamene Katjikonde, Joseph Karuaihe, Elifas Kasume, Felix Katjitundu, Tangee Kaaronda, Hiyakungua Kandjii, Rapanda Kaura, Hiyarive Mbaha, Muvi Tjiho, Metusala Matundu, Babietjie Mbaha and others received military training at the Haile Selassie Military Academy as well as in Somalia.

On completion, Rapanda Kaura or Theopilus Kaura and Joseph Karuaihe went to Tanzania to ask the Liberation Committee for assistance to bring the others who were held up in Omakunda in Botswana to proceed further north to get military training. They were told to join SWAPO. They indicated that they were NUDO members and could not join SWAPO. They were imprisoned for 11 months at Keko Prison until Rebecca Murangi, Katjuongua today, discovered their whereabouts, because together with the late Speaker, Dr. Mosé Tjitendero, they were students at the Kurasini College in Dar-Es-Salaam. Rebecca Murangi Katjuongua informed me about this because I was in the US at the time as a SWANU representative at the United Nations.

I, therefore, appeared before the UN Fourth Committee and raised hell. Immediately Joseph Karuaihe and Rapanda Kaura were released and taken to a camp in Ndondoma. From there they escaped to Kenya, which was not heavily under the influence of SWAPO.

The 154 languished in Omakunda and we assisted some to go to the United States until 1975 when the Turnhalle meeting was convened. They were allowed to come back home without facing any prosecution. They returned because they were denied an opportunity to get military training as NUDO members, but this does not diminish their genuine intentions

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and the more than ten years they spent in exile and this Parliament must accord them that recognition as veterans so that they can qualify for the N\$2,000 per month provided to PLAN veterans. I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: I thank Honourable Kaura. I now Put the Question, that the Motion be adopted. Any objection?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I am not clear and I need guidance from the Chair. What is it that we are adopting? I thought them Motion was a sort of information Motion. But what are we adopting? For the Parliament to instruct the Ministry to recognise the people or what is it that we are adopting? The Parliament cannot instruct the Ministry to violate the law. They have to apply and now the Parliament is saying that we must recognise them. I am lost. I do not want to oppose, but I do not know what it is that we are going to adopt.

HON SPEAKER: It came in form of a Motion and in no other form. *“Honourable Kaura Moved, seconded by Honourable Moongo, that this Assembly deliberates on the fate of 154 Namibians that went into exile on the instruction of Chief Hosea Kutako to get military training and to come back to liberate Namibia. The deliberations must be aimed at incorporating them with PLAN fighters (or veterans) who are getting N\$2,000 each per month.”* That is what the Honourable Member is asking and the Debate on the Motion has been concluded, the Honourable Member has replied and I am directed by the Front Office to put the Question that the Motion be adopted. I am not debating with the Honourable Minister, this Motion was Moved on 14 October and today is 22 October. Nobody has up to this stage suggested to the Mover of the Motion to amend the Motion or in the Debate convinced the Mover to withdraw or amend the Motion. The Debate has been continuing on the basis of the Motion as it stands on the Order Paper. We have now reached

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the point where the Speaker has no alternative but to put the Motion as it stands. All of a sudden there is now a reawakening. If the Honourable Members are opposed to the Motion, you know how to do that.

HON BOOYS: Honourable Speaker, you are correct in asking the Question. The only problem is that there is a law governing these people, the veterans, and how to register. The Parliament cannot prescribe. I request the Mover of the Motion to consult the Minister. We heard his response, but the Mover can postpone to consult the Minister and then come back. We do not want to be seen voting against the Motion, so consultations will be a good thing. I am requesting the Mover to adjourn and then to consult the Minister and then he can come back again.

HON SPEAKER: Nobody seems to have applied his or her mind properly before we reached this point. We should have avoided this. We have procedures to amend a Motion, to withdraw the Motion and it should have been done prior to this point. (Interjection). You are not the Speaker, Honourable Deputy Minister. You can continue to fight but you can do it outside. You are not the Speaker. You might feel strongly about it, but you are not the Speaker and I am not going to allow you to run the business of the House. I want a sensible proposal to get the Speaker out of this. Otherwise I will put the Question as it stands. Use your brains, we have the Rules to get us out of this mess. We have debated the Motion, we should have raised this point and it should not have been at this stage for the Honourable Members to request the Speaker to do what you should have thought about before.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker, the burden of ensuring that the Motion is carried lies elsewhere, not on this side of the House, neither on that one. The Mover of the Motion did so out of consideration, wanting to help the category of people he has enumerated.

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The Mover of the Motion listened carefully to the interventions of the Honourable Members and out of that he should have realised that this side of the House has a different position altogether. We are however not saying those people should not benefit, but this House has legislated as to how this category of people should benefit. There is a procedure to be followed and therefore, that procedure cannot be circumvented by a person moving a Motion in Parliament and, therefore, the Motion will be taken as registering that category of persons. Therefore, the *onus* lies with Honourable Kaura if he is truly interested in seeing that this Motion does not divide the House. He knows what to do.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I want to agree with that point that was articulately put by the Minister of Justice. The issue is really one of procedure and I think we would face a problem if we have to vote on this issue, because if we do, it is like we are agreeing that we should do things in conflict with the laws that we have passed. I think the correct way here would be for the Honourable Member to withdraw the Motion or otherwise the Speaker helps us to comply with the law, because the law has prescribed a procedure by which persons have to be recognised and moving of motions is not one of those procedures.

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, the Act which we passed through this Parliament did not include the 154. When they appeared to be registered, they were asked a few questions and then when they indicated they were among the 154 that went into exile in 1964, they were told no, you cannot be considered. That is why I brought it before this Parliament, so that Parliament can include them as veterans, so that they can apply and qualify. It is up to the Commission to take cognisance of the fact that there is another group of veterans that were also in that similar situation that should be considered. Just because the Act here is confined primarily to PLAN fighters I brought this to Parliament. It was an oversight on our part, so that Parliament can also take this into

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cognisance, that these people must also be considered as veterans. We are not obliging, we are not legislating to force the Ministry, but for them to take cognisance that these people must also be considered and not be chased away when they apply.

HON SPEAKER: I am not challenging or let me say, actually some of the arguments advanced are so meritorious that they are obvious, so I am not questioning that. We should have avoided this stage. At some point those who are opposed to action being taken should have approached Honourable Kaura and should have brought to his mind the wisdom of the proper cause of action. (Interjections). Honourable Kaura, I repeatedly hear that you were approached and advised on the right course of action.

HON KAURA: They did not approach me!

HON SPEAKER: I should reach a point of asking the Honourable Member to reply, but that is water under the bridge, we have to rescue the situation.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Honourable Speaker, it was stated many times here during the Debate and the HANSARD will bear me out, that the Honourable Member was made to understand that this is not the procedure, but he just persisted. Secondly, the Honourable Member said that those 154 members went to register and they were turned away. The issue is just to consult the Minister and then an Amendment can be made. Just consult that there is this group. When the law was drafted nobody knew that there was this group of 154.

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An Amendment can be made, just consult the Minister. I think that is the easiest way, rather than trying to force the Minister within this Chamber to amend the law. It was stated here by many Members from this side, they made it categorically clear during the Debate and said this is what Hon Kaura should do.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kaura has a point too that maybe the contributions in the Debate are different from assigning a Member to engage the Mover to accommodate objections. Contributions in the Debate are of different form. Before we go to the point of asking Honourable Kaura to reply, you could have approached and convinced with some very good arguments being made, that there is a law in existence and we cannot violate that law. I will put the Question and I will defer the final decision on this, but in the meantime I allow people who have brought these wonderful ideas to approach Honourable Kaura and work out a deal and I will Rule on the basis of that. Let the Honourable Members who are concerned approach him, let that take place. Quite clearly as Government you should be concerned and I have listened, you do not want to be put in a situation as Government to vote down this Motion. That ought to be a concern. Let consultations take place and somebody approaches me to tell me what the outcome is. After consultations we will put it back on the Order Paper. The Secretary will read the Fourth Order of the Day.

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE MOTION ON EFFECTS OF SHEBEENS

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on the Effects of Shebeens and Increasing Alcohol Abuse in our Communities.

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HON SPEAKER: When the Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, 16 October 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Kavari. The Honourable Deputy Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Comrade Speaker, the Motion is addressing a real issue that is facing us in this country and it is just fair that we give it the attention it deserves. There are two movements prevalent in this country. The shebeen owners who are up in arms because their businesses are under threat of being closed down. They demonstrate, come and occupy the space near the Parliament here, like what is being done at my office now, and there are those who are up in arms against the shebeen owners and shebeens that are mushrooming in the country. It is just fair that we address ourselves to this problem and not play the politics of ostrich, pretending that the problem does not exist.

The fact is that nobody can deny that these shebeens are mushrooming at an alarming rate. Even in areas that are so vulnerable where such structures should not be allowed they are cropping up. To make things worse, some of them are even right next to schools, attracting the attention of the children.

Recently the church has introduced something called BIG, paying N\$100 to people in Omitara. People took advantage of that and shebeens have been increasing around the area.

The other day the Deputy Prime Minister was very alarmed with what is going on in Tsumkwe, where even the little money that is given to the pensioners are sometimes taken by shebeen owners because these people keep on drinking on credit at these shebeens and when the old-age pension comes, all belongs to the shebeen owners and not to the old people. Therefore, it is really a big problem.

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I do not think that the problem so much lies with the law, but it is rather the implementation of the law itself, because there are certain things which are prohibited by the law, but we seem to be very helpless when it comes to enforcing those provisions of the law. Just go around, even here in Windhoek – at least not in the former white areas, but over there in Katutura – some of these institutions are open up to two, three o'clock in the morning and playing loud music. Children are going to school the next morning, the neighbours are going to work and they are subjected to the torture of this music, they cannot sleep. The law is clear, this may not happen but it is happening.

To make things worse, some of the children of the owners of the shebeens have nowhere to study. Inside the house it is so noisy, outside there are *botsotsos*, the child does not know what to do. It has become a nuisance to the society.

I think it is high time that the law enforcement agencies live up to expectations of the Nation and act accordingly. It appears – and I hope it is not so – that the law enforcement agencies have been cowed into submission by the threats of the shebeen owners to demonstrate and, therefore, they relax the implementation of the law. However, we cannot be run by mobs, the mobs must follow the law.

Therefore, at this stage this issue has merits that have to be discussed and we have to enforce the law. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: May I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Honourable Minister, I just want to find out, when we grew up in our old locations, the *Bokker* Police at Windhoek used to go around, searching for home brews, the liquor which was brewed by our parents and with which they earned a little bit to send their children to school. Do you not think that the shebeen owners of today are of the very same category of earning a living to send their children to school and if we start setting our Police on them to close down these shebeens, are we not recapitulating what was

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done by the *Bokker* Police during the colonial period?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: My honourable nephew, you are a lawmaker and I do not think that any lawmaker worth of that title should ever accept wrong things just because they have been suppressed in the past. What has been happening here was different. By that time the black person was not even allowed to drink beer. If you were found with a bottle of beer you would go to prison, you know that. It was a law, leave alone tombo, beer! When the people came to these shops here, we used to be sent by the white person to go and buy this liquor for them with a letter. You come into a bottle store, you leave it there and then it is delivered to your boss and in that letter is written, “*give this boy so much bottles of this.*” We used to write these letters ourselves, “*give this boy this and this*” and we took it there. When it is delivered, the guy who is delivering delivers to you. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: May I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Can the Minister explain to the House, are people running shebeens crazy or why are they building shebeens? Is it not to make a living because of hardship? Why does the Government not first address the hardships and then you can come up with a draconian law to suppress the shebeen owners who are trying to survive?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I am surprised and I will come to you. I am saying that these things have been happening during that time. (Intervention)

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HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, it is on the draconian law, I just wanted to ask the Honourable Member to withdraw.

HON SPEAKER: He is responding to questions. Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I think Honourable Tjihuiko is correct, a Member may not call the laws of this House draconian laws and I think he has to withdraw that. How can we pass draconian laws in this House?

HON SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member, you are a lawmaker here, so you cannot call your children the devil's children.

HON MOONGO: Honourable Speaker, before I withdraw, if the law prevents other people to earn bread, how do you term that law?

HON SPEAKER: Just withdraw to be on the safe side.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: To finish with Honourable Kaura, I was saying those things happened under different conditions. Even certain cuts of meat were not sold to blacks. We used to go with that paper, "*give this to my boy*", and then we get it and we take it home. These are the things that happened.

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Now, these people that you are referring to, it is true that they are made poorer and poorer, not only because of liquor, but the whole system was created in such a way that it made a black man poorer and people had to find ways to live even though there were no shebeens as such. We could not have shebeens because we did not have the right to drink, so tombo was being sold clandestinely in different places, people knew where to get it from. They were being kept outside and the goats used to go and tumble those things.

I can now say is that I am really surprised by the lawmaker Moongo. Do you want to tell me that if there are harmful practices and just because the people are getting money from those harmful practices we must not legislate against it? *Dagga* can make more money than liquor.

HON SPEAKER: The House shall rise under automatic adjournment.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:47 UNTIL 2008.10.23 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
23 OCTOBER 2008
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I want you to join me in welcoming Honourable Sakey Kayone, Governor of Omusati Region and his fellow Councillors who are paying a visit of sharing, exchanging mutual solidarity with the Parliament. They are in the Chamber, would you kindly welcome them?

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

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 97

HON VILJOEN: I give Notice that on Thursday, 30 October 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture the following questions:

1. What was the total number of members in 2007 for each of the 46 youth organisation, respectively?

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**NOTICE OF MOTION
HON !NARUSEB**

2. How much money was given to each of the mentioned organisations over the past four years?

HON SPEAKER: Any further Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Minister of Lands.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Honourable Speaker, Sir, I give Notice that on Tuesday, the 28th of October 2008, I shall Move –

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to provide for the division of buildings into sections and common property and the acquisition of separate ownership in sections coupled with joint ownership in common property; the control of certain rights attached to separate ownership in Sections and joint ownership in common property; the transfer of ownership of Sections and the registration of sectional mortgage bond over, and real rights in sections; the conferring and registration of rights in, and the disposal of common property; the establishment of bodies corporate to control common property and for that purpose to apply rules to establish a sectional title regulation board and to provide for incidental matters.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? Question 79 is one by Honourable Tjihuiko. Does the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry wish to reply?

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

QUESTION 79:

HON TJIHUIKO: I put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly. I have the pleasant duty to respond to the questions posed by Honourable Tjiuiko from the Okahitua Village near Okakarara, roughly 400 kilometres from Kavango and Caprivi Regions.

With regard to Question 1, I would agree with Honourable Tjiuiko that the two main factors which determine agricultural production in any country, inclusive of Namibia, are climate and land and in there we also include water. Namibia is the most arid country south of the Sahara Desert on our continent, with no average and highly variable rainfalls. This climate means that the potential for arable agriculture is generally limited to the north of the country where water is less scarce, especially in Kavango and Caprivi Regions which receive between 500 to 700 millimetres every year. Of course, in today's world, characterised by climate change, even the 500 to 700 millimetres per year is not predictable all the time.

With regard to question 2, Namibia currently imports between 70 and 80% of cereals and horticultural products for human consumption annually, which is not good at all for a country. The Caprivi and Kavango Regions have the potential and, I must add, to become and are becoming the breadbaskets for Namibia and could replace these imports of food because of their favourable climatic condition factor, soil and availability of water. The two Regions also have the potential to supply livestock products to the local and international markets and this could improve the livelihoods of Namibians. However, it should be understood that natural phenomena, such as droughts, floods, outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in the two

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Regions that you have mentioned, as a result of Buffalo's infestation of pests, crop vandalism by elephants, limited appropriate technology and limited arable land hamper the exploitation of the agricultural potential in those Regions in food.

Question 3: Some of the answers to Question 3 have already been provided as to why these two Regions, with the potential, were not and could not be exploited to the maximum. However, since our Independence, the Government of the Republic of Namibia, the SWAPO Party Government of the Republic of Namibia, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, has constructed agricultural development centres in many of our Regions, inclusive of Kavango and Caprivi, to provide extension services to the farmers in the form of training and information dissemination on improved farming practices and technologies. To that effect, the Ministry adopted a farming systems research and extension approach, which is a participatory approach and places responsibility to lead the development process firmly and largely in the hands of rural communities.

Provision of information in all local languages was intensified and is being intensified in order to assist agricultural producers to make informed decisions. This information covered a wide spectrum of topics, ranging from livestock and crop husbandry, draught animal power management, veldt fire control, livestock health and marketing, tree planting, small-scale irrigation, locust control and acquisition of agricultural loans and income generating activities.

For example, the San communities at Chetto in the Omega area, which is part of the Caprivi Region, in the Bravo area of the Kavango Region, Ekoka, Omahuni in Osholo areas in the Ohangwena Region, Tsintsabis area in the Oshikoto Region, Mukata and Tsumkwe areas in the Otjozondjupa Region and Skoonheid area in the Omaheke Region were provided with heifer, steers, oxen, donkeys for draught power as well as draught implements and equipment through the Productivity Upliftment Micro Project and the Draught Animal Power Acceleration Programme.

In order to fully exploit the potential of Kavango and Caprivi Regions but

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also other Regions where water and fertile soil is available, the Government started an incentive scheme last year which deals with the provision of support services to dry-land crop farmers in the crop-growing areas. This deals with the provision of ploughing services, seeds, fertilisers as well as weeding. The scheme shall also be accompanied by some limited amounts for procurement of cereals from dry-land crop farmers to be stored in the recently constructed silos at Katima Mulilo, Rundu, Omuthiya, Okongo and later in Tsandi.

Vaccination campaigns continue to be conducted in Kavango and Caprivi Regions against the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease and lung sickness. Livestock conditions in both Caprivi and Kavango Regions were observed to be in good condition. We are definitely worried about this foot-and-mouth disease.

You will therefore agree with me, that central to the achievement of poverty reduction and food security is increased productivity, diversification of income generating activities, value addition and market access.

To reduce the vulnerability to rain for agriculture, the Ministry has supported irrigation-based production in areas which are within close proximity to perennial rivers and permanent water sources. It is the Kavango River, the border between us and Angola, the Zambezi border with Zambia, Kunene River and the Orange River. That is how this country was created, we do not have a perennial river running through the centre of the country.

Such irrigation schemes are at places like Shadikongoro, Etunda, Ndonga-Linene, Shitemo, Museso, Vungu-Vungu, Kalimbeza in the Caprivi Region and also Tandjeskopje and other activities at the Orange River, inclusive of the Naute where we have some dates.

In order to encourage small-scale farmers to become commercial farmers, the Ministry has constructed 35 low-cost houses at Shadikongoro and Vungu-Vungu for the 35 students who have graduated at Mashare Irrigation Training Centre. Similar developments are ongoing at Shitemo,

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Museso, Ndonga-Linena, Etunda and Vungu-Vungu. The Omega project will be reactivated and improved under the management of the new Namibia Development Corporation, because they also have a big farm where we have placed some farmers to produce mahangu. Two weeks ago I was there and last year they have produced quite a number of bags of mahangu. With increased production the Government decided to construct the strategic reserves that I made reference to already.

Question 4 is a very interesting one. You are insinuating that the uling Party does not have the political will. The SWAPO Party Election Manifesto of 2004, page 52 and 53, exclusively deals with the issue of agriculture, agricultural projects, the whole issue of the Green Scheme and it was on the basis of that Manifesto that the SWAPO Party was elected. If you say we do not have the political will and we are implementing all this, then you must be living on a different planet and not on this planet and if you thought that in the two Regions that you have mentioned we do not have the political will, I can give you the guarantee now that those are the Regions where SWAPO Party will continue to have the majority support. Next year you will not have a single vote there. We do have the political will, we have our programmes and we are busy implementing our programmes.

Lastly, Honourable Speaker, on a serious note, I think it is very important that at times the Honourable Members of the National Assembly, National Council should undertake some study tours, not only during hearings, but to specifically go out, link up with specific line Ministries so that they can get acquainted with the projects that are being implemented by different Ministries of the Government of the Republic of Namibia. I know that the Opposition Parties will not like it, but of course it would be good that you go and look at the irrigation schemes, advise us where we need to do more and then at least you will be speaking from a position of an enlightened person. Thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, allow me to thank the Honourable Minister for the political statement that he has made. I was

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actually hoping that he will not answer my question, but as usual The typical SWAPO statement. But nevertheless, I would love to see a copy of your speech because this time next year I am going to ask you the same question.

HON SPEAKER: Question 81 is by Honourable Moongo. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

QUESTION 81:

HON MOONGO: I put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:
Thank you, Comrade Speaker, it is a very important question raised by Honourable Moongo and again I have the pleasant duty to respond to those questions.

It is true that payments were delayed in the past for services rendered since payments were done from Windhoek, but I would like to bring it to the attention of the Honourable Member and the public at large, that the Government of the Republic of Namibia, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry – and credit goes to my predecessor, Dr Nickey Iyambo – has made funds available to assist farmers to acquire subsidised tractor ploughing services, provision of improved seeds, fertilisers and weeding services under the Youth Employment Scheme, as directed by our Government last year.

Since 2007, funds for ploughing and weeding services, were transferred and managed by the Regional Councils in accordance with our decentralisation policy and also in order to speed up the payment process

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to private tractor owners and to the youth groups that are involved in assisting with the weeding activities. This is the mechanism the Ministry has put in place so as to address the problem of late payments. Late payment is now, we believe, something of the past.

The question whether the problem of late payments will be catered for is already answered.

With regard to the question about hand-engine operated ploughs from China and Japan, which the Honourable Member claims to be of good assistance to poor communal farmers, I am informed by the experts who deal with this particular programme, that those hand-engine operated ploughs were tested in collaboration with our engineers and the results show that they were ineffective in many instances and, therefore, not suitable to our conditions generally. In addition, most of these implements and machines broke down and spare part, maintenance and financing thereof became a big problem. Nevertheless, we are trying everything possible to get the right equipment and right implements for our farmers to engage in activities of production of food for our country. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON MOONGO: I thank the Honourable Minister for the answer, but I would like to pose an additional question. Since the prices of diesel and petrol are rising, would it be possible for the Government to increase the assistance to individuals?

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: I sit next to the Minister responsible for Energy and I am advised that the prices of petrol and diesel are going down and we hope and pray that that trend will continue that way.

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HON DR GEINGOB

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister. That is good news. Question 82 is by Honourable Tjihuiko. Does the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry wish to reply?

QUESTION 82:

HON TJIHUIKO: I put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I know that the Honourable Member is missing his Ministry, therefore showing interest in what is happening there. I am very glad that he does that. I know that there are some vacancies and in case he would leave this House, we will be welcoming him because he has interest.

Unfortunately the questions seem to be misdirected as the Ministry of Trade and Industry neither regulates, nor is involved in the sale of land. As such the questions of the Honourable Member on town land can best be responded to by the Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development. I do not deal with the land in the towns of Oshakati, Ondangwa or Windhoek. For the land outside proclaimed towns, the Honourable Minister of Lands and Resettlement is the competent authority. Because of that misdirection of the question, the rest of the questions fall away too. If he could rephrase it and come back to me, I will give him answers on investment in general by foreigners. But to base his questions on the land question in towns, unfortunately it is a misdirected question.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I am not sure about that, but as advised by the Minister and the SWAPO president-in-waiting, I will direct the question to the right authority. Thank you very much.

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HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Question 83 is by Honourable Moongo. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

QUESTION 83:

HON MOONGO: I put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Comrade Speaker, this question overlaps with the other one, but for the sake of answering, I would briefly answer this one.

In the first place, the assistance that the Ministry of Veterans Affairs may provide or any services that it may provide are only to those people who have qualified as veterans. This Government has numerous programmes from which different people in different categories and different situations may benefit. The mere fact that the Ministry of Veterans Affairs has to look after those who qualified as veterans does not make it an authority to provide for people who are not veterans.

Therefore, even people who might have been injured in one way or another during the long struggle that we had or if they are not veterans, there are other bodies in the Government which have the responsibility to look after those people if they are not veterans.

For example, if you were passing a place where there was a gathering and a stray bullet struck you, because the regime was dispersing the people who were meeting, the mere fact that the bullet struck you does not make you a veteran, but you are injured, so you are suffering and the Government has other programmes for people who find themselves in situations like that. Either you will be treated by hospitals or taken care of by pension regimes or whatever, but it is not the responsibility of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs as far as this question is concerned.

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What will follow in the next question is basically dealing with the same issue.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister. Question 84 is by Honourable Moongo. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

QUESTION 84:

HON MOONGO: I put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Comrade Speaker, as usual Honourable Moongo is putting these questions to go and give answers elsewhere and I will try to help him to do that.

The first question: 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?

Honourable Moongo, you have been part and parcel of the deliberations of this House when this Act was passed. There is nothing in the Act, not even one paragraph, which mentions SWAPO – nothing! Therefore, to insinuate that only those who are members of SWAPO are veterans is wrong and uncalled for. The definition of the Act which you have participated in has three categories: (a) *a person who was a member of the liberation forces, or (b), **consistently** and **persistently** participated or engaged in any political, diplomatic or underground activity in furtherance of the liberation struggle or (c), owing to his or 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.* These are the criteria you have to meet in order to qualify as a veteran of the liberation struggle.

Therefore, there is nothing in the law which says that those who have been

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detained by SWAPO cannot apply for the status of veteran. Those who apply and pass the test, as provided for in this Act, will definitely be registered and conferred the glorious status of a veteran.

The onus of proof lies with those who are applying, to convince the Board that they persistently and consistently participated in the struggle or meet one of the other criteria.

Therefore, there is nothing the question insinuates and has no standing in the law as it is now. Nobody has stopped those people or are going to stop them if they think that they have a case to make and they qualify.

The second question: Is it a fact that in the spirit of reconciliation the two warring parties, SWATF and PLAN fighters shared the N\$36 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 SWAPO?

I want to say the following: The South Africans came here in Namibia, not by the invitation of the Namibian people, they came here and occupied this country and turned us into slaves, colonised our country, made us to suffer. Many people died at the hands of South Africa. The struggle was long and bitter and in the process some people died, others were used, maybe not because they wanted to but they had not choice, some voluntarily used by South Africa, put into their structures which have been created specifically to maintain colonialism in this country.

Therefore, you cannot be in the colonial structures and be a liberator at the same time, you cannot! Whether you were forced or you were not there voluntarily, the mere fact is that the aim of the South African structures, including SWATF, was to colonise us, was to keep us under colonialism. That we must understand. Even my kin there cannot be a liberator, you cannot, because whether you went there by force or not, you have been in a force that have been created to keep colonialism in this country. That you must first know.

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Secondly, when South Africa came with this plan of paying the N\$36 million, for your own information, we said that *“yes, you can do that but you have created chaos in this country, you have created certain situations where people today are suffering, you cannot only pay those that you have used to suppress the Namibian people. If you do that, pay also those whom you have subjected to colonialism and those that have suffered because of your presence here. Do that, pay your people that you have used, but also those that you have subjected to suffering must also get something.”*

South Africa withdrew that money for a while, went and thought about it and when it came back, it is South African money and it is South Africa which divided that money according to what it wanted. That money does not belong to Namibian Government, it belongs to South Africa and South Africa has decided to go and divide that money. You go and ask South Africa. We cannot allow South Africa to pay people that it was using here and leave those they were dominating and suppressing, otherwise we will create problems. South Africa saw the point and the money belongs to her. Therefore, in its own wisdom it decided that this goes that side, this goes this way. It is their money, go and ask them, *“my boss, why did you decide this way?”*

The fourth question: Is the Minister aware that Sara Ashivolo, a victim of Oshakati bomb blast and others were refused to register as war veterans?

You see, there is this story of being refused to register. I want to make it categorically clear that my research after this and my inference after this is that most of the people who have been directed away are those who did not want to answer certain questions. There is a form and some people thought they are only being asked because they do not belong to SWAPO and they are not going to answer. If you do not answer, you will not be registered. Answer!

What do you expect the people to do if you are being asked and you become arrogant, you do not want to answer? If this lady could have answered all the questions, those people have no mandate to send away anybody who has answered to those questions. Their next step is to take

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the form to the Board and it is the Board who is going to decide. Those people who are registering do not decide on the fate of the people, they only get the data and if you are refusing to give the data, they will not give that half filled-in form to the Board.

Secondly and last, the person that you are referring to was a victim of the bomb in the bank. That is where the connection comes. The mere fact that you were somewhere or injured during that period of time, you were somewhere where there was a commotion and you happened to be injured, that in itself is not covered in the definition as it stands now. You must have persistently and consistently participated in the struggle. Even a traitor may be passing there and be innocently injured. That does not make him a liberator. Therefore, those people who were injured in that way are not forgotten, but their home is elsewhere, not with the Ministry of Veterans Affairs. As citizens they must be looked after by this Government, but the Government has so many institutions and Ministries. If they go to the right authorities, they will get what is due to them, but not as veterans.

Therefore, I cannot be responsible for things that the Ministry was not created for. People like this one has to find, and rightly so, help from the programmes of the State, not of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs.

HON MOONGO: I would like to ask a short follow-up question. I thank the Minister for a detailed answer, but the first question is; if somebody was detained by SWAPO that time and he did not commit any crime, will you regard him as not persistently participating in the liberation struggle? Who is really the cause that he could not stay longer? I think the guilty person is SWAPO and the Court will decide otherwise.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I have told the Honourable Member that there is nothing in the law that stops these people from applying. Let them apply, let them answer the questions and

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the Board will decide, but there is nothing in the law which says that the people who were detained cannot apply to be veterans. The Board will determine whether they meet the criteria or not.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. The Junior Mayor of the City of Windhoek, Elsabe Van Vuuren, is back again in the Chamber. She likes the Parliament business. The House shall rise for refreshments.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:45
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:28 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I have just learnt that Dr Shangula, now Permanent Secretary of Environment and Tourism, lost his wife and we wish to assure them that we pray for the family and we will be informed about the arrangement for the funeral service. May her soul rest in peace. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING: PREVENTION OF
ORGANISED CRIME AMENDMENTBILL**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading –
Prevention of Organised Crime Amendment Bill.

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, 21 October 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Justice, that the Bill be read a Second Time.

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HON T GURIRAB**

Honourable Tsudao Gurirab adjourned the Debate and I now give him the Floor.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Speaker, I rise to say that we support the Amendment Bill. The Amendments are essentially of technical nature and to realign them with those who have already been passed in this House.

The Amendments in Section 1, we believe, could have been foreseen at the time when this Bill was passed four years ago because the cross-referencing to the laws which are under Section 6(a) and (b) were not at the time when this Act was passed still operational. They are still, as we speak, operational.

The Amendment under Section 2 strengthens the original provision and for that reason we also support the Amendment as proposed under Section 2.

Under Section 3, the Amendment of Section 10 is a consequence of the Amendment being proposed under Section 10 and we support that also.

I have only question and that is on the Amendments being proposed under Section 77 of the original Act and that has to do with the Amendment under Subsection (5)(e). The original Act under (e) said “*one other person*”, but what is now being proposed under (e) is “*not more than seven persons designated by the Minister to deliberate on any relevant matter.*” My question is on that last part, “*to deliberate on any other matter.*” Are these 6 member under proposed (e) permanent members of the committee or are these persons who will be invited to serve on the committee on an *ad hoc* basis as and when matters relating to the to the areas of competence are being discussed? If it is not the latter, if these people will not be invited on an *ad hoc* basis, we do not see the sense of adding that last bit. In our view (e) could have ended where it says “*Minister*”, that it reads, “*if necessary, not more than seven persons designated by the Minister*” – full-stop. We want to understand why that latter bit is added. Is it because these persons are not permanent members

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of the committee and that they have been invited on an *ad hoc* basis to serve on the committee? Honourable Speaker, we support the Amendment Bill.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Any further discussion? In the absence of the Minister, does the Deputy Minister wish to reply?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker, in the absence of the Minister who tabled the Amendment Bill on Prevention of Organised Crime, I will propose that I adjourn the Debate so that we can look at the issues raised by Honourable Gurirab. I may however say that there is no contradiction as far as I am concerned, except for the Amendment of Section 77(e) where I think what we had in mind here are people with the requisite expertise and skills who can be invited. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Deputy Minister, you proposed that it be adjourned.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I was just simplifying what he wanted to say and if we all agree, we do not need to wait for the Minister, we can just pass the Bill. It seems we are of the same mind and I explained the Section which was problematic to him. We will just invite the two additional ones with the necessary skills and expertise to assist the Committee.

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HON SPEAKER: That being the case, I now put the Question, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Any objection? Agreed to. The Secretary will read the Bill a Second Time.

SECRETARY: *Prevention of Organised Crime Amendment Bill.*

HON SPEAKER: The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION: RATIFICATION – MILLENNIUM
CHALLENGE COMPACT**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Ratification of the Millennium Challenge Compact between the Republic of Namibia and the United States of America through the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

HON SPEAKER: When the Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, 8 October 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Minister of Works and Transport. Honourable Venaani adjourned the Debate and I now give him the Floor.

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I would urge the members of the media to quote me verbatim and not to assume.

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Honourable Speaker, world situations and circumstances continue to shift as interest and priority areas in the geo-political grouping keeps on changing. The Debate on the need of aid or grants has been diverse over the years due to a lot of scholars throughout who have been for or against it.

Some countries in fact have used the aid and the grant schemes to advance their economic interests and achieved optimal benefits and managed to diversify their industries. Some are naturally trapped in aid dependence and without it their survival becomes minimal or their existence is challenged by the dependency syndrome.

Whichever way, our country has an opportunity to use grants and aid to its benefit in order to advance our *per capita* incomes and diversify our economy. The Debate on the Millennium Challenge Account comes at a time when the world is facing various challenges at different strata. The way financial economies that were nearly on the verge of failing humanity are now bailed out and all of us are globally trapped in this financial meltdown.

On the international front the world has globally realised that multi-lateralism is the only gateway to closer human coexistence. Today with the world economic meltdown, the former powers of the world are clearly realising that they too are fallible. Hence they are calling for economic summits to discuss the global financial calamity.

Honourable Speaker, our voice in the world's economy should not be minimised by the amount of dollars we account for as a people, our voice too should be counted by hearing advice to the world. Representing the view of the poor we are hard at work to change our economic standing. Our resilience of fighting to develop and industrialise our economy should warrant us to build bridges, bridges with those powerful and richer Nations to advance our cause. Japan could not have achieved its economic might without bridges to the strong of the time.

Therefore, no person, Honourable Speaker, in my opinion, of ordinary firmness can argue that the stronger Nations have no place to play in the

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development of our people and the needed infrastructure and human resource capacity we urgently need to develop. We must be bold and state to our people that we need partnerships and in fact, smart partnerships with the richer Nations of the world. Those who argue that the rich Nations must go back with their money are attempting to reverse progress of our people backwards. Who can argue and say that we do not need to improve additional capacity in our primary and tertiary education for all the 89 000 Namibians, or improve agricultural infrastructure benefiting thousands of poor communal farmers in our country?

We all from our side support the noble and candid intention of this Compact because of what it aims to address and achieve is good and sound for our country and its citizenry. I personally congratulate our country to be a recipient of such a great capital injection and for having qualified since this Compact has culminated from the United Nations Millennium Summit, that adopted the Development Goals to halve poverty by 2015 and pressure richer countries not to turn a blind eye to developing Nations and we were the chair of that mammoth historical gathering under the Speaker of our Parliament, the Foreign Minister of our Republic then.

Honourable Speaker, the Compact before this august Assembly should not be judged in the context of us as a country being an enemy of our great sister country, the United States of America or perhaps for us to be seen as ungrateful for this great gesture from our partners. Our country, Namibia, is a friend to all free and peaceful people of the world and the United States is our friend and partner in the quest of advancing humanity and addressing common global challenges.

I therefore want to seize this opportunity to officially declare my unwavering support for the young spirited leader who is fighting to change America in the eyes of its citizens, first and foremost, and to its admirers and detractors, Barak Obama, and wish him a victorious result in the next election on November 4.

Honourable Speaker, to come to the crux of the matter, the ugly about the Compact is the following: Honourable Members of Parliament, the

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Compact raises fundamental issues that we as people and country, who fought against oppression and triumphed in achieving a just society with its complex challenges find it difficult to comprehend. It raises the whole Debate of the inherent dichotomy of the rich versus the poor, the strong versus the weak. Weak Nations should and are right to demand to be treated justly and fairly by the strong Nations of the world. Developing countries are obviously different from developed countries and this difference explains why we are poor, but the developed countries should not use our poverty as a conduit to advance their interests. The mere fact that we are poor is a case of great unfortunate.

Honourable Speaker, the greatest fundamental fear and worry from my side is the level of conditionality attached to a grant and if one reads Article 7(1) it literally translates that all domestic laws of our Republic enacted before the signing of this Compact, becomes nullified and only the Constitution of the Republic shall take precedence.

The economic discourse of conditionality over the globe has been one of sour taste in the mouths of many developing Nations. Why this high, strict string attachment to our sovereignty as a people and country whereas the establishment of this Millennium Challenge Account was created by normal domestic statutes of the United States? It is not enshrined in their Constitution or Bill of Rights, but it is a mere Act of their Congress that has established the Millennium Challenge Account. But when it comes to us, we should suit our domestic laws and only our Constitution shall take precedence. That is a serious problem.

It must be borne in mind by our partners that conditionality undermines political domestic institutions. Our partners must realise that the conditionality that was attached to yesterday's structural adjustments of the Washington Consensus failed countries such as Argentina in Latin America and yet in the beginning they were lauded and praised for embracing all conditions and yet they fared badly economically in the 1980's.

It is also very surprising that even the United States itself refuse the proposal of the International Trade Organisation, the body that preceded

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the current WTO, because its concern was that it would infringe on their national sovereignty and excessive regulation was not acceptable to them.

Honourable Speaker, this issue is very fundamental to a country such as Namibia, to all our partners that want to assist us, assist us in supporting us, but not to let us lose our prestige and our beings as human beings, our sovereignty.

Furthermore, Honourable Speaker, is the issue of Article 6 that stipulates conditions when this grant or Compact can be terminated and I draw your attention to Article 6(iii) which, *inter alia*, stipulates the following: “*The use of MCC funding or continued implementation of the programme violates or would violate applicable law or United States Government policy now or hereafter in effect.*” To me such conditions of the Compact is attached to your national sovereignty and yet any US policy, whether now or in the future, would be able to nullify this Compact. You ask us to stick to our Constitution as the Supreme Law, you say that you would be able to withdraw these funds if we disagree with the United States Government policy and that is an issue that really needs to be addressed in this arrangement.

Honourable Speaker, the very objective of the Compact is to reduce poverty through economic growth, which is indeed a noble objective. However, when you look at the capital projects to be tendered for, they are generally not of any sophisticated sort that local Namibian entrepreneurs cannot muster, but yet the Compact would allow international bidding. How effectively are we going to reduce poverty through economic growth if we have put a benchmark on the tenders where only local companies can tender? My fear of our infant companies to be asked to compete with highly respected and experienced businesses across the globe is, in my opinion, unfair towards our infant entrepreneurs who do not have the potential and lack the opportunity of tenders.

I submit that there is a need for our companies to be considered for the jobs in order for us to stimulate our economy through injecting some cash into our companies. It is even the case in the United States of America that even now where there is a war in Iraq, many smaller companies and

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big ones share the benefits of that war. For example, The Company Boeing benefits from aircraft design, the software industries benefit enormously and even help to develop the Internet. Why can this grant not be used to fully help Namibian companies and why should we be subjected to competition with stronger Nations that we cannot compete against?

Honourable Speaker, Article 2(2.8) is quite vague and it is very difficult to understand its implications. My question is, does it mean that foreign companies that do work here may be exempted from being taxed even if they got huge tenders? We further need clarity on why our country's tax regime is not applying to all suppliers if competition on one score is advanced and why not the whole package?

Honourable Speaker, on the development of lodges in Etosha or any other national park owned by Namibians or majority shares owned by Namibians, I personally espouse that policy of creating capacity and maximise utilisation of facilities to increase the number of tourists. Of course, I raised this issue before the Compact in my previous Budget Debate, but I however want to know whether there is any truth in the following issues and one of the issues that comes to mind is, why is there denial on building lodges in Etosha, while in the Compact it clearly stipulates that the intention is to build lodges in Etosha? Why the twisting of facts, now calling it lodges that are going to be built on the periphery of Etosha whereas even that argument of the periphery would imply that it would be on the outskirts of Etosha and Etosha is fenced. Therefore, on the periphery would not be Etosha. I do not know why the explanations that are given on Etosha being twisted, because there is nothing wrong fundamentally for us to have concessions in Etosha. But of course, these concessions must be owned by Namibians, these are the people that we want to advance. Even if it is joint partnerships, Namibians must benefit from it.

The other issue that needs clarity, Honourable Speaker, is whether it is true that the Namibian Government hired American lawyers as consultants to help negotiate this deal, whether it is also true that foreign law firms were contracted by the Attorney-General's Office to advise Namibia on

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this Compact.

The other million dollar question that comes to mind is that we are hearing that there are still ongoing negotiations and the rest of the documents await ratification. Why was the document brought here if negotiations are still ongoing? And we hear there that there is a provision here that says all annexes would be construed as part of this document. I am just wondering why all the documents are not yet here.

Lastly, I also want to know who comprises our legal advisor on the negotiations of the Compact?

Honourable Speaker, in conclusion, this Compact reaffirms our own weakness for committing ourselves without fully grasping all the implications and it must be a learning board for our future engagement with our multi-lateral partners. We are caught with conditions where the powerful always negotiate to their advantage and if partnerships of Nations are skewed, others will always cry foul play even if they are in need. The onus is on the powerful to assist without eroding sovereignty and lost of self-respect.

Honourable Speaker, it is my fervent proposal that this Compact be referred to a joint Standing Committee of both Economics and Legal Affairs for public input and scrutiny and report back to this House. I submit that the glass is half full and, therefore, we must ask for it to be filled up. If that possibility does not exist, then I would suggest that let us drink from it for now, but it is an experience that we must always value, that we must always negotiate in the interest of our people. I thank you.

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

HON BOOYS: Honourable Speaker, I beg the indulgence of the House to postpone this Debate on the Ratification of the Millennium

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Challenge Compact between the Republic of Namibia and the United States of America until the 13th of November 2008.

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? The consideration of this Motion stands adjourned until 13 November 2008. The Secretary will read the Third Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE: MOTION ON
EFFECTS OF SHEBEENS**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on the Effects of Shebeens and Increasing Alcohol Abuse in our Communities.

HON SPEAKER: When the House adjourned on 22 October 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Kavari. The Honourable Minister of Veterans Affairs had the Floor and I ask him now to continue.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Comrade Speaker, yesterday I was at the point where I was saying that it is surprising for a political leader, who is a Member of this august House, to support practices that are detrimental to the moral fabric of our society and which is practised without being conduct. If it is practised without conduct it has the potential of negative effect on our people.

It is true, Honourable Speaker, that the State has an obligation to put into place economic measures aimed at uplifting the standard of living of our people. It has the obligation to eliminate poverty amongst our citizens and

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all of us must support measures that the State may put in place to achieve economic well-being of the masses of our people, thus taking them out of the misery of poverty in which they find themselves.

However, poverty should not be used as an excuse for Honourable Members to support unlawful activities. I wonder whether Honourable Moongo, as a Member of this House, will stand up and support theft and robbery because the thieves and robbers are poor and have to find a way to survive. The truth is that for one to have a shebeen, one should have money to put up one. It is not the poor who own shebeens, the truth is that the Shebeens are taking away money from the poor who use their last cents to buy the intoxicating stuff which is found in these shebeens.

The State and Local Authorities regulate practically every business by law or regulations. For instance, the sale of second-hand goods or slaughtering of animals are regulated by law. In the same manner Shebeen business should be regulated by laws and regulations. Although the word “*Shebeen*” sounds very much like an African word, it is not, it is an Irish word which means “*unlicensed house selling alcoholic liquor.*” Historically an Irish shebeen was a house where people sold alcoholic liquor without a liquor licence. Such a business was obviously illegal, contrary to liquor licensing laws and regulations.

In our case, while we accept the use of the word “*Shebeen*”, this should be a business house whose existence is regulated by law, regulations and by-laws.

The following are some of the matters which required regulating:

- (a) Registration of shebeen business with the Local Authority;
- (b) Limitation in the number of shebeens which may operate in a certain locality;
- (c) Location of a shebeen to places where there is urban motor vehicle parking space to avoid inconvenience to the neighbours;

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- (d) Provision of safe and healthy toilet facilities for both male and female customers which prevent spread of disease;
- (e) House owners and educational institutions in the vicinity of the proposed location of the shebeen should be consulted and where necessary given opportunity to express their views and suitability or otherwise of such business, not only to wake up tomorrow and there is a shebeen next to you and there were no consultations;
- (f) Shebeens should strictly serve food, alcohol, cigarettes and not drugs and hire out rooms for illegal or immoral activities;
- (g) Control of noise pollution by shebeens;
- (h) Observation of the laws...(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask Honourable Tjiriange a tiny question? Honourable Tjiriange, I agree entirely with you on the issues you have raised now, specifically with regard to the location of Shebeens and the regulation of licences, house owners to be consulted, but on this point of location, it seems to be a lost battle. I once travelled to Otjimuise behind Ramatex. These areas were cleared for development and I think it is very important that our Local Authorities should not allow the owners of these new plots to have liquor licences. The Municipality should provide a location within Otjimuise or within Omuthiya, especially the new developments. Last time when I was in Ondangwa I travelled through the new developed areas and there are no Shebeens there. In future there must be an area for shebeens in the new towns. We say this is a new town being developed, let all those who want to have shebeens apply and we provide space where there is ample parking, provision of toilets and everything. This is only happening in Namibia, I have not seen something like this in other countries. It was started by the South African authorities when they were pursuing the war against the liberation movement, but then everybody thought that when the troops come here, it is good to provide them with Coke and cold beer. That is how these

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things started.

The question is that we must really make sure that new developments, new towns must be properly structured like in the Old Location. That is all I wanted to add.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Comrade Nujoma. It is true, I talked about parking places and so on and you enriched that particular part that we need to have specific identified areas. I feel we can think about that, it is an improvement on what I have said. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. Honourable Tjirriange, are you aware that Omuthiya was started by Shebeen owners? It was actually a Shebeen town.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: What I know is that I started travelling to the North starting from 1989. When I was here before I escaped this country, we were not allowed to go to the North. I was arrested twice because I was going there. They said, “*jy is mos nie ‘n Wambo nie, wat gaan soek jy daar?*” When I came back I went there and I saw Omuthiya, but what I saw there was a market where we used to buy some food. (Interjection)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Dog meat!

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HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Yes, it is where I tasted my first dog. But I did not see the Shebeens, I saw the market selling food. The shebeens came later.

- (h) Observation of the laws and regulations which prohibit sale of alcohol or cigarettes to under-aged persons;
- (i) The open and closing time limit of the shebeens;
- (j) Empowering the Police or Local Authorities to order the closure, temporarily or permanently, of any shebeen considered unhealthy or crime heaven or a nuisance to the members of the public.

Of course, the Police are sometimes going around closing these shebeens, but then there are two types of Shebeens, these ones with names written here and business addresses and those that are difficult to control because they are in the bedrooms of some people, but all the same, we must find a way to curtail this practice.

I fully understand Honourable Moongo's concern regarding many control measures to be considered and put in place on the running of the shebeens. The Honourable Member may be protecting his own business interest. It is not a concern for the poor that makes him to advocate the present unregulated manner shebeens are opened and managed, but it is protection of those businesses that are selling the same commodity in which he has an interest – and I understand he has quite a few. It is understandable that he has an interest.

Our people must be encouraged to venture into other business activities and not concentrate only on shebeens. People do not only drink alcohol, they also need food, clothes, shelter, transportation. There are many services. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Information. I would like to inform the Colleagues and the Honourable Minister and those who never

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participated in activities of Shebeens, that you do not run a Shebeen because you want to, but it is a means to generate money. I myself tried to run a Filling Station but this was controlled by the big tycoons and I could not get a licence. If you want to make business with cement, you cannot get a licence for it. However, with a shebeen you can start with selling a bread and then you add some sugar and then it becomes a shebeen. I am opposed to increasing the tax for shebeen owners, they are Namibians like yourself and you cannot pressurise them. The people have shebeens because they do not have other ways. If you only sell meat, nobody will buy it, but if you sell liquor, people will buy.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: On a Point of Order, Honourable Speaker. Is it allowed that an Honourable Member promotes a Debate in this House in a manner that advances his or her personal interest at the expense of the national interest? Is the Honourable Member not supposed to declare his interest or at least to recuse himself from the Debate? (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: No, I was giving information to those who do not know.

HON SPEAKER: No, the Speaker understood the Honourable Member to be clarifying the situation, how people are forced to resort to the Shebeen industry to make ends meet to support their families.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: If the Honourable Member is unable to put up a filling station for cars, he puts up a Filling Station for human beings. (Intervention)

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HON DR TJIRIANGE**

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable Tjiriange a question? Honourable Tjiriange, are you aware that Uukumwe No. 12 in Omuthiya, which is Honourable Moongo's shebeen trading name, is selling tombo?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Yes, that is why I am saying it is human, I understand the concern. I was saying our people must be encouraged to venture into other business activities and not concentrate only on Shebeens. People do not only drink alcohol and enjoy that, they also need food, clothes, shelter, transportation. There are many services that need to be exploited and provided to our people which can create wealth and employment. It is our duty as leaders to encourage the people to be imaginative, creative and innovative and assist them to venture into other business activities than Shebeen. It is our duty to expose the danger of unregulated proliferation of Shebeens, which may turn our residential areas into noisy and polluted dancing and drinking places. Such negative activities and situation take place in the presence and in the environment of children who will be adversely affected by what they perceive as normal way of life.

For our own future generations' sake, let us now consider and take appropriate and progressive measures that will regulate the manner Shebeens are established and managed. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: May I ask the Honourable Minister a question before he sits down and I also want Honourable Moongo to listen. If there is one evil today that is destroying the Namibian society, it is alcohol and I thought Honourable Moongo, being a headman, and I thought headmen in Namibia, particularly because they are the headmen of the rural communities, should first and foremost be concerned with the welfare of their subjects. Everyone knows alcohol is one of the most destructive elements and I wonder, Honourable

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Minister, whether this destructive proliferation of Shebeens in society should really be supported by any right-minded person like headmen, in this case. If there are those who speak for it, just go to the Police cells and prisons in Namibia. All the incarcerated people there are between the ages of 19 and 35, very seldom you find people above that age. These are people who are supposed to be productive in the society, but almost everyone of them committed crime related to alcohol in one way or the other. Should this kind of endeavour really be supported by any right-minded person in the Namibian society, Honourable Minister?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Comrade Minister, I was about to conclude, but to react to what you have said, it is an unfortunate situation, very unfortunate situation if we create an impression out there that the Members of Parliament are actually in favour of proliferation of shebeens and the reason we are giving is poverty. There are so many ways that we can fight poverty, but not through irresponsible behaviour. We should not send signals out there as if we are supporting wrong things from this House.

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Order. Can the Honourable Minister withdraw the "*irresponsible?*" Namibian shebeens have been legalised and you cannot call it irresponsible. People are listening to you and they are good voters and all the people of Windhoek are listening to you. You are insulting them.

HON SPEAKER: There are those which are legalised but there could be irresponsible things happening, perhaps even in this Chamber. Those are separate things, the legal status does not have anything directly to do with people misbehaving there.

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HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I did not say that a person who has a permit to sell what he is allowed to sell through that permit is irresponsible. I said irresponsible behaviour that comes with certain activities. You may have a licence to run a shebeen up to a certain time and then you abuse that licence and do irresponsible things. Whereas you were supposed to close your Shebeen at 10 o'clock, you close it at 3 o'clock. Those are the irresponsible things I am talking about and when the authorities try to enforce the law, you come and demonstrate here. Those people who are demonstrating will say they have the support of the Members of Parliament, they have been listening to us. We should not send those kinds of signals from here.

Then we are saying we should allow these things because of poverty and that is why I was asking you whether you are going to say thieves are doing the right thing because they are poor and that is why they are stealing? Let us not say things that will be misinterpreted outside there. That is what I am trying to say. Let us be responsible for the sake of our own and the future generation. Let us now consider and take appropriate and progressive measures that will regulate the manner shebeens are established and managed.

I have tried to put some of these measures one by one as areas that need to be tightened. It is not that some of these things are not prescribed by law, but for one reason or the other we are unable to enforce them in an effective manner. We have to revisit ourselves, sit down and look critically at these things so that we can remedy the situation. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Any further discussion? Honourable Kaiyamo.

HON KAIYAMO: Honourable Speaker, I am very happy that the Colleague brought this issue to Parliament so that we could discuss it and I also like what she said in her Motion, that we need to have an ongoing

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education process. These things also depend on our point of departure. Some of us who are staying in Katutura every day hear that, “*yes, it is you guys who are doing these things here.*” The question is, who are the owners of these shebeens? The Deputy Minister of Regional and Local Government and Housing said we are not honest and I agree, who are the owners of the Shebeens and the people of Katutura know exactly who are the owners. Therefore, let us be honest with ourselves. (Interjections). I do not know them, but in Katutura they are asking the question, “*who are the owners of these Shebeens?*” They know exactly who are and Colleagues, we are dealing with people who have eyes, you can tell them this thing is blue, but they know it is not blue. They know Katutura, they know.

In the area where I am staying the Shebeens respect the law, because the people there are together in terms of the law. These Shebeens are not all only selling alcohol, they are selling sugar, bread, because Shoprite is too far or the shops are closed on Sunday and you go and buy sugar, one tomato, one egg.

The issue of alcohol is a problem not only of Shebeens, it is also a problem here in town. Honourable Elsabe Van Vuuren, Deputy Mayor who was here this afternoon is a Member of the Youth Parliament and when they were debating a Motion which was against the use of alcohol by young people, she clearly indicated her objection against shebeens.

Honourable Kavari talked about children between 13 and 16 who are drinking alcohol. This is a problem in the whole country which has to be addressed and that is why I believe the noise must be stopped as it is one of the reasons why our children in Katutura do not study, because in some areas the noise is from Monday to Saturday.

I fully agree that we all need to educate the community on this process. We give licences for them to do the right thing, but we should invite them to a workshop to be educated on how to do some of these issues.

Honourable Kavari was however also saying that the Ministry of Health must start a rehabilitation process. The Ministry of Health has an ongoing

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process with the UN agencies to educate people on alcohol and drugs and maybe all of us should help our respective areas to do the right thing. I support the Motion, thank you.

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

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. On the issue of Shebeens I am getting the impression that there is a feeling that those who are speaking against the current operation of Shebeens are opposed to development in that sector. That is not the issue. The issue that we are talking about is that each and every Namibian has rights. Where your right ends is where my right starts and that is exactly the issue that we are talking about. We are saying that you can have your business anywhere in the manner that you want, but you must also respect your neighbours. What we are saying here is that the shebeens must operate within the law, they should not be above the law because they are poor, everybody in Namibia is poor. The moment that you are preaching that because you are poor you can do whatever you want to do, there is no need for us to have a Parliament to pass laws.

Therefore, I want us as lawmakers to realise the fact that the laws that are talking about are laws that have been passed by us here and all of us must obey the laws of the land, irrespective of our status in the society. There is no way we can encourage the situation which is going on right now in our townships, black townships, because the people are poor. They are not acceptable. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable Tjihuiko a question? Honourable Tjihuiko, do you know that the new slogan for DTA is “*A Shebeen Everywhere!*”

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HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I know that most of us who have shebeens in Katutura or in the townships are living somewhere in town and these are the very same people who, if their neighbours dare to play music until after 11 o'clock, will call the City Police. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, may the Right Honourable Prime Minister withdraw the unauthorised slogan?

HON DE WAAL: On a Point of Order. I just want to correct the Right Honourable Prime Minister. We have adopted a law in this Parliament and we voted for that law, so our policy is contained in that law. The problem, Honourable Prime Minister, is that your Government failed to implement that law. That is why this Motion is on the table today, because your Government does not understand what the implementation of laws mean. You break them whenever it suits you and now you want to blame us because this man (Honourable Moongo) is fighting his case. I think that is very wrong, Sir. Just implement the law, then you do not need to waste more time on an issue that has been discussed for weeks on end in this very same house.

HON TJIHUIKO: I remember at the beginning of the year I was one of those asking the Honourable Minister of Education ... (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, due to the fact that we respect the Right Honourable Prime Minister in this country, may he withdraw the slogan?

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HON SPEAKER: I do not know what the slogan was actually.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Yes, I am happy to learn that DTA has changed its slogan from “*Shebeens Everywhere*” to “*Control the Shebeens.*” “*Control the Shebeens!*” is the new slogan.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I was saying that at the beginning of the year I was one of the people who were advising the Honourable Minister of Education as to the pass rate of our kids. If we are serious about the pass rate of our kids, if we are serious about the welfare of our kids and we are encouraging 24 hours music in the whole of Katutura, how on earth do we expect these kids to perform? There is no way! That is why I say it is your right to have a shebeen, it is your right to sell liquor, but it is my right... (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable Tjiuiko a question? Honourable Tjiuiko, are you aware that Katutura schools are the most disastrous areas as far as failure is concerned in the whole country?

HON TJIHUIKO: Yes indeed, not only the Katutura schools. Go to Okakarara, go to these towns, the situation is the same and the shebeens are doing the same. The point I was trying to make is that those who want to sell liquor should also think about the right of my kids to have an opportunity to study so that they can also perform. It is not only their rights, think about the rights of the others as well.

The issue here is that the shebeens must be conducted within the law and you do not need to play music 24 hours to make a living. All the business

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in towns and Katutura are making money, they are sending their children to school, but they are not operating 24 hours, they are not disturbing other people. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: May I ask Honourable Tjihuiko a question? As Honourable Moongo is the only headman in the whole of Namibia who is supporting Shebeens, do you not think that he should be stripped of his Chieftaincy?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, let me conclude by saying that I agree hundred percent with the Minister of Veterans Affairs on the points he read from the Act. Indeed, as long as all of us, first and foremost accept the fact that by creating conditions that we may think will solve the problem, we may create more problems. Selling of liquor is not the only solution that will help our poor people. The way we are doing it now is detrimental to the well-being of our people. With those few words, I support the Motion.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable De Waal.

HON DE WAAL: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, I will be very brief and just repeat what I said just now. We passed a Bill in this House which was a very good Bill and I think it was supported by all of us and I think the first part of the answer to the Motion is that let us implement the current Act, because it caters for everything that we are talking about here. (Intervention)

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable De Waal a question? Do you agree with me that NUDO left DTA because of your policy on Shebeens?

HON DE WAAL: I do not think I need to answer that question. But secondly, Honourable Speaker, we must also be fair, this problem is not a Namibian problem. If you look at Sky News, they have what is called binge drinking and it is a serious problem in Britain. Young people get drunk at night, they make noise, they kill one another with knives. Prime Minister Brown and his Cabinet have tried numerous things to try and solve this problem. They even opened their cuca shops... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: On a Point of Order. When it comes to something that is destructive, let us not make reference to other countries, but let us speak on issues that affect our people here. If that is the habit and culture of others, let them do the evil things, but let us concern ourselves with our people here.

HON DE WAAL: I have no problem with that, Sir, but I am also not an ostrich with my head in the sand. I look around me at what is happening in the world and I am trying to learn from other people where there are lessons that you can learn.

The point I want to make this afternoon is that I think one of the things that we need to do is to create sports facilities for young people. In Afrikaans there is a saying, "*ledigheid is die duiwel se oorkussing.*" When you have nothing to do and you are young and full of energy, then you do the wrong things. That is when you go and drink and... (Intervention)

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HON NAMBAHU: Honourable De Waal, you are going into the right direction, but it does not only mean it is only the young people, but it is also the concept of workers. A human being is a social being. When he finishes work, it does not mean that he only goes to the shebeen to drink, sometimes it is also to socialise, which is a human element. If that element is not addressed, do you think this capitalistic way of addressing problems is ever going to solve it? People are doing all kinds of things there and that has to be addressed.

HON DE WAAL: I agree with you one hundred percent and I think you will in any case know better than me what the answer is. All I am trying to say is that we must create facilities for our people where they can relax and enjoy themselves without getting drunk and without fighting with knives and without revolting against everything. I really think if we as a Government could sit and think about these things and maybe create, slowly but surely, these areas where people can enjoy themselves in a proper way and we implement the existing Act, then we will maybe make progress. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Any further contribution? Honourable Booy's.

HON BOOYS: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, the people of Namibia do not have any problem with the Liquor Act. The problem is people are dying, they are stabbed to death, they are shot at, they are raped at Shebeens and the Shebeen owners who claim that they want to make money to support their children have no provision to protect these people after they got drunk. (Interjection). No, we cannot post policemen at each and every Shebeen, it is for the Shebeen owners to ensure that their customer are safe. Who is the customer there? Why the

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Police? (Intervention)

HON DE WAAL: May I ask the Honourable Member a short question? If I remember correctly, in that Act it says that if a Shebeen owner does not stick to the Rules, you can withdraw his licence. You do not have to police every Shebeen. If they do inspections, he is warned, he does it again, you withdraw his licence, close the thing down. Why can we not do it?

HON BOOYS: Honourable De Waal, you are correct. Honourable Speaker, what I am saying is that a shebeen is a business like Shoprite or Edgars. Whenever you go to Shoprite or Edgars, you will find a security guard.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask a question? Honourable Booys, Honourable De Waal said we have to close the Shebeens, but headman said those people out there are voters. What can we do if they are afraid of voters?

HON BOOYS: Hundred and ten percent correct. He should just advise his neighbour about what he is going to advise the Government on shebeens. But my point is, whether you go to a little shop in town, there is a security guard to make sure that the customers feel safe. At our shebeens the people do not feel protected. I read in a newspaper how a young woman of 30 years was dragged out of a shebeen by a young man of 22 years, dragged into the darkness, beaten and raped and these are all young people under 35 years. Our problem is not the law, our problem is that those who are running the businesses must also make their customers feel safe and protected – not always “*Government, Government*”. I rest my case, Honourable Speaker.

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HON SPEAKER: With that the House shall adjourn until Tuesday,
14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2008.10.28 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
28 OCTOBER 2008
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I believe it is good news, before you is an invitation to attend a presentation of the administrators of the Members of Parliament and Other Office-Bearers Pension Fund to be held on Wednesday, 29 October 2008 at 11:00 in Conference Room 1. All Members are invited to attend this important session, which is not for the Speaker but for you and what is in front of you should give a little more information than what I have read out.

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

TABLING: REPORTS OF AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

- (a) Office of the Prime Minister (Emergency Management Unit Disaster Preparedness) for the Financial Year 2002 to 2007;
- (b) Ministry of Safety and Security (Overcrowding of Prisons) for the Financial Year 2002 to 2005;

I would also like to table the Reports of the Auditor General on the

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accounts of the following:

- (a) National Assembly for the Financial Year ended March 31, 2007;
- (b) Ministry of Trade and Industry for the Financial Year ended March 31 2007;
- (c) Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2007;
- (d) Anti-Corruption Commission for the Financial Year ended March 31, 2007;
- (e) Office of the Auditor General for the Financial Year ended March 31, 2007.

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

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: GLOBAL ECONOMY

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I rise in this House this afternoon to provide a briefing to the House and through the House, to the public about the state of affairs in the global economy and how that would affect our economy.

The global financial crisis has been dominating the headlines for the past few months. Initially, it was thought to be a problem of the United States and few other developed economies. However, in recent weeks world financial markets around the world have experienced unprecedented levels of volatility with far-reaching consequences for global economic growth.

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Consequently, this was the main issue of discussion at the recent annual meetings of the IMF and World Bank in Washington DC. Before elaborating on the effects of the current crisis on Namibia, I would like to say a few words on the origin of the crisis, its impact on the global financial system, and remedial and policy responses.

Origin: Most commentary on the current turmoil traces its origins back to the bursting of the US housing market bubble around 2006. Events that preceded the crisis were low US interest rates, rising house prices and a decline in lending standards, which increased the exposure in sub-prime mortgages. This, in turn, had encouraged borrowers to take up risky mortgages with the hope of refinancing at more favourable terms. A rise in interest rates and a decline in house prices made refinancing difficult from 2006 to 2007, leading to a rise in defaults and foreclosures, as the initial easy terms expired, rates on adjustable rate mortgages were set higher and house prices failed to rise higher as anticipated. It is estimated that during 2007, nearly 1.3 million properties were subject to foreclosure activity, up by 79% from 2006, indicating how deep the problem was.

Securitization has been identified as another factor at the centre of the credit crunch. Due to securitization, loans with a high risk of default could be originated, packaged and the risk readily transferred to investors. The decline in house prices led to a fall in the value of the mortgage backed securities/investments, and this was exacerbated by widespread mortgage defaults, foreclosures and a devaluation of these assets. This has led to financial institutions around the world realising sub-prime-related losses and write-downs totally around US\$500 billion as at the end of August 2008. The IMF estimates that the total sub-prime related losses could be as high as US\$1.4 trillion, which means we are still far from the end of the crisis.

Impact on the global financial system:

The most visible impact of the financial crisis has been the freezing of money markets, which made banks and other institutions unable to borrow funds to pay off maturing debt obligations. Mostly affected have been financial institutions, which had engaged in mortgage securitization, those

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with assets that had been derived from bundled home mortgages, and institutions with exposure to credit derivatives used to insure them against their failure. The crisis has caused panic in financial markets and encouraged investors to take their funds out of risky investments into cash and safer assets, like Government securities and gold. The lack of confidence amongst global banks has caused institutions with cash to hold their cash on the fear of the safety of their deposits with other institutions and banks refused to lend to one another out of fear that the borrowers may default or may have themselves lent to other banks that could default. This, in turn, has caused solvency problems for investment banks whose funding model is mainly based on short-term borrowings.

Initially, emerging market economies, including our neighbour South Africa, have been unaffected by the crisis to a large extent, but they now face increased risk. Such risk is mainly due to investors' risk aversion, which has resulted in the decline in stock markets and weakening of foreign currencies against the US dollar. These pressures, coupled with the general slowdown in the global economy, present a challenge for emerging market economies.

Remedial action and policy responses:

Various forms of action have been taken since the crisis became apparent in August 2007. Central banks in major economies have cut interest rates and governments, together with their Central Banks, have pumped hundreds of billions of dollars into interbank money markets that are now essentially on life-support from state institutions because commercial banks are too frightened to lend to one another.

The Bank of England, for example, has come to the rescue of two banks, and the British Government announced the formation of a £50 billion programme to invest in at least eight British lenders. In the case of the USA, the Federal Reserve Bank has provided an emergency loan to a troubled Company, and the Federal Government has injected US\$ 700 billion into the financial sector and has announced plans to put one large mortgage lender into conservatorship with Government taking over management.

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The potential impact on Namibia:

Honourable Members, the important question for us is, of course, what impact the crisis will have on our economy, in general, and on our financial sector, in particular.

The overall direct impact of the global financial market turmoil on the domestic financial system has been low thanks in part to limited exposures to sub-prime-related investments by financial intermediaries. According to the latest financial stability Report of the Bank of Namibia, local banks continued to be liquid and well-capitalised. Although there has been an increase in non-performing loans from 2.9% in December 2007 to 3.2% in June 2008 as a share of total lending, it cannot be attributed to the global financial crisis. The increase is mainly attributed to tighter monetary policy which the Bank of Namibia has been pursuing since 2007 to contain inflationary pressures. Currently, banking institutions are holding more liquid assets than the minimum prescribed by the Bank of Namibia.

Further, interbank exposure among Namibian banking institutions is small relative to industry capital funds, and it is unlikely that a liquidity problem in one bank could spill over to other banks and cause a systemic liquidity problem. At June 2008, interbanking institution borrowings and deposits comprised about 1.5% of industry capital and liabilities. Moreover, exposure by local banking institutions to foreign banking institutions has reduced in recent quarters. Foreign currency deposits in relation to bank's capital funds fell from 30% in the fourth quarter of 2007 to 22% in the second quarter of 2008. The risk of direct contagion from abroad is further mitigated by the good standings of most of the foreign counterparties and well diversified exposures.

The liquidity risk of banking institutions was also minimised by the share of stable customer deposits, which stood at about 55% of total deposits in June 2008. Additionally, liquidity risk may not be a concern since the banking sector as a whole has not experienced more rapid growth in lending than deposit taking. Customer deposits, which are typically less costly and less volatile than most other funding sources, remained the principal sources of banking institutions' funding and their share of total

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liabilities was stable at about 97% of total deposits in the first half of 2008.

Impact on the non-banking financial institutions:

The foreign exposure of non-banking financial institutions is much higher than that of banking institutions. As a result, non-bank financial institutions can feel the impact of the crisis more materially because of investments in equity markets in South Africa and elsewhere. The risk for this sector is that the value of these institutions' equity investments may depreciate, which, in turn, may affect pension fund members, especially those belonging to defined contribution funds, like ourselves. For defined benefit funds, the employers may in the worst case be called upon to replenish deficits, but this situation is unlikely in our case, given the healthy surpluses these funds have accumulated.

Large life insurance companies that invest in equities will be affected by the poor performance of equities. The extent will depend on the business mix, the asset-liabilities profile and the consequent exposure to these markets. Linked insurance and investment products will by definition not result in any solvency problems for insurers, whereas the more traditional insurance products can put pressure on the solvency of insurers.

However, in Namibia most insurance companies are adequately capitalised to be able to shoulder potential losses. In addition, the regulator is particularly vigilant by regularly monitoring the solvency of all non-banking financial institutions to ensure that the risk exposure is managed in a prudent manner.

The macro-economic impact:

Although the Namibian financial system remains by and large unexposed to the global financial crisis, the economy, nonetheless, remains vulnerable to the crisis through other channels. These include less optimistic growth prospects due to lower demand for Namibian commodities, potential balance of payments shocks due to depreciation of the exchange rate and reduced revenue collection due to slower economic

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growth. I will elaborate on each of these points. At the outset, I would, however, like to emphasise that, although the overall impact of the crisis will be negative, there are instances where we may see positive effects.

Reduced economic growth:

When I tabled the Budget at the beginning of the year, I noted that the economy was likely to grow at about 4.6% in 2008. With the current situation, growth is now likely to be much lower. In fact, our GDP growth projection for 2008 was revised downward to 3.9%. A major factor attributed to this revision is lower demand for our primary commodities due to slower global growth induced by the financial crisis. However, since this revision was made, the global financial crisis has further deepened, and it is likely that some parts of the world are heading for a recession. Although emerging economies are still projected to grow significantly, it is not certain if their growth would be strong enough to keep commodity prices firm. It is, therefore, possible that growth could be even lower than the recently projected 3.9%.

Ironically, lower commodity prices do not only mean bad news for Namibia. The price of oil, which has been cited as one of the main factors for inflationary pressures, has subsided quite significantly in view of slower global economic growth. After hitting a high of close US\$150 per barrel in August, international crude oil prices declined to below US\$70 per barrel by mid-October and it is now reported to have reached US\$58 per barrel. Consequently, we have already witnessed some downward adjustment of local pump prices. Unfortunately, with the sharp depreciation of the local currency since the intensification of the financial crisis, it is likely that we will not reap the full benefit of reduced crude oil prices.

Slower growth could also come from the services, in particular tourism due to the fact that citizens of the most affected countries might scale down on overseas travelling. However, the recent depreciation of the exchange rate could also make holidays in Namibia more attractive, hence the overall impact on the tourism sector is not yet clear at this stage.

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Honourable Members, growth in Namibia is also to a large extent determined by Government spending. In this connection, I would like to note that many years of fiscal consolidation and financial discipline is starting to pay off. Due to the fact that we have been disciplined in our spending, we are now in a better position to absorb external shocks, such as the current international financial crisis. Honourable Members will recall that I tabled a quite Expansionary Budget with a notable advance in capital expenditure that should support growth in the medium term. In this connection, our fiscal policy could be viewed as pro-cyclical. However, this also underscores the importance of continued prudent macro-economic policies, as external shocks are difficult to predict.

Potential balance of payments shocks:

One of the key indicators of the strength of an economy is its overall balance of payments position, in particular the balance of the external current account. Supported by strong commodity prices and SACU receipts, there has been a significant strengthening of the surplus of our current account, allowing us to rapidly increase our international reserves. For instance, the current account balance as a ratio of GDP increased from 7% in 2005 to 14% in 2007. At the same time, our international reserves increased from less than two months of import coverage to more than three months of import coverage. Healthy reserve levels are not only a measure of economic success, but are also necessary to sustain our currency peg to the South African Rand which has been one of the key anchors of our macro-economic stability.

At this stage, it is too early to tell what the overall impact of the financial crisis on our balance of payments will be. A sharp reduction on commodity prices could lead to less export earnings. This, however, could be offset by the depreciation of the domestic currency, which will make our exports more competitive. The fuel import bill, which represents more than 15% of our total imports, could also decline due to lower crude oil prices. However, as I indicated earlier, the weakened exchange rate may prevent us from enjoying the full benefit of lower crude oil prices.

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Potential impact on the fiscal accounts:

Lower economic growth due to the international financial crisis could potentially impact on our overall fiscal position through reduced revenue collection from domestic tax sources. Tax receipts from international trade may also decline significantly due to the similar negative impact exerted on the economies of our major trading partners, notably South Africa.

Regarding debt servicing, although the State's foreign loan portfolio is relatively small, the weakened Namibia Dollar furthermore puts significant pressure on Government expenditure in as far as the servicing of foreign debt is concerned. Over the past two weeks or so, expenditure in this category increased by some 30% for US Dollar denominated loans. Equally, loans denominated in Euro have become about 20% more expensive. This suggests that we might have to rethink the way we would like to finance development expenditure.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, Namibia remains relative insulated from the direct effect of the financial crisis. This is mainly attributed to limited exposure of local banks to sub-prime related investments. The impact on Namibia will only be felt through indirect channels such as the exchange rate and commodity prices. Overall, the decline in world output will cause a decline in the overall economic growth in Namibia and other CMA countries. This could reduce Government revenue, both domestic taxes and SACU receipts.

Namibia must, therefore, brace for reduction in economic output and its attendant reduction in Government revenue. At this stage, however, there is no need for Government intervention. However, we are closely monitoring the situation and should the need arise to address more serious shocks, the Namibia Government would take the necessary actions to safeguard the soundness of the country's financial system.

Although the Namibian economic situation is comparatively stable, it would be wise to call for cautious spending. This prudence will be required from all Namibians with a view to a renewed focus on debt

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reduction and increased savings in general. Each crisis has a silver lining to it. I, therefore, urge all exporters or prospective exporters, be it in services or goods, to grasp the opportunity that the current exchange rate situation presents to business to focus on higher export earnings. If we stay positive and act smartly, I am truly confident that the Namibian economy will be even stronger in future. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for her very important statement. The global political economy has two sides and what the Minister gave us is the economic and finance side of the economy and the same cautions that the Minister struck are also applicable to the political side of the global political economy. Minister Kamwi.

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:
NAMIBIA'S POLIO-FREE STATUS**

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Honourable Speaker, before I make my statement, allow me to commend the Honourable Minister of Finance for a very informative statement.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to share information with the Honourable Members on the outcome of the historic meeting of the Africa Regional Certification Commission hosted by Namibia last week here in Windhoek.

It is appropriate at this juncture to brief the Honourable Members on the details of this meeting. Before disclosing to the Honourable Members why this meeting deserves this time on the agenda, I would like to provide some background information.

30 Years ago, world health leaders gathered in Alma Ata and signed the

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Alma Ata Declaration on Primary Health Care. One of the eight basic elements of Alma Atar Declaration is the key issue of access to vaccination, to control, eliminate and eradicate vaccine-prevented childhood killer diseases. Ten years later in 1988, the World Health Assembly held in Geneva, Switzerland, took another significant decision to eradicate polio virus from the face of the earth. To this end, the single largest internationally coordinated public health endeavour, the Polio Eradication Initiative, spearheaded by national Governments, WHO, UNICEF, Rotary International and Centres for Disease Control and prevention was initiated soon after. To date, three World Health Organisation regions, that is the Americas, the western Pacific and the European region have been certified as completely free of indigenous polio transmission virus, but are still at risk of importations so long as the polio virus circulates anywhere in the world.

Africa did not accelerate polio eradication activities until 1996 after the Yaounde Declaration by the African Heads of State. Namibia too joined the rest of the African countries in this noble cause and continues to do so to date.

We in Namibia have, however, had setbacks in our endeavour to keep our country polio free. The most recent and most memorable one is the outbreak of polio in 2006 which affected mostly adults in our country, a unique occurrence worldwide. This outbreak was as a result of importation of wild polio virus from our northern neighbour, Angola, who in turn had received the same importation from India the previous year.

Our Government, with the support with the WHO and UNICEF, mounted a robust response by immunising the whole of the Namibian population with two rounds of oral polio vaccine, followed by a third round for only children below five years of age. Namibia's effective and timely response to the polio importation within less than twenty days enabled us to stop the outbreak within 51 days from when the first case got infected. Namibia, therefore, has been applauded regionally and internationally for this record response. Of note is the fact that the response was fully funded by the Government of the Republic.

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Honourable Members, the meeting conducted from the 20th to 23rd October 2008 here in Windhoek by the Africa Regional Certification Commission, an independent body set up by the WHO Regional Director for Africa, had the objective of reviewing complete documentation outlining their polio-free status from six countries, namely Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali and Namibia. As I hinted earlier, this meeting is potentially historic for our Nation, Africa and the world at large because there are not as many countries that will enjoy the honour of hosting one of the meetings that assess complete country documentation for polio eradication prepared and presented by countries.

At this juncture, I am glad to report to this august House that the complete country documentation prepared and presented by Namibia to the Africa Regional Certification Commission for Polio Eradication was accepted. This means that Namibia joins 24 other countries that have so far been declared as having achieved standards for polio-free status on the WHO African Region. This is no mean feat for our country considering the massive outbreak we went through only two years ago.

Honourable Members, I must however stress that each and every country will only be certified polio-free once the entire Region is certified polio-free. I thus hasten to add here that our Nation, alongside the other 24 whose complete country documentations have been accepted, will be required to submit annual updated reports to the Africa Regional Certification Commission, confirming continued polio-free status until, all the complete country documentation of the 46 countries of the African Region have been reviewed and accepted, at which stage the Region will be certified as having eradicated polio.

The catch band for all countries is that wild polio virus is still circulating in a number of countries in Africa, more significantly Nigeria. The fact that importation from India reached our country through Angola continues to be a cause for concern.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, our country, Namibia, the Land of the Brave, is taking some important steps to ensure that Namibia remains polio free, as declared by Africa Regional Certification

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Commission, or at best, to limit the spread of wild polio virus in our country should it be imported again. We have put in place the following mechanisms:

1. The routine immunisation programme which is the backbone for maintaining population immunity, to continue to operate nationwide in difficult areas, to reach mostly the northern borders, performing optimally.
2. The reaching every district approach that is targeting the poor performing districts has been instituted.
3. Each year the Ministry would continue to pay for two rounds of supplementary polio immunisation activities, targeting children below five years of age, synchronised with Angola as a means to further boost immunity of the population.
4. There is a surveillance system in place that is designed and set up to actively seek out cases of paralysis among children below fifteen years of age for full investigation and follow-up.
5. We have an outstanding support from our developing partners, especially the WHO and UNICEF.

However, the major drawback to the effective implementation of all the planned activities is the persistent shortage of human resources and the limited transport needs to cover the long distances to be able to reach all the remote areas. We had all along been dependent on the support of the Defence Ministry to reach some inaccessible districts by road, especially in the Kunene and Caprivi Regions. We regret though, that during the course of this year the Defence helicopter crashed during landing in Opuwo during the polio campaign.

Honourable Members, as I said earlier, it has been thirty years since the Alma Atar Declaration and now more than ever the principles of primary health care, this Report will be launched tomorrow at the Ministry of Health and Social Services Stakeholders Conference on the Strategic Plan.

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HON !NARUSEB

Our plan embraces the principles of primary health care as we believe that it positions us strategically to achieve the health related Millennium Development Goals and Vision 2030.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, the Ministry commits itself to continue to strive to keep Namibia polio free and will respond effectively should any importation occur. As always, we count on your usual support. I thank you for your kind attention.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister for his very important statement and while appreciating the efforts that he and his Ministry are making, I urge them to continue the good work to make our country a polio-free country. Thank you very much.

The first Notice of Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Lands and Resettlement. Does the Honourable Minister Move that the Bill be now introduced?

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING:
SECTIONAL TITLES BILL

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds. Any objection? Agreed to. The Secretary will now read the Bill a First Time.

SECRETARY: *Sectional Titles Bill.*

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HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Lands and Resettlement move that the Bill be now read a Second Time? Who seconds? Agreed to.

**SECOND READING:
SECTIONAL TITLES BILL**

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Sir, Honourable Members. This is a very technical Bill and as such we have prepared very bulky explanatory notes which will be availed to the Honourable Members today or tomorrow.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, it is indeed a great honour to motivate the tabling of the Sectional Titles Bill, 2008.

The legislation in terms whereof sectional titles is regulated in Namibia dates back to 1973 when the Sectional Titles Act, 1971 (Act 66 of 1971) of the Republic of South Africa was made applicable to the then South West Africa. The 1971 Act proved to be rather ineffective and has since been repealed in the Republic of South Africa by the Sectional Titles Act, 1986 (Act 95 of 1986). The Sectional Titles Act, 1971, with all its shortcomings, however, is still applicable in Namibia.

I now refer to some of the defects in the existing Sectional Titles Act, 1971, which are *inter alia*, the following:

- (a) The existing Act does not provide that exclusive use areas, being a part of the common property, can become a part of a section. In practice this means that the registered owner of a unit in a sectional title scheme is unable to obtain any real right relating to any portion of the so-called “common property” and has, apart from his or her ownership of the section in the building, no ownership relating to any area outside the building itself. In

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terms of the new Bill the owner of a unit in sectional title scheme will be able to obtain an exclusive use area, that is a portion of the erf on which his or her unit is situate, as part of his or her unit. The new Bill also provides for common property apart from the exclusive use areas.

- (b) In terms of the existing Act, each building in a sectional title scheme must be divisible in two or more units. This means that no free-standing units may be erected but that all the units in a sectional title scheme must form part of one and the same building or must be attached to one another. The new Bill provides that free-standing units may be erected as part of a sectional title scheme.
- (c) The existing Act provides that all the owners of units in a sectional title scheme must approve any decision to be taken in connection with the scheme, which is in practice next to impossible. This situation is addressed in the new Bill.

The new Bill provides for the appointment of an arbitrator by the body corporate who will be a legal practitioner of not less than ten years' standing, to settle any dispute between the body corporate and any of its members, whereas the existing Act does not have such a provision.

- (d) In the new Bill provision is made for the development of a sectional title scheme in phases.
- (e) In terms of the provisions of the new Bill, a Local Authority may levy rates and taxes against the individual owners of units in a sectional title scheme, which is not possible in terms of the existing Act.

I therefore, Move that this House adopts the Sectional Titles Bill, 2008 and I thank the Honourable Members for their understanding and anticipated support. I thank you, Comrade Speaker.

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HON RIRUAKO

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister for his motivation. Any further discussion? Honourable Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Speaker, why is it so technical and not being explained? The way it is designed you do not need the support of any Members of this august House. What do you want to do behind the scene? There must be something unusual. You talk here of common ownership. Common ownership of whom? Wife and husband or who? What is your plan behind the scene? Make yourself understood. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable Riruako a question? Honourable Chief Riruako, are you living in a Sectional Title?

HON RIRUAKO: Mr Speaker, the House lives in a Sectional Title. Let me say this, if you are married according to customary law, you remain in community of property without your consent and you hold this sectional title. That is what it is. We have been independent for nineteen years and we have never repealed that law. So-called lawyers are behind this. I say “so-called” because you cannot be a lawyer if you come this kind of law. Why do we have lawyers here and they could not do their job properly? (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Order, to save the Chief, if I may. Honourable Chief, it is well explained what a sectional title is about. Please read this and then we can discuss tomorrow. We have to go for tea now.

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HON VENAANI

HON RIRUAKO: I may say that the Section I mentioned hurts all the African people of this country, well-designed by who and put to who? Who is to be protected? Those people who have written this law against their will? (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable Riruako a question? Honourable Chief Riruako, what is the difference between a sectional title and condominium?

HON RIRUAKO: A Sectional Title is an independent title and condominium is communal title.

HON VENAANI: I Move that the Debate be adjourned until Thursday.

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HON SPEAKER: The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until Thursday. The House shall rise for refreshments.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:48

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:15 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

HON SPEAKER: The second Notice of Motion is one by Honourable Schimming-Chase. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion?

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**COMMITTEE STAGE PREVENTION
OF ORGANISED CRIME BILL
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: I will motivate the Motion on Thursday.

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

**COMMITTEE STAGE: PREVENTION OF ORGANISED
CRIME AMENDMENT BILL**

SECRETARY: Committee Stage – *Prevention of Organised Crime Amendment Bill*.

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Justice Move that the Assembly now goes into Committee? Any objection? I call on Honourable Bayer who is the Acting Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:

**ACTING CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE:** The Committee has to consider the *Prevention of Organised Crime Amendment Bill*.

Clauses and Title put and agreed to.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED:

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**THIRD READING – PREVENTION OF
ORGANISED CRIME BILL
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

Bill reported without Amendment.

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

**THIRD READING: PREVENTION OF ORGANISED
CRIME AMENDMENT BILL:**

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

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? Who seconds? Any further discussion? Does the Honourable Minister wish to say something?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank you most sincerely for your support for this Amendment Bill and I promise you the Prevention of Organised Bill will now be put into operation and whoever has some ideas, please take care, the law has been given teeth. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister. I now put the Question, that the Bill be now read a Third Time. Any objection? Agreed to. The Secretary will read the Bill a Third Time.

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**NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL BILL
HON REV KONJORE**

SECRETARY: *Prevention of Organised Crime Amendment Bill.*

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

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

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, 8 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. Any further discussion? Does the Minister wish to reply?

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Honourable Speaker, may I with your kind indulgence pray for the postponement of my reply until Tuesday, next week?

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? Agreed to. The Minister will reply next week, Tuesday. The Secretary will read the Third Order of the Day.

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

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on the Prevailing Poverty in our Country.

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HON VILJOEN**

HON SPEAKER: When the House adjourned on Thursday, 16 October 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Tjiuiko. Honourable Viljoen.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, this Motion is about the prevailing poverty, hunger and diseases in our country. I am convinced that this is one of the most necessary Motions to discuss, but Honourable Speaker, I am afraid of two matters. If we discuss this Motion just to hear our own voices or hope to impress one person to vote for us, then we have failed from the very beginning.

Secondly, if this Motion ends up in a Report which is only tabled in this House to take note of, it will have no effect on solving the problem, like many other previous Motions. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask the Honourable teacher a question? Honourable Viljoen, are you aware that poverty in Namibia is historical and our history is the history of apartheid? Are you aware of that?

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I want to answer the question with another question. Does it mean that I am not supposed to speak on this Motion because I was part of the apartheid system?

Honourable Speaker, this Motion is about poverty, hunger and diseases in Namibia. It is a tragedy that mankind had to accept that there is no cure for AIDS. AIDS will be with us until the end of days and it will take the lives of millions and millions of people. This is the one disease for which there is no cure and does not leave any living soul who play with it untouched. I believe that AIDS has a clear message to all human beings. It does not matter whether you are white or black or brown, whether you are old or young, poor or rich, we are trying to prevent it ... (Intervention)

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HON P MUSHELENGA: May I ask Honourable Viljoen a question? Honourable Viljoen, building on what the Right Honourable Prime Minister has said, for the past 18 years MAG has been sending the same people to Parliament. In order to redress this historical inequality in order to address poverty, when are you going to send different faces to Parliament?

HON SPEAKER: The Speaker does not understand the question.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I will come to that question. We try to prevent it by promoting condoms or other clever solutions, but at the end of the day the only and unpopular solution is to live up to high moral standards.

Honourable Speaker, the margin between the Motion on Empowerment and this Motion on Poverty is very narrow and what you say on the one is applicable to the other. Before I make my contribution to the prevailing poverty in the country I wish to congratulate and thank the Minister of Works and Transport, Honourable Helmut Angula, for his contribution which he made on empowerment on Thursday, 10 October 2008. I appreciate the fact that his speech was not an emotional abortion, accusing the white community only. Everything what he said was true and I never got the impression that his contribution was racially driven.

After two days of black and white remarks and accusations, the 7th and the 8th of October, I was again proud to be a Namibian citizen. Sometimes I have no other choice than getting the impression that Parliament is the main breeding place for these racial remarks, racial suggestions, racial perceptions, because I never hear such remarks outside this Honourable House. My neighbour behind me is the exception and I appreciate that he also speaks like NUDO.

Honourable Speaker, I agree that poverty is not only inconvenient, but in

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itself it perhaps has the potential of other more serious forms of malpractices. Poverty leads to a desire for the property of your neighbour, to steal from him or to murder him to get hold of his property. I always compare the situation in Namibia with that in South Africa. In Namibia people steal your cell phone, in South Africa they murder you and then steal your cell phone.

Sometimes poverty is embedded into circumstances caused by cultural differences or behaviour. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable Viljoen a tiny question? If poverty is based on cultural tradition, as you are saying, are you aware of the Namibian culture which allows some people to ride on the backs of their workers in order to become rich and impoverish the workers? Are you aware of that culture?

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, it may be true but it is true for all Namibians, white or black, green or any colour. It is not only the white people.

Then, as I said, poverty is embedded into circumstances caused by cultural differences or behaviour. In the examples which I want to highlight women and children are the ones who suffer most. In Namibia, 39% of urban and 44% of rural households are headed by women. Female-headed households tend to be the poorest of all poor people because they are usually dependent on a small income and are engaged in a caring system for a number of children, in many cases not their own. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Comrade Speaker, on a Point of Information. Women in Namibia are poor because our husbands were killed during the colonial

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time. That is why we are poor today, because of your brother and you.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Member is living in the past. I am coming to the point. In Namibia, 34% of women have their first child before the age of twenty. This is because some young men insist that their girlfriends prove their fertility by having a baby before marriage. In many cases young women find themselves abandoned after the baby is born. She forms another relationship with a man and she is expected to have another baby, only to be deserted by father after father. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. Is the Honourable Member aware that in traditional African society it was not acceptable for somebody to have a baby before marriage? Are you aware of that?

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I am aware of it and Honourable Prime Minister, I just want to clear what I said about cultural issues. Everybody in this Honourable House received this document and I always come to Parliament prepared, reading to make sure of what I say. This is in this document and it was distributed in Parliament. The title, "*Help – Wanted Sex Workers in Katutura, Namibia*". (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask Honourable Viljoen a question? Honourable Viljoen, I just want to ask you because I did not understand. In your statement you said that poverty is embedded in culture or in cultural practices. I could not follow, I am totally at a loss. By implication you are trying to say that the majority of the Namibian people are poor because of their culture? Is that what are you saying or is

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what you are saying the opposite of apartheid, that apartheid has created that cultural poverty among the majority of the black population? I just want a clear understanding of what you mean.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I will not answer that one. In many cases young women find themselves abandoned after the baby is born and deserted by father after father after father. Her financial responsibilities grow with the number of children. Her ability to find work is small because she has to care for the children. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Order, Comrade Speaker. Some words are not supposed to be used here, please. Honourable Viljoen, do you know why we are having many babies? Some people like me were beaten by your colour. You were saying you read the book, were you reading the book even when you were killing the people here or did you only read the other history? Do please not talk about women having a lot of children, it is not the cause of poverty.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I do not understand the Honourable Member, she is making political bubbles. Securing child maintenance from the fathers is a wild goose chase. The average payment for maintenance is N\$76. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Order. Honourable Speaker, when we come to Parliament, we come to talk about the issues confronting the Namibian people, we do not come here to make bubbles as the Honourable Member is saying, that apparently we come to Parliament to make bubbles. (Interjection). He said that the Member is making bubbles. Is that allowed, for people to make bubbles in Parliament?

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HON SPEAKER: That is obviously not allowed, but is it allowed for another Honourable Member to accused this Honourable Member that he himself is responsible for killing people, unless we have the proof? Let us not as Members of Parliament use words that would necessitate the other Honourable Member also to use words. I have no evidence that Honourable Viljoen has ever killed anybody and I listened to what the Honourable Deputy Minister said, it was not bubbles. We must use language that does not necessitate the other Honourable Member to say something. I am not going to ask Honourable Viljoen to withdraw that. Continue.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I wish to refer to another poor part of our population. (Intervention)

HON BAYER: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Viljoen, are children born out of wedlock only in certain cultures or in all cultures in Namibia?

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, in all cultures. I have not said it was only limited to one of the groups, I referred to Namibians.

I wish to refer to another poor part of our population. I refer to those people living along the Kunene from Ruacana westward. They have their traditional way of living and I am not always convinced that they themselves see it as poverty. But anyway, their only lifeline with the outside world is a very bad road. Last month approximately 300 people from all over Namibia attended our Dorsland celebrations in that area. I wrote a letter far in advance, pleading with the authorities to upgrade the road to enable us to drive carefree. (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask a question? Honourable Viljoen, you are talking about Kunene and that you were there. What did you do about those people, about the road to the other side or what did you suggest to them to listen to you? Tell this House.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I wrote a letter, asking people to upgrade the road. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: May I ask a question? The Dorsland days were when you were running from the British to Angola? At that time you were in the same category, there is no way of accusing one another, he was running away from the British in 1890. Is that true? That time when you came back from Angola, we gave you *Okombambi*, *Okatjiho*, *Okamangongua* and you lived there until now and you do not want to accept that.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I distributed the document in this Honourable House but the Honourable Member was not here to receive his copy. If we can improve that road it can bring more tourists to invest more money and consequently bring poverty relief. Those people do not have any form of communication with the outside world. (Intervention)

HON DR ANKAMA: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Inspector Viljoen a question? Honourable Viljoen, you requested for the road to be upgraded. Did you ask the community

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whether they really need that road or was the road meant for you to go there? Is that a need for the community or is that a campaign ploy?

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I wish to thank the Honourable Member for the question. The Dorsland use the road once in five years. As I said, they do not have any form of communication with the outside world, they live along the river which generates electricity for Namibia, but they do not benefit in any way from that project.

The children along the road stop the cars, they do not ask sweets, they are looking for pens to use in the school.

Honourable Speaker, referring to poverty, some Members tell the people outside this House that poverty has a colour. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: May I ask the Honourable Member a tiny question? You said that the children are standing along the road, asking for pens and pencils and I understand that you were an inspector of schools. Have you visited those areas during your time as an inspector?

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I visited those schools many times and we supplied pens, but those pens cannot write after 18 years, the need new pens. (Laughter)

Honourable Speaker, what I want to say – and I do not say it in a mean way but that is what I hear in Parliament, that the colour of poverty is black and that of wealth is white. Everybody in this House knows that eighteen years after Independence the so-called middle class does not consist of people with a specific skin colour. (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a Point of Information. Honourable Viljoen is wrong and unfortunately he was not in this Chamber when we acknowledged here that the social structure is changing and in this country poverty is also affecting the white population. There are whites who are being affected by poverty and we said we must move in tandem. Even the Prime Minister said that there are whites who are running cattle posts. When we talk about poverty, we talk about Namibians, but to deny that Namibians are not affected by poverty is not true.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, people referred to Woermann Brock, to Pick & Pay, to Checkers. The people who run those businesses are probably white, but they are not Namibians. When I go to a Restaurant, I do not ask the colour of the managers. We support places like Kentucky Fried Chicken and Nandos. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Viljoen, I have been trying to follow your politics in this Chamber since you arrived here. Do you really think that it is fair for you as a modern politician to put yourself as the representative of a certain cluster of people, rather than a representative of all Namibian people?

Secondly, there is truth in your argument, saying that a new black elite has propelled in the last 18 years, but do you really think that this new black elite, in terms of numbers, can equate the elite that you represent? Do you really think that the new black elite that are rich today are at the same level as the white colleagues in the country or why do you advance that argument continuously?

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I am a Namibian, I do not think about the white people, I think of Namibians, but nobody in this Honourable House will also speak for white people. That is why

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sometimes there is the impression that I speak for one cluster, as you said. Honourable Venaani, I am proud to be a Namibian and I will come to the rest of the question. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Colleague, may I ask you a tiny question? Do you have any other colours in your Party and who are they? We see Mr Mudge's colleagues and members all the time, but what about you as Namibian?

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I can ask the same to the Honourable Chief. How many whites in his Party and can he name them? (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: I can bring them to you if I want to. Can you bring one to me?

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Deputy Minister of Regional and Local Government and Housing referred to an Insurance Company and I asked the Honourable Minister twice to give me the name and I will take it up, but up till now nothing happened. And then, why was Atlas House mentioned in this House? Atlas House was mentioned in this Parliament only to put white people under suspicion. The Honourable Minister was supposed to be trained to use facts to find guilty or not guilty. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a Point of Information. Honourable Viljoen, I did not know that you are now the representative, as Honourable Venaani has said, of the companies that are discriminating against people and for the information, since you are persistent, I will answer publicly, Santam Namibia has

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charged me N\$2,300 for insurance on a truck when I negotiated it on my own. For you who may think that I am a racist in this House, for your information, I joined up with white Namibian friends of mine for a business project. When they checked the Insurance bill that I am paying, they hit the ceiling, they said, "*My Lord, you are being cheated here.*" These are my friends, these are my business partners and they negotiated for the same truck, same model from N\$2,300 per month at Santam Namibia and it reduced to N\$1,700. What were the criteria? Same truck, same model, what were the criteria? I have papers to prove that different cultures get different services.

When we are talking about Woermann Brock we are not talking about white rich Namibians, we are talking about institutional policies. There are poor whites who are also discriminated against in this country, but there are powerful whites and blacks in this country, but the majority, as Honourable Venaani has said, is the white elite.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member to calm down? The white people of this country are not the enemy. Whether people are black or white and they withhold a decent salary or food, they should be punished and MAG is not interested in the votes of people only because they are white. (Intervention)

HON KAIYAMO: Comrade Speaker, Honourable Viljoen is making very dangerous statements. In the beginning he said in South Africa they steal your cell phone and shoot you. It is a statement which is very dangerous and he also said that Woermann Brock are not Namibians. For your information, Woermann Brock are Namibians for the past five generations.

HON VILJOEN: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for the advice and I

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want to repeat, MAG is not interested in the votes of people only because they are white. Poverty is a reality and I am convinced that everybody in this House will be surprised to know how many churches and organisations and groups of white people are involved in actions to provide food to the vulnerable children and people in the northern suburbs of the capital.

If we do an analysis on the poverty situation, we get the impression that the proverbial cake is not too small. We have only 1,8 million people, we have to share this cake. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Viljoen, 18 years ago the majority of this country were under poverty, 106 years history of poverty. If we are talking about prevailing poverty in Namibia, if we start to address super structures and we do not go deep into the roots, we will make a mistake.

Honourable Viljoen, are you aware that property and wealth as per Article 16 of the Namibian Constitution is a fundamental right, but you are aware that the majority of this country have no land and for you to help these people out of poverty is if they could have land to work on. The Honourable Member only thinks about women having a lot of babies, but he forgets the foundation why we have poverty here. It is because we have not yet reached equitable distribution of the wealth of this country. Thus you find that the SWAPO Party Government decided to budget N\$15 million every year to buy farms. However, the people who own land pushed up the price of land. Are you going to talk to them under this Motion to reduce the price, so that the Government could be in a position to buy land which we can distribute and train people to work on that land? Are you going to do that, rather than insulting even our women?

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HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I am also complaining about the high prices because I also want to buy some land, but I cannot afford it. Therefore, I am not in a position to force it down.

Honourable Speaker, as I said, the proverbial cake of this country is not too small. If we had all the money which was stolen or lost due to mismanagement or invested in unnecessary or crippling projects, like Air Namibia, the Country Club, parastatals...(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: May I ask the Honourable Viljoen a small question? Does the Honourable Member know that Namibia is one of the three countries giving universal pension grants to our old people? That is the way we want to solve the problem. Do you know that Namibia is one of the countries which is giving money to orphans? Do you know that Namibia is the only country which is giving our communities assistance? Namibia is the only country who is looking after the destitute communities. If you go Australia you can be ashamed that you are in Australia when you see the poverty prevailing there. So, if you compare what the Government is trying to do, do you not think that it is perhaps time that you recognise some of these things? I know we are poor, but we are trying to look after our poor people and to do whatever we can to assist our poor people. However as a Namibian you are standing up there, telling the world about the buildings and this and that. What about what we are trying to do for the communities? I think you must recognise that.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I think the Government gets credit for the good things they do, but what I am saying is that we can do better. If we could take all the money spent on bribes and kick-backs...(Intervention)

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HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Since the Honourable Member is crying about money used for this and that, when the Government which he was eligible then to vote for, was spending money on wars, destroying its own people, forcing its own sons to go and fight in neighbouring countries, what did he say and where was he?

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I think the Honourable Minister referred to South Africa. I was in Namibia, I was here busy with education, nothing more.

We have to fight against poverty and empower Namibians and we are accusing the past for poverty. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Mr Speaker, the Honourable Member mentioned that the cake here is not too small, it is only because of mal-administration and a hundred million got lost. Is the Honourable Member aware that before Namibia's Independence, when it was South West Africa under the South African Government, that there was a commission of enquiry, known as the Thireon Commission which, into corruption, money which was squandered? Do you want to tell us the people were wealthy eighteen years ago and became poor when Namibia got its Independence? Our only people were only getting N\$50 while your pigment got N\$300. Had it not been for this SWAPO Government that would still have been the case and therefore, I call on you to ask your family and friends not to put such a high price on land, so that we can buy land and turn that land into productive land, rather than just having oryx and kudus.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I think it is not good to live in the past. To answer the Honourable Deputy Minister, he always refers to

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the mighty SWAPO Party and I agree, there are good things and we must give them credit for that, but if the SWAPO Party is mighty, why do they allow Government Ministries, like NBC, to withhold N\$250 million tax money? If you put it in the state coffers, you can feed a lot of people from that.

We can all see what is going on. The people are queuing for money and benefits. First it was the war veterans, later on the children of the war veterans and TransNamib. I can assure you there are more to come because people realise that they can use the coming elections as lever to get what they want.

The Government has a spoilt youth organisation to satisfy. The price of copper is going down, the same with zinc and lead and the biggest importer of diamonds in the United States has serious economic problems. The Tsumeb West Mine is closing down and we will see in the newspapers in the coming weeks more of these mines running into trouble. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? The Honourable Member just used the words “*spoilt youth*.” Can he just clarify what he means with “*spoilt youth*?” What is it? (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Just like you!

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, there is one example: We had a meeting with the Police in the old Parliament Building and the same youth leaders promised to behave at political rallies, but they were the first people to instigate others and you have read all about that in the newspapers. You cannot discipline those people because later on you will

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see what they ... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Comrade Speaker, on a Point of Order. The Honourable Member referred to a meeting in the old Parliament Building and I thought since we started this Parliament, it had been in this building. Which is the old Parliament Building?

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I do not have the name for the building, but it is there near the Office of the Prime Minister, the big hall there. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Member is making reference to the fact that mines are closing and he is trying to create uncertainties in the minds of people who are employed in those mines. Could he maybe substantiate this statement he made that the mines are closing, because we want to know where he got the information from?

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I read in the newspapers that the Tsumeb West Mine is closing down.

Moletsi Mbeki said: *“The only solution to eliminate poverty is to sort out the education system and to concentrate more on the development of small and medium businesses”* and I rest my case.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: On a Point of Information, Honourable Speaker. We are not aware of any mine closing down in the country and what the speculations by the newspapers are not factual.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Chief Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Mr Speaker, my Colleague said that we do not defend whites. He is white. When we confronted the Government on the issue of sending sheep to South Africa, the Government eventually agreed and 250 000 sheep were sent to South Africa. Are you aware of that? You said we are neglecting the whites. It was us, the blacks, who confronted the Government and agreed on that issue. Now, to say openly that "*you are not defending the whites*", I am here to defend the whites. We did that in your presence, you could not say anything. (Intervention)

HON VILJOEN: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Speaker, I do not understand, he refers to sheep in the South and the farmers there. I said nothing about that.

HON RIRUAKO: No, we confronted the Government, why are they not allowed to send their sheep South Africa and the Government gave in to us. It is a black Government and black politicians who agreed to white issues. You are aware of this, but I know you want to run away from it.

To tell me that we do not defend the white issues is unfair, we defend Namibian issues despite colour or creed and perhaps from now on you are going to have some black members in your organisation. This is the way how to behave. I do not care whether you are Viljoen, if our Government

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mishandled you, I will come up and tell my Government they are wrong here and there, please apologise. Are you prepared to do that?

He said the whites have never taken anything before Independence. Cultura 2000 took eight million, this was you. My Colleague Mudge had six million of our money with them, the DTA, six million. Now who is who? This is what happened in this country, we know it. My own personal money, N\$250,000 gone and you know about this. Now, who is who in these issues?

I want to rest my case because I do not have any argument left. This is the way it happened in the past.

Coming to what my Colleague on the other side said, that the price of farms has to be reduced, that is our duty as Parliamentarians to reduce those prices. It is our country. It is our duty to take care of our own. That is the way it is and you are one of them, do you not agree with me? I thank you.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, it is unfortunate that a very important Debate was taken out of context. It is an issue to which we cannot attach political positions, but an issue that lies central to all our people. Poverty, Honourable Speaker, is a serious problem of modern leadership and our people are confronted with both material and moral poverty and it is really a pity when we try to make statements to advance our causes on the problems of others. It is a pity for Namibians and leaders to deny the economical history of our people and the world economical history.

The people globally and nationally have a perception, right or wrong – and I am talking about the ordinary citizens of the country – that they see politicians to be people looking after their own interests, first and foremost, and are probably a bunch of liars. It is our solemn duty and responsibility to counteract that perception by proving that we are addressing the problems of the poor.

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Honourable Speaker, I do not want to dwell on our economic history, but Honourable Viljoen, just as a footnote, Honourable Smit on the other side of the aisle, Honourable De Waal, Honourable Henk Mudge, Honourable Jooste are no less white than the whites representing MAG. They are equal and I am no less a black person than Honourable Mbumba on the other side of the aisle. We are the same and we should represent the interests of all Namibians equally. It is a pity to try to equate the new black elite – and it is a myth that we really need to answer, that there are new black millionaires. Yes, there are, some of them through correct means, some of them through corruption. It is true, it is a reality, but they are not comparable to the wealth that belongs to the whites in this country. Please do not compare it. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: May I ask a tiny question? Any wealth came out of crooked methods, everyone of it. No wealth comes as the fortune of God. Some people were killed. Like one lady here said, they killed our fathers and our husbands that is why we are poor. It happened that way in the past.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, the more we are advancing this agenda of saying that the new black elite are there, so why talk about the white wealth in this country? The reason why we have one of the highest inequalities between the rich and the poor is because of our history. It is not by default, it was by design. There are hardworking white Namibians in this country and patriotic white Namibians. There are many of them that are my personal friends that are also looking at the prosperity of all Namibians, that want to see this country to prosper and they do not want to be represented in a separate corner, they want to be represented by national leadership.

I admire your leader, Kosie Pretorius, who was in this House, who had a particular panache to raise his issues in a way that never agitated others. However, as a young Namibian I am really disappointed to see some

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white colleagues in Namibia, and especially the political leaders, who would think that they can only represent white interest. There is nothing like white and black interest, there is only Namibian interest.
(Intervention)

HON VILJOEN: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Speaker, I made it clear that I do not represent the white people in Namibia only. Mr Kosie Pretorius is not representing the white people in Namibia. You can go back to all my contributions on the motions, it was in national interest, not in the interest of the white people. I thank you.

HON VENAANI: I think, Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Member said in his speech he speaks for their interest, therefore I am speaking for them. It is not true, how can I be in the same Party with Johan De Waal and not represent his interest? How can Honourable Angula be in the same Party as Smit and not represent his interests? We are living in the same process where everybody defends one another.

Therefore, let us not try to tell the public out there that the new black elite has solved the problem of the high gini-coëfficiency in this country, it has not. It is centre that we need to design policies to address the inequalities. That is reason why we have wrote in our Constitution about affirmative action. Affirmative action is a deliberate discriminatory policy to try to redress the wrongs of the past and it is deliberate and the reason why the American Legislature has addressed the question of affirmative action is because of the past, because of the slaves that were taken from the shores of Africa and worked in plantations and never had opportunities.
(Intervention)

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HON RIRUAKO: Are you aware how Americans were killed because of that and are you aware of the newly appointed President of the United States, Barak Obama... (Laughter).

HON VENAANI: Honourable Chief, there are still elections on the 4th of November.

Honourable Speaker, coming to the issue of poverty, I want to quote from a Word Bank Report, a young Jamaican women who said the following: *“The poor people have few opportunities to speak out. When they speak out, no-one listens. When someone listens, the reply is “nothing can be done.” When told that something will be done, nothing is ever done.”* This is a sign of the powerlessness of the people that are confronted by poverty.

When Namibians see us on television tonight debating this issue, they do not make a distinction between me wearing a blue tie and somebody with a red tie on the other side of the House, they see their leaders. Honourable Colleagues, if you read this in the Report of a person in Jamaica, a young woman who says *“we are not listened to because we are poor”* and if you look at the problems of poverty in this country, every time that we travel from home to work, you find a man – and it is unfortunate that these are black – on the corner at the traffic lights, asking you for N\$5, a person who could be the same age as yourself, then ask yourself the question today in the position that you are, not that you are rich, how often would you ask someone for bread money? It is the pride of a person, these young people are doing that every day because they are powerless, the only way to survive is to ask for something or to steal and, I am not condoning theft. The poverty in this country is forcing people to do things that are illegal in nature.

Go to Katutura, go to any modern town of Namibia, whether Gobabis, Oshakati, Keetmanshoop, you are seeing the mushrooming of shanty towns. It is not because people choose to sleep in plastic bags, it is because there is no choice. (Intervention)

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HON RIRUAKO: I have come across an Afrikaner between Gobabis and Aminuis in 1947 and these people were wearing Khaki to take their son away from them because they had to work between the kraal and the house, between the garden and the house with a Khaki and today they are a bit in a better position.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I want to address poverty.
(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Speaker, may I ask Honourable Venaani a question? Honourable Venaani, are you aware that the poverty we have inherited is cross-cutting, it affects the majority of our black people from east to west, from north to south, Omusati, Ohangwena, the southern Regions, Caprivi, everywhere? Are you aware that poverty afflicts the majority of our people, irrespective of any Region, district, Local Authority or whatever? This is the historical poverty which we have inherited and I think we need to address it in that context and not necessarily always trying to separate that these people are poorer than the others. I think that is reversed discrimination. Thank you.

HON VENAANI: I think it is a reality and I do not know whether the Honourable Colleague is experiencing that, nearly every politician in this country, that by the end of the month you receive SMS messages, "*please give me N\$400, please give me N\$100.*" Many of us are confronted with that problem and it is not because our people want to ask us for money because we are their leaders, it is because they are poor. It is poverty. When they see you, they see money. Of course, the situation is very different, many legislators in America and elsewhere are rich people. Here it is poor people that are becoming legislators and when people see you in a dark blue suit and you look like Obama, they think you are as rich as Obama and that is not the case.

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Honourable Speaker, I want to address the question of global poverty and I think the centre of global poverty lies in the governance of the powerful institutions. I was listening very attentively the other day when Honourable Helmut Angula was narrating some of this history and he was doing very well. Honourable Speaker, the international institutions, the rich, the powerful, have committed themselves in 2002 Monterey, Mexico, saying that they are going to spend 0,7% of their GDP on poor countries. However, most of the time these powerful people are negating their responsibility to finance poorer Nations and to assist poorer Nations.

If you look at the trading rules, free trade, there is nothing in the world like free trade today. It could be free but it is not fair. Agricultural subsidies, NAFTA was created between Mexico, America and Canada, but the moment Mexican farmers are selling tomatoes to the United States, the American farmers will demand more subsidies from their Government and they run the other ones out of business. Therefore, even the little we are producing is subjected to unfair trade relations and I think when we want to address poverty, it is central that the international multilateral institutions must reform themselves, because they set the agenda, they decide what would be discussed and how problems would be solved. You are just there in a *fait accompli* situation where you are told these are the rules of the game, agree or stay out.

One issue that we as legislators must address globally is the issue of rules of origin in trade agreements. When a fish is taken from Namibian water but it is canned in a Mexican tin, that fish loses its value due to the rules of origin, because people would argue that this fish does not come from Namibia, it comes from Mexico. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. Our tins are manufactured in South Africa and the tinned fish go back to South Africa, which is not good at all. I can however not blame the Minister because we do not have the means to manufacture it.

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HON VENAANI: We can talk about the cake, but of course, the cake in this country is not big, it is a very small cake. It is small because we do not add value to our products. The reason why competitive countries are competing so highly, is not that they want our steel or our copper, but because they know they can do something with the copper and we cannot do anything with the copper. For as long as we do not address those problems of industrialising our country, our people would languish in abject poverty.

The other issue that we as a country must seriously reflect on is the fact that we have not really achieved food security. It is a concern that we as legislators must really raise to the Government of the day, that we really need to do more to ensure that at least if the people cannot buy our products, we could at least feed ourselves.

This morning I read a very positive report in *New Era* on how Namibian farmers can plant potatoes and onions. It is just unacceptable by all our standards that we should still import potatoes and onions from South Africa. We should be able to do some of these things and we should do these things in order to advance our people out of poverty.

Honourable Speaker, the cake is small and will remain small for as long as you do not have options for our products. We have the best quality diamonds in the world, but who is making something out of our diamonds? It is the buyers in India and elsewhere who are going to make products out of our diamonds, but if we have smelters and jewellers here that can do that, we will be able to add value to our diamonds and some of these regimes are so fixed that we cannot get out of it. It is important for us to look at some of these deficits.

Honourable Speaker, our people can wait, but they cannot wait for too long and that is the problem that we are confronted with. This poverty issue is an economic time bomb. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. Our dairies were moved from

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here to South Africa, we buy butter and milk from South Africa. Why? We were made to be dependent on somebody else. Let us be independent. We do not produce milk and butter, we are made to be dependent and you people are not aware of it, you take some shares from those companies, which is wrong. You must take shares from your own companies here.

We have the money to create what we are supposed to do, but you are blindfolded on this. Why?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable Venaani a tiny question for clarity? Are you sure you want to smelt diamonds?

HON VENAANI: If I said that, I withdraw. A diamond cannot smelted of course, I spoke of jewelleries. I must give credit where credit is due, and I want us to reflect on the Doha Economic Summit. (Intervention)

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member two questions? What did the Honourable Member mean when he said our people cannot wait too long? Secondly, if we should take away all the farms and give it back to the rightful owners, to the people of Honourable /Ui/o/oo, will we be a rich country in 20 years?

HON VENAANI: My elder brother and Colleague, I do not know why you want me to go to that level and I do not want to. (Interjection)

HON VILJOEN: You are afraid?

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HON VENAANI: I am not afraid. I am not a proponent of grabbing the land. This country has legislated in its Parliament, we have a policy of willing buyer, willing seller, but there must be commitment from both sides. That is the policy of the Namibian Government, it is also our Party's policy. You see, Honourable Viljoen, when you see a very vocal legislator or a colleague of yours, you think everybody is proposing land grabbing, but to be honest and I agree with you that the current situation on the land ownership is not sustainable, because now they are saying if all the land was given back to the blacks or to the San, the country will not be rich, so why change? Those are the kinds of arguments that they are advancing.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: On a Point of Order. Although I do not want to indulge myself in these arguments of race and colour and what have you, may I put a question to the Honourable Member, please? Honourable Member, these farms that are at the moment in the hands of those people regarded as the productive owners and farmers, who are the real people creating the wealth with their hands and sweat on those farms?

HON VENAANI: That question answers itself, but I want to raise an issue that the Honourable Member is not even aware of. People think that AgriBank finances more black farmers than white farmers, but in fact AgriBank is financing more commercial farmers today, it is a reality! The people that borrow more money from AgriBank are the formerly advantaged commercial farmers.

HON SPEAKER: On that note the House shall rise until tomorrow, 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2008.10.29 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
29 OCTOBER 2008
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions?
Honourable Schimming-Chase

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 98:

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, 6 of November 2008 I shall ask the Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Minister of Finance, the following questions:

For all these years Namibians have taken out life insurance and policies from South African Insurance companies which were operating in Namibia. One of the most active during the pre- and immediate post-Independence period was Liberty Life with its pension administrators who are now failing to assist Namibian insurers when it comes to the payment of those insurances which have matured. Allow me to mention two cases to enlighten the House, the first being a death claim.

The client died in April 2007. The surviving spouse submitted a claim towards the end of 2007. Almost a year later Liberty Life claims that the South African revenue services flatly ignore requests for tax directives for foreigners, hence they cannot pay out.

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Another Namibian took out a retirement annuity policy with Liberty Life in the early eighties when they were still operating from Namibia. At that point one could just deduct contributions from income tax and the benefits would be taxable under Namibian legislation. Since Liberty Life left Namibia and with its departure, coupled with the changes in the Namibian legislation, their products were no longer approved by Inland Revenue in Namibia, nor by Namfisa. As a result, not only did the client lose the right to claim contributions made towards a retirement fund, as it was no longer approved, but in addition the investment became subject to South African legislation. The client has been working on this case since early 2007. Firstly, it has become almost impossible to speak to anyone at Liberty Life and even if you manage, they do not follow up. Documents are requested and sent, but no action is taken because all these are submitted to the South African Revenue Services which ignore requests because we are deemed to be foreigners.

With this extensive background, Honourable Minister, I would like to ask the following questions:

1. In the past, South Africa operated insurance companies in Namibia and benefited from the investment of Namibian citizens. Financial advisers earned commissions on those investments and continue to earn them up to now based on annual increases on those investments. The commissions earned are actually supposed to cater for after-sale service to the clients. Not one of these advisers who dealt with the cases in the beginning are now available to sort out the problems. What would the Honourable Minister advise such clients to do?
2. Clients cannot even claim tax deductibility on contributions or on the favourable provisions which are still in Namibia's income tax legislation. The South Africa Revenue Service does not seem to have any recognition of Namibia as a sovereign state and treats requests for tax directives as insignificant. How else would one explain that a widow has to wait more than a year for the finalisation of a simple death claim? Can the Honourable

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Minister intervene with her counterpart in South Africa to speed up the process, since it affects many Namibians?

3. Liberty Life is giving the most appalling service to clients who invested money for their old age or for the benefit of their heirs. Is there no way that the Ministry can intervene in this matter with the purpose of forcing Liberty Life and others to respect their obligations and pay the Namibians who took out insurances with them now that payment time has come?
4. The audacity of the South African Revenue Service is simply unacceptable. The South African Government is well aware of the role Namibia played in boosting the South African economy. This past cannot be buried because of inefficiency. Is it, therefore, not possible for the Honourable Minister to enter into negotiations with her counterpart, even to request that they create a separate department to deal with Namibian cases because of our history, so that the many Namibians who have taken out insurance policies can receive the moneys owed to them.

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

QUESTION 99:

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

A question on the Hardap flood area was asked in November 2007. The Honourable Minister gave a full report with an indication of future planning by NamWater and other stakeholders. In the meantime a tender was awarded to X to spray the reeds in the river with weed killer twice.

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The first spraying was successfully done. Another tender was awarded to Y who was supposed to burn the dry weeds after the first spraying with weed killer. Up to this moment Y is still in default. Person X wants to spray the reeds for the second time, but cannot do it prior to the burning because it will not be effective.

In the light of the rainy season which has started, the residents of Mariental are concerned about the process which is not yet completed.

Can the Honourable Minister please shed light on this uncertainty regarding the cleaning of the reeds in the Fish River area.

HON SPEAKER: Can the Honourable Member please table the Questions? Any further Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Minister of Mines and Energy.

NOTICE OF MOTION

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Tuesday, 4 November 2008, I shall Move –

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to amend the Mineral Prospecting and Mining Act, 1992; to ensure that the levying of certain royalties is authorised; to remove restrictions on the maximum rate of royalties that may be charged and to authorise the imposition of windfall royalty; and to provide for matters incidental thereto.

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 WATER DEBTS OWED TO NAMWATER
BY COMMUNAL FARMERS**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Water Debts Owed to NamWater by Communal Farmers.

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, 22 October 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Venaani. The Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry adjourned the Debate and I now give the Floor to the Minister or Deputy Minister.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Speaker, I rise to respond to Honourable Venaani's Motion on the issue of rural water supply and its impact on the rural economy, so Moved on the 2nd of October 2008.

The issue of non-payment by rural communities, which led to high debts owed to NamWater, is a serious problem which presents a challenge to all of us. The major task that we are all facing today is reducing poverty to improve the livelihood of our people, especially in the rural and peri-urban areas. I am sure we appreciate that the Government is investing most of its resources in addressing the poverty through rural development programmes. Hence the importance to recognise that water is at the centre of all developmental initiatives and that it needs to be treated in such a way that its dual roles, meaning to sustain life and as a vehicle to development, are clearly understood. The second part recognises the economic value of water, which I am sure none of us are disputing.

Honourable Speaker, I must point out here that this same Motion and its intention was brought before this House in 2003 by Honourable Kaura under Bulk Water Supply by NamWater. On the 22nd October 2003,

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exactly five years before Honourable Venaani moved this Motion, he contributed to that same Motion with the same content and intention of his Motion this year. The Motion by Honourable Kaura which was seeking to abolish NamWater was voted against by the majority of this House on 4th November 2003. This did happen, however, after the then Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development, Comrade Helmut Angula, provided a detailed explanation of the reasons, some of which I will repeat today, on why the situation is the way it is.

The year 2003 was a year that preceded 2004 when the elections took place. Therefore, the DTA wanted to use the water issue again as a carrot to canvas votes. While they concentrate on a small area, the Government is looking at the whole country to try and mitigate the water provision challenge through several measures that I will touch on later.

I want to remind the House that policies and pieces of legislation have gone through this august House to ensure that water is supplied and managed according to economic principles, while taking cognisance of social issues and I can give two examples here:

In terms of the NamWater Act (Act 12 of 1997), the Corporation has the mandate to operate on a cost recovery basis. The Corporation is expected to recover its costs from its customers as well as the money earmarked for investing in future water supply infrastructure.

Way back in 1997 Government introduced the policy of community-based management of rural water supply. This policy in essence meant that rural communities had to eventually pay the full cost for supplying water to them. There was resistance to pay for the water right from the beginning, especially from communities that were used to receiving free water from Government before this policy was introduced. This resistance was in certain cases backed up by political support from some Regional and Local Authority Councillors. I hope Honourable Mbai can tell us who were these politicians.

Before I specifically address the issue in the Motion by Honourable Venaani, let me reiterate the policy of this SWAPO-led Government

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approved by the Cabinet early this month.

The Constitution advocates equity as a fundamental principle to ensure equitable access to water supply and equitable economic opportunities for all Namibians. Essential water supply and sanitation services should become available to all Namibians and should be acceptable and accessible at a cost which is affordable to the country as a whole. Full cost recovery and prevention of debt as part of the principle of water as an economic good should be promoted and implemented based on equitable tariffs to improve access by poor and marginalised communities.

Payment by the rural community for operation, maintenance and replacement costs should as a general rule always apply, although there may be cases where a transparent rebate, cross-subsidy or subsidy may be granted. This equitable improvement of water and sanitation services should be achieved by the combined efforts of the Government and the beneficiaries, based on community involvement and participation and the acceptance of a mutual responsibility. Community ownership and management of facilities should be adopted as a strategy of choice for the water supply sector in general. Communities should have the right, with due regard to environmental needs and their resources and the information available to determine which water and sanitation solutions and service levels are acceptable to them within the boundaries of the national guidelines.

Beneficiaries should contribute towards the cost of the water and sanitation services they desire at increasing rates for standards of living exceeding the levels required for providing basic needs.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Venaani has indicated his reflection of the situation in the country after conducting research in the country and at NamWater. The following comments are direct response to the Honourable Member's findings:

Point 3 of paragraph 4 of Honourable Venaani's motivation speech refers to the Eastern Water Carrier as having an outstanding amount of over N\$68 million. It is thus not clear which area is being referred to by the

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Eastern Water Carrier. We shall assume that he is referring to the Waterberg area in the Otjozondjupa Region, an area which is known for its unwillingness to play water bills. The amount quoted as owed by this area is also difficult to comment on because the origin of this figure is a bit unclear to us.

Honourable Venaani in the same paragraph refers to the second-largest communal area of export beef to foreign markets where we earn foreign exchange as a country. This means that many, if not most, of these farmers are farming for commercial purpose that is they market their cattle and earn foreign exchange for the country. This further means that most of these farmers should be able to pay for water consumed by their animals because they use water to make money from their cattle. This is in line with an informal survey conducted by the Directorate: Rural Water Supply around the year 2000, where it was found that more than 95% of water consumed in the area around Waterberg was consumed by animals and the balance, which is 5%, by human beings. Farmers engaged in commercial activities should be able to pay for water consumed by their animals.

Honourable Venaani correctly quoted the Cuvelai area as owing NamWater about N\$38 million, but attributed the days outstanding to this amount as 2,289 days, while in fact the correct days are 1,068. The total outstanding debts of over N\$150 million is, therefore, not correct.

NamWater has 6 operating areas, namely Karas-Hardap area, the Namib area, the Khomas area, the Brandberg area, the Kavango-Caprivi area and the Cuvelai area. The figures owed by the different operational areas of NamWater are given in the table that I am going to read to you:

Karas has 7 supply points and the balance owed on 26 September this year was N\$61,528,39. The days outstanding, 1,259. But then the average debt per month at each supply point is only N\$209.45.

Namib has 12 supply points with a debt of N\$114,000 and the average debt per month for each supply point is only N\$217,92.

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Khomas has only 1 and the balance of N\$3,000 plus with N\$787.56 average debt per month per supply point.

Brandberg has 186 supply points with a balance at September this year of N\$48 million, with the average debt per month per supply point coming to N\$151.35.

Kavango has 84 supply points with a balance of N\$166,000 and N\$257.25 as the average debt per month per supply point.

Cuvelai has 517 supply points with N\$38 million and an average debt per month per supply point of N\$2,104.45.

If you take the balance amount in Honourable Venaani's research and divide it with the number of outstanding days multiplied by 30, it will give you an average monthly bill and if you divide it by the number of supply points, it will give you the monthly bill per supply point. Therefore, although the outstanding debts by rural communities have reached an unacceptable high level of N\$87 million as of 26 September, the average monthly balance per supply point varies from a mere N\$151.35 in Brandberg to N\$2,104.45 in Cuvelai, an amount which certainly should be affordable if people are serious.

The amounts owed to NamWater were initially low and manageable but it started to grow with time and with the non-payment of the water bills. This resulted in the situation that we have today where rural communities owe large amounts of money to NamWater.

Honourable Speaker, as I mentioned earlier, the core issue in this Motion is not new in this august House, it was brought up earlier and several initiatives have been taken both at policy and operational levels. I would point out some of these initiatives.

In the Waterberg area, the Directorate of Rural Water Supply in the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry in consultation with NamWater, has embarked on a project whereby all community supply points are converted to individual off-takes. This road was the result of

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lengthy consultations with communities who in Waterberg particularly expressed the view that they do not want to be collectively responsible for water bills, but would prefer to be billed individually. This would also make it easier for NamWater to discontinue water supply in case of default by an individual. These individuals also accepted the responsibility for the historical debts of the former local Water Committees which were proportionally split amongst individuals and for which they entered into back payment agreements with NamWater.

The reason for the high outstanding debts is not so much attributable to non-affordability, but rather to unwillingness to pay. The statement that these communities cannot afford the water so supplied is however questionable.

Honourable Venaani states rightfully that the Waterberg area is the second-largest communal area of exported beef to foreign markets where we earn foreign exchange as a country, thus implying that these communities are economically active, making money and, as I said earlier, should therefore be able to afford the water supplied to them.

In the Cuvelai area the communities are supplied with water via vast rural pipe networks built by NamWater. These local Water Committees are responsible for revenue collection from the downstream Water Committees and individuals connected to the system. The local Water Committees are also responsible for the maintenance of the branch lines under their control.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry is busy investigating other management options that would ensure smooth water supply and management which is affordable and putting less pressure on local consumers in terms of operation and maintenance.

On the 16th of October 2007, which is last year, Cabinet deliberated on ways and means on how to control high tariffs of electricity and water supply to the consumers, especially the poor section of the community. Cabinet then resolved by means of Decision No. 18/16/10/7/007 that a study by an independent consultant be commissioned to investigate

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sustainable tariffs for water and that another independent consultancy be engaged to determine the subsidy scheme to assist those who cannot afford the water tariffs.

The first study referred to above was completed in October this year and the resulting report on the principle and methodology to calculate costs and tariffs for water supplied by NamWater, as well as the proposed tariff for the 2008/2009 Financial Year will be submitted to Cabinet next month, November 2008.

The second consultancy to establish a subsidy scheme, as referred to above, will be commissioned shortly by our Ministry. It is of vital importance that subsidies should be aimed at helping people at grassroots level and should ensure that the rich are not subsidised together with the poor.

The reason for the high outstanding debts, as I said earlier, is not so much attributable to non-affordability, but rather to delayed payments which led to accumulated debts. The statement that the communities cannot afford the water is, however, questionable. Therefore, Government will cater for those who cannot afford to pay, but those who can afford must pay for the services that they receive.

Honourable Speaker, it would be counter-productive to summarily write off the debts owed by the communities because it will not distinguish between those who can and those who really cannot afford to pay for water. It would furthermore send out the incorrect signal to communities and the public at large regarding the necessity for users to pay for their water. Writing off debt would certainly punish the citizens who have been paying their bills while bailing out the defaulters, unless we pay back the money to those who continuously paid their bills, which unfortunately is not possible. Failure to do that will eradicate the incentive for these communities to carry on paying their bills in future. It will set a precedent for future defaulting where communities would bargain on a repetition of such bail-out by Government should they default.

In conclusion, Comrade Speaker, while I am not against the Honourable

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Member's suggestion that the Motion be referred to the Parliamentary Committee, it is important to take note that the Report on the affordable tariffs that I mentioned earlier will be tabled in Cabinet next month.

With that, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I hope I provided the necessary information regarding the accumulation of debts and what the Government has done and is doing.

Lastly, I urge you not to make water supply, which is an essential service for sustaining life, a political election-related issue, because at the end of the day it is the communities who will suffer. I thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Deputy Minister for his extensive articulation. Chief Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Speaker, I listened attentively to Honourable Katali. We have lived and stayed here for quite a couple of years of our lives without any water supply and we survived. All the boreholes are destroyed to feed the Nation without concern about debt. From the North all the way to the South we used to live that way.

However, according to certain experts it was a good introduction of water supply under those parameters to the poorest of the poor. We are developing this country and at the same time we are cutting them off.

We have underground water in Gam that could supply more than thirty farms. We have underground water in Eiseb that could supply half of those Constituencies, but if you pump water from that area, you cannot pay for expensive water.

Mr Speaker, I do agree that there must be water, but it is so expensive that they cannot afford. A subsidy to those who cannot afford must be done and calculations of the amount involved must be brought to this House for

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us to find ways and means how to rescue the situation. Mr Speaker, this must be done maturely and fairly to the whole Nation. They owe money in the North, they owe money in the Central, they owe money wherever you go, but we are not that weak that we cannot rescue the situation. We have to find ways and means how to tackle this problem. I becomes a problem, a theory of the day, a song that cannot be handled. (Interjection).

Mr Speaker, I am not a fool to listen to those who whisper to me while I am singing, you can stand up on a Point of Order and talk. This is the norm of understanding, if we mean it we have it in this country. It is not only political campaign, this is a national issue and all of us have to put our heads together without discriminating between who is who, rather than to politicise this matter on political level. We can increase the problem instead of winning it. I do not agree with those who think it is for political sake and we have to evaluate this on high level. Let us find the ways and means and have a Committee that could look into this matter very accurately.

HON SPEAKER: You will continue after tea-break. The House shall rise for refreshments.

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

HON SPEAKER: There was a breakdown of communication to my office. Had I known this before we commenced the business of the day this afternoon, I would have done it differently. The reason why we do not have a quorum is that most of the Members were invited to a memorial services for late Dr Shangula. Some Members have indicated to me that they are part of the arrangements, they could not stay.

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We have recorded the names of the Honourable Members present and the House shall now adjourn until tomorrow, 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:16 UNTIL 2008.10.30 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
04 NOVEMBER 2008
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees?

**TABLING: REPORT ON VISIT TO CUBA, ETHIOPIA,
NIGERIA ANGOLA, ZIMBABWE AND DRC**

HON HOFFMANN: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security's visit to Hardship Namibian Missions in Cuba, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Angola, Zimbabwe and the Democratic Republic of Congo for discussion.

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

TABLING: REPORTS OF AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON NANDI-NDAITWA**

1. Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2007;
2. Rundu Town Council for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2007;
3. Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2007;
4. Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2007; and
5. Office of the Prime Minister for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2007.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Deputy Minister table the Reports? Any further Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Honourable Ndaitwah.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:
Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 6 November 2008, I shall Move –

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to provide for the implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; and for incidental matters.

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HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? The First Notice of Motion is the one by Honourable Schimming-Chase. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion? Who seconds? Any objection? Agreed to. The Honourable Member has the Floor.

**CONSIDERATION: REPORT BY NATIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION ON PEOPLE OF THE SOUTH**

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Speaker, Sir, I rise to table the motivation of my Motion, requesting this House to debate the Regional Poverty Profile published by the National Planning Commission, based on the Village-level Participatory Poverty Assessment in the Karas Region, Namibia, October 2005 to February 2006.

Mr Speaker, Sir, after consultations with the Members of the Standing Committee on Standing Rules and Orders and having read the said Report, as well public reaction in both the press from some people in the Karas Region and hearing about the reactions of some donor NGOs to the Report, I felt it was in the national interest that the Motion be referred to the relevant Standing Committee in order to embark on a more in-depth investigation of the Report and its ramifications, especially to hold public hearings to verify some of the findings published in the said Report.

Some Members in this House were opposed to this, explaining that they had not even read the Report. I hope they have done so now.

Mr Speaker, Sir, my reluctance was based in the main on the following reasons: As a Namibian who has spent the most productive years of my life fighting apartheid, tribalism, ethnicity and injustice, I found it extremely difficult after all those 19 years of Independence to discuss a Report which singles out an ethnic group of people, calling them lazy and drunkards.

Secondly, I was shocked that amongst our own people, even political

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leaders, openly supported this stigmatisation of the Nama-speaking people and thirdly, that there was no effort, either from the side of the researchers or those supporting their conclusions, to give a historical analysis of the root causes of the social and political problems in the Hardap Region today, nor to offer any pragmatic solutions to the said problem.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have, albeit it reluctantly, therefore, been forced to speak in ethnic terms, because the findings are based on perceptions about the Nama people. Allow me, Mr Speaker, at this stage to quote from the Report. The Report claims, as its aims and objectives, firstly:

“That the overall aim of the Karas PPA was, therefore, to engage those who live in poverty and provide them with an opportunity to describe their experience and provide their own views on how their lives should be improved. More especially the objectives were to deepen the understanding of poverty by including the perspectives of people who are poor; assess the coping strategies of poor people and the effect of those strategies on the sustainability of their livelihoods; assess the access that poor people have to services and livelihood resources; assess the dimensions of poverty and trends in poverty related problems from the perspectives of poor people within the context of HIV/AIDS, gender and the environment; to explore the different and sometimes competing priorities of the poor; to facilitate community involvement in identifying projects and programmes in support of the poor and to empower local communities and decentralised structures to analyse the causes of poverty and present plans and develop strategies in search of solutions to poverty.”

I read, Honourable Speaker, and re-read the Report and I did not see the input of these people in presenting plans and strategies in search of solutions to poverty.

To effectively achieve these objectives, the research teams are supposed to have been trained in the use of participatory methodology and research tools used for data collection.

This Report, Honourable Speaker, puts the population characteristics of

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the Karas Region as follows:

Karas has an estimated population of 69,300, which is the lowest in the country. Afrikaans is the predominant language spoken in the Region, 40%, Nama-Damara 26% and Oshivambo 23%.

In its section under the socio-political root causes the Report has the following to say and I would like you to listen to this very carefully because if it is a Report on the Karas Region where the Nama-speaking people are 26%, I fail to see how the underdevelopment of the Karas Region can be blamed on the Nama-speaking people.

What is most disturbing about the Report is that, although in the population characteristics it states that the Nama-Damara speaking people make out 26% of the Karas Region, a major cause of poverty in the Region is attributed in the Report to their drinking and laziness. A few years ago when people were employed to work in the Aussenkehr Grape Project, it was also said that the Namas are too short and drink too much to work there.

Mr Speaker, Sir, who are these Namas that we are speaking about? Where, how and why did they become the so-called lazy drunks that are now being singled out? They are the descendants of the Khoisan who inhabited the most southern tip of the African continent. They are the people who for the best part of their lives looked after their own, led useful lives and defended themselves bravely against the onslaught of imperialist and colonialist forces. They distinguished themselves as great warriors at all times to defend what they perceived as their own and they were independent and self-sufficient land owners.

The close-knit family and community structure was transferred from generation to generation for over five hundred years, but then Mr Speaker, to borrow a concept from the writings of Chinua Achebe, "*things fell apart.*" This is not the first Report to put the Nama people in a stigmatised block, this was started by the German colonial occupation force. An Administrator of the then South West Africa said:

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“They are very war-like, an independent race with little respect for the European, so much so that their manner has always been described by Europeans who have come in contact with them as very insolent.”

It is well-known, Honourable Speaker, that the Germans referred to all their adversaries, be they Nama-speaking, Damara or Herero-speaking, as *“drunkards, lazy people of an inferior race.”* They gave our ancestors alcohol, made them drunk and produced treaties and agreements taking our land after making them drunk. They even took the heads of our ancestors to conduct scientific research to support their thesis of our inferiority.

It did however not end there, Honourable Speaker. Hot on their footsteps followed the Apartheid South African regime. We all know that their aim was to brainwash our people into believing that we are genetically inferior. It is no surprise, therefore, that many of us have internalised their views to the extent that even leaders today agree with the notion that Namas are lazy drunkards, but we forget, Honourable Speaker, as do these researchers, that for decades these people worked on white farms and instead of receiving wages, were given alcohol at the end of the month.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Report rightfully puts education as the main way out of poverty, but what do we find in the Karas Region? The Karas Region, Honourable Speaker, arguably I do believe the richest part of the country, is the Region in which we find the poorest people, yet they have shown their aptitude for intellectual pursuits over many decades. For many years senior schools in the South produced outstanding academic results, specifically in Mathematics, Science and linguistics, but how many of them are studying at institutions of higher learning, even though we need Maths and Science teachers?

The members of the community who were interviewed almost to a person bemoaned the fact that children with Grade 12 are unemployed and roaming the streets. In fact, Mr Speaker, Sir, many of them are not even in the streets, they are in jail for petty crimes like theft, assault and even more serious crimes like stock theft, where they are supposed to get twenty years in jail, rape and murder.

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Mr Speaker, Sir, alcohol abuse is not a character trait of the Nama-speaking people of Namibia, it is a national problem. Civil society, especially the churches have continuously raised this issue. The proliferation of Shebeens is a countrywide problem. In fact, in the South the majority of the Nama-speaking people do not even own the shebeens. The high alcohol-induced crime rate is not a feature of the Karas Region, it is a Namibian problem, it is not a Nama problem, it is a Namibian problem. The National Planning Commission stated that it features in reports from some other Regions as well.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we as leaders and lawmakers are faced with a national problem of dangerous proportions. It is our duty not to stigmatise certain ethnic groups, not to accord blame but to be involved in the process of solving the problem. The Karas Region is rich but it is suffering extreme social degradation. Our diamond wealth comes from there, NAMDEB has built schools, it gives scholarships, it has built Valambola in the North, it donated N\$2 million to the Caprivi and N\$20,000 to the Karas Region. It contributed to the building of a private hospital in the North. These, Mr Speaker, Sir, are all commendable efforts, nobody can blame them for doing that, but the question arises: Why do they not build a university in the South? Why do we not have a diamond cutting and polishing plant in the South where the diamonds are? There is no job creation, there is immense unemployment and I put it to you, Honourable Speaker, that not alcoholism, but unemployment is the root cause, drinking is only the result, not the root cause.

We as lawmakers need to take a closer look at the root causes of poverty in the South and not only in the South, but in the rest of the country. We need to find solutions to the problems and bring development, not only to the South but to the whole country and for all the poor.

Already, Honourable Speaker, donors in Austria said they are scaling down programmes in the South, in fact closing down I am told, because of the fact that it does not help since the Namas are always drunk and they do not want to work.

Mr Speaker, we know that UNDP and especially UNICEF have said they

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are using the North of Namibia as a pilot project for their assistance and they say that because of limited funds they will stay there. Therefore, if you want to open a preschool in the South, you cannot go to UNDP. If you want a hospital, you cannot, if you want scholarships, you cannot.

Mr Speaker, I believe that we need to be very careful when we employ researchers. We need to know who they employ and we need to supervise the conclusions they come to.

Mr Speaker, after 19 years of Independence I believe that there are young Namibians, maybe even unemployed Namibians who know the South and who know Namibia. We have discussed last week the Motion of Honourable Chief Ankama, how many of these people are sitting on the streets? We may be better off if we use those people to conduct the research in our country. They may come up with results that are more realistic than just forming conclusions.

Mr Speaker, there are Nama-speaking people in the South who do not drink any alcohol. There are successful farmers and businessmen and women in the South, there are exemplary private schools that would put many a Government school to shame in the South and just like that, Honourable Speaker, there are people in the rest of the country who do not drink alcohol. There are people who are successful farmers and business people and hardworking people and, therefore, we need to realise that generalisations like these are not only dangerous, but by stigmatising people they can become a threat to our peaceful existence and they can marginalize Namibia citizens who have contributed to the liberation of this country for four or five generations.

Mr Speaker, there is an old saying that behind every *historical lie or distortion lies a hidden intention*". The Nama people are making their own conclusions regarding that intention. It is my hope that the Debate on this Motion will steer away from tribalism, stigmatisation and politicking and will nip this type of research in the bud.

In conclusion, Mr Speaker, I will move at the end of this Debate that the matter still be referred to the relevant Standing Committee on Human

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Resources so that there can be a national Debate with all stakeholders of this and similar reports, so that we do not end up by believing that alcoholism is a regional problem instead of a national problem, that poverty is a regional issue instead of a national issue and that we as leaders of this country cannot look at these problems and find solutions for them. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. I want to appeal to you all, Honourable Members, I hope that the Debate on this Motion will be thoughtful, sensitive and objective and that we would steer clear of politicking. As one who grew up in Usakos of my days, I can talk about profiling, ethnic, tribal, racial profiling of each one of you sitting in this Chamber and virtually all of them negative, some even worse than the Report is characterising people of Karas. To me it is an unfortunate Report, but the Report is now before you. Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I would like to thank Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase for drawing our attention to this Report. I, for one, was not aware of it.

I suppose this is a Report of researchers, it is not a Government Report. I might have been commissioned by the National Planning Commission, but certainly the views expressed in that Report are not Government views. I just want to make that very clear.

Talking about the social plight of the Namibian citizens residing in the South, particularly the Nama cultural group, we must understand that the social history of the Nama cultural group is the history of tragedy – tragedy that came about because of the attempt by the German colonial authorities to experiment in social engineering.

After the wars of resistance, you will recall, the Germans decided a conscious policy that the indigenous people must be dispossessed. That

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was a conscious policy of the Germans, they must be dispossessed. Anything that would help indigenous people to have an independent existence should be destroyed. Those of you who followed the social history of this country would know that was the policy of the Germans.

What happened especially in the South of this country is that a number of proclamations and prohibitions were issued, including tax on dogs so that you have no possibility to go and hunt, you are not allowed to have more than one dog otherwise you will be taxed heavily, so that cannot use your dogs to go and hunt and have an independent existence. There was grazing tax, which is basically a tax aimed at limiting the number of animals you should have. You should not have a number of animals which would induce Independence on your part. That happened and above all, land dispossession. You did not even have a space to make a living from. People were, therefore, driven into these small reserves. Go to Berseba, go to Bethanie, go to Aroab, Warmbad, you will find those small reserves there, surrounded by big commercial farms. That was the start of this social problem we have now.

The aim was to create a pauper class and that was the formal German policy, the pauperisation of the population so that people become dependent upon the colonial settlers, so that they can offer themselves to work on the farms and serve the interests of the colonial settlers. That was the start of this social tragedy of tragedy. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Would the Right Honourable Prime Minister allow me to put a question? Prime Minister, I am following with keen interest what you are saying concerning the history and it is so true. Would you perhaps enlighten this House on particularly what was the cause of the war of 1922, particularly in the South? That was during the South Africa era, but what was the cause and the reason for that war, known as the *Ani's Torob*, which means where people were bombarded from aeroplanes. Could you enlighten the people?

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Konjore is a great-grandson of the great warrior, Jacob Morenga, and he will be in a better position than myself to enlighten this House about the causes. That is what is called in the history books the Bondelswarts Uprising. I suppose that is what he is referring to and truly, that uprising was bombed by the South Africans. My suspicion is that the Bondelswarts expected that after the German defeat they would reclaim their land, but I cannot precisely say that was the cause of this uprising, but their dogs were taxed so that they would not have the means of making a livelihood. If that is the case, it is strengthening my point.

Land dispossession, things like dog and grazing tax created a situation where people became hopeless and the aim of the colonial authorities was to create this pauper class which has no independent means of existence. Their only means to exist is to serve the colonial master, that is where this social tragedy started from and it went down to what Honourable Schimming-Chase has said, that at some point some people were paid in alcohol. Just imagine! Perhaps you are paid in alcohol and you do not even have food. You are drinking this alcohol on an empty stomach. What do you expect to happen? It is a total social disaster. That is the history of this social tragedy.

However our challenge now as a free and independent country is how to restore the dignity of the people who were dispossessed. I think that is really the challenge and that is what we should talk about. Obviously the starting point is to provide them with means of production, whether we talk about land, farming animals or skills. Those are the things we should look at.

Researchers sometimes say things to shock. I do not want to say that this Report is a shock treatment to us, but the impact is the same. Truly, alcoholism is a problem in the South and elsewhere, it is true. If you go to my village, *tombo* is like tea to some people. Perhaps in the South they have these cheap wines, the *Kaalgat* type which are even more alcoholic than anything else, but the challenge we have is how to restore the dignity of the people. That is the question we should address ourselves to.

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I know, for example, that the German initiative is attempting to provide small stock to some communities in the South. My only question is, do they have enough land to rear those stock? If the land is not there, perhaps it is high time to restore their land to them so that they are now able to produce something for themselves and restore their dignity.

I am also aware that NIMT, in collaboration with NAMDEB, are going to establish a technical training centre there in Keetmanshoop. I hope in so doing they will do an in-depth research as to the interest of the youth of the Karas Region, what kind of things are the youth interested in. I hope they would do so.

I am also aware that the Ministry of Education, in terms of the Student Financial Support Scheme have a quota system for each Region and in fact, when I was there, the Permanent Secretary made sure that the quota was not only to each Region but to each secondary school, to try and encourage the young people to go for higher education. I am not quite sure how much difference this system is making to give opportunities to the young people in the Karas Region in particular to have access to higher education.

The point however really is that we have to engage the communities, the National Planning Commission and all our Ministries in their own ways to have a restorative kind of programmes to restore the dignity of the people. That is the challenge we have. It does not help us to look at the symptoms and make a generalisation. We know the history which created this condition. It is that history of creating a pauper class in Namibia. Perhaps some Namibians escaped that because they were regarded to become contract workers and the contract labour system created its own dynamics, but at least people were not totally dispossessed that they did not even, have a piece of land where they could cultivate something. But really, the conditions there, of putting people in small patches of land and dispossessing them is what created the social conditions we have today, especially in the South of the country.

However, as Parliamentarians we have a social responsibility to restore the dignity of the people of the South. That is my message. Thank you.

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HON SPEAKER: I thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister for his contribution. Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I rise to thank the Mover of the Motion for having alerted us on a very important Report, quite fundamental and quite unfortunate that such remarks must be made in a national Report.

Honourable Speaker, I agree with the Mover and the previous speaker in their context of addressing the root problems of some of these remarks, but I think what is fundamental is the way how we as a country treat one another, how we as a people behave towards one another and many of these behaviours have something to do with colonial hangovers, because you were taught in a certain manner to think about certain people in a certain way and whether we can entirely all these behaviours on the colonial mentality is a matter for debate.

However, I think it is important for us to change the social ethnic behaviours of Namibians. That is very fundamental, because the Mover has raised the question of the South, but I think the question goes much deeper than the South, it can encompass the whole country, how communities inter-relate towards one another and we as a country must have empathy towards our villages, our Regions and all our people.

Honourable Speaker, the problem in Namibia is that the weak planning of our economy creates many of these problems and let me just give you one example: Whether we like it or not, it is politically and economically very insensitive to live in my village, mining from my mine and I do not get any shares or rights from you. The reason why the Nigerians are fighting over oil every day, is because people are left out from the mainstream of the economy and I am not propagating that the same attitude must come to Namibia, but these are learning blocks that we must learn from, that when people feel excluded, they start behaving in a different way.

I want to raise one point and that is our fisheries. Who owns the

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concessions for our fish? You have a particular group of foreigners who own large quotas or concessions on our sea and sooner or later people will start realising that if I am close to the ocean, why can I not be a director or why can I not own a fishing company or have shares and benefit from it? I mean, it is unfortunate that 19 years after Independence our fish gives more than 4,000 jobs to Spain instead of giving jobs to Namibians. These are some of the issues that we need to address as a country, how can we add value to our products, how can we give jobs to others while our people are suffering?

The other issue that is quite fundamental is the question of GIPF. It is fundamental in the sense that the hard-earned money of people who worked for it is being loaned to business people, some who are even behaving like schemers, who take the money, start a project, disappear and be declared bankrupt. We should be able to do more investment with the current money that we have in our pension funds, investments that would be able to turn the economic situation of our people around. I cannot believe and it is just incomprehensible for someone to borrow money from GIPF, scheme with the money and just go home. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Order. Is it allowed for Member to debate an item which is already on the Order Paper?

HON VENAANI: Another issue is hoodia. Now that there is a great world demand for this product, what projects have we engineered, especially in the South where hoodia grows? If you grow hoodia in the South, people will come out of poverty much sooner, because this product is in high demand worldwide and this country is the best one for it, but we are now really making a concerted effort to make sure that we create this economic valve for people to be able to restore their dignity.

Honourable Speaker, we have a shortage of energy in this country, a serious shortage of energy, but we are not doing anything about energy. If

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you go Aroab and erect a few windmills there, those windmills would be able to give energy to Aroab and sustain those people. These are some of the issues we really need to look at and these are not insurmountable in their nature. It is projects that we should identify, zero in on them and make sure that we address some of these problems.

Honourable Speaker, coming to my conclusion is the question of training. It is not just a question that challenges the South, it is a national problem. We do not have enough skilled people and researchers. The other day I read that our Indian colleagues went to the moon. What is our vision, when do we want to go to the moon? (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: When do we want to go to the sun? (Laughter)

HON VENAANI: We are not going to the sun. When do we want to do things? If a country cannot aspire to do great things, our people would continue to have their vision below the benchmark of humanity. We have diamonds and currently there are companies that are researching to withdraw phosphate from our oceans on our shores, phosphate for our cattle, but it is one project our people could be able to maximise and derive benefits from.

Honourable Colleagues, alcoholism is a national problem, it is not a problem of the South. In fact, the problem starts with breweries, with Shebeens, with abuse and if people have nothing to do, they will also turn to doing the wrong things. Just as we are saying poor people in Windhoek are stealing, they are getting their money for Christmas by stealing from people's houses and we are not saying this is right, but these are some of the problems we are experiencing.

Honourable Speaker, I have moved a Motion two, three years ago on addressing our ethnic balances in this country on a quota system, where everybody must not only have a quota system on education, there must

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also be a quota system for the benefits from the mines, from the fish and from all the sectors of the economy that give prosperity to life. There is no way it could be sustainable in this country for certain people, because they have close surnames, to be the beneficiaries of everything now and forever. That situation must be addressed.

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

HON SPEAKER: I thank Honourable Venaani for his contribution. Honourable Amathila.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, thank you for giving me the Floor. I am going to get back to the Report on the Namas.

I was born in Fransfontein, brought up by the Namas. Those were Nama Reserves and what I earn today is because of the upbringing by the Namas. There was no alcohol in Fransfontein, there was education, we were children of every household and we were brought up with culture in Fransfontein. There were no shops, we were eating from our garden, including bananas.

When I came back I saw the situation of Fransfontein, the garden is dry, a lot of the Nama-speaking people have died and alcohol has taken root in our society. As you know, I am struggling with the San community and it is the same thing. How many times did I come here to discuss the question of alcohol and I got no support from this House?

The women of the South have marched against Shebeens. What did we do as Government? We shut our mouths. We can make long statements here, but as long as Shebeens are mushrooming and they are being justified that people have to make a living, how do you make a living on the death of somebody else? Somebody important the other day said to

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me, *"I got education because my mother was making alcohol."* No, we cannot justify a crime like alcohol.

On top of alcohol we have drugs in this country, all of them in the South, poisoning our own children and as Namibian women we sometimes hear these things are stored in some woman's house. One day I was saying that these people being arrested must go to jail for a long time and if we as Government do not put down our foot and control this alcoholism, we can talk and make statements here, it will not help because we are dealing with issues which are very difficult on the ground.

I was in Fransfontein the other day and I can tell you how sad the story is. Kids are sending their children to the poor old people in Fransfontein who are getting N\$375. I am paying one of the ladies to clean the church and twins of five months were dropped with her. With what money should she care for them? With the N\$400 I give her? And then her sons and everybody else are drinking. There are at least ten Shebeens in Fransfontein. Who are buying? The poor people who are getting their pension go straight to the shebeens and we, the Government, are talking about poverty in this House, but let us go to the ground and see what is happening here.

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:14 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: I was saying that I was brought up by Namas and I know deep inside myself that the Namas are not lazy, the Namas are not useless, but I understand there is a Motion on alcohol but I am going to talk about alcohol *vis-à-vis* this Report.

Here we are, we support the mushrooming of Shebeens, we are saying people are making a living from Shebeens. Now you are making a living on the San people and the Namas to educate your own child. What about their children? Government must intervene in some of these issues.

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We have created a stigma about Namas being lazy, Namas being useless. When I came back I knew there were a lot of children in schools in Keetmanshoop and everywhere who really did well at school. Where are those children? Why do we not have these children in UNAM? Where are those kids? What is it we can do to support the school-leavers in the South now that we know they are poor, they are suffering from all these things we read in the Report? I am not blaming the Report, the researchers went and wrote what they found. They are not politicians, so they are insensitive, but part of it is what they found there. How to put it is a different story. What is it we are going to do? Why do we not come up with a dedicated programme to assist the youngsters, particularly school-leavers in the South?

In the South we have been asking for a vocational training centre. It is only coming after eighteen years. We have been asking for this in order to create facilities for these kids. The same with Khorixas. In Khorixas the kids finish Grade 10 and you will only find maybe two who have passed Grade 12. I came from that society and in Fransfontein we have three qualified doctors from that village and our children who are also doctors. Therefore, you can see the upbringing we are coming from.

Now we should come up with a dedicated programme to assist these youngsters and I can tell you that if we do not control shebeens, we are not going to solve any problem there. The physical size of the Namas and the San cannot take the amount of alcohol that Honourable Kaura can take. It is a scientific truth. You do not see the Japanese drinking because they cannot drink, their body size is small. That is why we have problems with the San and the Namas. You can drink two bottles, he drinks one and then his body cannot consume any more. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Correction. A fertile head does not accumulate a lot of alcohol. Those people are very, very sober, seriously speaking. They have something that cannot touch their brain because it is a fertile brain.

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HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Yes, I do not know at which medical school he passed Neurology, but it was not what I was taught.

Having said that, let us have a dedicated programme. There were 37 Shebeens in Tsumkwe. In the morning you find our San people walking like this. I stopped them in October last year until June this year and when I visited them, I could see their faces, their skins have changed, they were eating. I even had a school for the old people how to read and write and it worked. Then they again started licensing shebeens in Tsumkwe and I went to the magistrate and I mentioned it to the Minister of Trade and Industry, Honourable Ngatjizeko about licensing of alcohol among destitute communities. Let us put a moratorium in the South, that for a year or six months Shebeens close in the South and let us not be afraid to take action, until they slaughtered a cow on the precinct of Parliament.

We dilly-dally, we talk too much here while action is supposed to be taken. Action must be taken by Government and we must work on that and people must be told that they cannot sell things which are killing other people, taking the little bit of money from other people who have to look after their families.

These are some of the things we must do and not only talk here. I think there must be a Committee from Parliament who should really go and look into these issues. I do not want this Report to be discussed in the *lokasies* because we will come up with the same points of “*these Namas or these Hereros.*” The people owning shebeens are not Namas and the same in Tsumkwe and I told them not to issue any licences and I am going to check on that and if they have issued licences, there will be a problem. I am at least seeing the San people living again.

If you ask them to come and do something on your farm, they first ask, “*what are you going to pay me?*” Previously it was *Okakopi ko dopa?* and now they have woken up and of course, the Namas are one level better than the San people. I play trumpet because I came from there, because all we heard was music, music. It is a Nation we can rescue, we can establish music schools there. They are good at music and we can send them to school. Those people are clever, let us fish out the Grade 11

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students and find out where they are and do something about it instead of talking big stories here. I am a ground worker and I do not like philosophising here.

This is my plea and finally I just want to say that we must not blame the researchers, let we ourselves in this House learn to speak the language of respect. Many things come up here and I do not take part because I wonder what the people will think if they hear what I am going to say. If I am saying these people are this and that, I am insulting my own people. Therefore, I do not talk here too much when things come up. We must have respect and respect our people who are suffering there. The world is listening to us and we are the ones to bring peace and harmony among our Nations. Therefore, if there are sensitive things, let us control our tongues.

Why should we send this Report around? To get what? We know what is going on in our areas. Let us just get some recommendations as to the way forward to deal with this Report. Let us, for example, register the sex workers. There it went where is it today? Nothing. Women are being ill-treated because people are not registered, they are not afraid that they will be found. Girls are being ill-treated, they are being wasted and the last point on this scourge of alcohol, HIV/AIDS is mushrooming because of alcohol, nothing else – *alcohol!* Drugs are coming from the South and people dress up to go and make some money and they buy their coffins with that money because this is what is happening. Unless we deal with these things, we can sit and talk here for 24 hours. Somebody said; *“teacher, you can look at me and ask me and we can sleep here for one year, because I do not have an answer to your question. I have not read the thing you are asking me and you said we are not going to leave the classroom until I answer, you and I will sleep in this classroom because I do not know.”* Let us do what we can do and discuss this issue and take a decision which will help our people. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister. Honourable Kaura.

HON KAURA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. My request is that we must be honest with ourselves and we must be prepared to criticise ourselves honestly when we are dealing with this issue.

I agree with the Honourable Prime Minister when he is saying colonialism tried to create a pauper society, a society of poor people through land dispossession and let us stand still at that issue of land dispossession.

Maybe we need a second Land Conference in Namibia so that we can realistically look at this issue of land dispossession, because nowhere in our vocabulary in dealing with land do we have restitution of land rights of those whose land was dispossessed. That we do not have in our vocabulary.

I have learned that in South Africa there is a programme going on of the restitution of land rights. Anybody who can prove that that piece of land belonged to his ancestors can put a claim to get that land back, but that we do not have in our policies and that was avoided handsomely during the Land Conference. Therefore, the struggle continues, *Aluta Continua*, the people do not have land, the land which was dispossessed is still in the hands of the possessors and, therefore, out of frustration people resort to drinking their problems away.

There was dog tax, grazing tax, etcetera. It is true, but we have been crying and every time a Motion, like the one which was brought by Honourable Venaani in this Parliament, touches on that issue, people think that he is only looking for support. We have to replace land tax and grazing fees with water. Water is so expensive and it is unaffordable for our people. How can they raise livestock without water? That is an issue we ignore totally and completely and that is something which is dragging our people in the so-called reservations and communal areas down the drain.

The colonial Government, as bad as it was, provided diesel in communal areas, the people did not have to buy their own diesel. It provided engines. When it broke down they repaired them and replaced them, the poor people did not have to do it for themselves. These are some of the

good things the colonial Government did. Therefore, if we look at this whole issue, we must take it in full perspective if we want to assist our people. Now we are giving them water points and when the engine breaks down, they do not have the money to repair that engine because they are poor and they do not have land. Therefore, let us have a second Land Conference to look at these issues.

I visited of the office of Honourable Minister Jerry Ekandjo when he was Minister of Lands and Resettlement and he told me that when they buy a farm in Karas, Hardap or Erongo, first of all they have to look for someone from the Caprivi, Kavango or Ovambo to be resettled on that farm and one is a Nama, Damara or Herero from the respective Region. If the farm has to resettle four people, only one from Karas would be resettled and three from the other Regions. That is the policy of Lands and Resettlement. Now, how are you going to address the dispossession issue of the people in the Karas or Hardap Regions or anywhere else? Those are some of the honest things we must look at and these are our policies, so we are perpetuating the dispossession of land in those very same areas. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: On a Point of Information. What Honourable Kaura says is that first somebody from Caprivi or Erongo has to be resettled. The policy of resettlement does not state that only people from one Region should be resettled, but what Honourable Ekandjo is being quoted as having said is that if a farm is in Otjozondjupa, at least there must be somebody from Otjozondjupa, but it does not mean that only one person from Otjozondjupa must be resettled. There may be three or four from Otjozondjupa, but at least one person resettled from that Region. This is so because in the past the people were only resettled in their own Regions and there were only certain Regions where farms were available, therefore other people who needed land could not be resettled. Therefore, in fairness to all the Regions, we decided that at least people from other Regions must also benefit. For example, we also had the problem in Kunene. Now people are being resettled nationally, but can you tell us

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how many people were resettled from Caprivi? It is not to say only one person must be resettled, it says at least one and it is up to the Resettlement Committee to select as many as possible, but also accommodate other Regions.

HON KAURA: I do not think it makes any difference. I took this issue of the lady Murangi to your office in Gobabis and it was said by Honourable Jerry Ekandjo in your presence that this is the policy.

Before you resettle somebody from Erongo, you first have to resettle three from the other Regions. Now I am looking at the issue of dispossession. The people of the South were dispossessed of their land and if you now bring in this issue where you have to resettle people from other Regions and only one of those whose parents were dispossessed, whose heads are in Germany today, can come in, how do you address the issue of the dispossession of these people? Unless we address it and look it squarely in the face, we are promoting this pauper mentality and we are keeping those people off the land, exactly the same as the colonial Governments were doing. That is why I am saying we must be honest with ourselves and look at this issue squarely in the face and try to solve it.

In particular I want us to stand still and look at the issue of the unaffordable water in the poor communal areas and try to solve that problem. Let us find another formula how to deal with that. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Chief Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Speaker, I went to all the resettlement areas and I found that you have to come from the North in order to become foreman and stay in that farmhouse. You cannot dispute that.

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Although they are Namibians, they cannot be selected from one group only, it is impossible, it is racist.

I went so far as the area where Ms Tjejamba and Mr Mbako and some of those camps were taken away from her, she has only six. My dear Lord, you have taken two camps away from that lady and she has put the infrastructure there. Whatever she has must be cut off to be given to somebody else who has more than six and also the hunting plot. I am sorry about that. (Interjection). I am not here to play games, I am being straightforward and you all know me by now.

I thank Mr Mbako because he said, "*take your camp away from me.*" That is the way of understanding. He did it himself, not you. Who is supposed to tell you what is bad is bad? He himself did that and how many of them can be that way? Therefore, fairness must be put in the forefront.

Mr Speaker, the institutions Honourable Kaura mentioned (Intervention).

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Chief Riruako a question? Chief, you are saying people were taken by the nose with a sjambok. Who were taking the people with a sjambok?

HON RIRUAKO: In the 1982 Agreement I was taken away, I called a professor from Germany to write the framework for a Constitution and then they discovered this is not the way to do it, they pushed this guy away from the whole Constitution because he was going to bar whatever we say. I was not there because I was taken away. I brought the framework here with the professor from Germany and they knew that if he is here, I must know to the Constitutional house, but I was not allowed to come to the area where you were working on the Constitution, but I put the framework and they know what I am talking about. You were not there by then.

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We are talking about these institutions, let us go back to square one. This constitution came over here to put is together, fighting one another without functioning. Let us go back to square one and come with land restitution. If we are wrong, we are wrong on our own, without anybody to show he is the person who did this to us and we have that right. So it must be done and we do not have argue with one another. We are not the bosses of this country, some colonial Government has put *verskansing*. Do you know what *verskansing* is in English? You do not have to change what you have written here. It is “entrench”. Why are you fighting one another for nothing? Let us sit down again and find our way out of this mess. I am sorry to say that it is our fault, even the public is going to blame us for that.

When I say this I refer to Europe. The workers were workers, the bosses were bosses until the revolution has taken place to change Europe’s way of living, until they are where they are today. But we do not have to go back to revolutions, we have the right to change the law. It is our duty to do so. Therefore, we have to come up with a date when we are going to change whatever went wrong. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank you. Honourable Kazenambo.

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

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Initially I told myself that I was not going to speak on this Motion, but now I have changed my mind having listened to what has been said here.

Honourable Speaker, you have appealed to us that this Motion is a sensitive one, it has to be treated with sensitivity and also my consciousness agrees that it is a sensitive matter. I think this Motion about the Report on the situation in the South that touches on our Namas can be seen within the context of Nation-building, of forming a nationhood where

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you have people hailing from different backgrounds, people of diverse cultural and economic backgrounds, but who came together in a communion of forming a Nation state and with an honest mind, as a Nation state, divergent culturally as it is, with a diverse economic background as it is, it can only be sustained if we are indeed sensitive to one another, if we are indeed honest and realistic and if we are clear on what type of Nation we want to build, if we are clear about pitfalls that other Nations have fallen into. However, if for convenience purposes we would avoid

pitfalls into which others have already fallen by trying to wishfully think that we may not fall into those pitfalls, while we are headed to those pitfalls, it will not help us, because we will fall into those. If the route we are taking will lead us into pitfalls, we will definitely fall into those pitfalls. Scientifically it is unavoidable.

Eighteen Years of Nation-building are not many years, because the issues that are confronting us today are still confronting Nations that have existed over 200 years. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: Are you saying we are going to get into the same trouble or Zimbabwe or what are you saying? Talk about the land restitution in South Africa. Did it do anything to somebody? Why we should just make a blanket statement, not say anything here? What are you talking about, what do you want to achieve, what objectives? Could you tell us?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: I will not respond to my Chief because in my culture it will be seen as disrespectful, but Honourable Chief, I was about to say exactly what you said to me, I was saying that if we build this beautiful Nation of ours, if cannot avoid looking the ugly realities in the face. For example, beautiful

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Zimbabwe did not arrive in that situation out of the blue, it is the environment that forced it to be there and we may view it from different perspectives in our process of denying realities. However, that does not help the situation and Zimbabwe and I am saying if Zimbabwe arrived there because of a certain path and if we see that we are on that path, it is better to avoid that path before we become Zimbabwe. (Interjection). If you can give me the benefit of peace, I will arrive at my suggestions.

To sustain a diverse Nation with diverse economic, social and political backgrounds we need to agree on a certain common objective as to what type of Nation we want to build. If we want to build a one Namibia, one Nation, Namibia cannot become one Namibia, one Nation if some parts of the communities are excluded from economic participation. The premise is wrong because we are not one. Namibia cannot become one Namibia, one Nation if some others are excluded from benefiting from economic opportunities of Namibia, it cannot!

Namibia cannot become one Nation if the Hereros stick to their culture of saying that the Ovambo's are stupid. It cannot become one Nation, it is hypocrisy. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: Point of Order. We are not saying the Ovambo are useless and this is not my language. Why that example, why not other people, why the Herero all the time? The whites say Herero, you say Hereros. How are you going live if there are no Hereros? Why Hereros? Who are the polygamists? All of you are polygamists, but we do not say that. I am Ovambo whether you want it or not. You know that and I know that. Now who is who? Come up and tell me! The whites say the Ovambos are stupid, why can he not say that? He has the knowledge to say Hereros?

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:**
Namibia cannot be a one Namibia, one Nation if the Ovambo's are saying

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that Namas are drunkards a find stupid. Namibia cannot become one Namibia, one Nation if the Herero (Laughter). (Intervention)

HON KAURA: May I ask a question? Honourable Kazenambo, would you agree or disagree with the stereotype that if you want something that works hard for you, it is a Mercedes Benz and an Ovambo?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: My father-in-law, Honourable Kaura, what I can say in a nutshell is that we cannot build a one Namibia, one Nation by advising our stereotypes and prejudices against one another, whether Afrikaner versus German. Sometimes when I say this I am being categorised as being racist or tribalist. No, it is because I do not want to hide. It does not help to speak of one Namibia, one Nation and I said in this House that we are deliberately being an inferior Nation. Eighteen years into Independence, if you are Oshiwambo-speaking person, your secretary, your driver and your ten bodyguards are Oshiwambo. It is wrong in a rainbow Nation. I said it here. Maybe the policies are providing that, but conscious of Nation-building, I will employ a Damara as my driver, it is Nation-building, I have to contribute to deliberate actions.

One day I was attending a funeral and these are the realities of this country whether you want it or not, while a person was talking the burial was conducted there and when we finished here, it was just like a funeral taking place here, people were really at talk. It happened here in Namibia, not in this House. But these are attitudes that you meet in the street that you do not care about one another. The moulding of a fellow human being if he is not from my tribe or my Party, if the empathy for a human being is lost, then what type of Nation are we building? We need to have deliberate actions.

The other day I was looking at my Chief, he was asking Honourable

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Viljoen whether he has black people in his Party and at the same time I was asking myself, are there other people in his Party? That question should be repeated and it goes on and on. (Interjection). Not your Party, I am just giving examples. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: Are you telling me that I am racist? I am not tribalist.

HON MEMBER: You are!

HON RIRUAKO: How can you say “*you are?*” She has my blood in her and you and you. Can you say no or yes?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:
Honourable Speaker, I was saying that successful families are successful because of the way they organise themselves. They are successful because of the way they manage the resources that they have at their disposal and successful Nations are successful because they utilise all the human and financial resources at their disposal. However, failing Nations and even failing families become poor by choice and not by natural disaster because of the way they manage their resources. Sometimes if it is not natural disasters, we create conflict by the way we treat one another. Sometimes we create tension out of our own selfish greed, treating others in a manner that we would not like to be treated, but thinking that others are not aware that you are treating them wrongly.

Eighteen years into Independence and building this beautiful Nation of ours we should not have taboos, things that cannot be mentioned for the

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sake of convenience and we should not say things as if we are blaming one another. If this Nation sinks, all of us will sink, there is no two ways about it. If it sinks, all of us will be the victims. This thing of apportioning blame on one another does not help.

Recently I conducted a tour during the recess to a large number of towns and villages in the South and it was enlightening in many respects, because in many of the villages that I visited my finding was that the majority of the office-bearers in the village councils are women. From the tiny Berseba the majority of them are women, coming from all parties, whether SWAPO, DTA or CoD. The common thing is that the majority of women are in command in the South, which is something positive.

The other finding is that many of these towns, like Berseba and Bethanie, have up to 40,000 hectares of town land. Some of these towns are endowed with natural resources, an abundance of water. Why are some of them experiencing shortage of water? In terms of tourism as a sector of the economy, I would them in league with Caprivi, Kavango and Kunene because they are naturally endowed from a tourism perspective, they are rich and they have the potential.

Having identified these economic potentials of the Region of the South, it does not stop there. Having natural resources is not enough, managing natural resources is another dimension. Therefore, the challenge is whether we can put up enough policy instruments to develop these economic potentials of the South. If we have not, why have we not and if, when are we going to start? If we agree that we have not done enough to put enough management instruments to develop these economic resources, irrespective of parties because all Political Parties are represented there, we should see that as an omission and start working on that.

Another painful reality that we have to realise – and it also goes to a truthful family, honest family leaders who will not say that you sound tribalist – if we are building Namibia where we do not want people to be excluded, where we do not want people to be left behind and these businesses are approved by all of us, if there is a Government project taking place in Kavango or Caprivi, if the company which is there is

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Onjati Investment of Kazenambo and the shareholders are Hereros from Omaheke and there is no conscious effort to employ the local people, whether these things are being done by Namibians or a foreign company, it does not contribute to nation-building because it creates suspicions with the locals. They will be seeing other fellow blacks coming in and ask themselves why they are left out. We have to be conscious of those things.

The quota system: If you go to Britain today, I was a student there, and I am still a student there, Britain acknowledges that you have an upper class, the middle class and the lower class. The reality of the British system is like that. There were institutions like Oxford and Cambridge that were accessed by the extremely brilliant kids and also kids from privileged families. The British system realised that Oxford and Cambridge is not open to people who are socially disadvantaged and economically disadvantaged and they came up with honest policies to open up access to other members and now they have a quota system to make sure that some kids from other families can access Cambridge and Oxford, because education is power, it is a resource, it leads you to resources. It is a fact. Perhaps I would not have been in this Parliament if it was not for education. (Intervention)

HON NAMBAHU: A question to Honourable Kazenambo. I like the example of a company in the Kavango with shareholders of a given ethnic group, but as a progressive and as a people who really want to build a Nation, can we as leaders not encourage our people to move away and diversify the kind of labour that we are able to render? If you are a lawyer or studying something, you go and participate in certain work, maybe gastronomy, in the afternoon. Should we as leaders not encourage our people to diversify the kinds of jobs that they are doing? Should we continue to have this stereotype that the shovel is reserved for someone from this Region, the ironing is reserved for someone from that Region and

in that way we will not be able to do anything if we do not tackle that

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point.

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

Comrade Nambahu, that goes to the stereotyping. If Comrade Nambahu set himself in a law firm in Kavango, Omaheke or wherever and he employs whoever, it is in order. But if it is a question of natural resources, companies that are working on Government tender in a certain area and mines are opening up in Khorixas and then you take business people from Omaheke to benefit from the natural resources of Khorixas, can you as a company not include the locals in order to share the cake? But you find a situation where a company is coming from Windhoek, it sets up in Ohangwena and even the cleaner will be imported from Omaheke. How are you going to share the cake? Then they say the people in Ohangwena do not know how to use a shovel. Come on, who is that black person who does not know how to use a shovel? If they do not know how to use a shovel, train them.

Sometimes we use these excuses and we know the demographic set-up of these people. If 99% of the people are coming from Omusati and people in Oshikoto are complaining that they are not included, then you say it is tribalism. It is not tribalism, you have excluded others. There are no two ways about it. Let us balance because that is the reality. Let us balance to avoid tensions, because when we are one, it is good for you.

Please, let us not stigmatise the Nama and the problem of the people of the South is not only confined to them, it affects many of us in many different ways. Please let us do our audit, let us start listening to people, to the voices of Namibians who are saying they are either being left out or they are being mistreated. If you feel comfortable and powerful and in control and there is nothing that you can lose, that has taken others onto a route of chaos. We have resources to develop, let us share the little that we have and we can move forward with the little and expand it. But if we are saying they are making noise or they are being unrealistic, we will not go anywhere.

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Please, this Motion should be heard in that context, that is the way I see it, please let us do the audit, let us see the economic potential that others have and let us develop it for the sake of Namibia and all Namibians, but let us be sensitive and not exclude others, even those who were so-called advantaged yesterday. Some of them are no longer advantaged today and let us be conscious of that because the economy has shifted. It is now Kazenambo who has more at his disposal than Mr Van Niekerk, because Mr Van Niekerk has no opportunity to the salary that I have. It is a reality and let us be conscious of that in building this Nation. I rest my case.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Katali.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I would like to thank the researchers who produced the Report under discussion and also the Mover of the Motion. I would like to thank the Honourable Prime Minister and the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister who set the tone for this Debate.

As the Motion was being introduced, I really felt that I was not going to stand up and contribute as I am doing now, simply because I did not know how to separate stigma from reality. Research has a purpose and the purpose is to make informed decisions, to see things in a kind of different way that an ordinary person can see and, therefore, at times they are looking at hypothesis to try to prove whether what is in the minds of people or in their own minds is true or not. Therefore, it is really a good thing that I am encouraging that we need to do more research and bring the findings to the fore for the public to see.

We should not look at what the Report is saying, we need to look beyond what the Report is saying, why the researchers are saying what they are saying, because now the Report is about the Nama in the South and I think

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I would also like to see what the researchers are saying in Kunene, in Caprivi and other areas. Unfortunately that is our set-up that when the researchers are going to Tsumkwe, they would find that most of the people there are the San people and, therefore, they cannot avoid reporting about the San people. Therefore, the tone that was set made me to stand up and say I encourage research and, therefore, we should appreciate what the researchers are saying.

I would like to believe that if the truth is being said, it is for the goodness of me as a leader. If I hear that in a certain Region these are what the problems are, I think it is good for me to hear. If it is being exaggerated, that is a different matter but that will not take away that there is no truth in it.

When I was in Education as a planner, we sent forms to schools to indicate their problems. They deliberately exaggerated their problems and once they exaggerated their problems, it would force you to go and see what you hear because you cannot believe what you are reading. Even if this one has been exaggerated, as we are probably alleging, I think it is good for us to go and see for ourselves. We are being challenged to go and see whether it is true or not and then that should not be the end. The ultimate aim for research is to make informed decisions. Once you go there and find it was an exaggeration, fine, you know you do not have to do anything, but if you find that the situation is true, maybe that was not a stigma, maybe that was the truth, then it is for us to take a decision, let us do this.

Comrade Speaker, I would really like to end here with my short intervention by really thanking the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister for setting the tone so that we can make a small, humble contribution to this important topic and please, let us not just look at the Namas, the Namas, the Namas, there are also other reports and if they are not there, let us encourage reports in other fields. If alcohol is the problem, then the institution which is responsible for curbing it must do something. Thank you, Comrade Speaker.

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HON SPEAKER: I do not want to take issue with what the Deputy Minister is saying, I know you, you mean well, but some of the greatest research has been done by Hitler's regime, Apartheid South Africa and the country where I spent many years, the United States just to prove the negative. The hypothesis that you develop tells you why you are researching whatever it is that you research. While research is laudable, it assumes all things are being equal whereas in life not all things are. The research is being done to prove, for example, that black people and others are inferior, Hitler needed the justification to kill Jews because they were inferior. So, all research is not for the purpose of enhancing humanity's well-being. Some are intended to prove a point that is negative. I am not taking issue with you, but I am just making a general point. Honourable Iilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I rise to make my humble contribution and I want you to listen and judge for yourself.

Comrade Speaker, this is a very good Motion, sensitive as you advised us. Namibians from east to west, from north to south did not come to live together eighteen years ago after we got our Independence, but before Namibia was colonised they were already meeting and trading in the barter system. But I just wanted to advise ourselves, myself included – and unfortunately I did not read the Report, I only base my contribution on the motivation – that the people of the South are not the only ones affected by alcohol. Alcohol is affecting Namibians. Maybe the degree of drinking is not the same, maybe a Damara>Nama or Oshivambo gets drunk quickly and the other one can resist.

I myself have a history in my own family. Our blood is anti-alcohol. If one takes alcohol, he just becomes a drunkard and he becomes a mad person. Therefore, as I am talking here I have never drank from my childhood up to today. It is because I came to learn that alcohol does not suit our blood.

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I want to thank the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and those who contributed and talked about history. It is important for us as Members of Parliament to look at this and to see how we can encourage our people to participate in developing the country. The important thing here is a simple one which we do not want to touch and that is the economic ownership, the mode of production based on capitalism. We just go this way until we, the blacks turn to look at each other, as we were made to fight each other on tribal lines, if we are not careful, this Motion again goes along those lines.

The Oshivambo-speaking people have been in the South, from Windhoek, Rehoboth and they have been there before I was born, but today you find that there is a stigma that the people from the North have come there because the grass is greener and the question is whether the people of the South only started to suffer after eighteen years, they were better off and after eighteen years they are worse off. We want to know whether that was researched because I recall that our Ministry was tasked to look into the issue of employment and this one was done by the National Planning Commission. We found the root cause, that the reality is ownership of the land which you do not want us to touch. The people are crowded into reserves and how do you expect that person to have something he or she can live on productively or something which can help the family?

Secondly, who owns the means of production? It is not us. Even people who might not speak the language in the area where the research took place are employed by people who are the owners of the means of production there. Therefore, I want us to look at the ownership of the means of production.

Article 100 of our Constitution says the sovereign ownership of the State is land, water, mineral resources and air space and in the end it says it belongs to the State. But what spoils everything – I withdraw the word “spoils” – “*unless otherwise not lawfully owned.*” If the State is the one who owns those things, we do not need to talk of shares or whatever. The revenue collected there should be distributed. We could say that 20% of income generated by copper must go for development of activities in agriculture and training in schools, but currently the

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Government only relies on the tax and then in this House we asked for the zero-rating of some of the commodities.

Therefore, instead of empowering individuals by owning shares, let the Government own shares and then decide through Cabinet that each and every Region should benefit to empower the people. Let the Regional Councils, as the custodians of those people under them, own fish quotas. Then we can ask those Councillors why our people are not given bursaries. Only in that way can we solve this problem.

The Honourable Deputy Prime Minister talked of closing the shebeens. You can close the shebeens, close everything, but the Namibians will still be suffering and have nothing to eat. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? I only want to find out Honourable Member, in view of the fact that many of our people are unemployed, where do they get the money from to buy at shebeens and to keep the shebeens alive. The proliferation of shebeens is unbelievable. It seems that the demand is so high, where does the money come from to sustain all these shebeens?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Alcohol is the same as tobacco. Even when the price of tobacco is increased they still buy. He will do some cleaning or go and fetch water and then receive “*Don’t Worry*” and then drink. It is not really a question of where the money comes from. The money also comes from the pensions and that is why old people are killed by their grandchildren who demand to be given money for drinking.

What we have to look at is the distribution of our wealth. We currently have the land policy of willing buyer, willing seller and the willing seller can only offer to the buyer if he knows he will get money and the buyer

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cannot force the seller to sell. Therefore we really need to look at these issues.

Comrade Kazenambo talked about situations that got out of hand. It started like this and in Zimbabwe it took twenty years and now people are saying Mugabe is the bad one. He is not the bad one, he was trying to rescue the situation. He took the land after an agreement was there. (Interjection). Honourable De Waal knows exactly. My dear, if we are not careful, the revolution can come. The people of the South whom we are talking about here are up in arms against their fellow Namibians who are not from the South, who are not Nama-speaking and where is it going to end?

Honourable De Waal already came to see the sensitivity, because we want the truth to be said. I can tell you, His Excellency Robert Mugabe did not do anything wrong, but the wrong was done by those who own the land, whose forefathers were in Europe, who did well with our wealth which was taken from here to build over there and now they want to protect their offspring here. We Africans are do also not support each other, we want ourselves to be supported. Instead of saying that is your problem with Robert Mugabe, we also go back. This is not the way we can solve the problem of our people. We start with the South today, tomorrow with the Oshivambo and tomorrow... (Intervention)

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

On a Point of Order. I agree and support the element that Comrade Iilonga has touched on, especially on allocating business to Local Authorities individually, but there is something I want to say on the people in the South. Maybe he mentioned it as an example, but I want to correct him. I want to give my version about it, that the Namas in the South are up in arms against other non-Nama-speaking Namibians. In Straight Talk this topic came up, that even me myself am an outlander. People from the South, especially the Namas, said they are aware that we are building a Namibia and they are not against the outlanders, Hereros,

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Ovambos, but they said they have a problem when they are excluded everywhere and when they are stigmatised. They said it should not be taken that they are against, but they also want to be part of the process. That is what they said.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Our Ministry was assigned and I know there were people nearly fighting each other, but I am happy with your intervention. Even a Motion like this one can spark that light and that small light can cause fire and I want to caution against that. The root cause is not the symptom, what is the cause of this symptom is the way our economy is owned and the Government must do the same it did with NAMDEB with all the companies here. The 3% share in Rössing must be increased and the Regions must have shares in every concession given. It should cover all the people in that Region.

Go to Oshakati today, you will find that the management there do not speak the language spoken in Oshakati. That is why we say we should not have a tribal type of approach. (Intervention)

HON BASSON: May I ask a question? You are talking about structures and Regional Councils and all those things, do you know that in some Regions these structures are causing problems?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: If the structure is the one causing problems, we have to address those problems in the structure so that we do not allow our people to be exploited. If I am at this stage of my life asked to come and fight to liberate this country, I would not even last one day in the South. People were so united and it is true that some of the bad feeling is from us, the politicians. It is some of our politicians who are saying, “*that Wambo, that Nama, that Herero.*” It is we who are supposed to advise our people.

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I stayed with them for a whole year and I do not even know a single word of Nama. Then from there I started to say *matisa* and we must return to the way we used to work as a team. Let us not stigmatise others.

Honourable Henk Mudge always during the election campaigns come up with *boerewors* and bread, but why does he not do it as from January to January? It is one of the problems if you go and tell people, “*this Government of the Wambos, they do not give you, but I give you.*”

Comrade Speaker, I rest my case.

HON SPEAKER: Deputy Minister of Education.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Speaker, I want to thank the Mover of the Motion and all the previous constructive contributors to this very important Debate. My brief intervention, as usual goes like this:

Namibia has been a **Victim** for so long. Namibia is now a **Victor**. It depends on all of us here whether Namibia, the **Victor**, is to use her victory as a **Villain** - a **Villain** is something that victimises everybody and its citizenry and looking for more and more enemies – or is it going to be using the victory to become a **Vanguard**. A vanguard is the one that guards the diversity and unity of its citizens.

One day a commissioner at a VIP sent me a driver and it so happened, maybe unknowingly, that this driver was my sister’s son. He did not know and I told him *I believe in diversity, I am a Herero-speaking Namibian, I do not want a driver who speaks the same language as I do*, could you please send me another one and I wrote it in a letter. Today my driver is an Ovambo-speaking driver, that other driver is driving somebody else. My secretary is from Karas, she is Nama. Therefore, when you

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want to become a victor, you have to practise it. I am looking forward to a situation where each and everyone of us here will come and say the same thing.

Finally in conclusion, I had the privilege to go to the South up to Aussenkehr, Noordoewer and I have been to Koës and all the small villages you can think of – Bethanie, Gibeon, Warmbad, Tses everywhere.

The situation that is being sketched here in this Report is not exaggerated. It is the situation in the South and as the Prime Minister said, they have been stripped of the land that is the issue. The issue is of poverty and landlessness.

Are we going to have credible policies in place to make sure that the people get their land back and start their livelihood again after apartheid or not?

It depends on us and I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Deputy Minister. It is good point to adjourn on. The House shall rise and stands adjourned until tomorrow, 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2008.11.05 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
05 NOVEMBER 2008
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? The first Notice of Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Mines and Energy. Does the Minister Move that the Bill be now introduced?

**INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING:
MINERALS PROSPECTING AND MINING AMENDMENT BILL**

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: I so Move.

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

SECRETARY: *Minerals Prospecting and Mining Amendment Bill.*

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Mines and Energy Move that the Bill be now read a Second Time? Seconded? Objections?

Agreed to. Minister, you have the Floor.

**SECOND READING MINERALS PROSPECTING
AND MINING BILL**

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Before I start, I wish to congratulate President-elect Obama for his victory. It is an American victory, an African victory and a world victory. We are proud of you, you changed African status, you are a star of the world. Congratulations.

Honourable Speaker, Members of the National Assembly, it gives me great pleasure to introduce this urgent Amendment of the Minerals Prospecting and Mining Act, 1992 for which the overall intention is to improve the imposition and collection of royalties on other minerals in addition to the straightforward precious stones and dimensional stones group.

Honourable Speaker, Article 100 of our Constitution vests the natural resources of our country in the State. Furthermore, the rights in relation to our possession of mineral rights, mineral recovery and disposal or sale are subject to Section 2. I quote: *“Subject to any right conferred under any provision of this Act, any right in relation to the reconnaissance or prospecting for, and the mining and sale or disposal of, and the exercise, control over any mineral or group of minerals vests, notwithstanding any right of ownership of any person in relation to any land in, or under which any such mineral or group of minerals is found, in the State and the other provision of the Minerals Prospective Act, respectively.”*

Therefore, minerals right licence holders must pay royalties to the State as one of the obligations for extracting minerals owned by our State. The Minerals Act sets out some important provisions that are intended to ensure that all Namibians benefit from the vast mineral resources and in

particular, one provision that calls for payment of royalties by licensee holders extracting our non-renewable mineral resources.

The benefits from our vast mineral resources, some of which are about to be depleted, historically accrued to only a few. The Minerals Act, by imposing royalties under Section 114, sets the foundation to ensure that benefits accumulate to a larger section of our society.

The ambiguity in Section 114 needs to be removed, because it assumes Namibia to be an industrialised country with all industrial facilities being fully functional and that made it difficult to implement. This Amendment is based on extensive research and practical realities' applications in the Mining Industry worldwide.

The Amendment I table before you is intended to remove those technical ambiguities to enable implementation of Section 114 in order to levy royalties on other groups of minerals in addition to precious and dimension stones. The ambiguity related to prevailing conditions and determinations that the Minister must show prior to demanding a licence holder to pay royalties does not support the overriding principle that royalties are paid for the extraction and the sale or disposal of somebody's resources without paying the necessary dues.

The Amendment, once effected, will bring to an end the sale and the export of our mineral resources without royalties having been paid to the rightful owner, the State and her people.

The current Act presents a challenge to implement, as I said earlier, in its entirety and this Amendment is intended to empower the Minister to impose a royalty as an obligation to the mineral right holder on other minerals mined in Namibia. To read the Bill in front of you, the Amendment constitute the following major provisions:

- (a) It will enable the Minister to levy a royalty without any preconditions and without any prescribed present ceiling.

- (b) It will enable the Minister to levy additional royalties with due regard to return submitted in terms of other Sections of the Act.
- (c) It will enable the Minister to levy a windfall royalty as a result of substantial price increase on a mineral condition where a mine has become significantly more profitable in the course of its operations due to favourable economic and other conditions, such as peace, security as well as the policies and regulatory framework provided by the State.

Honourable Members, each licence holder is unique in its operations and at different levels. Some have been in operation for a very long time and have enjoyed the benefit of recuperation of their initial investment and repatriation of both capital and profits. Some are relatively new and might have to be treated slightly differently, but in a fair and related to their investment, employment of Namibians and other economical contributions, including mineral beneficiation that they might have in their programmes. The Minister, therefore, needs to take a number of factors into consideration when levying the royalties to these different licence holders.

Particularly a cardinal consideration in the Minister's decision to levy royalties would consist of the following:

- The value of the mineral concerned;
- The nature of the deposit concerned, including the process required to extract the mineral from the ore as well as the concentration of such mineral;
- The duration of the operation concerned and the extent to which such licence holder has recovered any capital investments made in the course of the operation;
- The number of Namibian citizens employed and the extent to which relevant training is provided to Namibians by the licence

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holder;

- The impact of the operations on the environment as one of our natural resources;
- The extent of utilisation of Namibian goods and services where the Namibian economy and society benefit at large; and
- Any other ground that, in the opinion of the Minister is relevant and not in conflict with any other laws of the land.
- The export of primary minerals will also be discouraged as a function of the percentage to be levied.

Honourable Members, mining still remains a major contributor to our economy, and the mineral right constitutes a significant revenue source to the State Revenue Fund. Every year my Ministry collects several hundred million dollars from mineral licence holders, the major portion being royalties from Government operations. However, Members are all aware that these millions paid to the State Revenue Fund are used to provide for the National Budget and our development programmes for our country and as more mines are expected to open in the next year or two, the contribution to the State Revenue Fund will increase and our Government will have the much-needed funds to address our developmental challenges.

In conclusion, Honourable Members, I would like to appeal for your undivided and patriotic support to pass this urgent Amendment for enactment in order to implement the provisions of Section 114(1)(a), (b) and (c). The Amendments will go a long way in addressing overdue benefits to the State and to align priorities towards achieving the goals set out in our Vision 2030.

I am convinced that this Amendment of Section 114 of the Minerals Act will make a significant contribution towards greater sustainable utilisation of our natural resources and the distribution of benefits arising from

mining operations to all Namibians. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for his statement. Any further discussion? Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Before I make my contribution to this very important Amendment, let me also join everybody else in the world in congratulating the people of the United States of America for making history and for making the dream of Dr Martin Luther King a reality today. We wish them well.

Honourable Members, this piece of legislation is very, very important. It is important, first of all, because it is part of our cession to our rights as a sovereign state, a sovereign people. As a sovereign people we have God-given endowments which were meant to optimally benefit the existence of these people and it is our responsibility as the elected Members of this House, the representatives of our people, to make sure that we make laws to claim what is rightfully ours.

Exploitation of Namibian resources should always be guided by the wish of the sovereign authority, the people of this country. For too long there are companies who have been defying to pay what is due to the Government in terms of royalties, in terms of ambiguous formulation in the law. I thought Mining companies, as good citizens, have the obligation, whether there is a law or no law, to pay royalties to the people of the country to whom the mineral resources belong.

The other day I had a nasty argument with a representative of Rio Tinto who came to pay a courtesy call to me. Then I asked him, "*Rio Tinto, are you a thief? Why do you come to mine our Uranium but you do not pay royalties? That is like going in someone's farm and stealing a cow. It is not good corporate citizenship.*" Of course, Rio Tinto started to fidget around with the law, that they were doing that in terms of our law but everywhere else they are paying royalties. If they pay royalties

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everywhere they are mining, why does Namibia have to be an exception? It is totally unacceptable that mining companies refuse to pay royalties to the people of this country, knowing that the sovereign ownership is the people of this country. They know it, but they do not want to recognise the sovereignty of our resources, they think it is a free-for-all.

I am particularly resentful that everywhere you go, you find a foreign country (Australia) digging a hole in Namibia, exploiting this mineral and that mineral, particularly Uranium. I am resentful of this because we were not supposed to have gone to war to get our Independence, the World Court was supposed to have absolved us in 1966, but an Australian Judge, called Judge Spender, used his chairmanship to abuse the International Court of Justice and eventually landed us in the situation where we came from, of war.

Now you see Australian companies everywhere running around, digging holes in our country and sometimes they refuse to pay royalties. What is this? Do they think that Namibia is an extension of Australia or what?

Comrade Minister, they should pay these royalties retroactively, not retroactively from the 21st of March 1990, but from the day Decree No. 1 of the United Nations was issued. Some of them came here in defiance of International Law and opened their mining activities here in defiance of Decree No. 1, defying International Law. Now besides defying International Law, they are ignoring our sovereign right to collect royalties on our resources. That is totally unacceptable and I really think we should take charge of our resources, because even though even our Initiator who endowed this resources to us will not understand why we are so poor and He did not mean us to be poor, but it is ourselves who are not taking responsibility to claim what is ours.

Therefore, Honourable Minister, besides the royalty levy, I have two other things to suggest. I am suggesting that you should put an export levy on the export of unprocessed Namibian minerals and it must be a heavy levy in order to force them to add value to our resources. Currently we are locked into negotiations with the European Union and one of the bones of

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contention there in the EPAS is the imposition of export levies and we are told that as a country this is a question of life or death. If we do not impose export levies, we continue to supply jobs and value to other people somewhere else. They export our raw materials, go and process them there, create jobs, create a value chain and then we are left as poor as we have been. That is not acceptable.

Therefore, I would wish that one of the Amendments to the Minerals Prospecting Bill is actually an export levy so that we discourage people to export raw materials from Namibia. An export levy would also help us to provide jobs to those who are unemployed. It will also help us to create a value chain within Namibia.

It is, therefore, our responsibility that we should utilise optimally our God-given resources to the benefit of all our people. I think it is high time we identify those companies who opened their operations here in defiance of Decree No. 1 of the United Nations. Those who do not have an idea what Decree No. 1 is, it prohibited the exploitation of Namibian resources without the permission of the United Nations and Rio Tinto was one of them and I think they should really pay double royalty, including the royalty they paid to the other Government in defiance of Decree No. 1. That is the only way we can assert our sovereign authority over our resources. Otherwise we are just a free-for-all, people digging a hole here, another hole there. Have you been to Rössing? There is a big hole there and I do not know what will happen when they leave, a big hole as big as my farm. The whole of Erongo Region is going to be a hole. Just go to Spitzkoppe, all over the place there are big holes. (Intervention)

HON NAMBAHU: May I ask the Prime Minister a question? Honourable Prime Minister, what do you say about the placards that you see around, saying “*Rössing working for Namibia and teaching people knitting and weaving*” How do you take that and then many people think they are really doing something for the blacks. Can you counter that?

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: All the exploiters have a way of soothing their conscience. That is a conscience-soothing exercise that they feel good. Meanwhile we are the losers and that should not be allowed.

Therefore, Honourable Members, I support the Minister that we should pass this Amendment and I want to urge the Minister to bring an Amendment on the imposition of export tax on Namibian raw materials next time. Thank you.

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

HON P MUSHELENGA: Honourable Speaker, I will try to be very brief. Let me at the outset join the previous speakers in congratulating Barack Obama, President-elect of the United States of America whose election is a major turning point in the world history and US history, which is a long history which also has an ugly chapter of slavery, discrimination and inhumane treatment of one group by another. Four decades ago, when Martin Luther King (Jr) stated that: *“I have seen the promised land, but I may not get there with you”*, some people were thinking he was merely paraphrasing the Biblical Moses when the people were going to Canaan, but today this dream has become a reality.

Moving to the Bill before the House, Honourable Speaker, I think I will be surprised if we derail the passing of this Bill by this august House because of the benefits that Namibia as a country would accrue from it once passed in this House. Most of my Colleagues in the Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration would agree with me that there are a number of companies in this country which make huge profits and we have empirical evidence to that effect and they take these profits to go and create wealth in other countries for other people,

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leaving the Namibian people, the owners of these resources, languishing in poverty.

The purpose and principle of this Bill is a question of ethics and justice, that Namibia as a country own these resources and should benefit optimally from the wealth created by these resources. Some of these companies are favoured so advantageously by the world market prices that sometimes their commodities go high and they add high returns, yet they do not pay royalties to the Government. I was, therefore, happy to see in the proposed Amendment the Minister suggesting that they will be now further charged on the windfalls accrued by companies when the world market favours them.

I also agree with the Right Honourable Prime Minister regarding the question of taxing the exports. Take for example the diamond industry, they export our diamonds, create jobs in Antwerp and London and go around this country and look at those diamond polishing houses and our people are not able to have enough of these precious stones in order to create employment here at home. I will not really venture into that because there is a Report by the Standing Committee that would be tabled before this House by the beginning of next year and I would rather wait to debate that at the right time.

With these few words, Honourable Speaker, I support the Bill and urge everyone to support it unconditionally. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank Honourable Mushelenga. I have been informed that Honourable Chief Riruako's house burnt down in Aminuis and as a result of that, two kids died. I am just being informed by the Chief Whip of NUDO. When the situation is further clarified we will find a way to express our grief and condolences. Thank you for the information. Dr Kawana.

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HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I rise to join my Colleagues who have commended my dear friend and Comrade, the Honourable Minister of Mines and Energy who has introduced this very important Bill.

Comrade Speaker, part of the reasons why Namibia had to endure a hundred years of colonialism was due to Namibia's mineral resources which were needed to develop Europe and North America. It was mainly the mineral resources of Africa which sustained the industrial revolution in Europe and North America. Africa had to pay a price in terms of exploitation of her natural resources as well as human power. Today these countries are referred to as rich countries, we are referred to as poor, beggars, illiterate and the list goes on and yet those who are rich today are rich because of our natural resources.

Part of our struggle was to control the natural resources of our country and I am happy today to see this Bill before this august House, because this process of our struggle is part and parcel of this Bill, namely that Namibia must firmly and decisively control the natural resources of our country for the benefit, first and foremost, of our Nation.

Indeed, the concept of royalty, as my Colleague has pointed out, in terms of the Minerals Act, the ownership of the mineral resources of this country belong to the State and, therefore, it is only fair and just for the State to levy royalties and in this context, royalties are therefore a tax on ownership, regardless of whether or not the mineral rights holder makes profit or not.

Indeed, I would have wished that this Bill came yesterday, because I am aware that during the period of boom in the minerals sector these companies made super profits and I am happy to see that there is a new concept of windfall royalty tax, because for example, gold rose from less than about US\$300 to more than US\$900 per ounce. It means these companies made a lot of profits and some of the processing were done outside Namibia at the expense of our Nation.

Today we have a problem of unemployment, today some of our foreign

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investors are complaining of skills shortage and we have an opportunity that we can use to require some of these companies to add value to our minerals and thereby imparting skills to our citizens.

In addition, Comrade Speaker, I am happy to see that there will be considerations during the process of levying of royalty tax, one being whether the mineral rights holder is sourcing goods and services within Namibia, whether the mineral rights holder is utilising the skills that are available in the country to add value, whether the mineral rights holder is involved in the Namibianisation programme and whether it is imparting skills by way of training of Namibian citizens. Indeed, the current situation is not very conducive to the policies of our Government. I am aware that some of these mining companies source their goods from outside the continent. Even meat consumed by some of their workers comes from as far as Australia at the expense of our beef. We are aware that even in our communal areas we have more than one million head of cattle and yet we are struggling to get markets. These companies are sourcing some of these commodities outside Namibia and yet we are struggling for markets. That is why I am saying that I am very happy to see the introduction of this Bill which will go a long way to making sure that our Nation benefits from the natural resources of our country. That is one of the reasons why we had to take up arms, namely to control these resources to benefit our Nation.

I am happy that these companies must be encouraged and indeed, I would like to say they must be forced to source goods and services locally, so that we create a market not only for the mineral resources in terms of value addition and processing locally, but also to create markets for other materials that Namibia produces.

With these few remarks, I once again join my Colleagues who have spoken before me to commend my Colleague, the Honourable Minister, the Deputy Minister and indeed, the staff of the Ministry of Mines and Energy. I support the Bill and I thank you.

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HON SPEAKER: Minister Angula.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you Comrade Speaker, Sir. Let me join others who have spoken before me in congratulating the people of the United States of America for a milestone in terms of empowerment of the minorities in their country, for having elected an African-American as the next Head of State of the United States. However, there is some kind of misunderstanding among many who believe that Mr Obama is a descendant of African slaves. This is in fact not the case, Mr Obama is a descendant of the Anglo-Saxons and an African student and for those who have sometimes been critical of the students doing their courses outside of their motherland, must give credit to those wise leaders of Africa who a long time ago saw it fit to send the likes of the Obamas, the Theo-Ben Gurirabs and others to study in strange lands so that they can give some dimension to international relations.

I was watching the fervour of Obamism in Kenya during the night, such high expectations and I see also the enthusiasm of Namibians under trees. To every side of a move there must always be some positive note in it to be analysed. Thanks that we have been able to send students to the Americas.

Let me congratulate my Colleague, the Minister of Mines and Energy, for bringing forward this Amendment which will go far in strengthening the Namibian economy if implemented according to our expectation. There is really no reasons that we continue to allow unchecked exports with very limited return of our minerals. Sometimes, of course, we ourselves are to be blamed for not being analytical enough in coming up with viable economic proposals how to manage our resources.

We build very expensive roads and railways to connect the yet unexplored areas of this country with a view to establish new mines, but when you look at the expenses put into the road infrastructure development just to be able to export the ore, why did we not think the reversed? Instead of

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building this road first, we should have built plants and factories in situ where these mineral ores are allocated, put up money for the manufacturing thereof. Then you do not need such heavy investments in roads and railways with little prospects of returns, because the processed and final products do not require heavy-duty roads. We however built these roads and then provided this service free of charge to the ones we are accusing that they are exploiting our minerals and make super profits. They even demand that we build the roads and give electricity for them to mine without any further charge on the use of the facilities that we give them free of charge. Even water is given free of charge.

The worst of it, when the mineral prices change for the worse in the world market, then they demand the scrapping of taxes, but when there is a boom in the mineral prices, we do nothing, we just sit and look at how the prices are so good and feel proud of it, but that profit is going to someone else. This is so because we are slow in thinking.

After the price of copper has come down by almost half from three months ago, we now impose the levy but we have almost missed the boat, because two, three months ago such a levy would have been very meaningful to the coffers.

Anyway, the current fall in prices will probably not last long or even if it lasts long, the law should provide for flexibility, that in times when the prices go up, the royalty should go up and when it comes down, then the royalties could come down.

In terms of value-adding, some of us have decided that instead of speaking too much, to do in practical terms, but because of that we have become victims of all kinds of blackmail. How else do you add value if you cannot involve your own sister in the value chain? Why now declare interest, that in as far as the allowance by us of unprocessed minerals to leave our country has hit hard on entrepreneurs locally who wanted to make a contribution to the national economy by adding value to the products that are produced in this country. The consequence has been that you will not be able to recover our cost of putting up manufacturing when

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**CONGRATULATORY REMARKS
PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA
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we are competing for the same market with the people who are allowed to export this raw material. (Intervention)

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

BUSINESS SUPENDED

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, before we proceed and allow the Minister of Works and Transport to continue, I had intended to make my congratulatory remarks at the beginning in my slot, but I thought the Executive should have the first opportunity to do so. Presidential elections like ours in Namibia coincide with election of Members of Congress, Senators and Representatives. Therefore, I want to add my voice to what the Prime Minister and the Cabinet Ministers have said by way of congratulating the American people and the President-elect and I want to say the following:

I thought about President Kennedy whom I found in the White House in 1963. I remember the famous speech, "*I have a dream*", of Dr Martin Luther King (Jr) in Washington the same year. Now I heard Barack Obama's illuminating a pragmatic speech and my mind was reliving those days of uncertainty, yet of hope for a better world and a new beginning. The tears on Jessie Jackson's cheeks on television have celebrated those days of freedom and memories of untold sacrifices. Obama himself was not amiss to that legacy and paid tribute to Africans and African-American ancestry, but he put his mind on present challenges and future prospects, hoping to make a difference. That is what matters in the world today. Optimism, tempered by realism, opens opportunities for dialogue and cooperation. That is really what we all want as global citizens.

For fellow Africans, President Obama will be president above all and, indeed, always for the United States of America, not an African-American President for Africa. He will be President of the United States of

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America. Africa must be realistic and not expect something like manna from heaven from Washington. We should rather think of friendship, mutual respect and cooperation. Sentimentalism, while a human trait, should however not overwhelm the common sense. The world economy is sick and needs all brains and hands for re-engineering and productivity that all can benefit from. We too, Parliamentarians, should be open to those opportunities and engage our counterparts in the US Congress. Let us congratulate the American people for their clear choice and wish the President-elect best of times and success in his onerous task. Will it be a new United States of America? That is my question. I now give the Floor to the Minister of Transport to continue.

BUSINESS RESUMED

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I cannot help but agree with you entirely that the President-elect is, first and foremost, the President of the United States, maybe secondly President and leader of NATO and thirdly, that of the eight industrial groups and somewhere, somehow Africa will come number eighth in the line of consideration of any US Administration. That does however not mean that we cannot do business with the United States of America and we cannot escape making business with them.

I was saying that when you look at the fast destruction of our road infrastructure and railways thanks to the importation of these bulk mineral ores, as we drive on our highways, you sometimes see these bulky trucks carrying dimension stones to South Africa or being loaded and shipped to overseas. At one time President Nujoma was visiting the United States and he was shown some of the best granite products and he was told this product is from Karibib in Italy. He asked, "*does Italy also have a town called Karibib?*" "*Yes, it is from Italy, Karibib*".

We however come here to beg for money to repair the roads which have been destroyed by those trucks ferrying these materials to other countries for the provision of jobs in those countries, only to be returned to our

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country as expensive value-added products. Then the question is, while we are always looking for job creation and value-adding, why are always shy to say we will not put up factories? Set up factories subsidised by the Government, then we are always told that is off, Government should not be involved in the business of manufacturing; it is for the private sector. But yet we know for sure that not manufacturing, our roads will deteriorate sooner than later and we will still go to the taxpayer to ask for money to repair the same road.

I said I have disclosed my interest and I am sure many of you are aware of what I am talking about. Nine years ago young men and women of this country encouraged their own Government, including myself, to set up the largest factory of its kind in the southern hemisphere of Omaruru to manufacture our own stones. We were told to go out there and look for joint venture partnerships in the neighbourhood. We did so. We succeeded in getting reliable partners to put in money and we gave whatever little we had from our own pockets and that factory is not a story. You do not have to make revolutionary statements here that are not backed up by facts, it is there. We are employing a few people that we are able to employ. Omaruru is a living town instead of being a dead town. But what do we get in return? Blackmail! That is all that we are getting from our own citizens, even our own Party members. We are supposed to be corrupt because we are involved in industrial development. The bank is squeezing us, every time you are under threat to be liquidated so that the factories are passed to other people who are of better extraction.

Our own Government assists the same people to blackmail us and to bring the factory down instead of supporting, giving this factory a chance for the Namibian people to work there, for us to add value. You see, it is tragedy in Africa.

Many years ago during the liberation struggle many of us were allergic to be in conferences with French-speaking Africans (brothers). They made long statements, beautiful things, revolutionaries, but if you go to their countries, the water is coming from France, the telephones do not work, nothing works. Every prayer in the church is to get a chance to go to Paris because life is intolerable in your own country. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: May I ask the Honourable Minister a small question? I am really sorry because I think I was dozing,

I should have asked the question at the time you were talking about the roads, but then you finished before I could say what I wanted to say. I go to a place called Uitkoms on the road to the mines of Otjozondou. There are three or four mines following each other and that road can kill somebody. Dust is caused by these trucks and there are sometimes 15 of them coming to Okahandja to collect gravel. Why can we as Government not compel the owners of the mines to tar the road so that they can prevent this dust? The road is always full of potholes and one time I was almost off the road because the trucks were following each other and we were blinded by dust. Perhaps let us come up with a law that they tar the roads to where their mines are and contribute to assist the Government. Those roads are in a terrible condition. That was the question I just wanted to ask. Sorry, for interrupting you.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you, Dr Libertine Amathila. Yes, in fact I said in the beginning that instead of us ruining the roads, they should say you can only export Manganese up to a certain grade. Then they do not need such big trucks, they could then export concentrates. You may not export all in its raw form and then they will not need those big trucks for concentrates and employment would have been created.

I was saying that we were allergic to our French-speaking brothers. They are good revolutionaries, but they are not able to build their countries. They make good speeches and I am seeing ourselves turning into the same thing. Every day I hear big speeches, but there are brothers who speak who do not even own a chicken. When there is a fatality in the family, they cannot even feed their families. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Because they are victims of the system.

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HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Yes, we are all victims, we are all victims. I am saying that inasmuch as we have time to speak big words, we should have the same time to produce, to do something for the country. Nobody eats words. They are not going to eat our beautiful, revolutionary words.

Then if you try to do something just to employ a few people, the question always comes in: How did he get the money? We are all getting the same salaries, but the difference is: how do you use your salary? Some comrades drink until they have no name, they do not know their names. Some gamble away their money to the last penny. It is better to be stingy, but produce something. You may be stingy but you are able to have a farm, employ seven workers, those seven workers have family members whom they are feeding.

However, the value addition cannot be done by outsiders. Do you expect manna to come from heaven again? It happened once, it will not happen again. In terms of scientific evidence it will not happen again. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: As a good Christian, may I inform Honourable Angula that manna comes annually through rain. It is for you to turn rain into food. Manna is ever coming.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Yes, we have a new kind of manna. You are given, but you must transform that manna into an edible something. In those days it was said that they just picked it up and ate.

The factory that I talked about, many people do not even want to talk about their salaries. They say, "*oh, this thing is again Helmut.*" (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Angula, you are making a good statement and we would like to have copies of your statement when you are through. (Laughter).

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Honourable Muharukua, the HANSARD will come out, but I am confident that they do not know how to record my statement. I do not know whether it will be readable.

We demand that our diamonds should be processed here, it cannot be processed by foreigners. It should be processed by Namibians. But what happens? You do not want this licence to be given to another Namibian. That is the problem! You want value to be added to the diamonds, but you are criticising the foreigners for taking it out and I can assure you that the foreigner has no interest in polishing this diamond in Namibia because he must give employment to his own people and not to you. The tragedy is that the moment you see this licence is given to Muharukua, heaven must fall down. It is only the people from Kunene who get licences, but the people from Kunene is just one, Muharukua, it is not the whole of the Kunene people and Muharukua's factory is not employing people from only Kunene, but from all over Namibia. Those who are employed are not necessarily from the family of Muharukua. You are looking at the small picture instead of looking at the larger picture, the larger picture being the resources being manufactured in Namibia and being given a Namibian mark and being exported as a finished product, fetching a good price. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a Point of Information. I know the factory of Honourable Angula,

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some of us were supporting it and I support entrepreneurship, but while I agree with him 100% on jealousy, value addition and witch-hunt, I disagree with Honourable Angula on one point and we ought to be truthful. In this country the problem is not the people from Kunene having a licence, the problem is Kazenambo having a licence in manufacturing, having a licence in fisheries, having a licence is something else. The problem is not Kunene, the problem is the Kazenambo who benefits only the Kazenambo family. That is the problem.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Yes, I think Comrade Kazenambo is one of those people who are not shying away from buying Namibian products, like many others and I also respect his view with regard to licences being issued to a small group or a few individuals.

However, I also want to make Comrade Kazenambo understand that any Ministry, be it the Ministry of Trade and Industry, be it the Ministry of Mines and Energy, be it the Ministry of Works and Transport, we as Ministers or officials do not go to individuals and tell them to apply because they are from Katima or from Keetmanshoop. What the Ministry does is to advertise that there is an opportunity for you to tender for the construction of a road. Our laws do not say if you have applied for road construction last year, you may not apply this year. Do not kill those who have initiative. If somebody has two licences it is because he applied twice or even ten times and those of you who do not apply cannot expect that licence to be brought to you in your bedroom.

Therefore, this thing of saying it is only a few individuals, you can only convince me if you say you know of an individual who has paid in order to get this licence or who got this licence because he is the brother of the Minister, but if it is just an individual who is a fighter....(Intervention)

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: I apologise to the Honourable

Member, but I am seeking the guidance of the Honourable Speaker. If I read on Page 27 the introduction of a Bill or an Amendment, then the other Members are allowed 45 minutes once. If we continue this long, other people will not get a chance, therefore I refer us to the Rules.

HON SPEAKER: I understand each speaker is entitled to 45 minutes. I appreciate your intervention, Honourable Schimming-Chase, because this issue came up in the Committee on Rules and Orders and these people who scrupulously advise me on the Rules said that on the basis of the Rules we have approved, each Member is allowed to speak for 45 minutes. If that is the case, then it is the work of the Political Parties and certainly of the majority Party to ensure that such number of Members are allowed to make contributions. But if it is left to each Member having access to 45 minutes, then certainly it does a disservice to what ought to be a productive Parliamentary Debate. Honourable Angula, it is not directed at you personally.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Comrade Speaker, I definitely have no intention of breaking any Rule and if anybody advises me that my 45 minutes are gone, I can just step down. I was just trying to impress upon the Honourable House that there is a need to match our words with deeds. Inasmuch as we want value addition, we should not discourage anyone who wants to contribute to value addition and in fact, we should encourage. We should also give incentives for those who are creating jobs, because jobs are needed everywhere in our society and some of these petty things should not influence our policy in terms of implementation of the policy of job creation, whether in the mineral sector or any other sector.

I am told that during the Committee Stage we can come up with Amendments and it is an Amendment that the Honourable Minister could just think about. We could introduce some concept after paragraph 4 which the Right Honourable Prime Minister has spoken about with regard

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to imposition of a levy on export of raw materials. It is just to say the Minister may impose differentiated levies on unprocessed minerals, ores and stones. In my humble opinion I thought that could come somewhere after Section 4. This will, indeed, discourage the exporters of raw material to export our minerals in raw form. I am sure the experts of the Ministry have the knowledge on how much we can reduce some of the mineral ores to an acceptable level, at least semi-processed, processed. The levy should be set on raw material up to whatever level and when you have semi-processed it to a certain level, reduce level of levy and the final product should not attract any export tax at all. In that way we may find that the people who are mining manganese and copper will somehow do something to reduce it to some element of copper sheet. The same goes for zinc and other minerals. That is why we should give incentives to those ones who want to do mineral processing and semi-processing.

The chance and the opportunity we have right now in this mineral boom may not return soon and we have limited time in our lifetime, we want to see some development, the implementation of Vision 2030 in our lifetime and we should commit ourselves to this noble idea of developing our country to the level of other advanced Nations by the year 2030. I thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Schimming-Chase.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Speaker, being the first one to speak from the Opposition side, I would also like to congratulate the American people for their exercise in democracy and to congratulate the President-elect, Barack Obama and the Vice-President-elect, George Biden on their election. I agree with the Honourable Speaker and others that this is the President-elect and the Vice-President-elect of the United States of America, but I must say that I am especially glad that this team won the popular vote as well as the electoral collage. I think that is significant.

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To come to the Amendment of the Bill, Honourable Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Honourable Minister for coming with this Amendment and I will have to say it, it is better late than never. Throughout my time in this House I have constantly taken the Floor to talk of the national cake and very often we have said the national cake is not growing bigger, it is just how we divide it. However, this Amendment is showing us that the potential for the national cake to grow is immense if we take the right decisions.

Namibia is an exceptionally blessed country in terms of our mineral wealth and I always maintain that with two million people and the wealth that we have, we should not be speaking of poverty, we should not be asking aid from anywhere. We as the elected leaders should ensure that the wealth of our country benefits the people whom God has given this wealth to. That is why I am in total support and I do not want to repeat what the Right Honourable Prime Minister has said, because I would like others to have a chance to talk too. I would however like to say, Honourable Speaker, that when we speak about royalties, I think we should look very carefully at agreements that we have signed, so that when we want to make changes, we should not look like a country which changes its position midstream.

The Constitution stipulates that the minerals belong the Government and when we speak about royalties and royalties going to Government, I would like Government to consider that those royalties should also be used in the main to alleviate poverty in the areas where the wealth is and South Africa has given us a golden example. There are previous land owners who were deprived of their land who today benefit from the royalties that come from the mineral wealth of their ancestral land. Namibia does not have to be different. In fact, Namibia should follow suit because Government, as the custodian of our mineral wealth, should use that mineral wealth to help the people of Namibia to move from poverty to a proper existence. I think that is the minimum that can be expected.

I totally agree with the need for value-adding. Even yesterday in my Motion I was saying that since we have diamonds in the South, why can we not polish diamonds in the South and this is what Honourable Angela

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was also talking about, allowing people to add value by providing jobs.

However, I must say that I am also in agreement with Honourable Kazenambo that we as a Parliament need to take a look at where the royalties are, who owns what, openly, honestly and in a transparent manner and we need to reach a point in our development after almost 20 years that we must spread the wealth. We cannot concentrate the wealth and once we do that, Honourable Speaker, we will be able to preserve the peace in this country and give every Namibian a good living, because many of us have sacrificed their lives in the struggle for the Independence of this country and the ownership of its wealth as a sovereign state. We also owe it to those who can no longer speak, that we carry out the sacred trust that was placed on us as fighters of the liberation and liberators of this country.

In short, Honourable Speaker, I once again congratulate the Minister and I support the Amendments. I thank you.

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

HON NAMBAHU: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. First and foremost, let me also join other Honourable Members in congratulating the President-elect and this time I think we will be able to redirect America into the right directions and to make America a country one would want to be associated with, because much of what has been coming from there in the last years was not what the founding fathers of America would have liked it to be. I would especially wish to congratulate the youth who went out as a movement from the grassroots against the establishment as without them this victory would not have been possible. There are those who have always counted on a low turnout of the American people from the grassroots, but this time the machinery of the Democratic Party has not only been able to match but surpass that of the

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Republicans. For that I really congratulate the Americans for what they have done.

The Bill on the table is long overdue, as has been mentioned, and this is what we have been making reference to, for us to quantify how much we are getting from what mineral and to pass that on across the board, because there are some companies who are feeling the pinch, others are stagnant.

I have always been troubled since my arrival in this country in 1989 that we have all the documented information by the UN Council for Namibia on the companies that were violating the sanctions against South Africa, who operated here and did what they did. But the soothing of mind that the Honourable Prime Minister was talking about seems to have really soothed us. When you drive around and you see and advert of this Company which has been listed as one of the big plunderers of the Namibian economy, “Working for Namibia”, then all of us seem to have bought that story and forget all the other things that this people have done. It had to take us this long and maybe it is better late than never, but I congratulate the Minister and all the other colleagues for coming where we are, but really, this is long overdue. I have been troubled by it, I am not alone, but by being troubled by it could not have been consequential. I am nobody, but honestly, they are saying, “*Working for Namibia*” and all what you are teaching people is to read and we must be happy.

Sometimes we must also ask the question: “*Yes Sir, thank you very much, you have given me N\$20, I am thankful, but could you also be honest enough to tell me how much you have taken?*” Quantify it in monetary terms, how much have you taken in that time so that you are only able to give me N\$20?

That said, I would only like to alert my Colleagues in the Ministry and the Executive on this issue of fiduciary responsibility, depending on which school you attended, the responsibility of the directors towards the stakeholders. Who is responsible towards the owner of the resource? The Prime Minister talked about sovereignty, sovereign ownership of the resources. The Board of directors is actually taking decisions and these

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decisions are actually depleting the resource and we are the sovereign owners. I feel it is time that this theory and hypothesis is revisited.

The Hummel Brothers and all these other people who have caused this financial turmoil that we are all facing are hiding behind their fiduciary responsibility, that they were responsible towards the stakeholders, but who is facing the consequences? It is the world economy as a whole. Is it not time that we maybe also compare and see what it is we can do regarding that fiduciary responsibility of directors when it comes to the shareholder and the owner of the resource? These are the things we need to revisit and see if the composition cannot be such that that aspect is also taken care of, otherwise we will not be able to know what is happening when people are hiding themselves.

The President of Brazil has said that some of these colleagues have turned the world economy into a grand casino where they were taking chances with investments, depending on the policies on the market, but without actually being realistic. When it comes to Namibia we cannot just wait for the Tsunami to reach us and that is a reality. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

On a Point of Order. Comrade Speaker, sometimes I find myself in difficulties. Here we have an Amendment that the Honourable Minister brought to the House for a good purpose, but while we are supporting we are again starting to complain. I am now trying to understand why we are complaining. We should have complained before the Amendment came here, but now the Honourable Minister brought what we wanted here but yet we continue to complain. I have some difficulties with that, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: The Minister was prompted by your complaint and now that the Minister is doing what you had wanted him to do, you are just reinforcing your complaint.

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HON NAMBAHU: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. The information should probably read that the law is passed, there is what you call the intention, the letter and spirit that was prevailing in the mind of the legislator when he was passing that specific law and if we would have liked to complain when some of us were not here, that would not have been possible. Because we are now trying because we are now here, representing those who are crying and who cannot do it. If it offends some people, I am sorry. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable Nambahu a question? Honourable Nambahu, are you aware that there is no absolute perfection, you can improve on anything and continue to improve on it, and in order to achieve that absolute perfection, you have to continue to question. Are you aware of that?

HON NAMBAHU: Thank you very much for the question. It is actually that lack of continuous interrogation of your own Act that are causing the problems that we are facing today. Whoever started to question the system was called a revolutionary and whoever was trying to perfect the thing was called a (indistinct) and all these things. Therefore, the system started losing the fountains of life to be injected into it and that is what we are invited to do and I think that should be rejected with the contempt it deserves.

Comrade Speaker, with these words I would only like to say our negotiators should not entertain much from the companies because as good corporate citizens they should be ashamed. They did not even come to demand anything because they were supposed to come and say, “we have been this, now come up with a law so that we can do this.”

With these remarks, I support the Amendments and invite all those who have analytical minds to apply them and not to be intimidated by anything. Thank you very much.

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HON SPEAKER: I thank you. Minister Dr Iyambo.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. The Colleagues who have preceded me have already thanked the people of the United States for the history that they have made and that will remain a history forever.

Comrade Speaker, I rise to make a short intervention. I want to thank very sincerely my successor, Honourable Nghimtina, for bringing this Amendment to this House. I am sure this Amendment is going to see the light of the day and it will add to many efforts we are making to perfect our laws and in this case to try to preserve the natural resources of our country on behalf of ourselves and the future generations that will come after us.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I wonder whether we could request the Minister to consider the possibility of perhaps making it easier for those who adhere to the Government's call of making the final products out of the mineral resources that they are exploiting in our country. What I want to suggest, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, is that the royalty should not be levied on those companies that are producing final products here, if that would be possible, Honourable Minister, and those who would not want to adhere would have to fulfil what we are requiring here. But those who are making an effort, particularly up to the final product, will pay no royalties. I thought that it would encourage them to consider what should be done.

I am also glad that the Honourable Minister is requesting that the restriction on the maximum royalties must be removed. In other words, if we need to increase it, you increase it and particularly for those who would be reluctant to do anything to what we are referring. I would like the Honourable Minister to consider that, but of course, you can do that when you are going to respond.

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Finally, I think this is one of those efforts that we are trying to do to improve the lot of our country. It may not have been realised earlier on, but I recall vividly that I started with it and that is why I am very glad that the Honourable Minister got his hands on it and finally it is here. I want to thank him very sincerely for that and wish him to continue to do the good work for the country. Thank you.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, let me also join the Colleagues in congratulating our brothers and sisters in the United States for successful elections and congratulate the President-elect for the victory.

Secondly, let me also congratulate the Honourable Minister of Mines for tabling these Amendments and I would want to look at it from a different angle. The different angle is first the poverty alleviation.

Honourable Schimming-Chase in her contribution only picked up one Region of the poverty profile, but I am aware that all Regions have similar documents about poverty profile and those documents were distributed here. Unfortunately not all of us have read them.

Having said that, either we are not fully committed to the Government policy on decentralisation or we do not understand what we want to achieve under decentralisation. Honourable Speaker, talking about mineral prospecting and mining, I am aware that this country has different minerals in different Regions, not only in the South. (Intervention)

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HON MOONGO: May I ask a small question? I was very disturbed by the point that everyone is congratulating the Americans for successful elections, but what are you doing in Tobias Hainyeko? Is that proper practice or is it a sinful practice?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: To satisfy the Honourable Member, let me then also wholeheartedly and loudly congratulate the SWAPO Party and the SWAPO candidate for winning the Tobias Hainyeko election with 94%. The DTA did not stand a chance that is why they withdrew before the race started.

I have personal experience that the manner in which these prospecting licences are issued is problematic in itself. If you take the list of all the EPL's, it is listed from Caprivi, Kavango, Kunene, Otjozondjupa, Omaheke, etc. All those have different minerals and if you look at the names of the EPL holders, it is disappointing. There are a lot of duplications of some companies that are almost everywhere.

The Honourable Minister is here, when I was a young boy in the early seventies, we were told that there is gold in my area. Almost four decades thereafter I still hear the same. I myself went to the Ministry and enquired. Quite disappointingly, you again have NAMDEB there. I have sought investors to go and prospect what I have heard when I was a young boy, but I cannot because the EPL is being held by NAMDEB. We are still suffering and we complain and sing about poverty. While continuing stepping on the wealth we must wait for NAMDEB. (Interjections). If that is the rationale that it is a Government company, then we as the Government must have a programme that this so-called Government Company must explore and prospect in all the Regions to address the poverty, so that the minerals can be exploited to serve and alleviate poverty in the various Regions because they do have the minerals. If it is really a Government company it does not make sense. We wait for NAMDEB. I am talking from personal experience and this is very disturbing.

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I know Kunene has similar minerals. Who is holding the EPLs? The same company and you are prevented from exploring. What are we doing about it? These are minerals that we should explore in the different Regions to address the issue of poverty, but either we lack commitment or something is just not right and this is the challenge for us. As a Government, we must commit ourselves to address poverty because we do have the means.

I want to link to what the Honourable Member said. What is also disappointing is not so much that only a few people are more entrepreneurial than others, partly it may be true, but the other reality is that some people, if not few, are sitting with the information and they only make this information available to the few. That is another reality. I do not want to say it is the truth, I say that is another reality. If only a few of them have information to dish out to the few, what are we talking about? The country has minerals but it is still only being kept and shared by the few, for good reasons known to them.

On the issue of value addition, the polishing, I am aware that the licences for polishing is on moratorium. If you look at those who got these licences, they have EPLs, mining licences, polishing. Is it true that they are more entrepreneurial? No, please, let us start thinking differently, this thing will come to an end at one point. We are not fools.

When we talk about national issues, then we must be objective and genuine. It is not correct that only a few are everywhere. Some of us and some of those who are not here have the means but they are not given the opportunity, apart from withholding some information from them.

I want to conclude, Comrade Speaker. In the early stages of our Independence we listened to one another effectively, if not properly. Nowadays we are losing the ability to listen to one another. If we do not start listening to one another and do not stop this prejudice because maybe he only joined SWAPO five minutes ago, it will be killing the Nation.

Comrade Speaker, us who have the responsibility to manage some of these natural resources must respect the views of others for us to be better

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servants. Those of us who have information must be prepared to share this information with others. (Intervention)

HON NAMBAHU: I want to ask a small question. Comrade Deputy Minister, there is a theory of economic distribution and there is another one of economic concentration. Which one is taking place and which one is dangerous and which one do you support?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: My common sense tells me that the second one seems to be what we are experiencing. It is concentrated only on the few and sometimes we play it clean, we put people there that would make these things happen and we would play ignorant. All of us did receive the same gift from God, we have the same content and this is why I am saying it is maybe time that we listen to one another to build this country, for if we do as national leaders and we start exploring the minerals in the Caprivi Region and not reserve it for NAMDEB because it is a Government Company, we will address part of the poverty; for if we listen and come with progressive policies, there are minerals in the Kavango Region, in Otjozondjupa Region, including Tsumkwe, we will address the poverty in this country; for if we listen to one another to issue licences in four main areas in country to add value to our resources, we will address the issue of poverty and unemployment, but we do not want to think outside that box.

This Amendment should be a beginning to think outside the past eighteen years. The time has come to genuinely make use of our resources to develop this country and not the way we have been doing it until today. I support the Amendment. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Viljoen.

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HON VILJOEN: I Move that the Debate be adjourned until Wednesday, 12 November 2008.

HON SPEAKER: The Debate stands adjourned until Wednesday, 12 November 2008. The First Notice of Motion is the one by Honourable Dienda. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion? Seconded? Objection? Agreed to. Honourable Dienda has the Floor.

**MOTION ON GIRL CHILD VERSUS BOY CHILD AND HOW
BOTH PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN SOCIETY**

HON DIENDA: I would like to congratulate her on the victory of her husband. If it was not for her, that victory would not have been possible.

Honourable Speaker, I do not want the Honourable Members to understand me wrongly and I will give you an example.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, there was once a woman with two children, a boy and a girl, both of them married. This mother decided to visit both her son and daughter on different occasions. While visiting her daughter, she was taken care of by her son-in-law who brought her breakfast in bed, took her out for shopping, helped her with the cooking and even helped his wife taking care of the children. This mother was so impressed with her son-in-law that she even told her daughter how lucky she is to have such a nice husband.

After a while, Honourable Speaker, the mother was visiting her son and his family. Her daughter-in-law who was also employed in a full-time job like her own daughter, she left some of her responsibilities to her husband. After spending some time with her son and his family, the lady approached her daughter-in-law with these words: *“My daughter, do you want to turn my son into a **moffie**? You are the lady of this house, you are lying and sitting around while my son is the one doing things in and*

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around the house, you are disrespectful towards my son.”

Honourable Speaker, this is what I call selective morality. What is good for our sons must also be good for our daughters. We must not be selective when addressing issues concerning the growth of this country. As we put measures in place to address the empowering of women and the girl child, we must not leave our boy children unattended. Boys are also our children. We need to guard against reversing inequality. Little focus is given to the boy child and many of them turn into street kids, crime, alcohol and drug abuse, womanisers, etcetera. Many boy children grow up to be irresponsible, jealous and less helpful members of our society. Boys are forced to adhere to the norms and values of society.

When a boy is born, so much is expected from him. He grows up, knowing that he will be the head of his family, he has to take care of his family one day.

As much as I am aware of the injustice which was done towards women in the past, the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia has given every citizen in this country equal rights after Independence. We do not want to see our boys grow up with a low self-esteem, it will therefore just be good to see that every child that was born after Independence is treated equally. They are a new breed of human beings. There are a number of issues that need to be considered when dealing with the issue of boy child and girl child but I would like to highlight just a few.

Who is a boy child? The Namibian Constitution provides that children are those persons under the age of 16 years. The question is, is a 16 year old boy old enough to take care of himself? What about the theory that says girls mature faster than boys? Does the phrase “boy child” even exist? Who is worried about a child not attending school or Sunday school? Is the one child more important than the other or is society neglecting to accept the boy child amongst its midst? While boy children tend up to become street kids, girl children become teenage parents at a very young age and even prostitutes.

Secondly, we have to work towards boy child-girl child equality. Boys

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and girls must complement each other where possible. We should have had programmes which they pursue jointly. We need to scale up advocacy programmes and campaigns that seek to change negative perceptions. We need to encourage open Debates, particularly on issues that make women not to be on the same footing with men. We need to examine the practices, such as *lobola*. Our kids do not understand, if we are equal, why must the boy pay? There is a need to involve men to help change the mindset of other men.

On culture issues: We believe men do not cry. Once a boy is branded by society, he is most likely to carry his label with him into adulthood. Boys raised by single mothers, like Obama, understand the opposite sex better and respect them for whom they are. The damage to sodomized boys is the same done to girls who are raped. It involves the destruction of the identity and the worth of the child in his own eyes. Some men, not all of them, suffer from inhumane and abusive treatment at the hands of their wives, their mothers, their girlfriends and their sisters. African culture has been taken over by western culture. A lot of people no longer have respect for culture and religion.

Fourthly, Honourable Speaker, family break-up: Men are becoming weaker and weaker by the day. They become involved in criminal activities, gangsterism, murder, etcetera. We have to liberate both boys and girls. Some families break up due to the fact that the wife has moved to a higher income bracket and that the man feels he is taken care of by a woman. He may then as a reaction to this reality either resort to violence to keep the woman in her place, or have multiple relationships. They also then show a lack of confidence.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, the name of the Ministry of Women Affairs has changed to Gender Affairs. I would, therefore, like to see this House and the whole Nation treating all children equally. Men are incomplete without women and women are incomplete without men. Their differences are not a curse but a blessing. I thank you.

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HON KAVETUNA**

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

HON KAVETUNA: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, allow me to express my appreciation and gratitude to my sister for tabling this Motion in this august House. The Motion is indeed a milestone towards gender sensitisation and awareness among the Namibian people.

Gender aspects in terms of behaviour, approaches and attitudes are understood to be an interaction of every society. The Motion on the Table is merely a gender issue that is intended to address the younger generation who will become men and women of tomorrow. Their upbringing will determine the relationship towards one another.

The relationship between the females and males, not to mention between girls and boys, is essential to any sociological process. In fact, the Motion is urging this House to debate the issue of the girl child towards the boy child and how both play an important role in our society and that is fundamental to any upbringing.

It is important to look at the relationship of the two in terms of development, in particular in Nation-building of our country. The two sexes are co-inhabiting every space the earth has created ever. Thus the existence of both is vital to the society in which we live. Unfortunately nature and mankind had spoiled the good relationship of men and women by bringing issues like gender labour division, allocating certain functions to a certain group because of their physical appearance and so on. It failed to outline the fact that the brains of both sexes have equal levels of intellect. There is no difference when it comes to the measuring of the brain to say this one can be better than the other. It could have created a new dimension, hope and better understanding if all of us see gender issues as an important agenda.

The back side of this is that the older generation, especially the men, find it difficult to comprehend that we are equal and that our children should

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be treated the same. I believe that the girls and boys are able citizens who have equal capacity to make a change in our society in their own different ways.

Deliberate actions from members of our society to undermine the efforts of creating gender sensitivity in our society is visible and this jeopardises the progress of Namibia towards implementing and promoting the resolutions of the Beijing Platform and the total discrimination against women. I am saying this deliberately because when one wants to create awareness on gender, one will hear comments such as, *“now the women would like us to work in the kitchen, they want us to wash nappies, they want us to look after children, cook”*, to mention just a few, forgetting that the women never studied or even mastered to do these kinds of things, it is just by nature that everybody is supposed to do what is essential to do in every household. There is no Master’s Degree that has shown that women are better than men in doing things in the kitchen, therefore the men can also do it.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, our girls and boys should be living examples for the future. We must address the issue of gender equality with a high sense of awareness, with a high sense of understanding, because we will fail in our duty if we do not try to recognise that we are equals in all aspects. Women, girls and boys, if they are trained today to be equal and to appreciate one another, I think will create a Namibia that is able to make a change, a Namibia that has a society which appreciates one another and support one another in all aspects. I support the Motion.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Minister of Environment.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Comrade Speaker, I had the opportunity early this morning when Kosmos Radio phoned me to congratulate the people of

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America and President-elect Obama on victory. As I was listening to Honourable Dienda motivating this Motion, those two beautiful girls came to mind when they entered the stage with their parents holding their hands, therefore, I would now congratulate them on their further winning the election.

Comrade Speaker, let me thank Honourable Dienda for introducing this Motion which is talking about girl child *vis-à-vis* the boy child. I take it that the title of the Motion is aimed at making us debate the whole concept of gender equality. I am sure many of you will recall that when the world was preparing for the Fourth World Conference on Women, there were only 10 critical areas of concern until very, very late when the eleventh critical area of concern, which is the girl child, was introduced.

Namibians are very proud that, that particular critical area of concern was initiated in Namibia and developed in Namibia when we hosted the SADC preparatory meeting. We took the decision on the girl child to the Africa Preparatory Meeting that took place in Dakar.

What we had in mind when we wanted that particular area of concern to be part of the Beijing Platform of Action is that we realised that for us to be successful on gender equality, which we all know and agree is a driving force for economic and social development, we can only succeed in that area if we start at an early stage of one's life and that is the girls and the boys. Our initial proposal was to have a critical area of concern which is focusing on boys and girls. In fact, we wanted to have the heading to have the word children, but because the whole focus was on women, a compromise was found that we call that area the girl child. But if you go into the details of all the articles in that particular eleventh critical area of concern, it deals with the relationship and the upbringing of both girls and boys. That is because we need to mould people at an early stage to see each other both boys and girls as equal partners in development. The adults of today, have the responsibility to empower the future generations.

If we ourselves are not empowered and continue to live in the gender stereotype attitude, we will pass that on to our children and the cycle will be going on and on.

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MOTION ON GENDER EQUALITY
HON NANDI-NDAITWAH

We tend to blame one another here and there. I accept that as a woman I have the first immediate contact with the child because the child grows in my body until it is able to breathe for him or herself when that child is delivered. But from that point we as parents have a responsibility to make sure that we bring up our children to respect one another as boys and girls. That would be the attitude that they will grow with, when they become adults there will be no question of gender stereotype which we are suffering from now. I underline the upbringing of children is a responsibility of both parents.

In some of our communities there is a perception that something is lacking in a child brought up in a female-headed house. Why I am saying it is a perception is because I believe there is no child brought up in a male-headed house, because in the community where I come from, a house headed by a male is only that man who lives there, a bachelor.

However, in other households you always find a husband and a wife and for me these are the heads of the household. As referring to “*Okaumbo and Eumbo to Mupombohime*” (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Minister, there where you ended that there is a husband and a wife, that is actually the crux of the matter of the other phrase, because if there are children who have been raised in a humane household, they do not know a shirt, they call their shirt a blouse.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: I am very comfortable with the intervention of Honourable Katali.

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HON SPEAKER: When we resume tomorrow afternoon, Honourable Ndaitwah will have an opportunity to continue. The House stands adjourned under automatic adjournment until tomorrow afternoon, 14:30

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2008.11.06 AT 14:30.

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
06 NOVEMBER 2008
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

HON IIPINGE: Honourable Speaker, I would like to pose an Oral Question to the Honourable Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Comrade Katali.

HON SPEAKER: It can be done, Honourable Iiping, provided that there is some element of urgency about the question. Today being Thursday, the Oral Questions come after, but if it is a compelling question I would allow the question to be put. But if it is not an urgent question, let it wait until we come to the end of the questions and if not all the questions are answered, I will make an opportunity available to you.

HON SPEAKER: Any Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? Question 87 is one by Honourable Schimming-Chase. Does the Honourable Member Put the Question?

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

QUESTION 87:

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: I Put the Question.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I am afraid the question is misdirected, it should rather go to the Minister concerned or the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Office of the Prime Minister has nothing to do with the Ratification of Treaties, I regret to inform the Honourable Member.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: I thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister. When I was investigating the background, I realised that neither of those two Ministries seem to be doing well in terms of the documentation that is there. That is why I prefaced my question in view of the fact that no clarity seems to exist regarding the Line Ministry and I asked the Leader of Government Business. But if it must be referred to those, I will do so.

HON SPEAKER: Question 89 is by Honourable Moongo. Does the Honourable Member Put the Question?

QUESTION 89:

HON MOONGO: I Put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I rise in this august House to respond to questions or concerns raised by Honourable Philemon Moongo, the Vice-President of the DTA on why the Ministry excluded the Namibian Police, the City Police, the Prison Services and the Defence Force from the provisions of the Labour Act (Act 11 of 2007).

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HON NGATJIZEKO

Responding to his first question as to whether Article 10 of the Constitution regulates that all persons are equal before the law, and if so, why discrimination against the armed forces, I state that it is correct that Article 10 of the Supreme Law of the country, the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, prohibits discrimination and provides for equal treatment of all persons before the law. This provision is not disputed at all and under no circumstances has the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare tried to discriminate against any person, be it an ordinary citizen, employers or employees. There have been no such cases or allegations unless the Honourable Member can prove the contrary.

In compliance with Article 10 of the Constitution, the new Labour Act (Act 11 of 2007), Section 5, prohibits discrimination in employment and this Section applies to all employers and employees, including the armed forces, such as the Defence Force members, the Police and Prison Service members. I strongly encourage the Honourable Moongo to familiarise himself further with this Section of the Labour legislation, notwithstanding the fact that he was part of the august House when the Labour Act was passed.

Secondly, I will explain the rationale why the armed forces are excluded from all other provisions of the Labour Act except for Section 5. The Constitution in Article 21(1)(a) on Fundamental Rights provides that: *“All persons shall have the right to freedom of association which shall include freedom to form and join associations or unions, including trade unions and Political Parties.”*

However, it is important to remind the Honourable Member that this right is not absolute. Article 21(2)(b) of the very same Constitution provides: *“That the fundamental freedoms referred to in Sub-article (1) hereof shall be exercised subject to the law of Namibia insofar as such law imposes reasonable restrictions on the exercise of rights and freedoms conferred by the said sub-article which are necessary in a democratic society and are required in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of Namibia, national security, public order, decency or morality, or in relation to contempt of Court, defamation or indictment to an offence.”*

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HON NGATJIZEKO**

Given the above, the existing legal framework governing the Police, that is the Police Act and regulations promulgated there under, does not permit trade union activities by members of the Police without the written consent of the Inspector General of the Police. Similarly, Namibia is a member of the International Labour Organisation and as such has ratified Convention 87 and Convention 97 on Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining. Article 9 of Convention 87 provides as follows:

“The extent to which the guarantees provided for in this Convention shall apply to the armed forces and the Police shall be determined by national laws or regulations. The ratification of this Convention by any Member State shall not be deemed to affect any existing law, award, custom or agreement by virtue of which members of the armed forces or the Police enjoy any right guaranteed by this Convention.”

It is on this basis that Section 2 of the Labour Act (Act 11 of 2007) excludes the armed forces from our provisions of the Act, except for the provision on discrimination. This was done in the interest of national security. The uniformed services are excluded from most of the provisions of the Labour Act because of their unique role in the maintenance of security and order in the country. The exclusion is, therefore, necessary and justified in terms of national security and public order. The ILO has equally accepted such exclusion in that the only exceptions authorised by Convention 87 are the members of the Police and armed forces in terms of Article 9, such exception being justified also on the basis of their responsibility for external and internal security of the State.

Thirdly, on the question of Traditional Authorities, the work and the management of the Traditional Authorities are covered by the Traditional Authorities Act (Act 25 of 2000). However, there is no exclusion of staff members of the Traditional Authorities. Therefore, should they fall within the definition of “employees” as per the Labour Act, such employees must be covered by the Labour Act.

Fourthly, the question of when employees or workers will get benefits and conditions of employment is somewhat strange as the Labour Act provides

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for basic conditions of employment. It is, therefore, incumbent on all employers to adhere to these basic conditions of employment. The new Labour Act that has become effective as from the 1st of November reinforces all previous conditions of employment and introduces stringent enforcement mechanisms with a view to ensure that full compliance with the Act is adhered to by all stakeholders. I thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister. Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: I would only like to thank the Minister for the answer.

HON SPEAKER: Question 90 is by Honourable Moongo. Does the Honourable Member Put the Question?

QUESTION 90:

HON MOONGO: I Put the Question.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

Question 1: *“Is the Ministry of Works and Transport aware that NaTIS in Ongwediva are disorganised and the customers who requested or put vehicles for roadworthy tests are joining the queues during Sunday. They sleep in the queue until Monday afternoon due to lack of officials and the testing days were reduced to two days per week.”*

Honourable Speaker, I can confirm that we are aware of the situation in

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Ongwediva's NaTIS one-way testing centre and the situation is as follows:

The Ongwediva Town Council, which operates the NaTIS one-stop testing centre on behalf of NaTIS employs four persons as examiners. All four positions are filled, however only two of the examiners have the legally prescribed qualifications, the other two do not. The Patrick Iyambo Police Training College in Windhoek is the only accredited institution in Namibia to train and certify examiners. As we speak, the two unqualified examiners are undergoing an examiner's training course in Windhoek and I am grateful to the Ministry of Safety and Security for availing space to non-police officers at the college.

The training course is scheduled to be completed by the end of November. As from the 1st of December 2008, all four appointed examiners at Ongwediva will be on duty and the staffing problem should be something of the past.

In the interim efforts have been made to source additional qualified examiners from elsewhere. As from the 12th of October 2008 the Roads Authority has appointed two qualified examiners from other duty stations at Ongwediva to ensure that the testing operations run with the required staff complement. With this arrangement the backlog has already been eradicated and services run normally. During the time of backlog the testing operations at Ongwediva's NaTIS one-stop testing centre were carried out three days per week and not two days as alleged by the Honourable Member, while the other two days per week were used for learner and driving testing. With the backlog eradicated, all services are available again on each working day.

Currently the Ongwediva NaTIS one-stop testing centre is rendering testing services to all the northern Regions. In line with a Cabinet decision, Eenhana and Outapi are also to get NaTIS one-stop centres. They are in the Budget for the next Financial Year. Once they are built and commissioned, the pressure on the Ongwediva NaTIS one-stop testing centre will be alleviated.

The second question: *"Is it true that we have thousands of matriculants*

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who can take this job? Will the Minister take drastic appropriate action to remedy the situation?"

As explained already, suitable candidates have already been recruited and those lacking the required qualifications are currently undergoing training. It should be noted by the Honourable House that no unqualified examiner may undertake testing services, as such test is deemed null and void in terms of the law. Any examiner must undergo a prescribed training course and there are, therefore, no quick fixes to a temporary examiner shortage in recruiting temporary staff unless they are already fully qualified, which is normally not the case.

Honourable Speaker, the third question: *"Is it true that the 28 seater Okalindi buses will be minimised to 26? This will jeopardise the profit."*

Honourable Speaker, the Ministry is currently in consultation with the industry and we have to find a balance between road safety, safety of our public and affordability to the public and then also profit in terms of the bus owners. The Ministry will make an announcement on this issue within the next two weeks on what is the outcome in terms of the mini-buses. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON MOONGO: I thank you that the problem has been halfway solved.

HON SPEAKER: Question 91 is by Honourable //Garoëb. Does the Honourable Member Put the Question?

QUESTION 91:

HON //GAROËB: I Put the Question.

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS HON //GAROEËB
HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Comrade Speaker, I rise to respond to the question put by Honourable //Garoeëb. My first response is yes, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism was informed by the Honourable Councillor //Garoeëb on this programme of cheetahs and predators in the middle Kunene where they are disturbing the community. Subsequently the team of officials of the Ministry were sent to the Region and they investigated. They found that it is true, possibly because of the successful communal conservancies and good rains that we have received in the past years in the area that the number of these animals has increased.

We also have to know, Comrade Speaker, that conservancies have a quota for trophy hunting and some of these animals can also be declared as problem animals and when they are declared as problem animals, they can be hunted for trophies and what will be generated from the trophy hunting will then be distributed to the community in accordance with the conservancy benefits distribution plan and special attention is to be given to the people who suffered losses from these animals.

Comrade Speaker, we in the Government, as part of the community, are very much concerned about the human-wildlife conflict and the damage caused by wildlife and that is why we are working on a human-wildlife conflict policy. We are making very good progress. However, now and then we are put back by some members of the community who petition the Ministry, saying that they are not consulted and when you immediately investigate such allegation, you note that consultation has taken place in that particular community but there might be some individuals who are just now gaining interest in conservancies who keep drawing us back, but in any case, we are moving forward in order to finalise the policy.

On the last question, of course all of us are concerned about conservation, with specific reference to the cheetah, which is declared an endangered specie. Unfortunately we cannot say people can hunt and kill cheetahs because if we do that, there might be those who do so for no reason. However, should they be really life-threatening and one acts in self-defence, that should be reported immediately and a thorough investigation has to be made. Otherwise, the law does not allow hunting and killing

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HON !NARUSEB**

cheetahs for no reason. I thank you for the question and this Honourable House for understanding.

HON SPEAKER: Question 93 is by Honourable Viljoen.

QUESTION 93:

HON VILJOEN: I Put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: I would like to respond to the question of Honourable Viljoen by saying the following:

There is no set rule as to which particular newspaper advertisements for the farms so purchased by the Government should be advertised. The only provision that we have is that it must be in the Government Gazette and a newspaper and we are doing that right now. After it has been certified accordingly by the Office of the Attorney-General that it meets all the requirements that we can place it in the Government Gazette, we do so and it runs for thirty calendar days and then we also advertise, as you have correctly stated, in the *New Era* for obvious reasons, because it is a Government-sponsored newspaper and then we also run an advertisement in *Namibia Today*. If you would ask me why *Namibia Today*, I would not have the answer, but that is the state of affairs and I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister. Honourable Viljoen.

HON VILJOEN: I thank the Minister for the answer. I think the Minister must also think of the *Landbou Weekblad*. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Question 97 is by Honourable Viljoen. Does the Honourable Member Put the Question?

QUESTION 97:

HON VILJOEN: I Put the Question.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE,
SPORT AND CULTURE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I would like to thank Honourable Viljoen for the question.

Question 1 was on the total number of members in 2007 for each of the 46 youth organisations, respectively. As I said previously, as of now there is no policy requiring member organisations to submit their total number of membership they have. If an organisation wants to affiliate at national level, then it must be represented in the majority Regions, that means at least 7 of the 13 Regions and in each of those seven Regions they must have 50 individual members. At the Regional level we also have the requirement that an organisation has to be represented in the majority Constituencies. If there are 10 Constituencies, then it must be represented in 6 Constituencies and they also have to submit 25 members in each of those Constituencies.

There was an attempt to collect data and we wanted to do that at national level, because there was a request that we need to come up with proportional representation and that members who happen to have more members must benefit more. However, we could not agree on that and that could also have caused some disunity. What we are doing is to look at the programmes of a member organisation. We also have some smaller organisations that have more effective programmes than bigger organisation and we look at that, because we also want to promote the spirit of unity at this general platform and we want to create that opportunity for all youth organisations, small or big, to at least feel that they are accommodated.

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HON SHIFETA**

The second question is on the amount of money given to each of the national organisations over the past 4 years. For the past four years the amount of N\$740,033 was given to youth organisations. In the Financial Year 2003/2004, N\$272,660 was given to youth organisation; in the 2004/2005 Financial Year N\$57,679 was given to youth organisation; in 2005/2006 Financial Year, N\$52,900 was given to youth organisation; in the Financial Year 2006/2007, N\$170,605 was given to youth organisation and in 2007/2008, N\$186,189 was given. The total amount was N\$740,030.

The youth organisations which benefited are as follows:

Kasojetua Youth Group; Scripture Union; DTA Youth League, NANSO, Church of Africa Youth; Young Women Christian Association; Ongoro Nomundu Group; True Love Waits; Ovambanderu Youth League; SWAPO Party Youth League, Change of Lifestyle; NUDO Youth League, Women Missionary Society; Junior Chamber International; Junior Achievers; Ebenezer Youth; AME Church. These are the organisations which benefited and I must state here that there are requirements for an organisation to continue receiving money, because once an organisation gets its first disbursement, that organisation must account for the money. The reason why some organisations probably might not be getting anything is because they still have outstanding reports. It supposed to be an entitlement every year for each organisation, but if an organisation has defrauded or have outstanding reports or did not pay its dues, then that organisation first has to fulfil those requirements.

Therefore, all the youth organisations are definitely treated equally, big and small and I once again thank the Honourable Member for the questions. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Deputy Minister. Question 99 is by Honourable Viljoen. Does the Honourable Member Put the Question?

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS HON VILJOEN
HON KATALI**

QUESTION 99:

HON VILJOEN: I Put the Question.

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

Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Comrade Speaker, I rise to respond to the question posed by Honourable Viljoen with regard to the spraying and burning of reeds in Mariental.

It is true that Mr X was awarded the tender to spray the reeds, but this tender only required Mr X to spray the reeds once and not twice as alleged by Honourable Viljoen.

The Namibian Defence Force and the Hardap Farmers Union were expected to burn the reeds. There was, therefore, no tender prepared and awarded to burn the reeds to Mr Y. It did happen that the two Institutions, that is the Namibian Defence Force and Hardap Farmers Union, were not able to burn the reeds then. However, as of now another tender to spray the reeds was prepared and is currently under consideration. Only Mr X applied for this tender though and the process of awarding that is in progress. If awarded, this tender will require that Mr X sprays the reeds in December this year and again in April next year.

After consultations with the Hardap Farmers Union, they indicated their willingness this time to burn the reeds after spraying.

In conclusion, Comrade Speaker, the community of Mariental, in particular, and Hardap Region in general are represented on the Mariental Flood Task Force and they are in a position to know what is happening in their town and Region. I thank you.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I wish to thank the former Headmaster of Ones.

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**ORAL QUESTIONS HON IIPINGE
HON KATALI**

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Iipinge, you may now put your oral question.

ORAL QUESTION

HON IIPINGE: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Yesterday some Honourable Members in this august House made reference to “*manna from heaven*”, meaning rain and water. Last year we had more water than we needed, but if you go to those areas now which were flooded, there is no more water and the people and animals are suffering because of lack of water.

My question to the Honourable Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry is whether the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry has plans and strategies to harvest water now that the rainy season is starting and the climate change is more visible. I would like to know whether there are plans to harvest water. Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Comrade Speaker, I must thank the Honourable Member for asking that pertinent question on the scarcity of water and the floods. Yes, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry has plans and the first plan that is now underway is to have gauges in place to gauge the floods, in order to give warnings to the residents in those affected areas.

They are also investigating the possibility to divert the flow of water either to construct earth dams in order to catch some of the water or to delay the floods. The water harvested in the dams will be used for gardening and animals.

The Ministry also plans to construct earth dams for the same purposes and this year six dams will be constructed, three in Oshikoto, three in Oshana

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HON DIENDA**

and three in Omusati. The programmes of harvesting water and the construction of earth dams are continuing, simply because the Ministry has realised that the drinking of purified water by livestock is very expensive and therefore, if this happens the livestock could drink from the earth dams and the expensive purified water will only be for human consumption. We are doing this in recognition of the fact that water is becoming expensive, as mentioned by Honourable Venaani the other day, unaffordable and this is another way of helping the community to have clean drinking water as well as enough water for animals and also to mitigate the floods that are always devastating the community when there is too much rain. I thank you, Comrade Speaker, I hope I have addressed the issue.

HON IIPINGE: I thank the Minister for his response.

HON SPEAKER: The first Notice of Motion is the one of Honourable Dienda. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion? Who seconds? Objections? The Honourable Member has the Floor.

**MOTION ON GOVERNMENT INSTITUTION PENSION FUND
(GIPF) POLITICAL OFFICE BEARERS PENSION FUND (POBPF)**

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, Civil Servants are suffering, politicians are suffering, we are all suffering, but what really surprises me is the fact that lawmakers are quiet about our own oppression. We as lawmakers are not caring for ourselves, neither for those who elected us into positions.

Life outside this Parliament is not easy and the sooner we realise it, the better for us. Inflation is going up, salaries are becoming worth nothing. People are dying before they reach the age of sixty years. Children are

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spending their inheritance faster than expected. People who reach the age of 60 years and who cannot benefit from the pension money might end up having nothing for the value of their contributions.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, nurses, teachers, cleaners, all the Civil Servants are resigning from their jobs so that they can receive their pension moneys to make ends meet. Many people are forced to do it due to financial problems that they are facing. There are people who are getting a zero balance salary payslip at the end of every month due to other obligations that they have committed themselves to. Deductions by institutions, like the Michelle McLean Trust and Welwitchia which has legal agreements with the Government regarding loans for Civil Servants, are part of the heavy burden on us.

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

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, people are desperate when it comes to financial issues to make ends meet and will take every opportunity which comes their way. Children cannot attend tertiary institutions because their families cannot afford it, but the same parents have been working for Government for more than ten years. People are losing their houses because they cannot afford payments or they have fallen into arrears with their water and electricity bills.

We as Namibians are in a financial mess and do not know how to change our *status quo*. When nurses are resigning from their jobs while there is already a shortage of nurses in the country and teachers are also resigning, is it not a sign that we as lawmakers have to take action to show that we are indeed a caring Nation? When cleaners resign, the chances for such persons to get their jobs back are already a risk with our high unemployment rate.

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RT HON N ANGULA**

The GIPF is giving loans to business people who might not even have contributed towards this Fund, but yet we fail to give loans to the real investors and if those people go bankrupt, our pension fund or taxes bail them out again. Pension money belongs to its owners. If the owners would like to use it, let them use it and if not, why not? Instead of supporting our institutions, like the GIPF, we are strengthening other institutions.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the past has proven to us that some politicians resign during the month of December to be re-elected into Parliament so that they can get hold of their pension money, knowing that they will build another pension when sworn in with the newly elected Members. Is this not a cry that all of us, Civil Servants, political office-bearers, name them, are all carrying financial burdens? One cannot even use your pension as collateral to get a loan. The only loans available on pension money is the one for building or expanding houses, which is not enough. The needs are far beyond housing.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, my appeal to you is to look into this matter and to come up with suggestions on how we can deal with this matter, which will not only benefit us, but the whole civil service. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Any further discussion?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I want to make a short contribution to the very important Motion by Honourable Dienda of the “*CoD number one*”. CoD number two is not around.

A pension is an investment for old age. That is what a pension is, it is an investment for old age and you must make a difference between investment and a saving. A pension is not a saving undertaking, it is an

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investment for old age. Old age in Namibia is defined as sixty years and above and I am going to speak for old-aged people. We can legitimately speak about benefiting from our pension money because we have reached the pension age, sixty and above.

An injustice is being done that those who have reached the pension-able age are not able to access their pension. That is very, very serious. According to the latest census, life expectancy in Namibia has come down to 45 years. Therefore, if you have reached the age of pension, you should be entitled to a portion of your pension even if you are doing public service. (Intervention)

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: May I ask the Honourable Prime Minister a question since I belong to the same group? Honourable Prime Minister, I agree with you that it is supposed to be saving for old age. If you have come, like I have come from the Civil Service and you have that small little pension here, but of course we cannot access our pension because we are working, are you aware that that pension which you must put aside so that you have something when you are not working anymore is being taxed at 35% and if you do not know that and two years have passed, they fine you, you pay N\$140,000 and you must make a loan to pay that.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: That is very serious, even more serious than anything else. However, let me for now talk for those people who have reached the age of sixty and above. Those who have reached the pension-able age and are still in Parliament are here doing a public service, they are doing the public good. They are not working for themselves because they are now supposed to enjoy their pension, but for the sake of doing the public good, they are being punished and that is really the problem for Honourable Dienda.

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Those of you who have not reached pension-able age should wait.
(Intervention)

HON P MUSHELENGA: May I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister a question? Right Honourable Prime Minister, do you agree that in politics everyone is potentially a pensioner at any time after elections?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Let me try to answer that question before I proceed. Yes, in politics we are all endangered species. However, politics is a public service, you are here to render a service to the public at your own risk. This is the highest form of voluntarism and we have to accept that as a given, that politics is the highest form of voluntarism and politics is public service. (Intervention)

HON DIENDA: I can also ask something, I am 40 years old. Right Honourable Prime Minister, say for instance you only have a contract for five years, then why can you not get your pension when you go out? You are no longer part of voluntarism, so you must get your money.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: When you are 40 years old you still have 20 years to go. I am speaking for those who have reached the pensionable age. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: May I ask a question? Prime Minister, is it not true that if I retire today and Dienda retires with me and young Venaani retires with me and then there is a nice job at the UN and we all apply, the young people will get the job? Why should you

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want to have a pension with me when you are going to get a better job and you will still be paid? Keep your pension, do not even try to take it out.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: That is exactly the point. When we retire we can only hope to have a small consultancy, an advisory something there just to keep yourself going, but you at the tender age of forty...(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: May I ask the Honourable Prime Minister a question? Right Honourable Prime Minister, you have just told us in this august House that the life expectancy in Namibia is 45 years. Does that mean at the age of 46 and above I am a pensionable person and, therefore, should have access to my pension?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Yes, that is an interesting question in the age of decreasing life expectancy, but that should be addressed by the actuarial people who determine that in Namibia the age of sixty is the pensionable age. For now let us just talk about the age of sixty and I am going to speak on behalf of those of that age and above. (Intervention)

HON P MUSHELENGA: May I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister a question? Are you aware that there were politicians in this House above the age of sixty who left this House and are now employed and are you aware that there are politicians who left this House still below the age of sixty and they are not employed?

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: No, I am not aware of those, unless you give examples.

The plight of those who have reached pensionable age and those who are doing voluntary work for the benefit of the public good must be seriously considered, that at least they should be allowed to access one-third of their pension, especially if they have served more than two terms, because they have accumulated enough pension to sustain them for the rest of the years they are likely to live. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

May I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister a question? Comrade Prime Minister, you are talking of voluntarism, but to my knowledge all the Parliamentarians are being paid a salary. What will the public think in terms of voluntary work that is being done, either on the railways and others, where people are not being paid compared to the Parliamentarians who are volunteering themselves and at the same time being paid a salary?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: The good part of it is that even those who have reached the pensionable age and above do the same thing, digging at the railways and other things and they are not being paid. However, the point is that the 60+ plus as volunteers for the public good need compensation, because what happens is that when those who were working as public servants come here to Parliament and find you have been here for a couple of years, you get the same salary. The time you have spent working, accumulating experience, working for the Government, doing the public good is never recognised, so we are even doubly penalised. Just imagine, we sat there to write the Constitution, we read the Constitution, we founded the Republic, then somebody comes from somewhere, becomes a Minister like myself and we get the same salary. Then I reach the pensionable age and then I am again treated the same as the person who just came in. It is not even the father of the

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Nation or the mother of the Nation, we have the same conditions of service. So, it is a double penalty.

Either the sixty years plus should have access to one-third of their pension or they should receive a special bonus for perseverance.

HON P MUSHELENGA: May I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister a question? Prime Minister, you are doing very well, but those who are volunteering should be recognised. They are supposed to be on pension but they are working. What do we do to those who are potentially employable elsewhere, but they decided to volunteer and leave all the greener pastures to come and do voluntary public service? Do they not need recognition irrespective of their age?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: You see, that is my choice. If I had to tell you my life trajectory, you will understand what I am talking about. As you volunteered to be a freedom fighter, you were not paid for 25 years. Then you volunteer to establish the Republic, nobody recognises your contribution as the mother and the father of the Nation. Then you reach your pensionable age, nobody recognises that you are doing extra time by doing a public service voluntarily without asking anything extra, but your time is up and sometimes we are highly indebted persons, because you could not work for a salary and build up savings and you find yourself in the situation where we find ourselves.

My appeal to Honourable Dienda is to amend the Motion to address the plight of the sixty plus. Then we are talking business. (Intervention)

HON DIENDA: May I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister a question, please? Right Honourable Prime Minister, did you register as a veteran so that you can get something from that Fund?

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I registered as a veteran, but I do not qualify to get the N\$2,000, so that will not help me at all, unless I leave the voluntary public service. When I leave the voluntary public service you will be the first one to say he ran away from the problems. Therefore, we are caught up in this situation. If you leave, they say, “*oh, he only wanted to accumulate pension so that he can go and have a comfortable life, he does not care for the Nation.*” That is what you are going to say if I decide to go. If I stay I am penalised.

Therefore, Honourable Dienda, can you amend your Motion to speak to the plight of the sixty plus, so that we are really talking business? (Intervention)

HON DIENDA: Right Honourable Prime Minister, you are saying that those people who have been longer in the House and who are older than the others must be recognised and that we must not get the same salaries. What about performance appraisals for those who are sleeping in the House and who are also getting the same salaries?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: As far as the 60+ are concerned, when you see that they are very quiet, they are reflecting. This is called *vitae contemplativa*. They are thinking about where they came from, where they are now and where the Nation is going, so they are not dozing off. That is where wisdom comes in and they must also be awarded for that.

Honourable Dienda, I appeal to you to amend your Motion to address the real issue and the real issue is the 60+ who are here doing voluntary work for the public good, to keep stability and peace. Their presence here is very important, give them something so that they feel that they are recognised. That is my appeal. Thank you.

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HON SPEAKER: I thank the Prime Minister. Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Before I make my contribution, let me thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister for a well-presented view, because some of us are coming closer to the sector that he is representing.

Honourable Speaker, looking at the Motion I am a bit worried, because the Motion is talking about policies or loans for housing with the aim to expand it and for loans for any other purposes from those funds. I am worried in the sense that we are talking about a loan for any other purpose. You may need a loan to expand your house, I may need a loan to buy a Mercedes Benz, somebody else may need a loan to go on holiday or he may need a loan to marry a fourth wife.

If that is the case, then I believe that it does not really serve the purpose of a pension fund. The pension fund has a specific objective and that is to take care of you when you have retired or to take care of your kids when you are no longer. I think that is the main objective of the pension fund.

If we as politicians feel that we may need an extra opportunity to have access to loans, then we may need proper advice from the likes of Honourable Tweya and financial experts to tell us the moment we are coming into the House that if we want to have proper investments, there are certain categories of investments. You can go for short-term investment and access your money after five years and if you do not make it back to Parliament, you can have a short-term investment for this and that. Let us look at that option. I feel this is an option that you have not explored.

However looking at the way the pension fund is now and trying to turn it into a source of funds to be accessed on a daily basis depending on your needs, my needs may differ. As I am standing here I would have loved to drive the same Volvo that the Prime Minister is driving, but I do not have money, but with my pension fund I may be able to buy that. There is a

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danger that we need to be conscious of. There is a serious danger that if we look at it from a broader perspective, saying that this is a good idea because I want to pay off my house, it will not end at the house and if you have to change that law, we really need to be very careful.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. Honourable Tjihuiko, I just want to inform you that there is something new happening with the pensions. I know of three or four occasions where these nurses who have taken out pensions had relatives collecting around these people and they have borrowed the money and the relatives who borrowed the money have disappeared, they do not answer the cell phones. Therefore, these poor nurses who left the job are broke because their relatives have borrowed the money and what is left for this person who will be sixty within two years? We must advise our people, the nurses and teachers who are retiring, not to dish out the money because that is the end of the story. It is happening, relatives are taking these people for granted and it is very dangerous to take out your money if you cannot take care of it. That was just information.

HON TJIHUIKO: I agree fully with you, because all of us want to go to Heaven, but nobody wants to die. We have a tendency to avoid talking about the day that you are no longer there and you find yourself in a situation where somebody has been working but he does not have a will, because to sit down and to think that maybe I am going to die is taboo. That creates a situation that even your kids are not going to benefit from what you have been working for. It is open for everybody and brothers and sisters are coming and saying that according to tradition and culture this is the way they do it. They take the money and the kids are left behind. We have to accept that there will be a day when you will not be around and that is the day which you have to prepare for with your pension. Hopefully you will have enough to take care of your kids.

Honourable Speaker, I was thinking about this tax that we are paying on pension. I think that is one of the issues that we need to look at. I do not know whether it is a double taxation, but do we not think that that section

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of the community need to be exempted from tax? Those are some of the issues that we need to look at and then we will be putting our people in a better position whereby they are not going to come to Government and say, “*I have been working for Government, I am broke because of this and that.*” These are some of the things I would like us to have a look at when the time comes to look deeper into this issue.

With those comments I support the Motion and perhaps we need to make some Amendments to it.

HON SPEAKER: A very wise suggestion by Honourable Tjihuiko on behalf of the over sixties. Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I rise to contribute to this Motion tabled by Honourable Elma Dienda and I see logic and reason for her Motion, but I think the crux of the matter lies with how to implement what she is proposing because it would border on some serious economic lines and how the funds are operating.

Honourable Speaker, it is true that this is money that is put in a pool, that accumulates and currently we have seen some business people/schemers who used this money for projects and the companies disappeared. There is a need for a country such as Namibia, knowing our economic situation, to use this money for projects that would really enhance development of our people, whether it is electricity, whether whatever we need, because I believe that it is more important to spend my money into making sure that the country has a greater capacity of electricity, rather than giving to a person who is just a business schemer and goes around with the money and does not pay back. I think that logic exists.

The inherent inherent danger in saying people should access our pension is that we know what is happening in our communities, especially when it comes to teachers. In my language there is this thing of, “*Mbakambura*

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Okapaki”, “*I have taken my package.*” Young, able people who can still work access this money. Today I was talking to a former principle who took his money. You can ask the farmers, they know this thing, when you are on your calculator, it tells you stories that, “*I can be able to make money tomorrow*”, but the implementation of that process becomes ten times more difficult than just punching the numbers in.

Sometimes you say you will start producing cheese, I will buy forty goats from Cape Town and I will start producing cheese and then you realise the price of the goats, the price of the cheese and all the other nitty-gritty that you have not worked out, but yet you accessed money and the project fails. At the time that you become really pensionable, it becomes totally difficult for you to make ends meet because you are already bankrupt.

However, I want to raise an issue and perhaps we need another Debate for it and it is the issue of political office-bearers. I agree with some of the thoughts raised by the Prime Minister, but I totally disagree with some of his thoughts. The Bible says, respect your elders, respect your own parents and what I am going to say should not be seen as being disrespectful. It is a reality and we have not really addressed it, that a person of his political record would earn literally the same salary as me as a Member of Parliament and I earn less than a Deputy Director in the civil service. There is logic in saying that a person with his track record and experience cannot come and earn the same salary as a new Member of Parliament that had joined Parliament yesterday. There is logic that there must be categories of experience.

I must however also hasten to state that it is also not true that all elderly Members of Parliament have contributed the same as what the Right Honourable Prime Minister alluded to. We have those who are sixty, he wears a nice suit and made some noises around the trees and he got elected. Politicians are elected because they make good noises and people like them. This person comes after 60 years of running around, doing the wrong things, he is now a Member of Parliament, claiming that because I am 60 I must be entitled to the pensionable age, whereas all his life he has been doing all the other things. We should be able to justify this because there are younger Memnbers in this House who have better records.

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(Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Yes, like Honourable Venaani!

HON VENAANI: No, I am not talking about myself, I am talking about you. We should not try to link this issue to age, but we should look at the amount... (Intervention)

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: May I ask Honourable Venaani a question? The argument that the Honourable Member is making makes a lot of sense, but surely when extended to what people have done, should there not also be some sort of recognition of what you are doing now? You can be here, you can be over sixty and as the Right Prime Minister said, you may be contemplating, but some people contemplate with loud snores. (Laughter). There are young people who do not do the research and work needed to participate, and there are old ones that do not use their experience to participate. If we go down that road, we are going to have so many imponderables that need to be taken care of, that maybe we should call a national conference to discuss those things.

HON VENAANI: You were reading my mind. That is what I am coming to. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask a question? Honourable Venaani, you are saying that we should divorce age from pension, but in fact, in actuarial calculations the whole pension is based on the probable life expectancy and they are saying from sixty you are going down the

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hill. That is where the sixty comes in because that is the basis on which pensionable age is based.

HON VENAANI: Yes, I agree with you that there are some economic tenets attached to pension, but Right Honourable Prime Minister, coming to the political office-bearers, the kind of job that people are doing, suppose your Party supported apartheid or you supported apartheid all along and now it is an independent country. Now after Independence you are getting a chance to come to Parliament and you are seventy...(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: On a Point of Information. It is a very interesting Debate. This issue of 60 has been determined at a particular time in life, but we all now know that the life expectancy in Namibia is about 45. Is it then not time that the sixty has to be lowered, because then 60 is no longer valid? If life expectancy has gone down, it is a different ballgame altogether.

HON VENAANI: I will come to that question, but the issue that I am trying to drive home is the issue of the particular service that politicians are delivering to society and it is probably very difficult for us to speak for ourselves, but there must be merit in realising that our conditions of service cannot fall under the normal rules of Civil Servants because the conditions are really different. This is not only a Namibian Debate, this is a Debate in Parliaments all over the world. South Africa is busy changing the political office-bearers' pension because of conditions of service.

A person like the Right Honourable Prime Minister, who has been unemployed for thirty year, making *aluta continua*, is now earning the same salary as any other person. His conditions should be looked at differently from a person who worked for the civil service for 55 years

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and earns his pension.

Even if you look at the presidential term, the President falls under a different pension service. He is told by the Constitution to do two terms and go home. Like in the case of our former President who for sixty years was not employed, earning no salary and now he must fall under this system. The whole thing should be reviewed. There is a need for us to review the political office-bearers' conditions. That is important.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Tjihiuko raised a very important issue and that is the question of taxes. Honourable Tweya and his Colleague would argue that, "*give to Caesar what is due to Caesar*", but if the understanding of a pension is to save for a later date and for 35 years you were earning a salary, being taxed on it and when you are no longer active and you must receive a pension, then Honourable Tweya and his Colleagues come and take half of it. (Interjection)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: It is not half, please!

HON VENAANI: 35% in my culture is half. It is 35% plus 15% VAT, therefore it is 50%. You are taking 50% away from me. You need to reflect on that because we have a lot of people who have joined the civil service because of the political conditions of this country and now they have to go home and retire. As they are retiring, they are going with less than they are supposed to do. I do not know why our economy cannot be able to survive without taxing these people, because I am sure even the pension that you are getting is money that you are spending. You either buy a farm or you buy a tractor, you are going to pay tax on it again. It is money spent in the economy. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask a question? Do you think it

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is fair to impose the maximum, based upon the previous salary the person was receiving, if the salary has already been taxed? Do you think it is really fair to do that?

HON VENAANI: I would argue differently, but I see no logic in it, because I believe that if I give you 2 million today within the confinement of Namibia and I did not tax you, you are going to spend that 2 million in this country. You are buying a car, your VAT is going to be deducted, tax would be paid. Therefore, the money would be in circulation. Why punish the person who is no longer active?

If you look at especially elder Members of Parliament who have left this House, senior citizens, they are really worse off. Somebody was here for 10, 15 years and 50% of his money is no longer his. That is why some of our former Colleagues are not doing well, because of these conditions. Also when it comes to the ordinary citizens, we are really short-changing them and we really need to do something about it and I support the view of Honourable Tjiuiko... (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask a question? Are you aware that the Members of Parliament who were Members of the Constituent Assembly are now about to come and camp near Parliament? (Laughter).

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I am not aware, but I am aware that the current serving Members of Parliament are about to camp and I am not ashamed to say what I want to say about this issue that you raised. Of course, society see politicians in a different light. Some of them think that we are political liars, some citizens think we are doing a good job, thus society has a perception about us, but there must also be an understanding of what a politician does. If you hire me to become the CEO of a parastatal tomorrow – TransNamib that is in a mess now – after five years I am going to get a golden handshake of N\$3 million. Then I

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can jump and become the Managing Director of another Company, after four years a golden handshake of N\$2,5 million, contractual terms. But when it comes to political office-bearers, our conditions must be seen as specific conditions because a Member of Parliament has to be at every funeral in the village because how can you represent people if you are not there when they are mourning? You must be everywhere. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: May I ask the Honourable Member a small question? The Honourable Member was doing well, but can you please refrain from watering down your facts by addressing CEOs? Address the Motion here, because when you are referring to an ailing parastatal and then N\$2,5 million and you justify that that is fine, can you address the point here so that you do not lose us?

HON VENAANI: It is the logic behind it, it is not about the parastatals, it is about what is happening currently in society. (Interjection)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: That is not pension, let us talk about GIPF.

HON VENAANI: It is money that they are getting. What is a golden handshake? You were earning a salary, you got a bonus every year and yet you are getting a golden handshake. Let us come to the pension, but I think there is logic in it.

When you are Member of Parliament and President Pohamba this year decides he is going to address the people in Caprivi on Independence Day, then you must fill up your car and go there because you are a national leader. No question of financing, you have to finance it from your salary.

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The other day I told you how all of us here are receiving SMS messages at the end of the month, “*can I get N\$500, N\$200?*” These are realities. If you go to Kenya, they have a Constituency Fund where you have a pool of resources to finance your responsibilities. Now the responsibilities of a Member of Parliament are not funded. (Intervention)

HON NAMBAHU: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Venaani, having said what you have said and taking into account the background of the discussion, would you agree with me that the salary of a Member of Parliament is not commensurate with anything that he has to do? No one has really thought of what it is that a Parliamentarian does. Do you not think that it is just an amount taken from somewhere? Some of us are very much worried about that, because when you recruit a person in a company, you look at the job description, but the work here, is it really commensurate with what we are doing or was it just taken from somewhere?

HON VENAANI: It is not commensurate with the job you are doing. You can look at the job of a Minister and what he gets, and I do not want to argue and say the Ministers are better off than us, besides the President and the Prime Minister most probably.

Here we really need to address the job description of a politician, a Member of Parliament and a Minister and what is expected from him. The problem is the dozing. When half of the House are dozing or people are sleeping or silently reflecting, the society sees Members of Parliament as not being serious. (Interjection). I am talking about the Members of Parliament and I do not exclude myself from it. It is not a good reflection when you read in the paper that the House did not have a quorum. (Intervention)

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Order. Members of Parliament do not doze, they only go into reflection, *vitae contemplativae*. Tell the public that is what they are doing.

HON VENAANI: I would suggest that the Speaker builds a separate room for meditation, where Members of this House can go and meditate. When we are here we should be on the ball. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Venaani, may I ask a question, please? Honourable Venaani, I think you are doing well, you are talking about the problem of the benefits of political office-bearers. Do you not think that the reason why we keep on complaining – and we have been complaining for some time now and nothing happens – is simply because of the fact that political office-bearers do not have representatives, they cannot represent their interests themselves. The question is, do you not think it is better for the political office-bearers to have their own trade union to represent their interests?

HON VENAANI: I think the best Trade Union and representative of the Members of Parliament is the Speaker. The Speaker, being the head of the House, has a responsibility, together with the Committee on Privileges, to zero in on some of these problems. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I just want to get clarity. Honourable Venaani, may I ask you a short question? You said the secretary-general of the Members of Parliament's union is the Speaker. Are you saying that the Speaker is not going to be represented as well?

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HON VENAANI: In fact, Right Honourable Prime Minister, the Speaker has been doing more. It is the Leader of the Government Business who is responsible for budgeting who has been undermining some of the issues that we have been raising and it did not start with the current Speaker, the former Speaker of this House, the late Tjitendero, really did a lot of work in trying to raise the issue of Parliamentarians. I am very glad that this issue is no longer a Namibian issue, it is an international issue. Now that we are the President of the IPU, all Parliamentarians in the world are complaining - Brazil, Kenya, Uganda and South Africa – and there is a report by Judge Moseneke and people are trying to have this because it is election, but they are realities. Therefore, it is no longer a Namibian issue, it is a global issue. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: May I ask a small question? Honourable Venaani, now that we are realising that our salaries as Members of Parliament are not commensurate with the work we are doing and the responsibilities we have, do you not think it would be good that before the next elections the salary of a Member of Parliament should be known to the public, so that anybody who wants to be a candidate should know the salary is going to be that big, so that they do not come here and start complaining?

HON VENAANI: I think the salary of a Member of Parliament is public knowledge. When you go into mining, you did not know that this rock would be this hard and now you need compressors to excavate the rock. We have realised the difficulty of the task ahead.

I have a fundamental problem to make this Motion a carte blanche, saying that people should be able to access their pension for all their needs. For example, if you are a very productive father and you have ten children and you want to send them to school, then I think GIPF should have collateral

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for studying purposes, because it is going to promote our economy indirectly. The Motion should look at certain specifics. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: I just want to give information on this collateral you are talking about. You hear that there is collateral with certain banks for us to buy farms, but this collateral is not money you are given to pay for the farm, they just say that this person has a pension and when this person retires he would pay, but in the meantime you have to fork out your own money to pay. The same thing will happen with the collateral for your kids, you will be required to pay from your pocket. This collateral story is not correct.

HON VENAANI: Collateral means that somebody guarantees the funds. For example, when you have ten children and you want to send them to University, you want your children to be educated and you are giving them an even better inheritance than the pension that they are going to inherit. I believe that we should look at some of those special categories. We should be very honest with ourselves, if you tell a person like me that I am able to access my pension today, tomorrow I will drive the same kind of car that Peya Mushelenga has. That is not the purpose of this money, we should look at areas where our people really need an injection to change things.

I know a lot of university students, people that are able to go to universities and polytechnic who are staying at home, who have to go to work instead of going to school because there is no money to study. How much money was lost by GIPF? N\$1 billion. If you injected one-third of that money into education, how many engineers could we have produced in this country? As a legislator I have a problem with the carte blanche given in the Motion. You could even pay your gambling debts with your pension and that would not be the right thing to do.

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The logic behind the Motion is sound, we only need to refine it so that we zero in on those issues on which our society really needs assistance. Honourable Speaker, with these few remarks, I rest my case.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kavari.

HON KAVARI: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Since I am not in the group of close to 60, I would concentrate mostly on the group that is below 60.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, financial problems are not unique to Namibia, they are the cause of many problems. To name a few, they are the cause for suicide. Most people who commit suicide do so because they see no way they can pay their debts. They are the causes of insolvency. I was reading the Standing Rules and Orders and in order for you to become a Parliamentarian you have to be solvent. It is a major cause for divorce because they say that when hunger comes through the door, then love leaves through the window. Financial problems are the cause of crime, people are stealing from banks. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question. Honourable Kavari, you are doing very well. This hunger coming into the house and love leaving through the window, how would you be able to assess that when hunger goes, love would go? What mechanism should you use as a barometer to know if hunger comes, this whole thing would collapse?

HON KAVARI: Thank you for your question because that is part of

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my contribution. People are stealing from banks, people are stealing from their employers, they are stealing everywhere not because they want to end up in jail, not because they are criminals, but because of financial problems. Education, as already mention, is a problem. People cannot go to universities because of financial problems.

We should be looking for some solutions and having access to your pension is treating the symptom but not really touching the issue. As Honourable Venaani has said, that is why we have teachers who have already taken their pensions and today they want to return to their teaching positions.

We have nurses who took their pensions and returned to the profession. The problem is that we only think of the pleasure in the short-term, buying cars, buying luxury things which have no real long-term value. We do not have experiences of people who have taken their pension before they are 60 and who have lived up to the age of eighty and how they managed. (Intervention)

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

Honourable Kavari, can the members of society be punished for the wrongs of others, meaning that, should the members of society who can manage their pension and invest it be punished because there are others who will be irresponsible and squander their money?

HON KAVARI: Making money available is the problem. Whenever money becomes available, people are tempted to start using that money now. Right now I will not have any financial plan or goal with N\$20,000, but the moment you give me N\$20,000, I will have something to spend it on, because as long as money is available there will always be needs. I do not think as lawmakers we should put our people into the temptation of

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accessing their pensions and then the Government should again pay pensions and politicians saying the pension is not enough. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Member a question, please? Honourable Kavari, are you aware that sometimes when we make mistakes we do not want to accept it and blame it on somebody else? For instance, the lifespan of a Member of Parliament is five years. Somebody would be sitting in the House for two years and you have three years to go and you buy a car and you know that there is no guarantee that you will be back in three years. Do you not agree with me that this is the planning by ourselves that puts us in the position that we try to access the funds that are supposed to be looking after us tomorrow? If you open it up, what will happen if we cannot plan for 5 years?

HON SPEAKER: I know there are rhetorical questions, like this last one, where the person knows the answer to the question in advance, but basically seeks verification. It is one area that we as Members of Parliament need to look at, to allow contributions rather than disruptions with questions. Questions should seek an answer. Of course, we are in Parliament, so there are clever ways to do that. Continue, Honourable Member.

HON KAVARI: Thank you, Honourable Tjihuiko, for warning me that I should not buy a new car. That is the life of a politician, you know that you are not assured of coming back to Parliament.

Financial problems are not unique to Namibia and some of us have been in this business of coaching people with financial problems. We tell them that you never pay debts with debts. Going to a pension fund is actually borrowing from the pension fund, because this is money that you are

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supposed to use after the age of 60 and at age 35 you are borrowing from the money that you are supposed to use after 60 and that is not an advisable thing to do. (Interjection)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Tell those below sixty.

HON KAVARI: Yes, I am telling those below 60, Honourable Prime Minister. I said I am only talking to those below 60, you can have your deep sleep while I am talking.

Therefore, we have designed courses which are available to Namibians. We are already having discussions with some Ministries because we know that this is really a depressing problem to Namibians and one of the courses is on how to make it to the end of the month. We are busy discussing with some Ministries so that these courses.... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: On a Point of Order, Comrade Speaker. May I ask the Honourable Member a small question? Are you aware that the money borrowed from GIPF are paid back in monthly instalments with interest to the bank. It is not just money they borrow and wait until they are 60. Are you aware of that?

HON KAVARI: Yes, I am very much aware, Honourable Minister and that is why we say, if you cannot manage now, how are you going to manage? Try to find ways to manage now, do not incur debt in order to pay another debt. The time you incurred the first debt, you thought that you are going to manage and now you incur a second debt and you think you are going to manage. Then you will take a third one until you commit

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suicide because you have already exhausted your GIPF.

HON VENAANI: On a Point of Information. Honourable Kavari, you are advancing a very dangerous theory, arguing that there is no way that you can pay a debt with a debt. There is reason and soundness in that argument, but of course, you need capital injection or even debt consolidation and banks have a scheme of refinancing your loans. The reason why you have refinancing is, for example, that you are a farmer and you are producing tomatoes but you have a problem with your pipes and you need new pipes and you have already borrowed to buy the first pipes. Do you not think that is also a wise way of borrowing in order to advance your position?

HON KAVARI: Thank you, Honourable Venaani. Yes, that is a very wise idea because it is not paying a debt with a debt. You are financing in order for you to produce. The loan must be able to pay itself, you must take it in order to produce the tomatoes. That is the difference.

I would support the Motion if it is saying that the loans must be taken in order for a person to make money in order for the loan to pay itself, but not to again pay from your salary or your own earnings. That is what we are teaching in how to make it to the end of the month and that is a serious problem in our country. The last day of the month the banks are so full, you cannot even access the bank. By the 2nd or 3rd people no longer have money. People do not make it to the end of the month. This course has been designed...(Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: am sorry to disrupt Honourable Kavari, she is making a very good point. Honourable Kavari, when are you going to publish your survey on the overdrafts of politicians?

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HON KAVARI: I am not aware of that survey. This course is very cheap...(Intervention)

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Order. Is it allowed in this House for the Prime Minister to suppress the salaries of Members of Parliament and then to joke about it. Is it allowed in this House? It is true that people have overdrafts, but he is the one who caused it.

HON SPEAKER: I do not think the Prime Minister can do that in this House, I think he is doing it somewhere else.

HON KAVARI: Without shedding a dark shadow on the banks, I always say the bank is not your closest friend. When a product is offered by the bank you must be very cautious, they are there to make money.

“How to make it to the end of the month” is a wonderful product and I do not want get a warning from the Speaker for marketing it. The other programme that we also run is *“How to manage your money God’s way.”* There are difficult principles that compiled in order for people to change their mindsets, managing the way the Creator wanted us to do it. I am just inviting the Honourable Members to training. (Interjection). This is very serious, because having money is not about how much you are getting. I said I am not going to talk about the price because it becomes marketing. Contact me if you need coaching on handling finances, then we can talk.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, I cannot leave this question, I have to ask it. Honourable Kavari, you were the Treasurer General of CoD, but yet the CoD is in a financial mess. Why did you not give us this training? (Laughter).

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HON NAMOLOH**

HON KAVARI: When I was in SWANU, we had this word *Oura uo Tjira* and this is *Oura uo Tjira* and I am not going to answer it in Parliament. The Honourable Member can ask me outside the House.

With these few words, Honourable Speaker, I rest my case.

HON SPEAKER: Minister of Defence.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would also like to make a small contribution on this Motion and I think I want to draw our attention to this Motion. I think this Motion tells us about the level of poverty in this country, because it was raised because people have no money and they want to access their money. It is not only talking about poverty in the country, it is even talking about poverty in Parliament and the main purpose of this Motion is to access money and the Honourable Prime Minister should get the message that the Parliamentarians are crying.

Of course, it is also very dangerous to mortgage one's future and I will speak on behalf of those who are not yet 60, but I am also a pensioner from the Civil Service. I get my pension which is taxed at 35%. I feel that if we encourage loans from GIPF, we will perpetually remain poor and leave our children poor. We are poor today because our parents had no pension and they could not leave us any money to buy this and that or attend to this or that. We are hungry every time and that is why this generation of ours would like to take part of our money and this should not be encouraged.

I will go along with those who are saying that should we be allowed to access that money, it should be for investment purposes, either for education of our children or housing, but for any other purpose it would be very dangerous. It is like mortgaging all the minerals of our country in

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our lifetime, so that those who are coming, the future generations, will not have an income from the resources of our country. We as lawmakers should not encourage people to access the GIPF, we should be very careful.

The other point may not fall under this Motion and that is the remuneration of Parliamentarians, the Conditions of Service of political office bearers and so forth. I feel that there should be a separate Motion on this subject and I do not know whether it is permissible for us to pass a resolution in this Parliament for the political office-bearers to access their money. I think we must be very careful.

I can give an example: My father worked in Tsumeb Corporation for more than forty years and when he died he left a pension, not big, given the conditions of being discriminated for a long time, but what he left for my mother, sustained my mother and you could see a vast difference between my mother and other mothers. When my mother died, she passed this money to her grandchild and this grandchild does not have work but she is making a living.

We should think about the future when we are not there, what about our children or our grandchildren, how will they benefit and I think it will reduce the poverty of the former disadvantaged people, but if we want to access the funds now, we will remain poor forever. Amen. I rest my case.

HON SPEAKER: The House adjourns until Tuesday.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2008.11.11 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
11 NOVEMBER 2008
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, Mother Africa, icon of the freedom struggle, unifying voice of excellence and source of inspiration for many across the world is dead. Meriam Makeba has walked long and wide for over 50 years to know the world and demand liberation from colonial and racist bondage and to restore human dignity, equality and justice for all African people everywhere. I knew Meriam Makeba well enough to say, therefore, to her, *Aluta Continua*. In fact, you did all that and more for Africa's youth and children and because redemption, which sacrifice demands, as to live up to what is your guide and abode. Meriam Makeba was authentic an African who never compromised integrity and patriotism and thus we shall forever remember her. We bid you farewell, dear Comrade, and eternity awaits you on your journey to see the face of your Maker. *Hamba Kahle*.

HON SPEAKER: May I extend congratulations to Honourable Ben Ulenga for his re-election as CoD's President and also do the same for his fellow CoD Members of Parliament, Honourable Tsudao Gurirab and Honourable Elma Dienda, Secretary General and Treasurer, respectively. With that I sincerely hope that the Speaker's Office will now be spared of the internal financial fracas within CoD that has for a while now bedevilled interaction between the two. I trust that this is clear. Congratulations.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MOONGO**

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

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 101:

HON MOONGO: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 20 November 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Speaker the following:

Would the Honourable Speaker agree or deny that the Assistant Librarian and Chief Librarian at the National Assembly were underpaid? If not, what is the good reason for them to resign? I understand that there is no private secretary at that division. Can the Honourable Speaker explain? When is the Honourable Speaker going to adjust the salaries and benefits of the committed workers?

HON SPEAKER: Any further Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? The Notice of Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Environment and Tourism. Does the Honourable Member Move that the Bill be now introduced?

**INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING: CONTROLLED
WILDLIFE PRODUCTS AND TRADE BILL**

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: I so Move.

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HON NANDI-NDAITWAH

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

SECRETARY: Controlled Wildlife Products and Trade Bill.

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Environment and Tourism Move that the Bill be now read a Second Time? Any objections? Agreed to. The Minister has the Floor.

**SECOND READING: CONTROLLED WILDLIFE
PRODUCTS AND TRADE BILL**

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I present to this Honourable House the Controlled Wildlife Products Bill for consideration and adoption.

Honourable Members, the purpose of this Bill is to enable and facilitate the recommendation of the UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES) and to control trade dealing and possession of controlled wildlife products, such as tusks of rhino and elephant, among others.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species resulted from expressions of concern by the 1972 United Nations Conference on Human Environment in Stockholm, Sweden concerning the rate at which the world's fauna and flora were being threatened by unregulated international trade. The Convention was signed on the 3rd of March 1973 at a meeting of eight countries in Washington DC, United States of America. On the 15th of July 1975 CITES entered into force after being

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ratified by 10 countries. The purpose of CITES is to regulate trade in specimen of wild animals and plants or part and derivatives thereof based on permitting system.

Currently 173 countries are parties. Those countries act by banning commercial international trade on their grade list of endangered species and by regulating trade in others that may become endangered.

CITES is widely recognised as one of the most important legal international conservation instruments. Parties to CITES meet after every two or three years in what is known as the Conference of Parties to review the recommendations of the Convention. Similarly, the Namibian Constitution also calls for sustainable utilisation of our natural resources for the present and future generation and some of those species are the ones which are listed in the context of CITES.

The Namibian Parliament ratified CITES on the 8th of December 1990 and the Convention entered into force in Namibia on the 8th of March 1991. The legislation, which is the Nature Conservation Ordinance No. 4 of 1975, that we are currently using in implementing, the CITES, was enacted before Namibia became part to CITES.

In 1994 the CITES Secretariat classified the legislation of each party according to the extent at which its national legislation provides for the implementation of the Convention. Namibia's legislation, the Nature Conservation Ordinance, as amended, was classified as not meeting all the requirements of the implementation of CITES. The current legislation has made it difficult for the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the Protected Resource Unit of the Namibian Police to successfully control trade in ivory in accordance with CITES requirements. It is against this background that we need to harmonise our national legislation with the Convention.

Also under CITES no country is allowed to export ivory manufactured items for resale purpose. In 2004, Namibia got approval to export *Omakipa* jewellery for personal use. This has not been implemented because we do not have adequate legislative measures in place to control

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HON NANDI-NDAITWAH

this kind of trade.

In 1997 at the tenth meeting of the conference of parties held in Harare, CITES passed a resolution which is known as Resolution 10, concerning the trade in elephant specimen. This resolution recommends that parties with ivory trading industries in their jurisdiction that are not yet structured, organised or controlled should adopt comprehensive internal legislation, regulation and reinforcement measures.

Therefore, Comrade Speaker, the overall objective of this Bill is to enable and facilitate the full implementation of CITES, including the control of trade, dealing and possession of controlled wildlife products, the elements that are not provided for under the current legislation. The enactment of this Bill will enable Namibia to fully implement the CITES requirements by providing national legislative regulation and enforcement measures to ensure compliance with CITES Resolution 10 which requires the following, among others:

- (a) Registration or licensing all imports, manufacture, wholesale and retail dealings in raw, semi-wet or wet animal products;
- (b) Establishing a nationwide procedure, particularly in retail outlets, informing tourists and other non-nationals that they should not purchase ivory in cases where it is illegal for them to import it into their own home countries; and
- (c) Introduction of recording and inspection procedures to enable the management authority and other appropriate Government agencies to monitor the flow of ivory within the State, particularly by means of comparative Trade control over ivory and a comprehensive and demonstratively effective reporting and enforcement system for wet ivory.

The implication of enacting this Bill is that importing, exporting, possessing and trading with, subject to authorisation through permits and certificates.

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HON ULENGA

I, therefore, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, present this Bill to this Honourable House for consideration and approval and I thank you for your support in advance.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister. Any further discussion? Honourable Ulenga.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, I would like to adjourn this Debate until Thursday.

HON SPEAKER: The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until Thursday, 13 November 2008. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

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

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

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, 28 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 Honourable Minister adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

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**NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL BILL
HON REV KONJORE**

**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT
AND CULTURE:**

Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, it is indeed with a great sense of appreciation and gratitude for the overwhelming interest and support for this very important piece of legislation that was displayed and demonstrated by all the Members of this august House, that I am rising this afternoon in an attempt to reply to contributions made. I am of the opinion, Comrade Speaker that even those Honourable Members who did not take the Floor are in full support of this very important Bill that takes care of their children and grandchildren.

Comrade Speaker, having said that, let me now try to attend to the individual contributions by the Honourable Members.

The first Member who took the Floor was the *Honourable Venaani*. I would like to thank the Honourable Member for his support and compliments to my predecessor who pioneered the Bill, the Deputy Minister who was instrumental and, indeed, to myself as well. I cannot agree more with Honourable Venaani as far as his views concerning the respect of young people towards elder people are concerned. I fully share Honourable Venaani's sentiments as far as the seriousness of young people concerning their education and life responsibilities are concerned. I can also only appeal to the youth leaders to work hard to instil the values of respect, honesty, hard work and responsibility in their fellow youngsters. Only then can we be confident that our young people are hopeful and are aspiring for things to come. I agree with all these sentiments. I thank Honourable Venaani for his contribution.

I would equally like to thank *Honourable Peya Mushelenga* for his support and kind words. I agree with the Honourable Mushelenga, we need to be consistent as far as the age limit of the youth is concerned. We will thus effect some Amendments to harmonise that.

Concerning the executive chairperson and the vacation of office: The fact that the executive chairperson is also the convener and chair of the Representative Council meetings justifies, in my view, the stipulation in Section 29(5) of the Bill, which is that if the executive chairperson dies or

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vacates office, the vacancy be filled in the manner and under conditions contemplated in Section 2 of the Bill. I think we should for now live with it. I think that the provision be made for an extraordinary general assembly may be debated. An extraordinary general assembly be convened if necessary and if the ordinary general assembly is too far away and there is an urgency, it can be considered.

I would like to thank *Chief Riruako* for the very constructive contribution he made and the support he has pledged. I also concur with the views expressed concerning the role of the youth. I took note of the comment concerning the age limit. The same answer to the Honourable Mushelenga carries.

Part 2 of Section 90, the stipulation says the Representative Council is to receive and consider audited financial reports from the Board. In my view it can only be called audited reports after it was audited by the Auditor General and thus comes from his office and not before. I am of the opinion that the one annual meeting, depending when it is called and scheduled, is supposed to be sufficient for the activities of the Representative Council. Too many meetings may become too costly. I thank the Honourable Chief once again for his contribution and would like to move to *Honourable Kavetuna*.

I would like to thank the Honourable Member for all her kind words and compliments she had for all my predecessors and the Ministry. I agree with her as far as the opportunity and platform this Council is creating for the youth and thus would like to invite all youth organisations that have not yet done so, to make use of the opportunity availed to them. The same response given to others who spoke before her on that same concern about the age limit carries. We will thus consider an Amendment to harmonise the limit issue. I thank the Honourable Member once again for participating already in the drafting of the Bill and for supporting it. Thank you very much.

I thank Honourable Deputy Minister Kazenambo for his kind words to all who participated in the drafting of the Bill and also for his kind support. I share his sentiments as far as the role of and opportunities for the youth

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are concerned. The issue of the National Youth Service becoming compulsory is an idea shared by many people, but I believe it warrants national consultation and agreement so that it is not seen by some as compulsory military service or conscription for war, but be understood in the proper context and objective. I thank the Honourable Member for his support whilst agreeing with his expressed views.

I thank *Honourable Ilonga* for his contribution and for supporting the Bill. It is true that sometimes the talents of our young people are not developed to the fullest. There may be different factors contributing to that, one of them being availability of funds and interested and qualified manpower to discover and assist in the training and development of the talents of our young people. I agree that centres of excellence and partnership with all stakeholders, including parents, politicians and so many others mentioned by the Honourable Member in his contribution, are essential to address the needs of our society. I concur with the Honourable Member as far as Section 30 of the Bill is concerned. It is equally true that the reconstitution of a National Youth Council brings about a huge responsibility upon the youth. They are thus requested to live up to it. I agree that it is important that our young people study and know the history of their country as well as the Government processes.

I appreciate the support and understanding of the *Honourable Minister Nghidinwa* concerning the objectives of the draft Bill. I also share the Honourable Member's view as far as training goes and once again I thank the Honourable Member for her kind contribution.

I thank *Honourable Nawases-Taye* for her kind support.

The Honourable Member's concern about the age limit is receiving attention. I agree with the Honourable Member as far as the funding and the economic empowerment of the young people are concerned. The issue of State procurement rules and procedures will have to be addressed at another level, although one understands the concern and the idea of the Honourable Member.

The question of tax exemption is also not so easy to determine. I concur

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with the view that there is a need for funds in the state coffers in order to fund youth activities and, therefore, the need for all those earning money up to a certain level, whether they are youth or non-youth, to be taxed and not blankly exempted just because of one being a member of the youth. I hope the Honourable Member will concur with my views and if need be, we can consult the *Honourable Minister of Finance* whether she will be willing and whether it will be possible to exempt all the youth earning money from paying tax and how we will then be able to have money to fund the activities of the youth. I thank the Honourable Member for her support.

Comrade Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the worthwhile contribution made by *Honourable Tsudao Gurirab*. I also agree with most of the ideas and sentiments advanced by the Honourable Member, although it seems that the Honourable Member fell short of supporting the Bill because I could not read in his contribution that he was supporting the Bill. I would however like to thank him for his valuable contributions and I know deep down in his heart he supports the Bill.

I would like to thank the *Honourable Minister of Fisheries*, Comrade Iyambo, for his support of the Bill. I fully agree with the Honourable Member as far as his interpretation of Clause 3 of the Bill is concerned as well as his views on youth development and empowerment. Thank you once again.

I thank Honourable Mbai for his support of the Bill. The issue of the age limit is being addressed. Thank you very much for your kind support.

I would like to thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister for his kind words and support. I cannot agree more with the *Right Honourable Prime Minister's* ideas and sentiments. Thus I thank him once again as the Leader of Government Business for his contribution and support of the Bill.

Honourable Minister Mutorwa is, of course, one of the initiators of the Bill and I cannot do otherwise but just thank him for the groundwork for this Bill and the role he played. I also thank Honourable Mutorwa for his

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kind support.

I thank *Honourable Nambahu* for his support. I agree with the Honourable Member as far as the provision in Clause 13 is concerned. I agree that there is a need to reformulate Clause 13(h). The same is true about Clause 26. Thank you for your support.

I would like to thank *Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila* for her understanding and support of the Bill. I also agree with the Honourable Minister that we need efforts to strengthen the empowerment aspects of our procurement policy. It will be highly appreciated if the youth could be availed the opportunity to take corresponding proportions of public tenders in the light that all of us embrace the youth empowerment. I also agree with the Minister on her views concerning the streamlining in regard to remuneration and investments. We are looking into the possibility of proposing Amendments. Once again, Comrade Minister, thank you for your kind support.

I thank *Comrade Tweya*, for his wholehearted support he expressed. One of his queries was on the appointment of the Directors. We are working on an Amendment in this regard as far as Clause 35(6) is concerned. I think I only need to advise the Honourable Deputy Minister to re-read that sub-clause. I could not clearly read his problem with the sub-clause and he is welcome to assist me to understand his problem with the particular sub-clause that is dealing with financial assistance and makes provision for financing of projects that meet the criteria of the Board, concerning the fact that the Executive Chairperson is serving over three different layers. I believe he or she should be able to handle that, because these meetings are not at the same time as far as the chairing of the meetings are concerned. This may also help the Executive Chairperson to be on top of issues pertaining to the three layers. I would like to once again thank the Honourable Deputy Minister for his kind support.

I thank *Honourable Minister Tjiriange* for his contribution and support. Concerning the disqualification of Members of Parliament, Regional Councils and Local Authorities, I would like to share the following consideration with the Honourable Member and point out possible

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conflict:

Honourable Tjiriange was of the opinion that there can be no conflict, but in my view there is one. As the Honourable Minister will agree with me, this Board will report through the Line Minister to the Parliament, not only on activities but also on spending of the funds allocated to it through the Budget approved by this august House. This would mean that the Parliamentarians, through the Public Accounts Committee, will have to scrutinise this Board's Audit Reports. Secondly, when it happens that a given Local Authority or Regional Council advertises a tender and the youth, through its organisations, would wish to participate and this member of the Local Authority or Regional Council or a Member of Parliament is sitting in the council meeting that deals with these tenders, in my view this may cause conflict of interest. Thus it is my considered opinion that it will be safe for Members of Parliament and the mentioned councils to be disqualified to be members of the Board. I thank the Honourable Minister for his contribution and support.

I would like to thank *Honourable Kasingo* for her support. The issue of the age limit is being dealt with through an Amendment. Gross misconduct is an open-ended concept, thus to try to define it may be exclusive. Thus it is regarded that it will be left open-ended. The other sentiments of the Honourable Member is appreciated and can be taken care of in the regulations and procedures that will be drafted based on this Bill once it becomes an Act.

I would like to thank *Honourable Kawana* for his support and appreciate the sentiments he expressed concerning the welfare of the youth and the Nation. Thank you very much for your support.

I would like to thank *Honourable Dienda* for her contribution. On the question of financial assistance I would like to refer the Honourable Member to Clause 30(7) that makes provision for financial assistance on application to any person, youth clubs, etcetera, the reason being to attain our quest to encourage entrepreneurship amongst our youth. Therefore, provision is made to give assistance even if this is a project run individually, but if the project meets the criteria as put by the Board, then

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we do not see any problem with a youth project run by an individual also being assisted financially and not only affiliated associations and organisations. In the case of the individually run project, the Board will have to satisfy itself that the project meets the criteria and it is within the set parameters for projects and activities to be funded.

I agree with the Honourable Member concerning Clause 14(1)(b) and an appropriate Amendment is to be effected. The issue of the Minister being informed and to give approval is a standard clause for checks and balances which I believe we have to retain. I would thus prefer to leave it as it is and I thank the Honourable Member for her contribution.

I thank *Honourable Haingura* for her kind words and compliments. I accept the fact that the allocation may be too minimal and insufficient, but the Honourable Member will agree with me that the size of the national cake, which is the Budget, dictates and determines how much one can get. We hope that the situation will change sooner than later. We will welcome proposals and advice that could enhance the linkage of the economic Ministries to accelerate youth employment. I appreciate the sentiments of the Honourable Deputy Minister and thank her for her kind support.

The issue of representation on the General Assembly was raised by *Honourable Manombe-Ncube* and she proposed that the number be increased to ten. When looking at Clause 7 which deals with the Constitution of the General Assembly, unless my mathematics fails me, the representation stands at 17 members. For the rest I fully agree with the Honourable Member and I thank her for her support.

I agree with *Honourable Bohitile* on the emphasis she puts on Clauses 2 and 3. On the issue of the age limit I can only respect the view of the Member and we will effect an Amendment to that. I cannot agree more with Honourable Bohitile as far as the rest of her contribution is concerned. I most sincerely thank Honourable Bohitile for her kind support and prayerful wishes she bestowed on me for the mammoth task awaiting. If you are responsible for the youth, you need prayers and you need support.

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Coming to *Honourable Ipinge*, the Honourable Member's views on Part 2 may have merit, but since the concepts the Honourable Member mentioned are all accommodated in the Bill, if need be, we could make Amendments after testing the law by way of implementation. I thank the Honourable Member for her kind support rendered.

I cannot agree more with *Comrade Iivula-Ithana*, on the statement that all the efforts of the youth bodies are aimed at creating a better life for all the youth of Africa, provided that they do their job properly and effectively. I also agree that institutions created should be given teeth and provided opportunities to penetrate the economic divide. Youth enterprises need stimulation in order to materialise the noble objectives which this Bill is seeking. I would like to appeal to the Honourable Minister of Justice to provide advice even after the passing of this Bill on how we could go about in setting up youth-focussed desks to mainstream youth involvement, empowerment and development in the Ministries, Offices and Agencies, taking the objective of the Bill into consideration, which reads as follows:

“To provide for the establishment of a National Youth Council and a Youth Development Fund; to provide for the management and administration of the Youth Council and the Fund; to provide for the organisations and associations as affiliates to the Council; and to provide for incidental matters.”

I may not be able to comprehend how and where one could insert the proposed paragraph in the Bill. I am thus seeking advice on that. I fully agree with the Honourable Member that there is a need for us to encourage and even instil in our youth the right attitude concerning labour-intensive activities. I agree the tendency in the majority of our youth is to look for the so-called white-collar jobs and look at labour-intensive activities with apathy and disrespect. It is necessary to link up with the Ministry of Information and Technology to implement a training programme in the National Youth Service and we are already in the process of discussing with the Honourable Minister so that they can see how the Ministry of Information and Technology can become involved in the National Youth Service and assist with training, which can of course

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be extended to the Multi-Purpose Youth Centres where they exist. I am also of the opinion that our youth need to be encouraged and convinced to opt for self-employment in the areas of agriculture and other enterprises, rather than only looking for employment by Government and even the private sector. In that way they may be able to contribute meaningfully.

I also fully agree with the Honourable Minister on the need for the creation of arts, culture, heritage and sport centres to cater for the diverse needs of the youth. It is critical, we only hope our resources will grow in such a way that this can be feasible in the not too far distant future.

I am also in agreement with the concerns of the Honourable Minister with regard to duplication. It is my opinion that the National Youth Service and the National Youth Council each has a separate and important role to play and only need to supplement each other, although it is true that proper monitoring and clear separation of roles may be essential. I thank the Honourable Minister once again for her kind support.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, this indeed was my humble attempt in appreciating the kind support of all Honourable Members in trying to respond to the questions and concerns raised by the Honourable Members. May I most sincerely apologise if I have left out any question or concern raised by the Honourable Members. That is not on purpose. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, a big thank you to all the Members of the august House. May I once again appeal for the speedy passage of this very important and long-awaited legislation? I thank you for your kind attention and support.

HON SPEAKER: I now Put the Question that the Bill be read a Second Time. Objection? Agreed to. The Secretary will now read the Bill a Second Time.

SECRETARY: *National Youth Council Bill.*

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HON DR KAWANA**

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE: MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED
NAMIBIANS WITH PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND
QUALIFICATIONS**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Unemployed Namibians with Professional Training and Qualifications Obtained from Recognised Credible Education Institutions in Namibia and Abroad as well as the Plight of Unemployed Namibians.

HON SPEAKER: When the House adjourned on Tuesday, 21 October 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Dr Ankama. The Honourable Minister of Presidential Affairs, Dr Kawana, adjourned the Debate.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, I join my Colleagues who have spoken before me to support this Motion and again to state that these Colleagues who are being discriminated are the ones who took part in the liberation of our country and, therefore, it is most unfortunate that after eighteen years of our Independence we still experience that Namibians who obtained their qualifications abroad and in most cases during the liberation struggle are still being discriminated, notwithstanding the fact that they do qualify.

Honourable Speaker, I think we have a duty to educate a part of our Constituency who have a tendency to resist the involvement of our citizens from the previously disadvantaged Namibians in participating in the economic affairs of this country.

Honourable Speaker, we say we reject with contempt the notion of addressing poverty by means of soup kitchens. The only remedy is

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equitable ownership of the means of production by the State and by those who were previously disadvantaged.

Honourable Speaker, I will give one example, the example of my neighbour Dr Kakururume Abraham Iyambo, (Jr) MP. (Intervention)

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

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Before tea-break I was saying that one of the victims of this exclusion is my neighbour Honourable Dr Abraham Iyambo, MP. Notwithstanding his high qualifications, being one of the most qualified personalities in Namibia, he was rejected by especially the private sector. I recall I met him in front of the main post office in Independence Avenue and that time he was even prepared to accept an offer in the United Kingdom or Canada. Some of us took exception to that, we intervened and no doubt, he is playing a major role in the affairs of our country today. I congratulate him for his courage, we advised him not to leave Namibia because we needed his skills.

Comrade Speaker, when we amended the Magistrates' Courts Act of 1944 to accommodate those comrades who obtained their qualifications abroad as magistrates, there was heavy resistance from those previously advantaged Namibians. We had to put our foot down, because prior to the Amendment, that Act stipulated that for a person to qualify to be appointed as magistrate, that person should have obtained his or her qualifications in South Africa. We had to do away with that provision.

In 1995 we came up with the new Legal Practitioners Act and again there was resistance from those sections of our community who hail from the previously advantaged. Indeed, I recall that at that particular point in time there was a news article in the print media, prominent on page 1, saying, "*Rule of Law Threatened*", simply because we wanted to incorporate

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those Namibians who obtained their qualifications abroad.

Comrade Speaker, my advise is that there will be no peace and stability in this country if all Namibians do not share in the natural resources of this country. As I said before, to us it is not a privilege, but a right of each and every Namibian to share in the natural resources of this country, to equitably own the means of production.

Comrade Speaker, let me take this opportunity once again to appeal to those sections of our community to recognise this fact. If they do not, then they must know that tomorrow there might be no peace, because as the late Bob Marley puts it, *“a hungry person is a very angry person and you do not know what that person can do.”* A poor person has nothing to lose in the event of chaos, in the event of disturbance of peace and stability. Those who have the means of production are the ones who stand to lose more than those who are poor and, therefore, I feel it is a constitutional duty that we have to pursue without fear or fervour, without compromise. We demand fair and equitable ownership of the means of production of this country.

With these few remarks, Honourable Speaker, I wholeheartedly support the Motion and I thank you.

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

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Allow me to, first and foremost, thank Honourable Ankama for bringing this Motion to the House for discussion. It is indeed one of those Motions that we really need to look at. The plight of unemployed Namibians is indeed a concern to all of us. We need to look at this critically and try to find out exactly what the problem is.

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Honourable Speaker, it is unbelievable, that a country with less than a million people who qualify for employment has an unemployment rate of $\pm 50\%$. It means that as a country we need to sit down with cool heads and try to identify where we have gone wrong. Something, somewhere has gone wrong, something is not right and we should not keep on sticking our heads in the sand as if we are not seeing what is going on.

The people who are unemployed are highly qualified and professionals. It means it is not a problem of not having qualified people; it is not a problem of not having trained people. It is a problem of linking those who have been qualified to job opportunities. This is what we have failed to do as a Nation. That is why they are producing graduates and the best we can do is send them to the streets. Graduates are going to the streets, school drop-outs, Grade 10 and Grade 12 are also going to the streets and what will happen to this Nation in 25 years? That is what we need to look at.

But still, while we have high unemployment of qualified people, as Honourable Chief Ankama has said, we still import nurses and teachers from other countries. What has gone wrong? The opportunities are there, that is why we are employing people from outside the country. Why can we not employ these people in order for them to meet the required needs of the Nation? That is where we need to start.

Obviously, I am sure that opportunities cannot fall from heaven like manna, we need to work for that. Unless we have a system of education that is geared towards the specific needs of the Nation, we will end up having qualified, trained people sitting on the street corners while importing other people. (Intervention)

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

Honourable TjiHuiko, can you inform this House and the public outside there how many trained nurses are on the streets of Namibia?

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HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Minister, please listen to me carefully, I am saying that we have unemployed graduates, they cannot be employed to the point that a member of the Ruling Party is bringing that Motion to the House to be discussed. It tells you and me that the problem that we have is that not matching the need information with the training qualifications that we are providing to our people. That is why we are supporting the Motion that indeed we have trained, highly qualified people who are sitting on the streets, they do not have jobs. We are importing nurses from Kenya, why do you not train them to become nurses? That is the point. Let us link our training needs to the market needs and not just train for the sake of training. That is the problem. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask Honourable Tjihuiko a question? Honourable Tjihuiko, are you aware of the brain-drain which is affecting not only Namibia, but South Africa and Zimbabwe and everywhere, trained nurses who are being lured by high salaries in the developed world, in the UK and the United States. So, Honourable Tjihuiko, nurses were trained here and the Ministry continues and the reality is that there is a brain-drain. Most of our nurses are in the UK. So, tell the truth, do not distort facts here.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, if we take this ... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Comrade Speaker, I rise on a Point of Information to give information to the unfortunate, distorted information on the nurses. Comrade Speaker, we are hard at work, the Government is hard at work in training the nurses. We have put in place six training centres for enrolled nurses in this country at Rundu, Oshakati, Otjiwarongo, Windhoek and

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Keetmanshoop and for registered nurses we have three institutions, namely the University of Namibia, the Northern Campus at Oshakati and Onandjokwe. We are training more than any other time that we have known. Looking at the question of brain-drain, again we have some facts on the ground. In SADC, Namibia is the least affected in terms of those who are leaving for greener pastures. Let us talk of something else but not about training nurses.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Minister of Health. That is why I like you, you are always providing information. You are still training them, they would eventually come to the market and that is a good thing. Had it not been because of us trying to raise this, we could have been in the same boat that we were in five years ago.

To answer Honourable Uutoni's question, Honourable Nujoma, take *Namibia Review* and go to page 23. It is a Motion by the youngsters, a Motion on the recruitment of foreign teachers at the expense of the trained Namibian teachers. The Members stated that recruitment of foreign teachers at the expense of Namibians was not in line with the long-term objective of Vision 2030. This is the Motion of the young people in the Children's Parliament.

Honourable Speaker, what I am saying here is that if we have unemployed trained, qualified people, we need to train these people in the fields that are needed in the market, not just producing graduates for the sake of producing graduates and if you continue with that approach, we will continue having the same problem. As Dr Kawana was saying, we train people, highly qualified, unemployed, young, hungry and very angry. We are sitting on a time-bomb.

Today we are sitting in this House with nice red ties, but we must accept the fact that unless we do something about it... (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: I think it was quite clear what Dr Kawana was saying is that when our people send in applications, they are rejected on the ground that they were not trained in South Africa or whatever. I think he was taking that direction, not what you are talking about.

HON TJIHUIKO: Well, that is open for debate. Let us keep it for the time-being. The very important point is... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask Honourable TjiHuiko a tiny question? Honourable TjiHuiko, are you representing that middle-level people whom we are referring to, that they are the ones who are denying our people the opportunity to get employment? Those spinners are being put deliberately to prevent people from being employed.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I do not represent anybody, I am representing my own view and most importantly, I do not believe in the politics of blaming others, I believe in the politics of facing the situation and being critical of yourself or oneself. There should be a time in our lives when we take responsibility that what we have done with good intentions did not succeed, therefore we need to go back to the drawing board and try to rectify what we have done. Let us not blame others all the time. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: May I ask Honourable TjiHuiko a question? You have just said you do not represent anybody and you are just standing on your own. Why did you leave SWANU? Is it not because you disagree with them

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and, therefore, you came and joined NUDO? Why did you not stand for principles instead of running away? Today you are here, tomorrow you will be in another Party. Why do you do that if you say you are standing on your principles?

HON TJIHUIKO: I am saying that if you ask me on the programme that I was working on yesterday, if I have miserably failed, I will not say that I have failed because of Honourable Ilonga, I would say I have failed because I tried and I could not succeed. What I am saying is that there should be a time in our lives where we are going to take responsibility and say we tried our level best, but we have made mistakes in the process and let us go back to the drawing board and rectify our own mistakes. The moment we continue looking for an excuse, scapegoats, we will continue making the same mistakes and we will never improve.

That is why I mentioned the question of matching the people being trained in our institutions to our needs in the market. It has nothing to do with yesteryears. The white South Africans are no longer here, they will not come and stop us from paying the teacher that we need in our schools, there is no way. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: This House needs a copy of your statement, please.

HON TJIHUIKO: If you do not stop asking these irrelevant questions, I will not answer them. If you allow me to continue with a very critical point of this Motion, I will do that.

Honourable Speaker, we need to seriously sit down and start planning. We must plan our system, we must plan our economy. (Intervention)

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

On a Point of Information. The Honourable Member, as usual, is holding a document and trying to put his own manufactured, distorted facts on Honourable Ankama. Honourable Ankama talks about highly qualified professional Namibians and for your information, Honourable Member, highly qualified professional Namibians are also blocked by those professional bodies' requirements. In this country there are professional legal bodies and highly qualified professionals trained elsewhere are not given an opportunity to practice because these highly professional bodies cannot let them in. They are protecting the market because the market is so small. Depart from there, do not distort the Motion with your own thing.

HON TJIHUIKO: Even if we are trying to put it that way, it is still the same thing. If you are saying there are institutions that are monopolising the system here, then you are aware of these institutions, you know them by name, you know where they are and you have the power of two-thirds to change those laws and instead of changing those laws? You are coming here and complaining to whom? If you are not in a position to change the laws to benefit the people of this country, come this side of the House. These are the things that the Government was meant to do. You must take out laws that are affecting our people. Change the laws! I do not know why you are complaining.

Honourable Speaker, let me conclude my lecture before I am interrupted again. (Intervention)

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

Honourable Speaker, before the Honourable Member concludes I want to provide information. The spirit in which Honourable TjiHuiko has

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answered my earlier question is the most sad approach which we are often told in this country. Government is doing goodwill under the policy of National Reconciliation, under peace and stability and then the citizens behave irresponsibly in order to force Government to start dictating the terms of how the market should operate. This is what Honourable Tjihuiko is saying. Because in this country there is no proper price control, people are exorbitant with prices and if you complain, the citizens themselves cannot be responsible to say that we are asking high prices because Government is not doing anything to control those prices, so the citizens are not contributing to land reform. This is what you are saying and it will be sad if the Government will start saying that, "*engineering body, because for 18 years you have been doing this, do this.*" It will be you who will start crying and this is where you are forcing the Government to go to.

HON TJIHUIKO: That is not what I am saying, what I am saying, Honourable Deputy Minister, is simple. I am saying that if there are discriminatory laws, laws that discriminate against a specific section of the community, it cannot be tolerated. If you have institutions in this country that are discriminating against others, it is illegal and it cannot be tolerated. You cannot just bring a Motion to be discussed in the House while you have the powers to deal with those who are violating the law. This is what I am saying.

Honourable Speaker, in conclusion, I am saying that we need to plan and when we are planning our systems, we should plan to succeed and I am getting the impression that it seems as if we are planning to fail. We must move away from that and start thinking seriously in terms of planning the system in such a way that we succeed. It is a critical Motion that was brought in and even if you look at this Order Paper, all the Motions on this Order Paper are linked to this Motion. 80% of them are talking about economic empowerment and poverty. These are things that have been created by the very same thing I am talking about.

With these few comments, I support the Motion. Thank you very much.

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HON DR AMATHILA**

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Dr Amathila.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, it is right to say that we can change the laws, but the Motion has been brought to this House so that we discuss the issue to see to what extent we are having this problem and even the people outside should know because you cannot arbitrarily keep on changing things without sharing with the communities to understand why things are being changed. Therefore, I do not see anything wrong with discussing this issue and we are talking to ourselves, we are not blaming somebody from Britain or somebody from elsewhere.

It is true that when our children and all of us study abroad and come back we have this problem. When I was the Minister of Health I had a lot of these problems, of people trained outside as a therapist or a pharmacist and they were under terrible oppression by these associations. Our architects cannot work, they go through hell in order to be accepted by these professional associations. Therefore, it is a common factor. People come to my office now and then to cry on my shoulder, that *“I studied in Warrick, I am here with this paper and there is another person who also studied and who has the same paper, this person has been accepted, I am asked to bring papers from Warrick and I bring the certificates and they say it is not properly written.”*

One young lady waited for two years for work until I intervened with the help of the Deputy Minister of Education who comes from Britain, who knows the system. She went to this young woman and asked, *“what exactly do you want, this is what my own certificate looks like?”* We have these people who, for whatever reason, try to discriminate against people whom they think do not have South African education. I think this is an inborn trend.

At Independence there was this famous Grade 12. Even if you are a professional person who studied five years at university, they ask your Grade 12 certificate. We are struggling to get these people to understand that we have to employ our own people. I intervened and this child was

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employed and they started saying she is such a good worker. She wanted to return to Britain, but I said stay here, this is your country, I am going to get you a job and she got appointed.

Another person is running around with beautiful qualifications from one office to another. The person applies according to the requirements of an advertisement and he is interviewed, told to wait. Sometimes he does not get a response. If they respond, they will send a letter to him to saying, *“we have received your qualifications, we are looking at it favourably”* and it ends there. I do not know how we can rectify this issue. Then this person comes back to my office and you write to the international organisations, maybe they will do something about it.

I simply do not know at what level the persons who are interviewing people in the Ministries are. What I know is that the advertisements are sent out whilst they have already agreed whom they want to employ. I know of some cases of people somewhere and who knew that they are coming back to that job, but this job was advertised, the people applied and that particular person got the job, he was already promised. Therefore, we have to change the system and next year we really have to go into the details of this. Every Ministry which advertises posts must be held accountable to those who are coming to be interviewed and perhaps we should have independent bodies to conduct the interviews, not the Ministry itself. Yes, they can be there, but other people should also be included to interview and see which candidate is the suitable one. If we leave it to the Ministries, they already decide, *“my sister will get the job.”*

I am very happy that these types of Motions are coming in so that we can clear our minds and see how we should go about this issue of creating jobs. I remember talking to my neighbour, she had to struggle to get a job.

A way must be found, an examination body somewhere there. This child I am talking about has been running around and it is such a headache. We really need to do some work and next year we must change the system of interviews. Let us have independent people who will be sitting on this interview panels and make sure that the person who has good marks is the one to be employed.

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HON KAIYAMO**

With these few words, I support the Motion. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kaiyamo.

HON KAIYAMO: Comrade Speaker, I fully agree with the Motion of Chief Ankama, but I want to make sure that the Motion is not only for those who studied abroad, it is clearly stated in Namibia. Last time when this Motion was on the Table I spoke about it.

For example, being the Chairperson of the Library Council, I have over 20 well-qualified librarians trained at UNAM who are on the street. When I went to look into this issue, I found that when they apply they are blocked until I wrote a letter to the Permanent Secretary to complain. It is not only these established societies but some of those staff we inherited from the colonial administration are most of the time in power and they are the ones who make decisions and they make it difficult for the Government to come in. Therefore, I think this is not a Government policy but from those people who most of them are not qualified, they are just Grade 12 Civil Servants who are taking decisions.

When Honourable Tjihuiko and I were in the Ministry of Trade and Industry, you would see none of those trained staff in high positions. I agree with the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister that we as Parliamentarians are supposed to solve these problems and get information to apply our minds. The personnel blocking these people must be stopped, they must be kicked out. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Member a question, please? Honourable Kaiyamo, you are talking about staff being employed in the Ministries. Are you aware that the people who are hiring and firing in the Ministries are Permanent Secretaries? Are you aware that 99.9% of

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the Permanent Secretaries are the tested, trusted cadres?

HON KAIYAMO: Honourable Tjihuiko, you are speaking to somebody who has gradually been climbing the ladder from Civil Servant to politician. I was a Civil Servant, I know what I am talking about. If you apply and then you bring your academic credentials, you will see the person already has a list of those approved to be interviewed. You know what I am talking about, so let us not mention the people on the ground.

I want all of us to be vigilant so that no one of our highly skilled people be excluded from getting a job. I thank you, Comrade Speaker.

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

HON IIPINGE: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I rise to contribute to the Debate on the Motion re-introduced by Honourable Ankama. I think I contributed on the first one and my points are still standing.

Some previous speakers talked about the need to have a databank, which I feel is very important and I would like to comment on that one. That is very, very important for us to have a databank so that we know about these people who have qualifications and in what areas. That will help us a lot to deal with the issue.

Some Members suggested the establishment of a research institution, but I think in this country we have enough research institutions. They only need to be given work to be done. For instance, if it is to collect information, the research institutions are there. Even at the University of Namibia we have MRC. These are all institutions that we can task to

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collect this information, so that we can plan on concrete information, that we have facts and that we will be able to deal with the issue when we have these facts. That is very, very important.

On the professional bodies denying other people entry because of their political affiliation and other things, I feel us as the lawmakers can change these bodies or establish others which could work in favour of ourselves if they are blocking our development. That would not be difficult to do. We can tell them that this person has applied to be a member of your professional body, but this person was denied. We also have our engineers, we can put them in work so that they can also give us assessments and we will be able to use that data and face those institutions with facts.

This Motion is also talking about the unemployed Namibians, some qualified, some unqualified at all but they can perform certain jobs and they are also in need of an income. I think when I contributed the first time when the Motion was introduced, I touched on that one. (Intervention)

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

Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Comrade a question? Comrade Iipinge, are you aware that the Economic Association of Namibia has rejected the application of one Honourable Member and he later became a Member of Parliament and that Honourable Member is Honourable Tjihuiko?

HON IIPINGE: I was not aware of that, thank you very much for the information. Maybe the Honourable Member can shed some light on that.

I am talking about these bodies which are deliberately discriminating and we cannot allow discrimination to continue and we can also not speak without facts. My point is that we should have facts and face them, so that

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they can change.

With regard to the unqualified or semi-qualified Namibians who also need income, I touched on it last time and I still say that we really need to think about how to assist these people to have bread on the table. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question? You mentioned the issue of data. Are you aware of the organisation called Jobs Unlimited? I understand they also capture this data, but still the situation has not changed for the better. They are here in Klein Windhoek in Sam Nujoma Avenue, but still the situation has not changed for the better.

HON IIPINGE: I know the company Jobs Unlimited and I also know some people who have been assisted by those people, but they are equally exploiting our people. When you go there with your qualifications and they seek a job for you, you have to pay for the service from your salary when you get that job. I know what they are doing, but this is not what I am talking about. I want us to have our own database so that we know how many Namibians are qualified professionals and do not have jobs, those who are being denied employment deliberately by these people you are referring to, the professional bodies. I am not talking about Jobs Unlimited. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: On a Point of Information. The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare registers jobseekers and the data is there, you can even visit the responsible division today. They are already doing that job.

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HON IIPINGE: Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Minister, I know the Ministry of Labour is collecting information, but I am talking about the proposals made during this Debate, that we need a databank and we need to set up research institutions. This is what I am talking about to say a databank is very important, we need that information, we need continuous information to know how many people are being employed and how many people are not employed and how many are denied that employment. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: Is the Honourable Member aware that while talking about data, the SWAPO Party has a policy to employ only the loyal SWAPO cadres. Are you aware that there is a system within the SWAPO Party that only the loyal cadres can become the principal of a school?

HON IIPINGE: Honourable Member, I am not aware of that. I am a SWAPO member, but I also do not know about that policy. Many people are employed here and not all of them are SWAPO Members, including some children of Honourable Members from Opposition Parties.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: I regret to disrupt my mother-in-law but I want to provide some information. Honourable Moongo, we must truly learn to tell the truth. In the selection of school principals there is no position for somebody representing SWAPO or any other Political Party. These are professional people who rise above teachers, HODs and then they become school principals.

HON IIPINGE: I was talking about unqualified, unemployed Namibians who have no bread on the table, who are walking our streets and I see more young men than young women, maybe because young

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women cannot make it to the street because of violence or the type of jobs that they seek. I will repeat that, we need to think how to assist these people to have bread on the table. Last time I proposed that maybe we need to look at the products of our social security so that we may be able to assist these people to have bread on the table. That is what I proposed last time and I would like to repeat that proposal, that we need to think how to assist these people, that they must at least have bread.

I studied in Holland and there they have social security, that when you are not employed, at least you get a little money to keep you going. That is why I propose that we should look at a product of our social security. (Intervention)

HON NASHANDI: May I ask my sister here a short question? Honourable Iipinge, during your experience at UNAM, I understand there used to be a bridging course specifically for those who were trained as lawyers. This course was supposed to be run by the Ministry of Justice, if you can explain on that.

HON IIPINGE: Honourable Speaker, when I was at UNAM I was not at the Law Faculty, so I will not be able to explain that programme to you, but I know there is such a programme. Maybe someone from the Law Faculty could explain properly, but I was at the Social Sciences Division. (Intervention)

HON NAMBAHU: On a Point of Information. I expected some of these questions to come up in this Debate, but what makes it interesting is that the programme is not researching the background of the institutions and programmes where those graduates graduated from. How do we identify the gaps if you do not go back to where those people graduated and make

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a comparative study as to where the strengths, the commonalities and the differences are? This is really a stumbling block put in your way. Even if you jump it, like some of us did who attended that course and passed it, you are told to get into another course and then you have to go to the Legal Practitioner Qualifying Exam, which some of us again have to attend and pass and then you have to go for attachment. How old are you going to be if you have to jump all these obstacles in your own motherland which said “*welcome*” when you came here? This is actually more of a cold war thing than anything else because of protection of a small market. This must be understood that it is really protection of that market and the upping of standards when you make a law to punish a particular person.

HON IIPINGE: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker, I think I have raised my points and I support... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: You mentioned the experience of Holland. If you compare the unemployment rate of Holland, which may be 5%, and our unemployment rate which is 35% plus, where do you think we will get the money to take care of the 35% unemployed people compared to Holland’s 5%? Sweden has the same thing, they have 3% unemployment, so they get some help, but we have 35%.

HON IIPINGE: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Prime Minister. I still feel that we are a small population and those people are still existing. Perhaps we should try to see how we can assist these people. I however, do not know how technically it can be done, but I feel it is important to help the poor and unemployed. I am aware that most of these people are being assisted, such as the elderly, the disabled and orphans, so we have already done a lot in assisting. This might be 35%, but if we can look at how to assist, even giving N\$100 as is being done at that place where the BIG Project is being tested, it will help

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us a lot because we are sitting on a time-bomb.

Having said that, I rest my case and I support the Motion.

HON DR AMWEELO: I thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. First I would like to thank my Colleague, Honourable Chief Ankama, for re-introducing this very important Motion.

I will be brief, I just want to share my experience with the Colleagues. I experienced the same problem as Minister of Works, Transport and Communication that time. Many mechanical engineers, electrical engineers, civil engineers, quantity surveyors and architects and other technical people came and complained to me with regard to exactly this problem we are discussing, especially those who studied abroad. What I did was to have a workshop and we called all these engineers and technical people and also other institutions such as the Namibia Engineering Council and we discussed the problems. We came with a very good Report that there is a need to review the legislation, policy and regulations and see how we could accommodate those technicians from abroad.

After that it was the end of my term, I left the office and maybe the Minister will enlighten us how far they have gone. However, there was very good cooperation where all the stakeholders agreed that there is a problem and we have to tackle it and see how we are going to solve this problem. It was agreed upon and maybe we only have to follow up how far the Engineering Council and other people have gone to solve this problem.

The other problem we have experienced is with regard to the requirement. You would want to apply, but the requirement is 12 or 15 years experience. We have only been independent for 18 years and that time you asked for 10 or more years experience. There are many problems, but those are the ones we have identified that need to be tackled to see how they can be solved. Otherwise I fully support the Motion. I thank you,

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Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Minister of Environment and Tourism.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I will also be very brief to enable us to move to the next agenda item.

I also want to thank the Mover of the Motion that is meant to sensitise and empower ourselves as to what course of action we should take in addressing this problem. We all know that since Independence, human capital development has been a priority area of the Government and it will continue, because we need skilled personnel in order to effectively implement our development programmes especially for us who have set ourselves the goal of Vision 2030. There is no way Vision 2030 can be realised if we do not have appropriate skills.

As I have been listening to the Debate in this House, I thought that what we need is to link up with the many bodies which are already in place to find out what is happening in the area of human capital development. We were informed that the Ministry of Labour has a database and we know that we have a law in this country that jobs can only be given to non-Namibians if there are no qualified Namibians in the country. Maybe it will also help us if the databank at the Ministry of Labour could be linked to the system of the Ministry of Home Affairs, so that the Ministry of Home Affairs would not give work permits to any person if there is a qualified person in Namibia to do that work. We are hearing complaints that there are qualified Namibians and work is given to non-Namibians. Maybe it is because the two systems are not linked to one another, especially that non-Namibians can only be employed when they get work permits.

As much as we are giving examples of the people that we know, I still feel

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that without getting the data in detail, we may not be doing the right thing because we do not know the exact extent of the problem. For example, one needs to know whether our training institutions have done a thorough study of the market and whether proper career guidance is given. One might find that maybe because of Library Administration being considered easy, you would have many people doing that, but the market itself is not expanding to absorb that category of people and then you end up not having pharmacists. (Intervention)

HON KAIYAMO: Honourable Minister, you mentioned libraries. We have over 70 libraries in the country, some of them being run by cleaners.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: That is why I said it is necessary for us to put the statistics on the table, so that we would be able to know the extent of the problem. I can also tell you that when I was the Minister of Women Affairs and Child Welfare we discovered that we needed social workers and prior to that people thought a social worker can only be employed by the Ministry of Health and Social Services. In fact, with so many social problems you need a social worker in almost every Ministry, in every enterprise, in every institution. When we got permission from the Public Service Commission to employ social workers... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: I am sorry to interrupt, but may I ask a question? Comrade Minister, are you aware that when the old-age pension was with the Ministry of Health and Social Services, the social workers were engaged in that and when it was transferred to the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, we were only given some staff members, but the social workers said they cannot come to the Ministry of Labour because they were Professionals. We need them but they are at the Ministry of Health.

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HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: I agree with you, Comrade Deputy Minister, and this is exactly what I am saying. People believe that because they are social workers they should be employed by the Ministry of Health and Social Services, but the reality of the matter is different. When the children's grants were transferred to the Ministry of Women Affairs, social workers refused to come to our Ministry because they thought they belonged to Health. When we advertised 36 positions, only two applications were received. That is because not many people were trained as social workers because the only market available was the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

I went to UNAM and addressed the first year students, telling them what is a social worker and the need in the country. That is why now at least the number of trainee social workers has increased, because the demand is higher, even the private companies want to have social workers.

The point I am making, Comrade Speaker, is whether we are really sure that our training institutions are focused on the necessary skills. We might find that there are more people in some skills and less in the others. Should that be the case some of those people will be unemployed.

The other challenge is to expand our economy so that we can provide jobs to those people we are training. Once we have statistics and the data, we will be able to plan properly to make sure that we train for what is needed in the market. You find it in the tourism industry that people are trained, but they are not focused on what is required in that industry. Discuss with the training institution to be focused on the needs of the market. The market and the training institutions need to work together, so that we can train the people in the skills needed in the market. People should not do courses because they are easy and end up unemployed.

You also hear companies looking for accountants and that means there are not enough accountants. That is another challenge we have.
(Intervention)

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

Before you sit down, on the market expansion in order to absorb our employees, are you aware that the food being sold in our shops are all manufactured and imported from somewhere and the food produced here, for example mahangu, even millet, is all produced somewhere and there is no way a farmer who is a mahangu producer or fish producer can employ others for household consumption. As long as we have that, there is no way we can expand the market.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: I think if we continue to apply our thoughts correctly, we will be able to expand and at the same time we will be able to focus so that we will have appropriate training and empower our people with the necessary skills. In fact, in a country like Namibia with a population of less than two million, we should not talk of unskilled persons, everyone is supposed to be skilled.

I went to the Netherlands on a mission, I had a driver and that driver is a University graduate, but he is a taxi driver. In that situation you can see the input the person is making wherever he is. We should really get rid of the notion of skilled and unskilled jobs. We need to train for everyone to be skilled and not like you said, cleaners working in the library, as if that is a job for the illiterate. (Intervention)

HON NAMBAHU: May I ask my senior Minister a question? Comrade Minister, do you know that in Namibia people study for employment, they do not study for knowledge, the appetite to know?

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: I think that is a challenge for us as people with responsibility, to make sure that as a Nation we are striving for a knowledge-based society. That is why we must know what type of skills we need and make sure that everyone is

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knowledgeable, because that is the only way one can develop a country and Namibia is not an exception.

I support the Motion, let us be focused and let us make sure that our training institutions are responding to the market. We must ensure that we are a knowledge-based society. I thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister. Any further discussion? Does the Honourable Ankama wish to reply?

HON DR ANKAMA: Comrade Speaker, I would like to postpone my response to Thursday, this week.

HON SPEAKER: The Secretary will read the Third Order of the Day.

RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING:
SECTIONAL TITLE BILL

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – *Sectional Title Bill*.

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, 28 October 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Lands and Resettlement. Honourable Venaani adjourned the Debate on behalf of Honourable De Waal and I give him the Floor.

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**SECTIONAL TITLE BILL
HON DE WAAL**

HON DE WAAL: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, I will be very brief on a very thick Bill. The reason for that is that it is a very complicated and very technical Bill. When I started reading it, I immediately realised that my knowledge of law is not such that I can actually judge this Bill. Therefore, I contacted some of my colleagues who are in the Private Sector and deal with this issue every day of their lives and I must congratulate the Minister on this Bill, because I was told from the Private Sector that they had input in this Bill right from the beginning to the end and that they are very satisfied with the outcome of this Bill. They also told me that this is indeed a better Bill than the current one in South Africa, which gives us an indication that in this case you have really made progress.

Honourable Speaker, when we talk about Sectional titles, it is a complicated issue. Wars are being fought on borders of countries, big fights are fought between neighbours in, for example, Academia because of what is happening on the border, who is responsible for the upkeep of the fence, whose tree is hanging into the other person's area and in sectional titles it is even worse, because sectional titles are basically units where people stay in one building, but the building is divided into Sectional Title units and you own your unit. It is not like a flat which is rented, you actually buy your unit and you get a Deed of Transfer from the Deeds Office for that part of the building. Therefore, if the law is not very complete, it will create a lot of problems, because people are living in a very small space and it is very easy for your child to make a mess on somebody else's wall because the wall is just six feet away from your front door.

Therefore, this Sectional Title Bill is really an improvement, because one of the things that struck me is that provision is made in this Bill for sectional titles to be away from one another. In the old Bill sectional titles had to be built together by at least the size of a door. They were separate units, but they had to be built together at least with the size of a normal door. In the new Bill that has now been taken away and you can actually build your sectional titles next to one another.

Another issue that is important in this Bill is that when a developer wants

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to start a sectional title, he can actually now do it in two phases without encountering problems like in the old Bill. The old Bill stipulated that when you plan to build a hundred sectional titles and you have the land, but not the capital to build all hundred at the moment and you only build 50, then the owners of those 50 units automatically become owners of the whole piece of land. In the new Bill the developer can now develop fifty units on half of the land and the fifty owners will own that part of the land together with their building, but the other half of the land will remain the property of the developer so that he can build another fifty at a later stage.

Honourable Speaker, my congratulations to the Honourable Minister, I think this is a good way of bringing good Bills to Parliament. We support the Bill and we think it is a great improvement on the old Bill. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Does the Minister wish to reply?

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Honourable Speaker, Sir, I want to thank Honourable De Waal for the very encouraging remarks that he has made. In Namibia we are very good at holding one another's hands and that is the spirit. I thank you so much and I know that the other Members support the Bill in silence and I thank them all.

HON SPEAKER: I now Put the Question, that the Bill be now read a Second Time. Any objection? Agreed to. The Secretary will now read the Bill a Second Time.

SECRETARY: *Sectional Title Bill.*

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**REPORT ON PEOPLE OF THE SOUTH
HON DR A IYAMBO**

**CONSIDERATION: REPORT BY NATIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION ON PEOPLE OF THE SOUTH**

SECRETARY: Resumption of consideration of Report published by the National Planning Commission with regard to the people of the South.

HON SPEAKER: When the House adjourned on Tuesday, 4 November 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Schimming-Chase. Any further discussion? Honourable Iyambo.

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I would like to make some observations with respect to the Report under consideration.

I take it that when we refer to the people of the South we are possibly talking about the Karas and part of Hardap Region. Honourable Speaker, I would claim to have some insight on what is happening in the Karas Region in particular.

Recently, together with Honourable Ida Hoffmann, Honourable Christian Hansen and Comrade John Walenga. I paid a nearly two-weeks visit to the Karas Region to see what exactly is happening in that Region and therefore, we have some insight of what is happening there. When we were there we spoke directly to the ordinary people to find out how they are affected by the economic situation. We spoke to the Traditional Leaders to brief us fully as well as to the business houses. In Lüderitz we met all those of the fishing industry, in Oranjemund NAMDEB management as well as Skorpion Zinc and Aussenkehr and politicians from all parties to find out exactly what is happening.

Comrade Speaker, yes, Karas Region is faced by unemployment and poverty, which is a general trend across the country. But before I proceed,

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ADJOURNMENT

Honourable Speaker, I wanted to find out whether the document that we are discussing was circulated to the Honourable Members and also the document presented by Honourable *Ouma* Schimming-Chase. The Report should not be discussed in isolation, because many, many reports of regional nature were conducted and surely will raise the same problems of different magnitude. It should, therefore, not be seen that this was just for the Karas Region, but across the country and the Report should not just be discussed as Karas Region but as a country Report.

Yes, the Report has some disturbing statements and some of the issues raised in the Report are just verbatim, meaning that when the researchers were interviewing the public, the researchers entered in the Report exactly what was said by those interviewed. It is not really a conclusion *per se* by the researcher, but what individual people were saying. For example, somebody said: "*First we were under the Boers, now we are under the Ovambos.*" Of course, the researchers never really qualified that statement, they presented what they said and did not analyse what the person maybe intended to say. These were just Verbatim statements.

Of course, there were also those areas mentioned by the consultants, who for example said laziness amongst Nama people to make an effort to get into those posts. They did not qualify that statement. Maybe we should not use the Report to divide the Nation further, it seems to be verbatim what the people said and not the conclusion of the researchers.

Honourable Speaker, we should not polarise the Nation, the issue of the Namas and the Ovambos, I heard Honourable Kaura saying... (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: The House shall adjourn under automatic adjournment until tomorrow afternoon, 14:30 and the Minister will continue educating us to think differently about the Report.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2008.11.12 AT 14:30