

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 2010 – 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 Affairs & Interim Attorney-General)</i>
Mr J Mutorwa	<i>(Agriculture, Water & Forestry)</i>
Dr N Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Safety and Security)</i>
Mr J Kaapanda	<i>(Information & Communication Technology)</i>
Rev W Konjore (Mr)	<i>(Youth, National Service, Sport & Culture)</i>
Ms S Kuugongelwa-Amadhila	<i>(Finance)</i>
Dr A Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Fisheries and Marine Resources)</i>
Mr M Hausiku	<i>(Foreign Affairs)</i>
Dr R Kamwi (Mr)	<i>(Health and Social Services)</i>
Ms R Nghidinwa	<i>(Home Affairs and Immigration)</i>
Mr N Mbumba	<i>(Education)</i>
Mr C Namoloh	<i>(Defence)</i>
Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwah	<i>(Environment and Tourism)</i>
Ms P Iivula-Ithana	<i>(Justice)</i>
Mr A !Naruseb	<i>(Lands & Resettlement)</i>
Mr J Ekandjo	<i>(Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development)</i>
Mr E Nghimtina	<i>(Mines and Energy)</i>
Mr I Ngatjizeko	<i>(Labour & Social Welfare)</i>

Ms M Mungunda *(Gender Equality and Child Welfare)*
Mr H Angula *(Works and Transport)*

DEPUTY MINISTERS

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

Mr P Shifeta *(Youth, National Service, Sport & Culture)*
Mr P Smit *(Works & Transport)*
Mr T Tweya *(Finance)*
Ms L Lucas *(Foreign Affairs)*
Ms P Haingura *(Health and Social Services)*
Ms T Mushelenga *(Trade & Industry)*
Dr R Ndjoze-Ojo (Ms) *(Education)*
Mr V Simunja *(Defence)*
Mr R Dinyando *(Information & Communication Technology)*
Mr U Nujoma *(Justice)*
Mr P Ilonga *(Labour and Social Welfare)*
Mr I Katali *(Agriculture, Water & Forestry)*
Mr K Kazenambo *(Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development)*
Mr B Esau *(Mines & Energy)*
Ms Muharukua *(Gender Equality and Child Welfare)*

SECRETARY

Mr. J Jacobs

DEPUTY SECRETARY

Mr F S Harker

LIST OF MEMBERS AND PARTIES WHICH THEY REPRESENT

CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS (COD)

Mr A. Chilinda
Ms E Dienda
Ms L. Kaveri
Mr T Gurirab *(Deputy Whip)*
Ms N Schimming-Chase *(Chief Whip)*

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>
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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)	
Dr K Amutenya (Mr)	
Mr N Angula	<i>(Prime Minister)</i>
Mr H Angula	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr S C Ankama (Mr)	
Ms L Basson	
Ms A Bayer	
Ms C Bohitile	
Mr H Booyis	<i>(Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee)</i>
Ms H Christian	
Mr Dinyando	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr J Ekandjo	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr B Esau	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Dr 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 Ilonga	<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 J Kaapanda	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr E Kaiyamo	
Dr R Kamwi (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms L Kasingo	
Mr I Katali	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms J Kavetuna	
Dr A Kawana (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr K Kazenambo	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Rev W Konjore (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms S Kuugongelwa – Amadhila	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms L Lucas	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr N Mbumba	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms A Muharukua	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms M Mungunda	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr P Mushelenga	<i>(Assistant Whip)</i>
Ms T Mushelenga	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr J Mutorwa	<i>(Minister)</i>
MR N Nashandi	
Mr T Nambahu	
Mr A !Naruseb	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms E !Nawases-Taeyele	
Mr I Ngatjizeko	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwah	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms R Nghidinwa	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr E Nghimtina	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr U Nujoma	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr P Shifeta	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr V Simunja	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms D Sioka	<i>(Deputy Speaker)</i>
Dr N Tjirange (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr T Tweya	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr R /Ui/o/oo	

UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT (UDF)

Mr J //Garöeb	<i>(Party Leader)</i>
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Mr M Goreseb

Ms G Tjombe

(Chief Whip)

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

Mr R Diergaardt

Ms I Hoffmann

Ms A Manombe-Ncube

Mr C Namoloh

(Minister)

Dr R Ndjoze-Ojo (Ms)

(Deputy Minister)

Mr P Smit

(Deputy Minister)

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
09 FEBRUARY 2010**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Right Honourable Prime Minister, I welcome you back. Members, compatriots, friends, we are back to continue our work from where we stopped last October. Presidential and National Assembly elections have taken place. Given the fact that the Judiciary is ceased with the matter, we as Parliament shall leave it at that. Once there is clarity on the relevant issues of law and the outcome of the Court case, the House will know how and when to play its part on the way forward. So much for that for now.

In terms of the Constitution, the National Assembly, as the principal Legislative Authority in and over Namibia, shall have the power to make and repeal laws for the peace, order and good governance of the country in the best interest of the people of Namibia. That is what our Constitution enjoins this House to be doing. That is what brings us here as the elected representatives of the people. As old hands, you are fully aware that we are the servants and not the masters of the people in all we think, say and do. We are democrats and lawmakers.

Before I turn your attention to the business I scheduled for this afternoon, may I invite you all that we, as appropriate, register our pride and happiness on this 20th anniversary of the fact that Namibia's Constitution is a living document, the foundation of our democracy and the Rule of Law and, indeed, the protector of the fundamental rights, freedoms and civil liberties of all our people and guests in the Republic of Namibia. Celebration is, therefore, in order.

In two days' time, Comrade Madiba will commemorate twenty years since his release from jail. It was exactly two days after the adoption of our Constitution. The Party that is soon to be sworn in as the Government invited Comrade Madiba. Comrade Hage Geingob, I and other Comrades were tasked to make sure that he would be here in Namibia to join the other guests celebrating our Independence on the 21st of March 1990.

09 February 2010

**OPENING REMARKS
HON SPEAKER**

This evening, for those of you who have received invitations from Advocate John Walters, there will be a working dinner of sorts. The occasion will be one where Professor Kader Asmal will be a keynote speaker and those Members of the old Constituent Assembly, particularly those who were Members of the Drafting Committee, will exchange views, revisit those moments in the Constitution drafting Committee Room. That will be between 19:00 and 19:30.

Before I move on to the next announcement, which is sad indeed, I want to plead with those who are recording the proceedings of the House that they be honest to themselves and please, please clear their minds. That is why they are sent to the House to record the proceedings correctly. When we adjourned in October, I stated explicitly we adjourned this Session of this Assembly. Over a twenty-year period, I hope people would know how the sittings of the Assembly work and that the work is divided up when each sitting commences. This is the last sitting of the Fourth Parliament. I thought that was understood last year in October. There should not have been confusion about the resumed sessions of the Assembly and the ceremonial opening of the Parliament, which requires red carpets and circumstances where the Judges come in their colourful robes, my Colleague, the Chairman of the National Council and I have haircuts for the day, and we celebrate the life of our country. That is a different exercise, when the First Session of the Fifth Parliament is held, that exercise will happen. This is the continuation of the meeting we adjourned. Please do not confuse the public. If you are confused, pray and say to the Lord, *"I am sorry, Lord."*

Honourable Members, I want to inform the House that I have been informed about the untimely death of the late Honourable Ponhele Ya France, Member of Parliament, and Combatant of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia, trade unionist and upon his departure from the National Broadcasting Corporation he was attached to the Ministry of Veterans Affairs. He has passed on. We pray that his soul will rest in peace and that he will be received in good hands by the Lord upstairs. I, therefore, ask you all to join me to pay tribute to him.

THE HOUSE OBSERVES A MINUTE OF SILENCE

I would like to inform the Assembly that my Office has received a request from some Ministers to have the following items included on the Parliamentary

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**OPENING REMARKS
HON SPEAKER**

Order Paper for this current session of Parliament. These are:

1. *Employment Services Bill;*
2. *Banking Institutions Amendment Bill;*
3. *Payment System Management Amendment Bill;*
4. *Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management Bill;*
5. Namibia Contingent to UN mission in Chad; and (this should be a Motion)
6. Revised National Gender Policy.

Items to be submitted during the First Session of the Fifth Parliament are:

1. *Income Tax Amendment Bill;*
2. *Value Added Tax Amendment Bill;* and
3. *Transfer Duty Amendment Bill.*

End of Announcements.

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.

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

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: I lay upon the Table, the 2007/2008 Annual Report of the Karakul Board of Namibia, for the information of the Honourable Members and for appropriate scrutiny by the Public Accounts Committee.

HON SPEAKER: Any further Reports and Papers.

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TABLING OF REPORTS
HON KAAPANDA / HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT OF
TELECOM NAMIBIA**

**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGY:** Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the 2006/2007
Annual Report of Telecom Namibia.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Report?
Honourable Minister of Finance.

TABLING: ANNUAL REPORTS

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I lay upon the Table –

1. Annual Report of the Ministry of Finance for the year 2007/2008;
 2. Annual Reports of the Tender Board of Namibia for the years 2005/2006,
2006/2007 and 2007/2008;
 3. Annual Financial Statements of the Namibia National Reinsurance
Corporation Limited for the year ending 31 March 2009.
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HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Reports? Deputy
Minister of Justice.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN**

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON NUJOMA**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the 2008 Annual Report of the Office of the Ombudsman.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Deputy Minister please table the Report? Any Notice of Questions? Honourable Tsudao Gurirab.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

Question 87:

HON T GURIRAB: I give Notice that on Thursday, the 18th of February 2010, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development the following:

1. In terms of the Local Government Act of 1992 and the Regional Councils Act of 1994, what is the prescribed period after the Financial Year end that Annual Reports be submitted to the Minister and tabled in this Honourable House?
2. How many Local Authorities, that is Villages, Town Councils and Municipalities have Reports outstanding and do not comply with the said Act?
3. How many Regional Councils have Reports outstanding beyond the prescribed period in terms of the said Act?
4. Can the Minister mention these Local Authorities and Regional Councils in respect of which reports are outstanding and the years for which this is the case?
5. In the event of outstanding Annual Reports, what is the Minister doing to ensure compliance with the law?
6. Is the Minister happy with the present state of affairs?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON T GURIRAB / HON VILJOEN**

QUESTION 88:

HON T GURIRAB: I give Notice that on 18 February 2010 I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development:

1. Given the Report the Minister had commissioned, following problems of succession in the Mbanderu community in the wake of the death of the late Chief Munjuku II, is the succession issue now finally resolved in this community?
2. What exactly did the Report advise the Minister to do?
3. Has a new Chief now been appointed following the receipt of the said Report by the Minister?
4. Has the alluded Chief already received his four-wheel drive car, courtesy of the Government and taxpayer?
5. Can the Minister table the Report in this Honourable House?

QUESTION 89:

HON VILJOEN: I give Notice that on Thursday, 18 February 2010, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following question:

Everybody welcomes the intention of the Government to introduce a performance appraisal system for the Civil Service, as suggested by the Right Honourable Prime Minister earlier this year. The success of such a system depends on certain principles of which the most important are the objectivity of the system and the objectivity of the supervisors. The system should include a reward for good performance, but should also have a penalty clause for non-performers. It should be a unified system right through the Civil Service.

How will the mentioned criteria be met in the proposed system?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON KAVARI**

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

QUESTION 90:

HON KAVARI: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 18th of February 2010, I shall ask the Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare the following question:

Honourable Minister, your Ministry provides assistance to orphans and vulnerable children, which is highly commendable. However, I would like to know the following:

What is your position with regard to children of parents who are imprisoned, especially in cases where the main breadwinner is the one who is imprisoned? Are these children regarded as vulnerable children? If yes, is this information provided to the affected families at the time of imprisonment? If not, how is the Nation or the affected families expected to know about this fact?

QUESTION 91:

HON KAVARI: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 18th of February 2010, I shall ask the Minister of Information and Communication Technology the following questions:

1. Honourable Minister, how many Directors-General are on the NBC payroll?
2. What are the procedures to apply for that vacant post?
3. What makes this post so “hot” that we have never had a Director-General who finished his term of five years ever since our Independence?
4. Is it true that there is a lot of political interference in the day-to-day activities of the Corporation?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON DIENDA**

5. What are the requirements for the position of Director-General of NBC?
 6. Can a non-SWAPO Party member apply and be hired in this position, or is the position reserved for loyal SWAPO Party members?
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QUESTION 92:

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 18th of February 2010, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Education the following:

In a circular to all school principals, teachers, parents and other stakeholders, support staff and learners dated 8 January 2010 and signed by the Director for the Khomas Education Region, Mr Josea Udjombala, the following were noted and I quote:

“9.6. Through and by way of this communication we are introducing extended working hours for teachers up to 16:00 each school day, with a lunch-break in-between except on Fridays and other public holidays or long weekends.”

1. Was this discussed with all the stakeholders who were mentioned, including the Trade Unions?
2. If yes, when and what was the outcome of the said meeting?
3. If no, why not?
4. If Trade Unions refuse that their members will act on this call, what will the next step be?
5. Will the compensatory remedial teaching, which is being referred to in the same paragraph, be free of charge?
6. Extramural activities are mentioned in the same paragraph. What about teachers who are saying that they do not work for the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture and thus they will not take the responsibilities of such activities?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON DIENDA**

7. What is the outcome that the Minister expects through this exercise and is it for the whole country or only for the Khomas Region?
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QUESTION 93:

HON DIENDA: I give Notice that on 18 February 2010 I shall ask the Minister of Education the following question and I would like to quote Article 20 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia.

“(4) All persons shall have the right at their own expense to establish and to maintain Private Schools or Colleges or other institutions.”

1. What are the criteria used to fund Private Schools?
 2. What do we fund?
 3. How much do we fund?
 4. Which are the Private Schools being funded?
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QUESTION 94:

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on 18 February 2010, I shall ask the Minister of Education the following question:

During my five-year term as a Member of Parliament, I have observed that newly elected school board members are not being trained concerning their duties and responsibilities. They are just there for window-dressing. In 2009, all schools in the country had elected new school board members who will serve a term of three years. What are the plans of the Minister regarding the training of these members?

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

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON CHILINDA**

QUESTION 95:

HON CHILINDA: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 18 February 2010, I shall ask the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development the following question:

Honourable Minister, why in a unitary State where regional activities are to be monitored by the Central Government to ensure uniformity in the implementation of development programmes, do some Regions not have any Development Committees in place and where they exist, do they not function properly as I stand now. The policy guideline on decentralisation requires all Line Ministries in all the Regions to be part of or members of such Development Committees. However, there is no enforcement mechanism to ensure their quality participation. What is the Ministry planning to do to ensure participation of all the Ministries, community members and NGO's in the Regional Development Committees?

QUESTION 96:

HON CHILINDA: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on 18th February 2010, I shall ask the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development the following question:

Honourable Minister, the Katima Rural Constituency is a thorny issues for some villagers who do not know which Constituency they belong to, be it Kabbe or Sibinda constituencies and to crown it all, the current base of the current Governor and Councillor of Katima Rural is now part of the Sibinda constituency, leaving him without a Constituency base. How did the delimitation take place? Was it approved by the President of this country? Why was this delimitation done without consultation with the local community, as it is now causing this confusion? If such delimitation was indeed approved and the law states that one qualifies to be a councillor if one comes from that constituency, that makes the current Councillor illegal and he needs to be replaced with someone from the said Constituency.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON T GURIRAB**

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

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON T GURIRAB: I give Notice that on Tuesday, the 16th of February 2010, I shall Move –

That this Honourable House debates the sorry and deteriorating situation at the National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) and advise on remedies to correct this situation.

HON SPEAKER: Any Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF THE DEBATE: MOTION ON
RECONSIDERATION OF QUORUM OF THE HOUSE**

HON SPEAKER: When the House adjourned on Thursday, 8 October 2009, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Veterans Affairs. The Honourable Minister of Justice had the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, welcome to the House of the people. I hope you had a restful holiday. The work has begun.

Colleagues, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate all of us for having held very peaceful elections and secondly, to congratulate the winning party, the mighty SWAPO Party for its overwhelming victory.

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**RECONSIDERATION OF QUORUM OF HOUSE
HON DIENDA**

Honourable Speaker, the paper in my hand is not telling me that on the issue here raised by the Honourable Minister of Veterans Affairs, I am the next speaker and in that regard, I would ask for the indulgence of the House to take the Floor another time and not now.

HON SPEAKER: Any further contributions on this topic? Honourable Dienda?

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I am fully aware of how stressful it might be for the Honourable Minister of Veterans Affairs to come to this House, just to discover that there is no quorum. Sometimes one is frustrated, especially when decisions, as was said by the Honourable Minister, need to be taken. My concerns are focused on treating the symptoms instead of exploring the cause of the problem.

Reducing the quorum of this august House as proposed will have far-reaching implications on both democracy, as a system, and might result in the betrayal of the mandate entrusted to the Members of this House by the electorate. The justification of this intended increased absenteeism from work by elected Members, rather than enhancing Members of Parliament to be accountable for what we get paid for. As much as we will argue that Members of Parliament are out on official trips, the question will remain that we lack leadership in this House. We have a Committee of Standing Rules and Orders where intended trips are being planned and approved and this happens on a weekly basis.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, Section 1.4 of the Standing Rules and Orders reads as follows: *“When a Member is absent from the meetings of the Assembly for ten consecutive days without leave of the Assembly having been granted, he or she will lose its membership”*. This, Honourable Speaker, according to me is the problem that we have to look into. It is time to decide whether being a Member of Parliament is a fulltime or a part-time job. If one only needs to come to Parliament three times in a month, what more do we expect from the electorate? Lead by example!

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, at the current trend of affairs, can we, the Members of Parliament that are here for the last time, claim that we are

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**RECONSIDERATION OF QUORUM OF HOUSE
HON RIRUAKO**

leaving a legacy of accountability and responsibility? We must not demote our representation in Parliament, but rather toil on our weaknesses. (Intervention)

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

Honourable Dienda, are you aware that some of the Members are Traditional Leaders and they are always busy with traditional affairs and serving their subjects?

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, there is just no justifiable reason for Members of Parliament to be part-time politicians and fulltime farmers and business owners. If we cannot adhere to the call and serve those who entrusted us with these positions, then the time has come for all of us to retire from politics. If we are changing laws every time to suit our failures, does it mean that we had become briefcase politicians or did we run out of ideas, or were all laws affecting the Nation already passed? If we do not need a Parliament of 78 people to pass laws, but only 20 people to sit around the Table now and then to make decisions, let it be.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, if Members of Parliament are not on official duties during Parliament sessions, then they must not be paid. No work, no pay! I will rather support the idea of sitting allowances of Members of Parliament, so that Members are remunerated for the work they are doing and not complement their fulltime jobs outside Parliament. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Chief Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: I listened to my dear Colleague, Honourable Dienda and Honourable Kazenambo, we are only two traditional leaders here and we have given the service to some people. If you are lazy to do your job, then it is only you. Is it fair that you are absent, touring around the world without good performance in this House? (Interjections). I did not mention names. If the

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**REPORT ON GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS
HON P MUSHELENGA**

shoe fits someone, it is not me. I do not want to elaborate on it, but the fact is that this part was empty all along and we ought to sack them from Parliament because they are absent most of the time, but because of mercy, we did not do that. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable Kaiyamo.

HON KAIYAMO: I Move that the Debate be adjourned until next week, Tuesday.

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? The consideration of this item stands adjourned until Tuesday next week. The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT ON THE PARLIAMENTARY
CONFERENCE ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS BY A
DELEGATION OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU)
NAMIBIA GROUP**

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Peya Mushelenga move that the Report be considered?

HON P MUSHELENGA: I so Move, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, welcome back from the recess. I wish you all a prosperous 2010.

Today marks the 20th Anniversary of the adoption of our Supreme Law, the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia. Our Government and Nation should

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HON P MUSHELENGA**

be commended for adhering to the letter and spirit of the Constitution and for bearing a torch for democracy for the past two decades.

Furthermore, I would also like to congratulate SWAPO Party for the landslide victory during the Presidential and National Assembly elections last year. The people elected shall never be defeated.

When we adjourned last year, I was due to motivate the Report of the Namibian Parliamentary Delegation that attended the Parliamentary Conference on the Global Economic Crisis organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Union. International forums, such as the IPU, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), Pan-African Parliament and other similar regional and international Parliamentary organisations had become more interested in issues that touch the daily lives of ordinary people. The world is faced with many problems, such as climate change, diseases, hunger and poverty, terrorism and economic crisis. Thus, the IPU convened the Parliamentary Conference on the Global Economic Crisis from the 7th to the 8th of May 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland.

As lawmakers, we should discuss and find common ground on issues discussed at such international forums and this is due to a number of reasons. Among them is that sometimes there could be a need to domesticate the resolutions and decisions made at international forums. There is also a need to keep our Parliamentarians abreast on the developments in the global system and enable them to comprehend topical issues.

The Legislature needs much more exposure to issues that were traditionally the exclusive domain of the Executive. Parliamentarians who attend the IPU side event meeting and the often-quoted Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark in November last year, inscribed in their opening statement: *“Parliaments and the Executive Branch have different responsibilities when it comes to international negotiations. Governments negotiate rules and arrangements on behalf of States. That said, Parliamentarians felt that there was a need for greater understanding of Parliament’s role to scrutinise Government action, influence policies, pursue Inter-governmental negotiations, ratify international agreements and implement them through appropriate legislation and Budget allocations.”*

It is, therefore, essential that in the context of the Namibian Parliament we should continuously encourage Parliamentary involvement on matters of

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international concern and international policy. However, I should immediately stress that this does not mean that the Legislature should duplicate the functions of the Executive. Clear lines of demarcation with regard to the division of labour should be observed.

Honourable Speaker, the matter before us is very relevant and still timely, as the crisis is still unfolding and its consequences are being felt everywhere. Moreover, the IPU will convene yet another Parliamentary conference on the Global Economic Crisis in April or May this year. The discussions at the previous conference in Geneva focused on three critical themes, namely:

- Macro-economic policies to stimulate the global economy;
- Reform of the International Financial System; and
- Elements of the Parliamentary Strategy on the Way Forward.

The causes of the global economic crisis were identified by Professor Jeffrey Sachs, a scholar of the US as:

- Reckless financial regulations that were implemented in the US; and
- Serious imbalances in the global economy.

We can therefore not dispute that we are a family of one global village. Unfortunately, we are now all in this crisis together.

I hope that the Honourable Members had the opportunity to peruse the Report. The Report is very informative and gives a picture on how this economic and financial meltdown unfolded and what the future will hold for us. I believe that it will give Parliamentarians, researchers and everybody else a basic understanding of the origin of the crisis, its ramifications, what we should do to address it and find a solution to the crisis.

As elected representatives, we should also be knowledgeable on how the crisis will affect our country, our citizens and communities. The crisis is further exacerbated by other problems, such as climate change, fluctuating foreign currency rates, interest rates, which have advantages for the consumers and disadvantages for the investors. There are concerns, such as the Bank of

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Namibia, reducing interest rates while commercial banks do not follow its directives and fluctuating food prices, among others.

We must know that the global financial crisis affect women and men differently, with women being the hardest hit. We have to ensure that policies and programmes that are developed to address the current crisis take into account the issue of gender equality, guaranteed political participation by women and apply tools, such as gender-sensitive budgeting.

As representatives, we should have the interest of the Namibian people and improve Public Service delivery, attuned to the deeper aspirations of our citizens. As Parliamentarians, we must ensure closer Parliamentary interaction with national and international financial institutions in a bid to exercise greater Parliamentary oversight.

At this point, I cannot help but to recall the statement by the IPU President at the Economic Crisis Conference when he said: *“It is critical that all Parliaments around the world deal with the ramifications of the current global economic and financial crisis. However, a multi-sectoral approach is needed to address these challenges on a sustainable basis. All stakeholders should be involved if the meaningful reversal of the economic fortunes is to occur.”*

It is important to note here that Parliament does recognise the need to have a multi-sectoral approach in addressing the global economic crisis. Thus, in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Namibian delegation to the Parliamentary Conference on the Global Economic Crisis included two financial advisers. I would, therefore, like to seize this opportunity to express our gratitude to Mr Gerson Kadhikwa of the Bank of Namibia and Mr Daniel Motinga of the First National Bank who served as advisory team to the delegation. Furthermore, I wish to extend gratitude to fellow Members of Parliament for their commitment at the conference.

Finally, Honourable Speaker, there is just a puzzling question regarding what we do after debating, noting and/or adopting Reports in this august House. There is a need to develop mechanisms on follow-ups and feedback so that accountability to the Legislature is fully realised. For the purpose of this Report, the IPU would like this House to express itself on the Parliamentary Conference on the Global Economic Crisis Report. I look forward to a mind-

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stimulating exchange of ideas and I thank you.

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:10 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I first of all wish all the gallant, heroic Honourable Members of the National Assembly a happy year and may I also congratulate the founding mothers and fathers of the Namibian Constitution who have survived the last 20 years to be still here today.

I know that we are an endangered species, but I hope that the young people appreciate our shadows, because we are the custodians of the origin of the ideas of our Constitution. If there is a dispute, we can always tell you that *we meant this, not that* and I think you should feel proud that some of the founding fathers and mothers are still here.

May I also congratulate the people of Namibia for maintaining peace, harmony and social cohesion, guided by the policy of national reconciliation, which is the cornerstone of our Constitution. May they continue for the next 20 years to hold the same tradition, so that Namibia will continue to march ahead.

Having said that, I would like to congratulate Honourable Peya Mushelenga for introducing the Report on the Parliamentary Conference on the Economic Crisis. I would also like to congratulate the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union for convening fellow Parliamentarians to reflect on this very basic issue of bread and butter.

The economic crisis has demonstrated the callousness of those who control the levers of power in the world. This crisis was caused by them, starting there in America and sending a contagion to Europe and other parts of the world. They had meetings of the Group of 20, devising strategies how to bail themselves out, which they euphemistically called “*stimulus*.” Stimulus is nothing but a “*bail-out*”, but if you hear you are bailing out Air Namibia, they will say that your economy is inefficient, etcetera. However, when the Lehman Brothers and General Motors started to collapse, they saw their future crumbling in front

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of them. It was all about greed. I think greed is corruption. In the Scriptures, greed is described as corruption. These people were getting richer and richer and they put us in this trouble.

If we look at Namibia, we suffered and we are going to continue to suffer even more. I hope the Minister of Finance will find some therapeutic words when she introduces the Budget, so that she does not shock you with the consequences of this greed and global economic crisis.

Our export economy was heavily hit. Diamonds mined stockpiled – no buyers. Copper prices collapsed. Tourism was seriously affected because people no longer had discretionary funds to travel, they had to put bread on their tables rather than travelling. The story is long. The consequence of that is that we lost heavily in terms of revenue.

However, when these people were bailing themselves out with billions or trillions, they never thought of us, but we are the victims of their greed and that is where you see that the world is totally unfair! Those whose export markets were affected were supposed to be helped, they were supposed to get stimulus packages, so that when people are retrenched from the export sector, they should be able to be integrated somewhere else. That never happened. People were retrenched at NAMDEB. The Government, of course, brought some relief by saying we are not going to tax your packages. People were retrenched at Ongopolo – no relief. The consequences of that are increased poverty and increased unemployment.

I was reading a Report of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, which shocked me. The report says that the unemployment rate in Namibia is 50%. This unemployment rate is a consequence of this economic crisis. (Interjection). It is not structural, you want to blame SWAPO, and it is not true. When you retrench somebody from NAMDEB, because you cannot sell diamonds, you cannot blame SWAPO. When you retrench somebody from Ongopolo or Otjihase, you cannot blame SWAPO. It is the economic downturn. When you retrench somebody in the Hospitality Industry, you cannot blame SWAPO. You must blame the greed of those who caused the economic crisis. This is the truth. (Intervention)

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HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: May I ask a question? You are doing very well, but I want to add to what you are saying by way of a question. Is this not also the same greed when we are talking about sanctions against Iran, because it is enriching nuclear uranium while we are modernising our nuclear arsenals and making more destructive weapons ourselves?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Yes, I am not going to comment on the Iran case in case I get into trouble. I got into trouble the other day, this time I reserve my comments. (Intervention)

HON KAVARI: Honourable Prime Minister, whenever NAMDEB is doing well, we congratulate the SWAPO Party Government. Therefore, if they are doing bad, we also blame the SWAPO Party Government.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Kavari, this time NAMDEB is doing bad not because of SWAPO's policies, it is because of the crisis created somewhere else. If SWAPO adopts a reckless macro-economic framework, you can blame SWAPO. This time it is not the case, this time it is an external crisis. (Intervention)

HON T GURIRAB: May I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister a question? As usual I am thoughtfully following the presentation, which the Prime Minister is making, but in view of the global crisis, may I ask what Government's response was? A Committee was called to life to address some of the problems which the Prime Minister is raising. When are we going to see the Report of the Committee? (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Unfortunately, the Chairperson of the Committee is not here, but I can only tell you what the SWAPO Government did. The SWAPO Government adopted a very expansion Budget whose Capital Projects were in the Region of N\$4,7 billion. That was our own stimulus. Therefore, if you look at the skyline of Windhoek now, everywhere you will see a building coming up. You do not need to look further, just here. As a hero, you will be seeing yourself there in the Independence Museum.

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That Capital Budget is what has helped us up to this point to keep the economy active. However, that Budget stood on the revenue of the previous year before the crisis. (Interjection)

HON T GURIRAB: Where is the Report?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: It is not your Report, it is not a Parliamentary Report, but I may answer your question in a different form, the Chairperson of the Committee will be coming back tomorrow. You can ask the Chairman of the Committee, but I am only telling you that because of the revenue of 2008, we were able to have an expansionary Budget in 2009. That is not likely to be the case comes 2010 because of the pain which the greedy people of America and other parts of the world have inflicted on the Namibian people and they owe us reparation and I hope that the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is going to join me in our demand that those who caused the economic crisis should be taken to the International Criminal Court. Malnutrition in Namibia is increasing because of that. What they have done is criminal, you will agree with me.

Therefore, I am happy that the Inter Parliamentary Union has taken up this issue not only by way of public interest, but really to address this seriously that this was a criminal act and those who caused this crisis deserves to be taken to the International Criminal Court so that they can be brought to book. Madoff went to prison, why do others not go to prison.

On top of that, climate change has also been bestowed upon our people – drought and floods. Now our people do not have food reserves in their homes and climate change was also caused by them. Pollution, the green gas emissions were done by the industrial countries. Therefore, it is high time that our Parliaments, through the Inter-Parliamentary Union, constitute a Criminal Court to try the polluters and the greedy ones. The polluters are causing climate change and the greedy ones have caused financial crisis with negative consequences to our well-being and our livelihoods and I think we have a case to make. I thank you for your attention.

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HON SPEAKER: I was going to make an announcement the day after tomorrow that an enlarged Executive Committee Meeting of the IPU will meet here in Windhoek, beginning next week, Monday, Tuesday and I will see to it that some of the key people would have an opportunity to engage the Prime Minister. I intend to communicate at the end of the consideration of this particular item on the Order Paper the sense of this House to the leadership of the IPU. Honourable Kazenambo.

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

Honourable Speaker, I stand to express my views on the issue of global economic crisis, which those whose surname ends with “ko” have caused. Having said that let me join the previous speakers who congratulated... (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a small question, because I do not want to have confusion. Honourable Deputy Minister, you referred to a surname that ends with “ko”. Are you referring to the Honourable Paramount Chief Riruako or whom are you referring to?

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

Let me join the previous speakers in congratulating the mass Political Party for having scored the mass votes of endorsement for continuing ruling this country.

Having said that, I want to associate myself with the sentiments echoed by Comrade Peya Mushelenga on the question of what happens after we have discussed this Report here in Parliament. I think this is not the first time this question has been posed and perhaps there is a need to put mechanisms in place as to how these burning questions can be addressed.

The matters of the global economic crisis this time perhaps have manifested themselves in the form they have done, but in the history of economic development the world and nations have been subjected to economic crisis in one form or the other and today, with the increased global economic integration, we are experiencing crisis in different forms and we need to define

them, because perhaps some of the crises we are experiencing are not of global scale, but they are equally affecting our economies and equally affecting the living standard of our people.

The global economy is integrating on an increasing scale. The global economy is concentrated on a few multi-national companies, which do business across the globe. These multi-national companies are hailing from different countries, and developing nations such as ours need to be on the lookout. We are not all economists such as Honourable Tjihuiko, but our economists really need to be on the lookout, because what may seem to be innocent direct foreign investment flowing into our economy, may manifest themselves without us realising that these activities are affecting our people negatively.

Therefore, I am saying that Parliament really needs to look into this question of how to interact and liaise with the Executive in keeping an eye on the development of our economy, be it from a macro perspective or be it from a micro perspective. This question needs to be seriously addressed. I am saying this, because the activities of multi-nationals and the economic activities of global economic players are affecting some business players in this country.

Honourable Dienda said there are some business people in this House who do not turn up because we are addressing our business activities, which I think that is a generalisation because some of us are business people, but we are also committed to what we are doing. However, the Namibian business market environment is really a tough one for Namibian companies. The business people here, Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Members, are really feeling the heat. We are negatively affected by the global economic crisis. Our market needs regulation and that is where Parliament needs to seriously come in and liaise with the Executive in a positive manner, because I think our economy is one of the freest smaller economies in the globe. We are strategically located, we have a harbour, we can be an entry port to many landlocked economies in the Region and we have good infrastructure. Let us face it and call a spade a spade, the SWAPO Party Government has in the past twenty year done a great job in terms of infrastructure for economic development.

However, not all global companies are entering our market with honesty and genuine investment intentions. The intentions of some of them are very negative. Those of us who are staying in high towers and Members of

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Parliament, like Honourable Tjiuiko, who are forever travelling abroad in Europe and America, are not feeling the heat, which the ordinary business people are feeling on the ground. An example in point, Namibian business people have entered a neighbouring economy, selling tyres, but today as I am talking, some companies came from their countries and used the Namibian market as a springboard or conduit to enter the lucrative neighbouring market and the Namibian business people are no longer selling tyres to that market, they have been squeezed out. However, as we are talking here, Namibia is being used as a transit by the powerful foreign investors to sell tyres to the neighbouring countries and our people have been squeezed out.

Perhaps as Parliament, we need to come up with an economic business regulatory framework so that we do not allow our market to be used as a conduit to access the neighbouring markets, while our people are being squeezed out. Namibians must participate in that economy.

In certain neighbouring countries, you cannot do business without the participation of the citizens of those country, but here in Namibia, because we are a free economy – which is good – people are setting up their Companies and the local businesses are squeezed out.

In conclusion I want to appeal that, while we are busy dealing the global economic crisis, we must also come up with a mechanism to prevent our market being a free-for-all while our business people are being denied.

Despite the good regional integration policy and economic policies in SADC and the African Union, the Namibian business people on the ground are finding it hard to penetrate the neighbouring markets. Even in restaurants we are reduced to beggars, people are feasting and enjoying while using our economy.

Let us also serialise economic markets. Our economy should address how we develop tourism, how do we allow our people to participate in tourism development? How do we develop housing? What mechanisms are we putting in place not to allow the tourism sector to be a free-for-all, while our Namibian people are not benefiting anything from the tourism sector? How are we allowing our people to benefit from Real Estate development? Let us compartmentalise our economy and allow our people to participate. It is no crime to pass a law in line with the World Trade Organisation economic policy

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instruments. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: May I ask a question? After listening to you, I just recalled the plight of our hairdressers. These ladies who do our hair are now serving some hairdressers from other African countries. Our lack of assistance to our business people, like the hair salon ladies, drive them to go and work in other people's salons. We talk about SMEs, but where does that happen? The women start a small hairdressing salon, tomorrow they are bankrupt and they go and work for the Nigerian girls who are coming in. How can we solve that problem? We keep on blaming people that they are the ones taking our business, but what are we doing as Government to assist our people who (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: It is the SWAPO Government!

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: It is not a question of SWAPO Government, it is our Members sitting here as a Parliament and as lawmakers. Comrade Peya Mushelenga said we have to come up with mechanisms and you must come up with mechanisms. What is the point of you sitting there? You are admitting that you are of no use. That is why you have been rejected by the Namibian people.

I am saying that the global crisis is manifesting itself in many ways and as the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister said: Let us scrutinise and look at the structure of our economy. There many economic opportunities which are not exploited. Even the issue of property rights is manipulated and manoeuvred by the powers. If you are a poor person, my friend, and you want to take bread to your people, you will sell your property for nothing because you are hungry. Therefore, let us come up with mechanisms to address the needs of our people.

On the issue of hairdressers, I am pleased that now there is a bank coming to address the plight of the poor and the Ministry of Finance needs be to

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congratulated, because it is putting in place some mechanisms to make our banks become progressive rather than conservative. These are necessary mechanisms. We must however promote awareness of how our business people can come to Parliament to lobby us on issues of economic development, because honestly, the business micro-economic environment out there is tough for ordinary Namibian business people.

The SWAPO Government has created a good micro and macro-economic environment, but the refinement of the policies is the duty of all those who have been elected. It is a pity that some people here are confirming that the Namibian people should only look up to SWAPO and I am proud that that has been the case. Thank you that you are admitting the truth. I rest my case.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I rise to add my voice in support of this very important Motion and let me also take this opportunity to thank you, Comrade Speaker, in your capacity as President of the IPU. These are the issues that we support. These are the bread and butter issues.

In the first place, let me also take this opportunity, to congratulate His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia and of the SWAPO Party for having scored a landslide victory, indeed, also the SWAPO Party, our mighty, popular SWAPO Party. We know where to get votes. It is to be with our people, it is to show our agenda, it is through the ballot box, not elsewhere.

Comrade Speaker, the capitalist system has caused immense suffering of humankind, especially in Africa. It was the appetite of the system to get rich that led to the enslavement of the African people. As a result, millions of innocent souls perished in the name of profits during the slave trade. It is a quest of individual riches, which contributed to climate change, as the Right Honourable Prime Minister has pointed out, due to the factories, which were started during the Industrial Revolution. This again has caused untold suffering of innocent souls, especially in developing countries. It is due to the subsidies of agricultural input, especially in capitalist countries, which are causing untold suffering of the peasants of developing countries, including

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Namibia. We are told by some economists that the concept of subsidies creates inefficiency in the economic system and yet capitalist countries who are glorifying efficiency are the ones, which are spending billions of US dollars on subsidies.

When the capitalist system found itself in an intensive care unit for the first time in the history of humankind, trillions of US dollars, of public funds were used to rescue private companies. If this was done in Namibia, this would have constituted corruption and those who might have done so would have been susceptible to prosecution.

It is against this background that I think we need to sit and reflect on some of these issues. We are victims of capitalism.

Comrade Speaker, we are glorifying capitalism and yet we have been victims of this system for centuries. The time has come to reflect on this. What is the solution for Namibia? Let me first commend the SWAPO Party and its Government for taking measures to at least mitigate the effects of an economic meltdown. We are one of those countries which, compared to others, at least have survived this calamity.

I join my Colleagues and Comrades who have called for Black Economic Empowerment in our country and I would urge, with special emphasis on rural development, empowerment of our youth and women. This, to us, is not a right, not a privilege, but it is our birthright. We have to benefit from the natural resources of this land. Our forebears fought outsiders with a view to preserve these natural resources for the benefit of future generations, which include ourselves here and, therefore, it is our birthright. (Intervention)

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Speaker, I have a question for clarity. Am I following the Acting Attorney-General correctly that he is saying that capitalists are better whatever the other colours are? Is that his suggestion now, that we are capitalists because they are supposed to be better than others are? Is that what he is saying? Secondly, Article 98 sets out our economic order and I am sure he is familiar with the Constitution, so it is nobody else, it is our own choice what we have set out in our Constitution and if you do not like it, then change it. However, the present economic order is the one which

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we have defined ourselves in the Constitution. If you do not like it, let us come and change it here.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Comrade Speaker, the Honourable Member was not listening. We in the SWAPO Party have a Manifesto, we have programmes, which, in the first place, address the socio-economic welfare of our people. Capitalism's first priority is individuality, individual property, and individual aggrandizement.

Our system, or motto, our policy is to say, that communities must first benefit. Those who are deprived must benefit. That is our motto, that is our policy and that is our agenda.

Comrade Speaker, as I said, I hope in the Fifth Cabinet, Fifth Parliament... (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I please ask the Honourable Minister a question? Honourable Minister, I think the question put to you by Honourable Gurirab is very fundamental, because it is a constitutional question. Now, when you are talking about the SWAPO policy, SWAPO programmes, are you saying that SWAPO is ignoring the Constitution of this country and are carrying out their own communist or socialist programmes? Is that what you are trying to say?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Member was not listening and no wonder his Party paid heavily during the election. The policy of the SWAPO Party is that communities must be empowered economically and socially. I am aware of the Constitution, it says "*in Namibia there will be a mixed economic system*".

Cooperatives, which I support in terms of communities that must be empowered, public ownership of property, which is in the Constitution, but the difference is this: In capitalism ninety percent of the means of production and wealth is in individual hands. That is why today we are also victims of capitalism. The Honourable Member is an economist and I do not know whether he supports a subsidy, which runs into billions of US dollars in

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developed countries, which are killing millions of souls in developing countries, because when you introduce subsidies there, a peasant in my village will never compete. It is impossible to compete and yet as an economist you glorify that system. What a shame!

Honourable Speaker, I repeat, the focus of the Fifth Government, Fifth Parliament must be geared towards black economic empowerment. There should be no apology, this is our birthright. I support the Motion.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Speaker, I also rise to make a contribution to the Motion introduced by Honourable Mushelenga and I fully support the Motion. I would also like to congratulate the Speaker for coming up with this important Debate.

As was mentioned by the previous speakers, the world is in an economic crisis and we need to address this crisis, which is affecting millions of people in the developing countries and the under-developed countries. Comrade Speaker, I agree with the previous speakers that greed is the biggest problem in the capitalist system and people such as Karl Marx and others have predicted that the capitalist system is self-destructive. It will destroy itself and we now see the manifestation of the prediction by philosophers of Marx, Engels and the others. However, that is not where I am trying to move.

Honourable Speaker, we know that many countries have been severely affected by this global economic crisis. I know of countries, such as Ireland and Iceland, which were seriously affected. In addition, Spain and Greece are now starting to feel the pinch of this global economic crisis. We are relatively less affected in southern Africa because of the kind of regulations, which we have in place, which must be appreciated, although our people have been badly affected. I agree with Dr Kawana that the biggest problem of the capitalist system, which is adversely affecting the developing countries, is the subsidies, which the developed countries are giving to their farmers at the expense of our people here in the developing countries.

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The Latin American countries export bananas, but the prices are determined elsewhere. The prices of our diamonds are determined elsewhere. African countries produce coffee, but the problem is that the prices are determined elsewhere. As the Right Honourable Prime Minister has said, global capitalism and globalisation is the problem.

The lessons we must learn from globalisation and economic crisis is that we need to look at other countries, which have command economies, where they regulate their economies. Capitalism is unregulated, so it is free for all and that is the problem. Countries such as China command their economies and those are the lessons we need to learn so that we have some kind mechanism, a kind of self-regulation to regulate these things.

NAMDEB has been producing diamonds in this country for over a hundred years and the Government does not know how many diamonds they have produced. They will call a valuator from Europe and this man is on the payroll of NAMDEB. How will he evaluate your diamonds correctly? As a result, they have mined this country dry and we got nothing out of that. It is therefore important that we regulate our economy and learn from the lessons of other countries such as the Asian Tigers.

At Independence Malaysia was at the same level as Nigeria, Ghana and those countries, but if you go to Malaysia today, it is as if you are in paradise. How did they manage to create those train stations when you arrive at the airport with the same or even less resources than Ghana and Nigeria? We must learn these lessons and apply best practices.

Capitalism also has some advantages, but then we have to learn how to regulate these systems so that we benefit more and our people will remain the main beneficiaries.

Comrade Speaker, I just wanted to bring in this lesson of the command economy, so that we can also learn from them. Thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Chief Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Comrade Speaker, I am quite aware of what has been said. Point number one, there is no capital issue and social issue. The socialism is something of the past. We cannot say we believe in communism, something we do not practise. It is out of the question.

We do not live in a capitalist world and we do not live in a socialist world. We believe in entrepreneurship in a global society. They do not command their own economy, whether you want it or not. There is no *Das Kapital* anymore. We cannot afford to feed the world on that word, *Das Kapital*. It is out of the question. (Interjections). I want to discuss this matter and if you do not understand from where I came from and where I am going to, you must please keep quiet and those who do understand must question me.

The point is this, the global crisis started from here. They have taken what we had and took it to Europe and the rest of the world. This is where we have this global crisis. We are indirectly included without our knowledge. The day they colonised us is the day they have taken everything we have. This happened, we know that and we want socialism to go through the window. The African world felt that, why should we cry? Nobody said you are wrong. We were shut up and we did not say anything. Today we are longing for something, which has passed and this happened in our presence.

Nkrumah said many things to his fellow Africans and they were not even listening that time. He was destroyed by the very same people who are crying today, and what happens today, where are we? We happened to copy the patterns of Nkrumah, introduced the common market and the AU is commanding us according to our own wisdom. We did not listen to that particular person who came up with this and today we are saying we are left behind. This happened and it is our opinion, it is our own criteria.

You are talking about a lost economy. Who is it? It is we, the Africans. We had the knowledge, we had the ideas, we put it on the table, nobody cut it and the Europeans said that is communism. No one of us ever said a word about Nkrumah, today yes, after his death. I am not talking about something that I have heard, I saw it, and I came across it. Now it is too late for tears.

We live in a global society and we must join them in order get what they have in their minds and take back what is ours. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I want to exactly understand what the Honourable Chief is saying. May I please ask a question? Honourable Chief, you are making an interesting speech, but I want to know, when you talk about certain things, which have been done and now we are crying, do you want to say if we have made a mistake and we were conquered in the process, we should not fight back and restore what we have lost that time? Just because we were conquered, we just have to forget about it. We have to fight back and restore what we had.

HON RIRUAKO: I thank God that you accepted your own mistake and we understand that it was our mistake. Now let us follow the tune, regain it, and reverse it. That is the way to do it, but not by crying. Let us face it now.

Capitalism is no more. I am not talking about the ghosts of capitalism and socialism, it is gone and I saying that there is a reason for it. The economy does not fit capitalism alone. I was in China, the Germans are there with all the mechanisms and the knowledge and the techniques. The Europeans are in China and the Chinese infiltrated the European economy through their mass of human resources. They infiltrated the European economy whether you want it or not and they are going to get it one way or another like the Japanese. They have taken the patents from Europe and invented it in a different way and after that, they came back and sold it to them again. That is the way to do it. Do not cry, invent what they have. Take it and do not even tell them what you are going to do. That is the technique you are supposed to use. They have used techniques and methods to overcome you. They have taken your techniques. Nkrumah came up with the techniques, they grabbed it, now today you have to find a way out, but not to cry and tell them what you are going to do.

It is unfair. (Interjection). I am not here to play games. Those who are joking have time for that, I do not have time for jokes, I mean business and am serious.

Let us face the reality. Our economy is drawn up like a European economy and you said you tried to create a macro economy. That macro economy must be given the kind of assistance in order to fit the conditions. I have been crying about those big companies in Ovamboland, because they have taken everything away from the common person. The average person does not have a livelihood anymore. The other companies were destroyed by that. I said this several

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times. During the colonial time here in this House and now after Independence I said, do not create a massive economy and destroy the economy that started to create a good direction. Where are those big shots in Ovamboland? Where are their companies? It was destroyed by what we introduced and we did not take care of them, because we wanted the economy to expand into each corner of this country without even grasping the fact that if they are coming here, they are going to take ours out. It happened like that, but it is not too late to introduce a big economy that belongs to the people in the far north.

Who is at Oshikango? It is not the people of that area themselves, it is foreigners and you see them and you do not create a kind of massive economy. That condition is not a one-man show. It is massive. You must create the same things the same way they are doing without crying. Put another economy that belongs to you next to that one. (Interjection). Not by means of subsidising and getting money from somewhere and the money must go the next morning. We have to face the music. It is a free economy and we have to compete, but if we are not that strong, we have to come together and form a shareholder company that can fight the company next door. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Form a coalition.

HON RIRUAKO: The coalition you are talking about is coalition of the Parties, not an economic coalition and you have to do that. That is the way you are supposed to do it, that is the way it is supposed to be. You cannot keep on talking, do it in the right direction, but you do not have to discriminate against our own people. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL: May I ask a question? Honourable Chief, speaking about coalition, your Party was removed from the DTA coalition and now I see you have joined another coalition. What is your view on that one?

HON RIRUAKO: I never joined any coalition and you will never get what you want out of me. I have principles and I have guidelines different from

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SWAPO. We all know the techniques of SWAPO and the disruption of the elections. That is the answer. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Let us try to stick to the economy and climate change.

HON RIRUAKO: Now you got it, I am quite straightforward and those are my principles. Let us face the reality today, you have to work hard, there is no way out. If you want to do things according to your own aspirations, you must work hard and put in people's mind what you are thinking. That is the way it is. Economic coalitions are no different from SWAPO, NUDO, UDF, but against the foreign economy, not against us in our own country. That is the coalition I would like to see and that is something I expected from your side.

You are talking about your own land, but you have to find the techniques to change the *status quo* for you not to be taken for a ride when giving your own land to anyone who passes. Tell the people I cannot sell my soul for a handshake. They do not sell their souls in England and Italy or Germany. Do you have farms there? No. This is the way you are supposed to be. Do not talk something that you are not having in another country. For what purpose do you not receive and just give and give? What are the criteria, what is the principle why you do this? I leave it that way because I do not want to crack something in your head. I thank you.

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

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Let me start by congratulating the Honourable Peya Mushelenga for introducing this Report at the very beginning of Parliament while we are still fresh, coming back from holiday.

Honourable Speaker, the issue that we are talking about is an economic issue. It is an issue that, I believe, is so crucial to the well-being of our people. It is an issue that we may need to look at not from a political point of view, but from a national perspective. I believe that the effect of the global crisis on our

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economy, on our country and the Region has gone beyond political affiliation. It affects everybody and therefore, I believe that our approach towards this issue should be issue related rather than trying to score political points. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, you are talking about looking at things from a national perspective, but I do not understand you because when you are looking at something from a national perspective, you are looking at it from your own political understanding and political line. You cannot look at it from a national perspective and leave your political direction, which is your compass towards that directive. We differ because of our political understanding and that is the political understanding that we are using to look at the national perspective. What do you want to say?

HON TJIHUIKO: Yes, I think the Minister asked a very good question. What I am saying is that we can stand up in this House and try to score political points, but when we are looking at this issue and looking at the economic stage which we find ourselves in, looking at the unemployment rate of 50% of a population of two million people, and you are trying to tell me that whenever you stand up, you are looking at the SWAPO perspective, then I think that is very dangerous.

The point I am trying to make here is that there are certain good things that may come from a person who is not a member of your Party, but on an issue

that addresses the national issue. Unemployment does not move in boundaries of political affiliations. That is the point that we need to look at when we are looking at the issue of economy. This is beyond Party politics and we must understand that.

Honourable Speaker, whether we like it or not, when we are looking at climate change and the financial crisis that we are facing and the pollution that the Right Honourable Prime Minister was referring to, it is true, but I believe what we need to do as politicians and as a country is to look at what we have to try to evaluate the policies and programmes that we have in place and on the basis

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of that, see where we have done well and where we have not done so well and try to improve on that. It is only on that basis that we will be able to address the issue on the Table. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Tjihuiko, last year during the National Assembly and Presidential elections you had a manifesto, including other Parties of the Opposition, but now we see in Okahandja that there is this coalition. Does it mean you have thrown away your political manifesto?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I know the direction which he trying to push me into. I will answer that later. Let me try to address the issues that I want to address. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: I did say that ghost lives in Okahandja and must get out of your mind.

HON TJIHUIKO: I was saying, Honourable Speaker, that there are certain things that we can do. We need to refresh our minds and look at our policies and programmes, look at the Investment Act, for instance, look at the ODC Act, for instance, evaluate what we have gained through that. There are gains, of course, but can we improve on those things? These are the things that are going to help us to address the crisis in which we are finding ourselves.

The other day I was very impressed when I was watching the News, seeing this Ohorongo Project. I have seen the downstream benefits that were coming. That is what we call foreign direct investment. TransNamib is benefiting from it they will definitely increase employment. Everybody is benefiting from it, NamWater, NamPower, TransNamib you mention it. The local people around that area will also benefit. Those are the things that we need to look at, evaluate those things and say, how did they do it, where did we go wrong, why is it that we have not been able to get ten Ohorongo's into this country.

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Of course, we will make mistakes in this process. We have made a mistake with Ramatex, but that was a learning curve, we appreciate that, but this is the time for us now to say... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask a question? You talk about Ohorongo Cement which contributes a lot. You were a director in the Ministry of Trade and you mentioned ODC. What did you contribute while you were in Government that time? Did you get people from Okaoko to work for the Government or were you only just waiting for them to vote for NUDO?

HON TJIHUIKO: I know the Honourable Deputy Minister is now a little excited because of the statement made by the Honourable Deputy Minister and being a Himba, she believes that he is going to be the next President of SWAPO. Forget it. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Chief, here in the Assembly Honourable Tjihiuko is not outside in the other setting. Here in the Chamber Honourable Tjihiuko has his own right to speak for himself. He has the Floor and trying to answer.

HON RIRUAKO: It is a Point of Information. How can you change anything which was taken with a decision?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I am sure of the fact that we have been impressed by our investment in infrastructure, which is something that we need to be proud of, but if you look at the Ministry of Works repairing the roads which have been damaged by trucks bringing goods from South Africa, using our roads.... (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Order, Comrade Speaker, I want to inform the Honourable House the Ovatus in Namibia are people like other people, not a different group. They were left behind as others were left behind. It is not only them. To come to Muharukua, Muharukua is not window-dressing, it is Muharukua, not like NUDO saying all the time that you are educated, but only one man, no single woman.

HON SPEAKER: That intervention is not related to the subject under discussion.

HON TJIHUIKO: I was saying that the beautiful infrastructure that we have are being destroyed by the South African companies that are using our roads, taking their goods through our country into the Angolan market and we need to do something about that. Infrastructure has been created at Oshikango and the objective of this infrastructure was... (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable Tjihuiko a tiny question? Honourable Tjihuiko, have you heard about a word called weighbridge? Can you explain what a weighbridge is?

HON TJIHUIKO: Right Honourable Prime Minister, not only have I heard about it, I have seen one between Windhoek and Okahandja and I dare the Right Honourable Prime Minister to go there for fifteen minutes and see how these trucks are bypassing that weighbridge. We will wait for the Budget and we will blame the Minister of Works, but the fact of the matter is that we need to do something about those who are damaging our roads and they must pay for it. That is my point. I believe that the moment we do that, we are not creating unfavourable conditions. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Can the Honourable Member please rephrase? I do not want to send the message that it is only South African trucks that are damaging our roads. It is not a good message from this

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House. Let us rather talk about “*trucks*”, because we also have Namibian trucks driving on these roads. Could the Honourable Member please rephrase that statement and not create a wrong impression as if we are against our neighbour.

HON TJIHUIKO: I will take that advice. For the first time he has said something sensible. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Comrade Speaker, on a Point of Information. I just want to correct Honourable Tjihuiko. Honourable Tjihuiko, weighbridges in the country are working. You may have seen trucks bypassing the weighbridge on the way to Okahandja, but it will not pass the roadblock, because any truck that passes through the roadblock has to produce an invoice or letter that indicates that it has gone through the weighbridge. If he does not have that, he has to go back.

HON TJIHUIKO: I do not know whether this is reliable information or this is one of the rumours, but the fact of the matter is, Minister, take it from me that some of the information that you as Ministers are getting are not followed up. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister is a former Minister of Transport and the one I am going to give the Floor is also a former Minister of Transport.

HON TJIHUIKO: What I am trying to say, Honourable Minister, some of the information you are getting should not be dismissed out of hand. Follow it up. It will help you, rather than trying to give answers to each and everything, because that is why you are making these horrible mistakes. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Tjihuiko, how many times did

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your truck so illegally bypass the weighbridge and how many of your friends told you that they do not go via the weighbridge, they do bypass it while overloaded? Can you tell us who told you so that we follow them up tomorrow?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Minister, with due respect, let me make myself very clear. The moment you Ministers are being informed about something going wrong, you want to know who told us that. The fact is that it is very important for you to take note of each and everything that is being said and to follow it up. The reason why you are not improving is that you do not listen. You are looking at Tjihuiko as the Opposition, You are not listening at what he is saying Colleagues. You miss the point that we are just as patriotic towards this country. What we say are in the interest of this country. Therefore, in my contribution here I have no problem with that. If you do not want to take my advice, it is up to you. That is a fact. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: On a Point of Order. As Government we operate on facts, we do not operate on hearsay and rumours. As long as he says he has facts about vehicles bypassing the weighbridge which, according to him, are overloaded, he as a national of this country has the obligation and duty to report that fact to the police. However, Government does not investigate rumours, including rumours from Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Minister, I did not want to come to that point, but let me ask you. You are saying that Government is acting on facts. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjihuiko, you will elaborate further on what you wanted to say. The House shall rise under automatic adjournment until tomorrow afternoon, 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNED AT 17:45 UNTIL 2010.02.10 AT 14:30

**ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
10 FEBRUARY 2010**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

1. Film and Video Development Fund of the Namibian Film Commission for the Financial Years ended March 31st, 2006, 2007 and 2008;
 2. Meat Board of Namibia for the Financial Year ended March 31st 2008;
 3. Agricultural Bank of Namibia for the Financial Year ended March 31st, 2008;
 4. New Era Publications Corporation for the Financial Year March 31st, 2009; and
 5. Land Acquisition and Development Fund for the Financial Years ended March 31st, 2008 and 2009.
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HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Reports? Other Reports and Papers? any Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Deputy Prime Minister.

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NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON DR AMATHILA / HON MBAI

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: I give Notice that tomorrow, Thursday, the 11th of February 2010, I shall Move that leave be given to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of the Namibia Institute of Public Administration and to provide for its administration and control of its affairs and the regulation of its activities and to provide for incidentals therein.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister table the Motion? Honourable Mbai.

HON MBAI: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 18th of February I shall Move –

That this Assembly discusses –

1. The relationships between existing institutional structures created for the coordination of the National HIV/AIDS programme at various levels.
 2. The National HIV/AIDS monitoring and evaluation system in place that can be defined as a system designed to guide the process of collecting, analysing and presenting specific data based on predefined indicators with the purpose of quantifying achievements or constraints experienced so far.
 3. The allocation of adequate resources for HIV/AIDS and gender equity and national programmes and policies;
 4. Built-in schemes and mechanisms for Parliamentary accountability and oversight in our area.
-

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

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CONSIDERATION: DEFENCE POLICY

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Defence move that the Policy be considered? The Honourable Deputy Minister has the Floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Speaker, I request the indulgence of this House that the introduction of the consideration of the Defence Policy is done tomorrow.

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

**RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION OF REPORT ON THE
PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC
CRISIS BY A DELEGATION OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY
UNION (NAMIBIA GROUP)**

HON SPEAKER: When the House adjourned yesterday, 9 February 2010, the Question before the Assembly was a Report by Honourable Peya Mushelenga. Honourable Tjihuiko had the Floor and he may continue.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Yesterday I was saying that we are all aware of the fact that we are in a global crisis.

We have been talking about this for some time now, we have been criticising whomever we wanted to criticise. I think that now is the time for us to sit back and say, what are the mechanisms that we want to put in place in order for us to address the crisis that is facing our people and I think these are the issues that we should look at, not the issue whether it is capitalism or socialism, but let us look at ourselves as a Nation and as leaders and what is it that we think will resolve the problems of our people.

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I have been saying for some time now, Honourable Speaker, that you can have all the best policies and programmes in place. You can have all the best consultant reports that you can think of, but as long as these good policies and programmes are not being implemented, you will keep on talking, because there is nothing that is addressing the problem we are facing. Let us look at what the bottlenecks are. Let us look at where the problems are and these are the things that I personally need to touch on.

Honourable Speaker, I believe that we have a system in place and we have everything we need, but are we really implementing Government programmes? The system of Government, the way I understand it, is that you have a Ministry and a Permanent Secretary who is responsible for making sure that functions and programmes within the Ministry are being implemented. If we are facing a problem of unemployment, increasing to 51,8% instead of decreasing, it is simply because of the fact that Government programmes are not being implemented. Then we do not have an upper level of responsible political leaders who are supposed to ensure that the programmes that have been funded and approved by this august House are being implemented.

In a couple of weeks we are going to introduce another Budget, but we as Parliament have not received any reports on the funds that we have approved in this House. The Honourable Minister of Finance, some time ago in 2008 made a statement and I quote from the 19 February 2008 to 25 March 2008 HANSARD: *“We shall introduce new measures in order to further improve the Budget implementation. Firstly, regular reports on implementation of projects will be required from Ministries. These should allow us to identify bottlenecks in a timely manner and to correct the problem as early as possible.”* This was a statement by the Honourable Minister some two years ago.

As Members of Parliament, we have approved that Budget and we were expecting to be updated on the money that was approved. All that we see are Reports from the Ministry of Labour that are telling us that the situation of unemployment is getting out of hand. Where are the problems? The problem is with the implementation. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I think there is a need for a Point of Order, because Honourable Tjihiuiko is now deliberately misrepresenting the

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information that was shared with this House and actually misleading the public. The requirement in terms of our laws is for every Office, Ministry and Agency to report annually to Parliament and every Ministry does that. What the Ministry of Finance has shared with this House is that those Ministries would be required to submit Reports, but never has it been said that those regular reports would come to Parliament. It cannot be anticipated that a Ministry should report to Parliament three, four times in a year. That would be unreasonable, because what time would they then have to implement their programmes if they must to come Parliament every quarter or every month to report? In Government we do receive those reports and we do rectify whatever problems are identified through those reports, but the reports that are due to this House, in terms of the statutes, are brought to this House and the accountability reports, which I also promised the Ministries would submit, are submitted as part of the Budget documents every time the Budget is presented. Therefore, there is no failure by any Government Office to live up to the requirements in terms of reporting.

HON SPEAKER: Yes, Minister, that is the correct procedure, but when I ask for Ministerial Statements, the Ministers should make use of that slot to give progress reports on successes and so on. You do not need to necessarily go by the established schedule.

HON TJIHUIKO: Yes, indeed, I am not trying to criticise, but what I am saying is that it is the responsibility of all of us as leaders and we are sending a red light that something is not right and, obviously, we cannot continue standing up in this House and speak about problems facing the nation and approving budget after budget for the last twenty years. Let us look at the end-results. The end-result is obvious that the situation is deteriorating.

If you have a situation where you have more than fifty percent being unemployed in a country with the natural resources that we have, you cannot justify it. The best is for those who want to continue with this situation for the next twenty years to vacate their offices. They must accept the fact it was their responsibility and is their responsibility. (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask Honourable Tjihuiko a question? Honourable Tjihuiko, do you honestly believe that even if we reach the target of a hundred percent implementation of the Government programmes and the Budget, we would resolve the unemployment problem? The unemployment problem in Namibia is affected by so many factors – globalisation, global economic crisis, prices of commodities, and fluctuation of prices in the world economy. There are so many other factors you should not blame Government. We have inherited this problem from apartheid. (Interjections). Yes! Honourable De Waal, you must not think like small babies. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable De Waal, does not have the Floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Like an ostrich with its head in the sand. We have inherited all these problems from the apartheid colonial regime. How many years have it taken countries such as France and the United States to develop? Two hundred years! We are talking about twenty years, trying to redress the imbalances created by apartheid. That is very unfair. We have a record of almost 70% to 90% implementation of the development programmes and it is there to be seen by everybody. It is not true to say that the Government has failed to implement the development programmes, that is not true.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I take it that the public is listening, I would still insist from the Chair that regular sharing of information is important. The Cabinet has no other platform to do that. Once upon a time I used to be a Cabinet Member, Cabinet meetings are held behind closed doors, so that is not a platform for Government to report on problems, shortcomings, successes, but this place. Information sharing is important so that the Honourable Members on the Opposition side do not make misguided statements. Let us also be in the habit of sharing information.

I recently was at a conference in India. I discovered that almost half of the Parliaments have questions to the Ministers every single sitting day. That is generation of information sharing, so that those who do not have information ask questions.

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HON TJIHUIKO: I wanted to say that I remember that we were informed in this House that the Cabinet has decided to set up a special Committee, headed by the Minister of Trade, to develop intervention.... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:
Comrade Speaker, I am rising on a Point of Order under Rule 114(3) on page 70 of our Standing Rules and Orders to seek clarification on a procedural matter. When I look at the subject on the Order Paper it is the “*Resumption of Consideration of the Report on the Parliamentary Conference on the Global Economic Crisis by a delegation of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (Namibian Group)*”. I do not see this report here. Now we are discussing in general terms, we are discussing Annual Reports.

HON SPEAKER: The Report was tabled before we adjourned. The Report was circulated last year before we adjourned, three months ago.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker that is the point that I was trying to highlight, that if a Report of this nature was presented here and Honourable Members cannot even remember, it means that they did not even read it and that is the problem. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I want to say that the comment that he made just now is most appropriate in his case actually, because I maintain that the statement made by the Honourable Member that in Parliament they do not get Reports from the Executive on how the resources are used which were approved for allocation to Offices, Ministries and Agencies of Government to achieved the intended objectives is incorrect and is misleading the public, because the Reports which are due for submission to this House from Government, are duly submitted to this House. It is incorrect to say that this House at any time is in the dark about how Ministries utilise the moneys appropriated by this House. I just need to put that on record, because the annual reports are submitted, the audited Financial Reports are submitted, the Accountability Reports are submitted, Ministerial Statements are made and there are questions posed on specific issues. If the Honourable Member wants to come up with a proposal on a new reporting procedure, he should just put

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that on the Table and we will discuss it, but he cannot get up and say that Parliament is in the dark on the use of appropriated resources because there are no reports. That is false.

HON SPEAKER: Right now, there is clear evidence that the Honourable Members have not read the Report under consideration. (Interjections). I did not think that the Cabinet Members have such thick skins. This is not an issue of defending the Government, Government is not put to test. You cannot have such thick skins. I have seen worse, I have just walked away from the British House of Commons. One day I hope we will get to that point that you will be thick-skinned.

HON TJIHUIKO: Before I conclude, let me finish what I have started. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: On a Point of Order Comrade Speaker, before the Honourable Member concludes. I would seek some guidance as to the item on the programme now being considered. The Report on the Parliamentary Conference on the Global Economic Crisis that was tabled and motivated by the delegation of the Inter-Parliamentary Union; how does this correlate with the Reports that are not tabled or Reports that were not provided by the Executive to Parliament? I am confused on that one, because in my view, the House is now requested to consider the specific Report and not general Reports.

HON SPEAKER: They are talking about the economy in the broad sense of the word, not reports. He is quite in order - continue.

HON TJIHUIKO: The point that I am trying to make is that, yes indeed, in order for us as a country to address the issue of crisis, a Committee was set up to come up with proposed interventions to try to address the problem we are talking about. Up to now, from this side of the House... (Intervention)

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HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjihuiko stick to the economic part of what is on the Order Paper. You can say a lot of the things you are saying, but stick to the economy, the global economic crisis for the Namibian economy.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Comrade Speaker, I exactly wanted to say whether it is not possible for us to stay focused on the Order Paper. We can still have any other day, submit a Motion to debate what you want to put across. That can be done, but doing it under the Report submitted to be discussed, would definitely be quite extraordinary.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much. I was looking at the motivation and I believe that I was maybe on the second page of the motivation. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL: May I ask my Learned Colleague a question? Honourable Tjihuiko, you would recall that last year some Members of the Opposition were referring to a certain Political Party which was described in the press as “*a new kid on the block*” and it was there described as a scrap-yard. Now we see an alliance. Does it mean all the Opposition Parties are scrap-yards?

HON SPEAKER: You are Out of Order.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, let me conclude by saying that the global economic crisis can only be challenged by a mature approach by the international community and each and every country will have their own strategies and methods of addressing the global economic crisis and those are the pillars that we need to look at, not the systems of the “*isms*” by some Members, by some misguided politicians, Members of Parliament and Ministers who are bringing in things that are not (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: What are you talking about?

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HON TJIHUIKO: I withdraw. Honourable Speaker, let me stop here for now and I will come back later. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Dr Amweelo.

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. I would like to add my voice to this very important report on the global economic crisis introduced by Comrade Samuel Abraham Peyavali Mushelenga on behalf of the delegation of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (Namibian Group).

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, we are aware that industrial development is the core of a real economy pivotal for each country. Current national and international programmes of industrial development of the developing countries and developed countries require comprehensive technology and equipment based on modern science and technology, information communication and research.

Yesterday I read the Parliamentarian on the Financial Crisis and I read on page 157 of a wireless, paperless Parliament, which means that they are just using ICT in their Parliaments and it makes work easier for the Members of Parliament. That is the area on which we have to focus.

Comrade Speaker, yesterday the Prime Minister mentioned that the global economy reeled from the US financial crisis, has reversed the world economic growth, resulting in job losses and challenged the socio-political stability of all nations, particularly the developing and emerging nations. Developing countries are the people who are suffering.

Yesterday the Prime Minister mentioned that one of the causes is the climate change and I agree with that. There is no recognition that climate change is not just an environmental issue, it is also an economic issue, a development issue, a finance issue and a security issue. These are the things causing the global economic crisis in the world.

According to the IMF, for the first time in sixty years world economic activity declined in 2009. This is why the recent London G20 Summit of the rich

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nations used stability, growth and jobs as its key focus areas. Global economic growth is now set to contract by 1,7% and the pace and timing of recovery remain indecisive. The gross domestic product growth in sub-Sahara Africa is expected to decline from 4.9% in 2008 to 2.4%. This is very serious.

In southern Africa big mining houses are the worst affected because of a significant drop in the international demand for raw materials. We are all aware that even here there is no demand for our diamonds because of the crisis.

Other sectors, such as agriculture, fisheries, and manufacturing and construction services are also badly affected. Last year more than two million jobs were lost in the USA. Many companies worldwide have recently announced that they are reducing their workforce and we also heard about Spain's unemployment rate already being the highest in the European Union, has surged to nearly 14%.

President Obama, at his inauguration as President on 20 January 2009, said: *"Our economy is badly weakened as a consequence of greed and irresponsibility on the part of some, but also our collective failure to make hard choices and prepare the Nation for a new age."* Yesterday the Prime Minister also mentioned the greed and the US President blamed greed and a lack of accountability for the suffocating personal debts borne by millions of Americans and toxic financial products that led to the decline of several US banks.

The downsizing of the companies and lower production levels in response to the global financial crisis and its effects on the sale of luxury goods, such as diamonds, needs to be adjusted. Currently we are facing a global economic crisis, which deepens major companies across the world, which started cutting jobs. Even the International Labour Organisation reported that up to 51 million jobs worldwide could disappear as a result of the economic slowdown that has turned into a global employment crisis. This is very serious.

Developing countries will suffer most from additional job losses, according to the ILO, whose governing structures include governments, employers and workers. Especially women and children are the people who are going to suffer in developing or Third World countries.

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I therefore think there is an urgent need to address this issue of the global economic crisis to discover alternative ways on how to improve our economy around the globe. Dr Mohammad Yunus warned that *“not addressing the global poverty would lead to a much deeper crisis with political and financial implications.”* Bretton Wood refers to the meeting place where world powers establishing the IMF and the World Bank after the Second World War. To face the First World War, 1929, a group of twenty nations pledged to release US\$1,13 trillion to the IMF and the World Bank. Furthermore, by the end of 2010 US\$5 trillion would have been spent to curb the crisis, which the G20 leaders coined this effort as the start of a *“new economic order”*.

Comrade Speaker, we need to adjust our economic plans in order to meet the changing demands in the market. Science and technology cooperation at international level and information communication technology need to be strengthened and empowered in order to improve if we really want to improve. This is the time to change from knowledge to action. This is one of the many alternatives that could be considered in order to improve the current global economic crisis.

The last century opened new dynamics to the development of Africa and that is currently reflected in the New Partnership for Africa’s Development as a vision and a strategic framework for the continent’s economic renewal. Professor David Gushee of the Mercer University said: *“The USA not just needs an economic recovery plan, but also a moral recovery plan. We need a renewal of the moral compass to do the right thing at the right time in the right format and at the right cost, because it is a right, not just obeying legal laws but also moral laws related to how people need to be treated in order to curb the global economic crisis in our countries.”*

In order to strengthen our economic recovery plan and maybe a moral recovery plan, we should not only focus on infrastructure sectors, but should also consider aspects of international science and technology cooperation and information communication technology. Furthermore, to avoid huge fallout from the current global crisis, disadvantaged countries deserve any easy access to loans from international financial institutions. In addition, financial institutions for the developing world, such as Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the African Development Bank should be strengthened and made more flexible in releasing quick loans. It is important that we get loans so that our people can empower themselves.

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Presently bottlenecking of the most current industrial development projects in Africa is not a shortage of funds, instruments and investors for project implementation, but shortage of bankable projects. Due to that, capacity building and human capacity are currently, essentially in African developing for developing projects from ideas stage to a bankable level at pre-investment. Honourable Dr Hage Geingob stated at the African Business Forum, in London on 8 July 2008: “Establishment of the investment climate facility is a new private-public partnership, focusing on improving the continent’s investment climate.”

Allen Greenspan, the former Chairman of the American Federal Reserve Bank in his *“The Age of the Turbulence”* discussed three important features: “Infusing economic goals of the world: In the first place the extent of the competition domestically and especially for the developing countries. Secondly, the extent of a country’s openness, of institutions that make an economy work; and thirdly, the success of its policy-makers in implementing the measures necessary for macro-economic stability. In the absence of the developed nations’ strong commitment to address the economic downturn at global level, developing countries must take charge of their own future. We should initiate a rapid and aggressive response to grow the economics by using all the tools they have. Albert Einstein said: “The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking, we will act when we created them.” Our countries need a paradigm shift in national initiatives to construct and rehabilitate public infrastructures, such as roads, bridges, schools, hospitals and public buildings, could especially be helpful in our countries with high levels of unemployment. The UN Agency said: “While major capital intensive new infrastructure projects take time to translate into increased employment, labour-based approaches can generate jobs and much-needed infrastructure quite fast – as we did in our national projects.

According to the SWAPO Manifesto we have such a project, the labour-based approach to employ many people rather than using machinery.

Comrade Speaker, with these many words, I fully support the Report on the Parliamentary Conference on the global economic crisis. I thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: I thank you. Honourable Gurirab.

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HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Speaker, I asked to speak in support of the Report tabled and to say one or two things on it.

What the Report tabled here shows us is that our country, like the rest of the world, cannot go and hide in a cave, that economic activities happening in the rest of the world have a direct impact on the welfare and growth of our economy.

Yesterday in debating the Report, some spoke about the stimuli packages which mostly Governments from the north, the developed countries, have adopted as a response to the crisis which has been created, but why did they do that? They have done that, firstly, to protect jobs, to protect the industry and as a social welfare measure. Therefore, it is not a question of where you stand on the issue of economic ideology. Governments are about protecting welfare, protecting jobs, protecting income symbols and investments. That is why you can call them whatever you want to call them, bailouts, stimuli packages and etcetera.

What a conference like the one from which we received the Report tries to do is to tell countries worldwide that we need to revisit our economic governance systems. Recently there was Report on the management of global banking and financial systems, South Africa's banking, and financial systems were rated number seven. The United States were rated 106th. Those are the issues to look at. How do we manage our banks, because banks are essentially working with the money of the public and when a crisis like this one happens, it is the public, which would lose its investments and savings? What a conference like this one says is, *look at your economic governance system because crises are meant to happen, not only now, but also in the future*, but those with better Government systems, whether it is financial or general economic systems, will probably weather the crisis better than those with weaker economic systems.

Honourable Speaker, I also wish to address the question of the ownership in the economies, during the national economic crisis. I think what the crisis shows is that it does not matter which "*ism*" you are, whether capitalism, communism or Confucianism, the crisis will affect the same because the economies are all interlinked. Yesterday examples of our loss of markets where we are exporting were cited here. It affected everybody in the same way. Everybody's export markets were affected, everybody lost income as a result of that. Again, it has nothing to do with the ownership of the economies

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at national level. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Just for your information, are you aware that during the crisis the People's Republic of China lost twenty million jobs, but in less than a year all of them were back in employment, compared to Western countries. Are you aware of that? (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: According to whom?

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Speaker, what the Colleague is saying is only to confirm the point I am making, that China was affected. The point I am making is that everybody was affected. Therefore the ownership has nothing to do with how the global crisis is going to affect you. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a Point of Information. Honourable Gurirab, you know very well and you cannot run away from that fact, that ownership of global companies and their activities abroad impact negatively on the market where they operate. You know very well about cases of multinational companies operating in the global market who even sponsored civil wars and tensions in those countries to get away with murder. To try to say that ownership has nothing to do with global crisis, you need to define that, because the causes emanated from somewhere. The global financial crisis definitely originated from America, it is an undisputed fact.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Speaker, unlike my Colleague across the Floor, I am not occupied with civil wars and sponsoring such things. I think they are too occupied with it on that side. However, the point I am making is that whatever the nature of your economy, China was affected and so were the United States. In our case, unlike others, we only prayed and hoped that the crisis would go away. Therefore, countries responded, doing things to protect

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jobs, protect incomes, and protect savings. That is what countries do, that is what responsible Governments do, not just praying like we did here, but to address the problem. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a Point of Order. Maybe on the side of the CoD they were praying and that is why they lost the election, because they were praying instead of mobilising their people. The Prime Minister yesterday mentioned here the programmes employed by the SWAPO Government to address the adverse impact of the global crisis, so, it is not true that we were praying.

HON SPEAKER: The House shall rise for refreshments.

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40
HOUSE RESUMED AT 16:30 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Speaker, let me briefly address the question of how we divide the national cake to the extent that it may be relevant to what we are saying about the global crisis and I shall keep it simple.

Honourable Speaker, our economy needs decolonising. Whether NAMDEB becomes Angula, Kawana and Gurirab Diamonds, in global downturn where markets disappear, Angula, Kawana and Gurirab Diamonds, diamonds will be affected in the same way as Mr Oppenheimer's NAMDEB is affected. That is the point we are talking about.

Honourable Speaker, we also welcome the creation of Epangelo Mining by Government, with much apprehension though. We are not pioneers in this, many in our neighbourhood have done the same not with very good results. In fact, many in our neighbourhoods with similar outfits have become the vehicles... (Intervention)

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask my Honourable Comrade Emmanuel Tsudao Gurirab a question? You have some trepidation about Epangelo Company. You are saying the economy must be decolonised. Colonisation starts with national ownership as a beginning and we start with the ownership by the people. My understanding is that Epangelo later on will be able to sell shares especially to some of you who have accumulated pensions and those who are retiring will buy assets. Your first stop should be Epangelo to say, “*do you have assets to sell to me*” and you now have private ownership by the nationals. Do you not think that is a smart way of nationalising the economy?

HON SPEAKER: Before you sit down, Right Honourable Prime Minister, like most people outside the Speaker is in the dark about what this company is. What is it, so that I have a proper basis for ruling?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: The name is Epangelo.

HON SPEAKER: What is it?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: It is a Government Mining Company.

HON SPEAKER: Mining anything?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Mining anything, taking shares in mines and whatever exploration or whatever.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Speaker, the Prime Minister chose not to listen to what I said. I started by saying we welcome Epangelo Mining, but with a qualification, saying but with much apprehension, because here we are, not treating virgin ground. Others in our neighbourhood have done the same but with much disastrous results. In fact, in our neighbourhood these

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instruments have become the vehicles for looting national resources by the political cronies. We welcome it and we hope that we have learned lessons from elsewhere.

We also still await the Prime Minister's much talked about TESEF, because from what we heard, we were hoping that it will be a policy which will distribute our God-given natural resources and others in a manner which will increase the welfare to a greater number of Namibians and not a few, as we are doing at the moment. At the moment, what you are doing is that the space left by TESEF is filled by crony capitalism. South Africans have developed a word for it, they call these people "*tenderpreneurs*." (Intervention)

HON DR ANKAMA: May I ask the Colleague a question? Honourable Gurirab, you seem to be doing very well, but I just want to get clarity. The current ownership of mines is in the hands of the foreigners. Are you trying to say that perhaps we should try to find out how to arrest them and bring them to book so that we can grab back the mines? How did they own these perhaps? Is that what you are suggesting?

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Speaker, I believe that, given our Constitution, in Namibia we welcome – private ownership. That is what we are overwhelmingly for now, but the Constitution also provides for public ownership. I am saying it may be a good thing and I am also hoping that we have learned lessons from elsewhere. We are not doing something, which has not been done elsewhere and elsewhere the results were not good, so I hope we have learned those lessons. That is all that I am this time praying for.

As regard to raising the general welfare of our people, for the last more than dozen or half a dozen years, I do not know how often, we have heard from the Government's side that there is a policy called TESEF. (Intervention)

HON NAMBAHU: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Gurirab, in my view you are taking the discussion to the next level. If you are saying we have learned lessons from elsewhere, are you by implication saying that elsewhere things have failed? Can you answer the question as to why this specific economic crisis started off in the United States

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of America? What is it that has triggered this economic crisis? If you could, hint in your answer on the speculation of the aid funds and why was a country like China able to recover quickly from this economic crisis and why is it that it is we who had nothing to do with the triggering of the crisis that are paying the highest price? I just hope that your speculation is not insinuating that we should not look somewhere else around us where things have failed and we have somewhere exemplary and not certainly China, but the United States.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Speaker, my Colleague is asking why we should be affected by the thing that has nothing to do with us. That is precisely why we are discussing this, because it has everything to do with us because these days, people are talking about so-called globalisation. I do not use that word, because I do not know what it means. Karl Marx in his writings already talked about international finance capital, four centuries ago. I do not know how different it is, whether it is anything new. Be that as it may, we are talking about it because if people do not buy our diamonds, then when the Minister of Finance comes next month when I will not be here, the Minister will be saying we do not have money because we did not sell diamonds. That is the inter-connection, which is why we are talking about it.

I was citing a figure, which I have read in the South African Sunday Times of two weeks ago. They were citing a report on how robust and how strong the banking and financial systems are globally and they were saying South Africa, and I assume, by extension our banking systems are governed properly and it came 17th in that global survey. The United States system came in at 102nd or 106th because of things that you have just mentioned, hatch funds. If you listen to the US Administration, they are talking about strengthening the financial governance system so that this thing does not recur again. If you take a loan or mortgage, you use the banks too, part of what has caused the crisis, so they need to strengthen those things. Our banks already do not do those things. The USA may need to send consultants to South Africa to learn about some of these things.

However, we are talking about these things because they affect us, decisions which are taken elsewhere do affect us, they take away bread from our table. (Intervention)

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HON RIRUAKO: Do you mean we are supposed to separate our currency from South Africa that South Africa has its own and we are going to have our own?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Gurirab, is that what you are suggesting?

HON T GURIRAB: I understand that we belong to a Common Monetary Area with South Africa, so our currency and that of South Africa is the same. The Governors of the bank and the Minister is not here. The Governor of our Central Bank and, I believe, the Ministers of Finance also meet on the governance of our currencies. I think that is how I understand the situation at the moment. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: We are supposed to pinpoint where the problems lie and take care of the problem and come back to the kind of logic we had, in South Africa or in Britain where the banking system originated.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Speaker, from the Report which I keep on citing which I read recently, our banks are properly run for now compared to the US banks, for example. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask my cousin a question? Honourable Tsudao Gurirab, when you started with your statement you mentioned that the global crisis is upon us and we do not need to hide in our case, if I followed correctly. Now my question is, when the CoD was in crisis, you attempted to address the people in Usakos and nobody turned up. Is it true that you wanted to go and hide in a cave?

HON SPEAKER: When we adjourned for tea, I said it was an interesting discussion let us continue when we come back. Honourable Members, I would urge some of you to get hold of the Report, which was tabled by Honourable Mushelenga before we adjourned last and I hope that you will read it to follow

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the discussion. The world is not out of the economic crisis, I am not even suspicious about the South African banks and, therefore, by extension our banks. I mentioned the financial governance aspect of the economic crisis. We are so dependent in every aspect, whether it is financial, technology, economy, on those who have messed up the system. We are so much on the periphery as countries that we are doing better and, therefore, we need not worry about what the Report is suggesting. I hope you would consider these views with all seriousness as Namibians, never mind to which Political Parties you belong. Here in Parliament, you represent the Namibian people and the global economic crisis and its consequences will affect all the Namibian people, regardless to which Party you belong. Therefore, I hope that we will discuss this Report in the manner it was intended. We are not out of the economic crisis and could not be out of the international crisis.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Speaker, by way of concluding, I was saying that TESEF's absence causes the space left, to be filled by crony capitalism. However, the lesson from this global crisis is to work and to improve on what we are learning this crisis. For those who started these things, I think this is only the second most severe global crisis since the Depression of the thirties. Thus, the lesson for us from this crisis is to work on and to continue to improve our economic governance and continue to do our primary job as politicians and Parliamentarians and that is to always work for the welfare of our people and in that protect jobs, protect industry, protect people's savings and investments. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank you. Honourable Nambahu.

HON NAMBAHU: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Due to the fact that we are discussing this issue after coming from the recess, we have probably not done justice to it because we are not as fresh on the Report as we are supposed to be, but be that as it may, I intend just to highlight some of the recommendations that came out of that conference and it is really expected from the representatives of the people, parliamentarians that are, to come up with a country strategy in response to this economic crisis.

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What is it that is being done? What is it that Parliamentarians can do to contribute to the response? There is no one, as far as I am informed, who has a response to this crisis. If you search the Internet, you would find that there are things that the bankers, the financial people are not talking about and one of them is actually those hatch funds and the speculation that triggered this whole thing, because they know they cannot do anything about it.

Even if it is called bailout, this is money that comes from somewhere and it leaves a vacuum where that money comes from. Meaning all these wars that are being fought around are being funded by the global citizens and this deficit of trillions of you look at the last Budget of President Obama and how he was urging the United States to disinvest from the programmes of going to the moon and all these others in order to save money to confront this crisis, in order to be able to confront the competition that is coming from a country like China, it is something that actually calls us to debate seriously on this and to think out of the box.

When we were at school, we used to have Debates on economic empowerment and we could come up with suggestions. You cannot come up with a suggestion if you are not informed about what is happening and if you go to the Internet, there is a certain book called "*Crash Proof*", how to profit from the coming economic collapse by a certain Dr Peter Schiff. He is offering strategies to the millionaires that while you are struggling, what is it that they have to do to make profits out of those that are in agony, how to buy the foreclosures, how to go to those countries whose Governments are bankrupt, such as Ireland and all the others in Europe who are about to become bankrupt Governments. These are things that one has to look at and probably make suggestions.

When you look at a statement made by a certain Mr Manderson in one of the conferences on raw materials that took place in Portugal, he categorically pointed out that it is not in the interest of Europe to have value addition taking place in Third World countries and some people became angry and I do not know why they became angry to someone who told them the truth, someone who told you what he thinks.

If a person tells you what he thinks, the best for me is actually to go back to the drawing board and say, "*this guy just told us the truth.*" What is it that we need in this regard? Instead of asking them to stop the subsidies, we should

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spend more time on thinking of a fallback strategy. It is the politician who is brought into power by these people to whom he pays subsidies on agriculture. How do you want him to commit suicide? Africans, how do we believe that this person, being voted into power by his people to whom he pays subsidies, now we are telling him to go and cut the subsidies. We have to wake up and really think out of the box and rely on our means and those ones that we do not have, we should make up for this and really try to come up with initiatives.

Someone was even asking himself or herself, do we have to separate the commercial banks from the investment banks? After the Obama speech that is the question, they are pondering, because they have to be regulated. No-one wants to talk about this speculation, because there is a term called, "*how to make money for the bank*" and they are coming up with all kinds of funds or companies to make money for the banks itself, not for you, how to pay the bonuses and now they are saying the bonus time is back again because of the bailouts. How long are we going to depend on the people who are not in a position to solve this crisis? It will be one crisis after another as long as they continue fighting those wars that they are fighting there. Those wars have to be funded and these are the things, which are triggering the deficit in the United States of America.

Therefore, I just want to highlight one of those recommendations for us to really think out of the box and to call upon.... (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Advocate a question, please? Honourable Member, you are making a good statement. My question is, what you are trying to convey to us is that we as a Nation, in order to address the question, must have a system where we control investors in our mines and ensure that Namibia would benefit more than they benefit now. Is that the point you are trying to make?

HON NAMBAHU: If you follow properly what Mr Mani Pascal said, the Director-General of the WTO said, when they are saying they still have the possibility of concluding this round this year, but there is this counter obsession between the US and China on protectionism. Of late, the United States is complaining about the electric blankets because of the cold weather

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they experience, that Chinese blankets are apparently banned and protecting these things in the US.

As Africans, have we heard anyone complaining about our protectionist approach? I do not need to answer the question of why not. These are the things, protection of our own infant industry. These are the things that we should actually copy from them. We should not shy away from what we are doing. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable Nambahu a question on protectionism? Are you aware that one of the sticky points preventing Namibia to sign economic partnerships has something to do with that?

HON NAMBAHU: Comrade Prime Minister and we are being supported by our informed colleagues. I am sorry to use this word because there are people who are signing these things without actually knowing what is the basis and the fact is, if you are for example told that now you should sign because you are going to be offered favourable conditions for your beef in Europe, then these same favourable conditions are being promised to Argentina. Can you compare the production capacity of this country to that of the cattle barons in Argentina and Brazil? Once you have signed, you have signed yourself away and when you do not want to comply with what they are saying, they will say: *"Is this not your signature, Sir?"* By then, what will you say? You will end up accusing each other, it was not me, and it was the Prime Minister of that time.

Therefore, I think as Namibians we should really be behind our Government not to sign these things and, therefore, we should mobilise our minds and resources and come up with ideas as to how best we can protect ourselves and come up with a home-grown solution and initiative, rather than looking at these people who actually have no solution to the problem.

I just want to agree that on the EPAS our position is actually the correct one. Even the COTONOU Agreement, I understand now it is Fiji and all the other people who are signing. Sometimes you do not know, but the sovereignty is

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very important and I think we should just conceive that national strategy to whom we should go and give our suggestions. I rest my case.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? We have had a robust, informative, enlightening, serious discussion. I hope that is the new trend when we discuss matters of national interest. I would urge those Ministers and officials who are dealing with the issue of EPA, to through a motion come and brief the House. I do not know, I have many things, which I read, because it is my habit to read, wrong things sometimes. We do not know and it is a matter connected to what we are just discussing, a matter of national interest of the Nation. It would be a good thing if somebody with authority and information and knowledge about it could come and speak to the people from the Floor of this House.

HON SPEAKER: Any other business? If not, then I kindly advise the Prime Minister to adjourn the House until tomorrow afternoon, 14:00

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Members, I move that we adjourn now and go to read the Report of Honourable Mushelenga and also the Defence Policy and return here tomorrow at 14:30 with informed minds. I so Move.

HOUSE ADJOURNED AT 17:00 UNTIL 2010.02.11 AT 14:30

**ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
11 FEBRUARY 2010**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, today we join Comrade Nelson Mandela, his family, the Government of the Republic of South Africa, the African National Congress (ANC) and the people of South Africa in remembering and celebrating that it was today, 11 February 1990 that Comrade Mandela was released from jail. That is two days after the adoption of the Namibian Constitution.

The Government of Namibia and SWAPO invited him for the Independence Celebrations. It was here in Windhoek that Comrade Mandela for the first time in his life met so many eminent Heads of State and Government, the UN Secretary General and other distinguished world leaders. We know that he has sneaked out in the early sixties, visiting a number of African countries as they were putting in place *Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation)*, but it was here that he had that experience.

On another note, I have received some enquiries – maybe some of you did as well – locally and from abroad and this relates to the statement or the keynote address delivered on the celebration of Namibia's Constitution Day at a dinner at a local hotel where he, among other things made reference to the Orange River boundary issue. Not because of who he is, this has apparently intrigued the minds of some people and I received calls as to what that meant. In international relations, particularly in the diplomatic world, things are done by some people for different purposes. Thus, people wanted to know from me what this means. I did not lobby Professor Kader Asmal on this issue, but of course, I was not surprised, knowing him as I do – as some of you do as well – but perhaps in my case in a slightly different context. When we met from time to time at some place we, of course, we reminisced about all and sundry, good things, bad things and very bad things, but it is true that Professor Kader Asmal was integral to SWAPO's struggle for liberation on matters of strategising, galvanising international support, on matters constitutional and on negotiating strategies. He was a member of the SWAPO delegation when in

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HON DR TB GURIRAB

January 1981 we went to Geneva for the pre-independence conference, organised by Waldheim, UN Secretary-general. Therefore, he is not a stranger to the issues pertaining to Namibia. Of course, this issue remains unresolved. Why he did it I actually do not know. I was not personally surprised that he said it, but why he did it at such a prominent occasion, whether it is a message to us, whether it is a message to the others, but I can confirm that – and some of you were here were in different capacities at that time – when we went to Cape Town to commence with the Walvis Bay negotiations – I am saying these things because they are important and what I am saying is not a secret. As we were driving from the Airport after we arrived to start the Walvis Bay negotiations, my counterpart, Pik Botha, on the right in the car told me in his characteristic way, *“Ben, I got you the Orange River boundary, but you must help me with the hostile white elements in Walvis Bay who are against the Integration.”*

I also know that when President Mandela took over as President of the Republic, some of our officials, now Ministers, went to South Africa to implement what Pik Botha had said to me and succeeded in having the two Surveyors-General of the two countries initial a document that would provide the basis for demarcation of the boundary. Thus, the question of course is, then what happened? Maybe I know some of it, maybe not all of it.

Some people cite the 1964 OAU Resolution as having said that leave the boundaries as they are. That is true; it was not something very original to Africans. The Latin Americans have started; we merely copied a good idea from them. However, over the past decades, a good number of African neighbouring countries had bilaterally and others through joint recourse to the International Court of Justice regularised the borders between their own countries. That is not an excuse.

What Professor Kader Asmal wished Namibia was that in terms of our Constitution the Orange River border would be adjusted as our Constitution states it. That is what he said. Those who asked me what that meant, I told they should ask him, but since perhaps some of you have been contacted or are going to be contacted, I thought I should mention that.

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

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

- Ministry of Health and Social Services for the Financial Years ended 31st March 2006, 2007 and 2008;
 - Service Delivery to Orphans and Vulnerable Children in the Country for the Financial Years 2006 to 2008.
-

TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT: NAMFISA

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I lay upon the Table, the Annual Report of NAMFISA for the year 2008.

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

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:
Comrade Speaker, I give Notice that I shall Move –

That this Assembly –

Considers and approves the National Gender Policy 2009 to 2018 by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare which was prepared in August 2009.

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**NOTICE OF MOTION
HON NAMOLOH**

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Motion?
Minister of Finance?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on
Tuesday, 16 February 2010, I shall Move –

That this Assembly –

Considers and approves the resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Political
Office-Bearers and Other Office-Bearers Fund to amend the Pension Fund
Rules, as recommended.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Motion?
Minister of Defence?

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that
on Tuesday, 15th February 2010, I shall Move –

That this Assembly –

Approves the deployment of a Namibian contingent of the NDF to the UN
Peacekeeping Mission in Chad.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Motion? Any
further Notices of Motions? None. The First Notice of Motion is one by the
Honourable Prime Minister. Does the Honourable Prime Minister move the
Motion?

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**NAMIBIA INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT BILL
RT HON N ANGULA**

**INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING:
NAMIBIA INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
AND MANAGEMENT BILL**

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I Move the Motion.

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

**NAMIBIA INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND
MANAGEMENT BILL**

**SECOND READING: NAMIBIA INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT BILL**

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

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? Agreed to.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Members, those of you who live around Olympia have noticed that there are two imposing buildings there. One is for MTC and the other one on the western part of Olympia is the Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management (NIPAM).

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**NAMIBIA INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT BILL
RT HON N ANGULA**

The Bill I have just tabled is actually to establish that institution. The Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management is going to be a premier institution for the enhancement of the capacity of the public servants through training, operational research and, of course, providing for consultancies to government institutions.

As you are well aware, the SWAPO Government, which recently received a two-thirds majority from the electorate, is committed to the provision of quality services and goods to the people of this country. Enhancement of capacity of the Public Servants is, therefore, critical so that capacity in the Public Service will enable the Public Servants to deliver. That is why we are now talking about “*quality Public Service*” and we are going to measure that quality public service through performance management. Therefore, we do not want any public servant who does not deliver to say that I did not have an opportunity to study. They will have opportunities to study, including Honourable Members of Parliament who are sitting here. You are free to go to NIPAM and study something there, even just a computer course. I am reliably informed that there are Members here who cannot even start a computer, let alone send an e-mail. That should be outdated now. You will now have the Namibia Institution of Public Administration and Management for you to learn something.

The Bill is going to establish the Institutions of Governance of NIPAM and also the Institutions of Quality Control in terms of training. The Bill also provides for ways and means of how NIPAM is going to be controlled and we want to make sure that by the 21st of March this Bill will become an Act of Parliament and we shall give NIPAM as a gift to the future generations of Namibia. I, therefore, have the honour to table this Bill for your consideration and approval. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable Gurirab.

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CONSIDERATION: DEFENCE POLICY
HON NAMOLOH

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Speaker, since we are still in the process of receiving the Bill, I crave your indulgence to adjourn the Debate to Tuesday, next week.

HON SPEAKER: If there is no objection, the consideration of this Motion stands adjourned until next week, Tuesday. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

CONSIDERATION: DEFENCE POLICY

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Defence move that the Policy be considered? Any objection? None. Minister, you have the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I am honoured to introduce to this august House the Defence Policy.

The introduction is aimed to legalise by means of an Act of Parliament a Defence Policy that will guide the conduct and development of the Ministry of Defence and the Namibian Defence Force. The Ministry of Defence was established just a few days after Independence. It was agreed and it remains a fundamental principle that the Ministry of Defence should fulfil the complementary role of Department of State and Headquarters of the Defence Force, allocating the Chief of Defence Force with the seat of political authority. The principal advantage of this design is that it facilitates clear political control of the direction and management of Defence.

To reflect its two roles and to ensure that military advice is readily available, the Ministry of Defence has joint civilian and military staff members. It is a feature of the Ministry of Defence that military officers seconded from the Defence Force work alongside permanent civilian employees. Through the circulation of military personnel between NDF units and the Ministry of Defence every few years, depending on individual career plans, the Ministry of Defence ensures that the military advice provided to senior management is as up-to-date as possible. Regular liaison between the Ministry of Defence and

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HON NAMOLOH

the Armed Service Headquarters are also an important means of making sure that the military views are heard.

The Ministry of Defence's principal roles and responsibilities are to formulate and execute defence policy for the Government of Namibia, to provide the central operational and administrative headquarters for the Defence Force and to act as the body that procures the equipment. The Ministry is headed by the Minister of Defence who chairs the Defence Staff Council, the Ministry's highest management committee. As the Minister responsible for Defence, he also represents the Ministry in the National Assembly and in the Cabinet. The Minister is supported by a Deputy Minister, the Chief of Defence Force and the Permanent Secretary.

The basis of the establishment of the Defence Force is provided for in Article 118 of the Namibian Constitution. The Article states that: *"the Defence Force shall have prescribed composition, powers, duties and procedures, in order to defend the territory and national interests of Namibia."*

The Defence Act, 2002 (Act 1 of 2002) under Section 2 makes provision for the composition and organisation of the Defence Force's three armed services, namely the Army, the Air Force and the Navy. The guiding principles of the Namibian Defence Force are amongst others to serve the government of the day and the population of the Republic of Namibia, be accountable to the political mechanisms of control, be militarily capable of fulfilling its primary task, that of defence of the territorial integrity of the country.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in February 1993 the first Minister of Defence, the late Peter Mweshihange, tabled a statement on the Defence Policy in this august House, which outlined the roles of the Ministry of Defence and the Namibian Defence Force. This document forms the basis of the Defence Policy. The primary objective of the Defence Policy is to ensure the security of our country to allow it to pursue by just and peaceful means its national interest and activities both at home and abroad. The Defence Policy will enable the Namibian Defence Force to uphold their military ethics and traditions and will help the country to renew its commitment and dedication to the promotion of national, regional and global peace and security. It will help to foster peace, human and State security, unity and common loyalty to a single State.

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Furthermore, the Defence Policy defines and prescribes the types of military capability the country requires in order to adequately meet the national security and defence needs. The balance between the development and the maintenance of this military capability and effective investment required to achieve this goal is a big challenge to the Government. The allocation of adequate financial resources for defence will always compete with other equally important national priorities.

As one of the key elements of the national strategy that aims at protecting the survival of the State and the national interest, the Defence Policy presents policy guidelines for the development of the Namibian Defence Force, sets out its principal roles, outlines programmes for development, upholds military ethics and military traditions. It further outlines civilian-military relations and emphasises the country's desire to secure the Region collectively with SADC Member States through bilateral and multilateral cooperation which aims, amongst others, to promote common political value systems and other shared political values, which are transmitted through democratic, legitimate and effective ways to consolidate, defend and maintain democracy, peace and stability.

The Defence Policy, like the Foreign Policy, is founded on the principles of peaceful coexistence and cooperation with other countries in the operation of international law, maintenance of security, international order and regional stability. Although Namibia foresees no sign of an immediate threat, the Defence Policy should be based on the premise that Namibia, like other SADC nations, may face a regional security threat in the future. The security threat may emanate, among others, from an external power violating our national value or national interest, as stipulated hereunder: *"Value the rights to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness, equality and fraternity of all human beings, respect for human dignity, peace, stability, freedom and justice and patriotism for all"*. National interest include the following: Namibia's national interests are hinged on the survival of our country as a sovereign State and the protection of our territorial integrity. Our security and prosperity are influenced by regional and international peace and stability. This will be addressed through the regional and international bodies and forums, bilateral as well as multilateral engagements.

Namibia's prosperity depends on an unhindered and secure trading with the outside world. As an example, we depend on other countries for energy

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supply. The security of trade routes and the supply of energy are in the best interest of our country. International security and stability is, therefore, in the best interest of our country.

Our participation in peace missions abroad does not only serve the purpose of our values of contributing to international peace, but it also serves the purpose of maintaining a secure environment for trade.

Our vision is to fulfil this mission successfully. The Defence Policy outlines the vision of the Namibian Defence Force as follows: Develop a small, highly mobile, well-equipped Force, which excels in service through disciplined and vigorous training. A small country needs a Defence Force that is small in size relative to that of the country it has to defend. The size is influenced by the size of the population and the economy that sustains it. The size factor is however, compensated by the Force's configuration and design as well as efficiency and effectiveness as a result of a high standard in training and modern equipment. This culminates into a highly professional Force that excels in service delivery.

It should be emphasised that the national security is a collective responsibility of the State, security agencies and the entire population of the country. Although the Namibian Defence Force is the custodian of the defence of the country by virtue of its constitutional mandate, it cannot be expected to fight and win wars if the Nation does not rally behind or identify with it.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Defence Policy provides for the command and control of the Namibian Defence Force with the President as the Commander-in-Chief. The Policy also recognises the political control over the Defence Force. The advantage of this arrangement is that stable civil-military relations are enhanced.

Furthermore, the Policy stipulated the importance of the Defence oversight body, such as the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security and the Cabinet Committee on Defence, Security and International Relations.

The specific objectives regarding membership of the Defence Force to establish and manage the Force are based on the principle of voluntary service. The only exception is during the time of national emergency and/or the

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HON NAMOLOH

transition to war where the Commander-in-Chief may proclaim the conscription system when all qualified Namibian citizens shall be eligible for servicing the Namibian Defence Force. The only exception is foreign military personnel who may be seconded to the Namibian Defence Force for a specific period and specific roles.

Recruitment to the Defence Force aims to achieve a balanced national representation, taking into account our cultural diversity, non-racial and open to all genders. Members of the Force are expected to be apolitical and not to be allowed to display political party colours while still members of the Namibian Defence Force. Although Defence members are prohibited to hold public office other than their military appointments, they have the constitutional right to choose, vote and belong to any Political Party of their choice.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members - Environment: The Namibia Constitution, Article 95(i), affirms the need to protect and maintain the ecosystem and biological diversity of the country as well as the utilisation of living natural resources on a sustainable basis. The Constitution further maintains that Government shall provide measures against dumping or recycling of foreign nuclear toxic waste on Namibian territory. Against this background, the Draft Defence Policy emphasises the negative consequences that lead to environmental degradation, which will lead to climate change and the threat to food security and threat to human life. The Defence Force respects and takes into consideration the sensitivity of the environment in its operations.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, I would like to stress that the Defence Policy provides to the Defence Force a roadmap that guides and streamlines its activities towards the achievement of its goals. I am therefore, requesting this august House to pass this policy instrument for proper employment of our Defence Force. I now have the honour to submit this Draft Defence Policy before this august House for scrutiny and consideration. I thank you.

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

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HON DR AMATHILA

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, thank you very much, for giving me the Floor. Honourable Minister of Defence and your team let me take this opportunity to congratulate you on this Policy, which is inclusive, well written and includes all our expectations from your Minister.

On page 1, point 2, I am in agreement that you are there to stabilise us, so that we can be a peaceful, vibrant society which exists peacefully with each other. That is very important.

On page 2, point 14, I agree with you, but I would have liked to include something. It reads: *“The majority of the Namibian Defence Force members, who constitute the current Force, are the finest sons and daughters who participated in the war of national liberation and, therefore, are seasoned and battle-tested soldiers.”* I want you to say, *seasoned, battle-tested and disciplined soldiers.* I think discipline brought us where we are and I think “disciplined” stands out when you look at the Namibian Defence Force.

Once upon a time, I sent you an article, which I read about Defence Forces elsewhere and where the communities, once they see a soldier in uniform, run away and hide because serious disasters happen. In Namibia, we welcome a uniformed soldier wherever we are, I think it is the discipline we brought from the struggle, and I want the young people to emulate and maintain that discipline. I do not want to hear that soldiers have raided my cattle on my farm.

On page 3, there is mention of a proliferation of weapons. It is not only war weapons or Defence weapons. Everybody in this country is running around with a pistol or revolver and women, children and elderly people are being killed with these arms. I do not know how we as a country can control the issuing of weapons to every Tom, Dick and Harry. People buy pistols and guns uncontrolled. These guns are in the hands of criminals all over the place and who are the victims? Girlfriends are shot by their boyfriends. Women are shot at random by their husbands. Therefore, I feel we need to control these guns in the hands of criminals. I do not know how this should be done, but people have to be tested whether they are capable of handling an arm.
(Intervention)

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HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Honourable Speaker, information to my senior. She is right when she comes to the ease with which guns are issued to members of the public. At the beginning of last year we tried to impress upon everybody involved the temporary banning of the issuing of licences, but unfortunately we were legally advised that it would not be appropriate because within the free enterprises of the country there are gun shops and gunsmiths and they are definitely going to take us to Court if we do so, because they will lose income. However, we are going to introduce measures that people have to fulfil certain requirements before being issued with a licence. Right now you walk in, answer a few questions and within two months, you are given a licence. I think next time it has to take you a year or more to get a gun, after we know what your characteristic behaviours are. I thought that maybe I could complement your concerns.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Yes, Namibians usually jump around on their human rights. Their right starts where the other people's rights end.

We have proven that these guns are used against women. Even the farmers who said that they cannot be without guns are the ones being shot with their own guns. What is the point of having a gun when somebody walks into your house takes your gun and shoots you with it? I feel these things are deadly and we have to take action. This human rights are party to people are being killed with these guns.

On page 15 – natural disaster and other calamities: I would like to take this opportunity to really thank the Namibian Defence Force as they have proven themselves as a reliable partner in our disasters. When we had the floods, I had gone with the Defence Force and they were so admirable. They rescued people and they did not steal the properties of other people. They rescued people and looked after the properties. They did a marvellous job, so really, congratulations.

Point 16 – search and rescue operations: I am not implying that an earthquake is a playground for people to come and plan how to search and rescue, but I was hoping that five, six or even ten Namibian soldiers could have gone to Haiti to assist and in that way we can learn. I know we do not have earthquakes here... (Interjections). Yes, I know, it happened in Khorixas, but I mean that in places like Windhoek we may not have this. Other disasters can

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befall us; a building can collapse on people. You will remember what happened in Holland. People were just having their tea in the afternoon and the Israeli plane came and just went through the big building, removing a whole block of flats. Things like that can happen and we need to have knowledge of how to search and rescue. I thought it would be good for us to have that experience. How far are we prepared for that? I do not think we even have sniffer dogs. In any case, let us look at a specific unit being trained for search and rescue.

On the same page – peace and support missions: Here I think I can also give you hundred out of hundred for our peacekeeping efforts. Our peacekeeping forces are known for their discipline. During the DRC war and thereafter I was in Brussels and I went to a hair salon in an area where you have people from DRC. As I was talking to those people while they were doing my hair and they realised I am from Namibia, they said I am not going to pay anything, because the soldiers from Namibia were so good, they were so disciplined, they were so trusted. Therefore, I did not pay anything and thank you very much. It is because of your guys. The people love the Namibian contingent, congratulations.

On page 22: As I was always the one responsible for the Africa Public Service Day celebrations, I made it a point to invite our Defence Force so that they could interact with the civilian component of administrators. We have invited the African countries, which are part of the system and they were very impressed to see the soldiers among us for this celebration of Public Service Day. I explained to them that in Namibia, we wish that our soldiers did not feel the gun is the only thing they can do, but they must also come and see how the other Public Servants are working, because they have to interact with them. It was very impressive, about twenty or thirty of them were sitting there and listening to what Africa was saying about their administrations and public services and what the pitfalls are. NIPAM is also open to them for strategic studies.

Starting from page 24, the last paragraph there, I want to touch on HIV/AIDS. Honourable Minister, I would like to volunteer, as a pensioner very soon, that if you need training or discussions on HIV/AIDS, you can organise groups and I will be volunteering to come and address them. Our soldiers are placed all over and I think it is important that we teach them how to prevent HIV/AIDS. I am really willing, I am not joking, to give some lectures and training in my

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HON RIRUAKO

free time. Just organise so that we can assist our soldiers to understand the depth of HIV/AIDS. That is my request and I hope you will take it as such.

Comrade Minister, the last point is the protection of environment. Honourable Netumbo is not here, but I am sure she will appreciate that point 11, protection of the environment.

With these few words, I must congratulate you for everything, the protection of the environment, the protection of humans and of course, gender balance is not a story anymore, you have passed that as well and you have very capable women in the Army. Just continue to do that. Thank you very much, I support the Policy.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister. Chief Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Speaker, we do not have much to say, we only want to compliment the Minister of Defence for his statement this afternoon. However, to delay that kind of requirement is not fair. The fact remains that it is one of the demands of this country towards its security, to be assured that we are stabilised and for it to be clear to every Namibian citizens and foreigners who happen to be in this country that they enjoy liberty and freedom, although through interactions in a certain way they have been destroyed by certain individuals. However, to alert the Defence Force to stabilise the security to their utmost, we cannot delay this and play with politics. This is a resolution that should be endorsed by every Namibian citizen. Therefore, it is not wise to play the politics of the day. We know the score that we are trying to do in the House, but sometimes there is no way of score of politics. We have lost the opportunity in this House to come up with your scores, but not to this issue alone, this is singled out in our minds and I plead with certain Parliamentarians that finally we are not going to see this as the joke of the day.

I may say this for certain reasons. The Defence is ours, it is not a SWAPO Defence and we have to drive this home for every Namibian to know this is our Defence Force and for us to take it as a political issue, is really wrong. We can disagree with SWAPO, any speaker, or any individual, but not on this issue. That is clear. Therefore, we do not need to make it impossible for this

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HON P MUSHELENGA**

Policy to be endorsed. These kinds of demands and requirements are included in our Order of the day and, therefore, we must honour that. There are other things, which are wrong which we can take action on, but not this one.

Mr Speaker, we do not have time to waste and I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank you. Any further discussion? Honourable Dienda.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: I Move that the Debate be adjourned until Wednesday, 17 February.

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? Agreed to. The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until Wednesday next week. The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT ON THE PARLIAMENTARY
CONFERENCE ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS BY THE
DELEGATION OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
(NAMIBIA GROUP)**

HON SPEAKER: When the House adjourned yesterday, 10 February 2010 under Rule 90, the Question by the Assembly was a report by Honourable Mushelenga. The Debate was concluded and Honourable Mushelenga now has the Floor to reply.

HON P MUSHELENGA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I would like to thank Honourable Members for their positive contribution to the Report.

The Right Honourable Prime Minister shared with us the dangers of being greedy, how it can lead to issues such as economic crisis. Thank you very much for the advice that you gave to us.

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Honourable Kazenambo too stressed a very important point, namely regulation of the markets. You would recall that last year there was a Debate where both yourself and myself stressed this very important point, because that is the only way that we are going to address the issue of market failure, for example, that results, amongst others, from structural factors.

Honourable Dr Kawana, as usual, you came up with positive comments. It is very important that you highlighted the issues of rural development and the empowerment of the youth in this time of economic crisis.

Honourable Uutoni Nujoma also stressed the issue of the regulation of our markets.

Honourable Tjihuiko, thank you very much for stressing that we need to evaluate the gains of our instruments, such as the Investment Act and the ODC, evaluate them and have a way forward. Of course, you also made other statements that almost landed you in trouble with other Members in this House.

Honourable Tsudao Gurirab, I thank you also for acknowledging that at least we have a very sound financial system in our country that is able to carry us through. Obviously, other complaints were not directed to me, issues such as the Report on our preparedness and our mitigating factors, but I think you should take that up with the people concerned.

To all other Honourable Members who through interjections have made their meaningful contribution to the debate, it is highly appreciated and I thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I now put the Question that the Report be adopted. Any objection? Agreed to. Honourable Dr Tjiriange.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I just wanted clarification whether it is actually permissible for a Members of a Party to absent itself hundred percent from the duties of the House, like the DTA today.

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HON SPEAKER: We will check the records of those Honourable Members. On that note, Honourable Prime Minister, please adjourn the House.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I would like to remind Honourable Members that over the weekend we are likely to lay to rest one of our former Members, the late Honourable Ponhele Ya France. Those of you who have time, please join the family and do the right thing. On that note, may I propose that we now adjourn and return here Tuesday, 14:30 to continue with our business.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:55 UNTIL 2010.02.16 AT 14:30

**ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
16 FEBRUARY 2010**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing and Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Honourable Dr Kawana.

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

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Annual Report of the Office of the President for the year 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Table the Report, Honourable Member. Further Reports and Papers? Honourable Tweya.

TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT: NAMFISA

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: I lay upon the Table, the 2009 Annual Report of NAMFISA.

TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

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NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON DE WAAL

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

1. Town Council of Okakarara for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2006;
2. Town Council of Okakarara for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2007;
3. Town Council of Ongwediva for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2008;
4. Town Council of Eenhana for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2008;
5. Village Council of Kamanjab for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2007;
and
6. Village Council of Kamanjab for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2008.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Table the Reports, Honourable Member. Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I move without Notice that leave of absence, due to his own illness, be granted to Honourable Philemon Moongo until the 15th of March 2010.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Table the Motion, Honourable Member. Message from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? The first Notice of Motion is the one of Honourable Mr Tsudao Gurirab. Does the Honourable Member move the Motion?

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HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I crave your indulgence to move this Motion tomorrow.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Who seconds? Agreed to. The Second Notice Motion is the Honourable Minister of Finance. Does the Honourable Minister move the Motion? Who seconds? Agreed to. The Honourable Minister has the floor.

**AMENDMENT OF POLITICAL OFFICE-BEARERS
AND OTHER OFFICE BEARERS PENSION FUND**

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. The trustees of the Political Office-Bearers Fund have moved an Amendment to the rules of the Pension Fund for Political Office-Bearers in order to allow the Members to terminate their membership of the Fund while remaining Members of Parliament or holding office as other office-bearers and also to harmonise the treatment for pension payment purposes between Members who joined the Fund before 2000 and those who joined the Fund after the year 2000.

In terms of this Amendment, from an effective date which is suggested to be September 1st, 2009, the Members' accrued benefits under the Fund, it is proposed:

- To be divided into a lump sum component and a pension fund component;
- The lump sum component to constitute of one-third of the current as well as any benefits accruing after the effective date, and the pension fund component to constitute the remaining two-thirds of the current and benefits accruing after the effective date, respectively;
- Contributions under the Fund's Rules after the effective date to be allocated in the same proportions and added to each of the lump sum and the pension fund component, respectively;

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- After every term, all Members, regardless of their age, be allowed to access the funds or a portion thereof accumulated in the lump sum component;
- The funds accumulated in the pension fund component will only be accessible upon Members terminating their membership of the Fund in terms of the Fund's Rules and to be employed to set up a pension;
- The definition of "*retirement date*" to be amended in order to abolish the existing practice of discrimination in terms of the retirement date against those Members who joined the Fund after its inception date and to allow Members to retire at any date, regardless of age and pensionable service date;
- That the Fund's existing investment strategy be reviewed – that is now not with regard to the distribution of pension, but with regard to the growing of our pension fund – as a matter of urgency and that the current investment managers as well as potential ones be invited to the Board's meeting in order to present their investment philosophies and processes for further consideration, so that we can allocate the responsibility for the management of our pensions to an Asset Management Company that would guarantee us a better return on our investments.

These are the Amendments as proposed by the Board of Trustees and this House is requested to consider them.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Any further discussions? Right Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you. I would first like to thank the Honourable Minister of Finance for tabling this very important Amendment. I only want to add a footnote to what she has said so that there is no misunderstanding.

Honourable Members, I would like to confirm that I have secured Cabinet approval to address two questions to the trustees of the Members of Parliament and Other Office-Bearers Pension Fund. These questions were:

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1. What are the conditions under which the Members of Parliament and other Office-Bearers could cease membership of the Pension Fund while still remaining Members of Parliament or other Office-Bearers?
2. The plight of Members of Parliament who retired before the age of 55 years.

I posed the two questions for a number of reasons. As you will recall, on the 1st of January 2000, the Pension Fund of Members of Parliament and Other Office-Bearers changed from a defined benefit to a defined contribution. That is a very important change.

Defined benefit pensions funds, such as that of Civil Servants, is guaranteed by the employer. If such a fund under-performs, the Government is obliged to step in and guarantee the pension benefits of its former employees.

In the case of the defined contribution pension fund, what the person puts in is what a person takes out. The fund is not guaranteed by any authority. If the fund under-performs or is badly managed, the members should suffer the consequences. The risk of such a fund is therefore greater. The needs, therefore, exists to spread the risks.

Moreover, some Members of Parliament have been forced to cut corners in order to access part or whole of their pension fund. Such a situation is unhealthy. It exposes that Member to the possibility of not having adequate pension at the retirement date from Parliament and they shall become a burden to the public. In order to avoid such a situation, it is better to amend the rules of the pension fund in order to allow such Members to access a portion of the pension fund in a legitimate manner.

In addition, many Members of Parliament and other Office-Bearers might not adequate savings, which would enable them to meet some of their personal contingencies. The only meaningful saving they might have is their pension contributions. In order to encourage such Members to continue to render service to the public, they should be allowed to access part of their pension. It is well known that Members of Parliament and other Office-Bearers have no fixed retirement terms.

With regard to the second question, the current Rules of the Fund discriminate

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against those who joined the Fund after December 31st, 2000. If such a Member retires before reaching the age of 55, such a Member is required to pay tax on the full benefit and is not entitled to the $\frac{1}{3}$ tax-free part of the pension. This discriminates against young Members of Parliament and it is not fair. It is against this background that the trustees also agreed to change this Rule and for the Fund to treat all Members equal.

I deemed it necessary to explain the background of these Amendments in order for the public to understand that these are not self-serving measures. The action is aimed at broadening the risks inherent in the defined contribution pension fund arrangement.

I would like to urge Members of Parliament and other Office-Bearers who opt to access a portion or the whole of the one-third of their pension fund to change such money for productive assets, which will in future support their welfare at retirement time. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Any further discussions on this issue? Honourable De Waal.

HON DE WAAL: Honourable De Waal, I move that the Debate be adjourned until tomorrow.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Debate stands adjourned until tomorrow. The Third Notice of Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Defence. Does the Honourable Minister move the Motion? Who seconds the Motion? Any objections? Agreed to. The Honourable Minister has the Floor.

MOTION ON DEPLOYMENT OF NDF TO CHAD

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, I have the honour to inform this august House that Namibia is sending a contingent to the UN Mission in Central African Republic, Chad, which is abbreviated MINURCAT. This is in terms

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of the provision of section 32(2) of the Defence Act, 2002 (Act 1 of 2002) which states that: *“The President may deploy members of the Namibian Defence Force for service outside the borders of the Republic of Namibia in compliance with a resolution of the Security Council of the United Nations or the African Union or the Southern African Development Community or in the execution of an obligation arising from a bilateral agreement to which Namibia is a party.”*

In compliance with the above provisions, I would like to inform the Honourable Members that, in conformity with the United Nations Security Council Resolution Number 1861 of 14 January 2009, Namibia was requested to deploy 800 members of the Namibian Defence Force to Chad and Central Africa as part of MINURCAT.

The material, which will be used by the Namibian contingent, has left Walvis Bay on the 3rd of February 2010 to the Port of Douala in Cameroon from which they will be transported by road to Chad. An advance party of 300 Namibian Defence Force members will also be sent and will be deployed in southern Chad in the general area of Koukou Angarana. The area is currently under the European Force EUFOR, which will be replaced by MINURCAT. The remaining 500 Namibian Defence Force members will only be deployed to Chad when the Irish contingent, who is currently deployed in that mission area, has left. The peacekeepers will then rotate after six months with the same number of personnel. The Namibian contingent would be deployed under Chapter 7 of the United Nations, which means they are allowed to use force in self-defence.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the Namibian Defence Force, are deployed to comply with our Foreign Policy as stipulated in Article 96(b) and (e) of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, that of promoting international cooperation, peace and security and to encourage the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means. Our participation in missions of the United Nations and African Union bear witness to this. I sincerely, therefore, seek the support of this august House for the deployment of members of the Namibian Defence Force in UN peacekeeping missions in Chad. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thank you. Any further discussion?

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Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. I rise to give our support to our Namibian Defence Force to be deployed under the obligations of UN work and just to state as a matter of fact that our Defence Force has served this country proud in various previous missions, especially in Liberia where our name is held in high regard for what we have done in that country. I think it is important for us as a country to forge ahead as a product of international solidarity, to forge ahead to use our military means to promote peace across the globe. I therefore want to sincerely to thank the Minister and our men in uniform for engaging themselves in yet a task in the interest of humanity. I thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Any further discussions? None. Does the Honourable Minister of Defence wish to reply?

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to thank all the Honourable Members for the support they have given to our men and women in uniform to carry out this international obligation. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I now put the Question that the Motion be adopted. Any objection? Agreed to. The Fourth Notice of a Motion is the one by the Honourable Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare. Does the Honourable Deputy Minister move the Motion? Who seconds? Any objection? Agreed to. Honourable Deputy Minister, the Floor is yours.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House. The First National Gender Policy of Namibia was

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developed in 1997. It is drawn from the provisions of the Namibian Constitution as well as the direction provided by the First National Development Plan, 1995, 1996, 1999, 2000 and the First World Conference on Women, 1995. It also incorporated recommendations from various research articles on gender-related issues conducted in Namibia.

In order to realise and achieve the goals, objectives and aims set out in the National Gender Policy, a National Gender Plan of Action was developed to speed up the implementation process. The National Gender Policy provided a framework and set out the principles for the implementation, coordination and monitoring for gender-related issues and is aimed at enhancing effectiveness in the ongoing management and planning for the development process in the different cultural, social and economic sectors of our country.

Honourable Members, its main purpose was to identify ways and means through which Government can encourage and value the contribution of women in national development efforts and the process of nation building.

Honourable Members, in the year 2007 the National Gender Policy had ten critical areas of concern as follows:

- Gender poverty;
- Gender development;
- Gender in education and training;
- Gender in health and reproductive health;
- Violence against women and children;
- Gender and economic empowerment; and
- Gender balance in power decision-making;
- Information, education and communication;
- Gender and management of the environment; and
- The girl-child and gender in legal affairs.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, during the implementation of the 1997 National Gender Policy it was discovered that there were new and emerging issues at national and global level with which held implications for the promotion of gender equality in Namibia. Such issues include the:

- Worsening situation regarding HIV/AIDS;
- International economic development;

- Mobilisation on climate change;

All of which have disproportional effects on women and girls. While this issue presents challenges, they also provide opportunity in which to address issues of gender equality.

In order to tackle the immense challenges, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, embarked upon the process of revising the National Gender Policy to bring it into line with the aspirations of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development; the Addendum on the Prevention and Eradication of Violence Against Women and Children, the Millennium Development Goals, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Crime, 2000 and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (the Palermo Protocol), the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, 2000, the International Conference on Cooperation and Development, 1994, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

In addition to the above regional and international instruments, the Policy aspires to respond to the National Development Framework, which includes Namibia's Vision 2030 and the National Development Plan as the main instrument to implement policies and programmes to achieve the Vision.

The revised Gender Policy seeks to make an enabling environment for different sectors to mainstream gender. Largely, the revised Gender Policy retains the focal/priority areas identified in the 1997 Policy. However, it introduces several new dimensions. The priority areas in the revised Policy are: poverty and rural development, education and training, health and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS, gender-based violence, trade and economic empowerment, governance and decision-making, media information and communication environment issues of the girl-child, peace, security and conflict resolution and natural disaster management, legal affairs and human rights, and gender equality in the family context.

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The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders is in the process of developing the National Gender Plan of Action to speed up the implementation of the Revised National Gender Plan for Action. The expected outcome of the revised National Gender Policy is a society in which women and men enjoy equal rights and equal access to basic services as well as opportunity to participate in, and contribute towards the political, social, economic and cultural development of Namibia.

It is in this respect that I present this document to the Honourable Members of this august House for your input and approval. As I have indicated earlier, this document has already received input from different sectors. With this presentation, I hope you will find the document in order to allow the Ministry to operationalise this Policy, which will guide gender equality work in this country.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, as we know that this document was already discussed in this august House and that we only revised it, I ask you to please endorse it. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Minister. Any further discussions? Dr Kawana.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I rise to add my voice in support of the National Gender Policy. However, I see a contradiction or some kind of bias in the document. The heading is “*National Gender Policy*”, but when you read the content, it is more about the rights of women and children. Gender means both sexes must be educated, must be taught, and must be informed to respect each other. However, of late the emphasis by our womenfolk is to lay blame on the men folk, which to me are very unfortunate, because this is not something brought about by men, but it is something, which is brought about by cultural norms, by society. As such, I would like to appeal to our female colleagues to also include us in this campaign. They should not isolate themselves all the time. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask questions? You say that

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inequality is not brought about by men, it is brought about by society. Who is society? Who was the dominant force of society? Do you know the idea of patriarchy?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Right Honourable Prime Minister, when I say “*society*”, I mean all of us, men and women, should look into this issue as opposed to say women are victims and, therefore, men are perpetrators. I think if we go along that route, we will not achieve much. Because all of us are concerned about the welfare and equality of our women, we support this wholeheartedly. However, it is just that approach. If maybe the title was “*women and children’s rights*”, I could understand, but gender is neutral, it addresses both sexes. It is a joint venture for all of us to change these norms, which are societal in nature.

Of course, Right Honourable Prime Minister, some societies are matrilineal and in other, like mine, we are for the men. However, even during the earlier days you found that there were also female chiefs in my culture who were controlling men. In other societies, you also find women who are leading their societies. Therefore, this is our mission to make sure that there is gender equality and all of us must be involved in this endeavour. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I would like to ask Honourable Comrade Kawana a question. Honourable Kawana, do you not think that this Gender Policy, as it is advocated here, should be developed in such a way that it should co-exist with our cultural norms and traditions, because sometimes it looks like the new approach to gender sometimes attempts to eliminate some of our cultural norms and if you have been following the recent developments in South Africa with regard to marriages... (Interjections). While I support the Gender Policy, I would like us to really maintain the co-existence between the cultural norms and modern society.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Indeed, Honourable Deputy Minister of Justice, this aspect is also covered in the document. It recognises customary norms, customary marriage, which I really welcome because some of us respect that

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aspect, because as you know, in some of our societies polygamy is allowed. We regard all those who were married to our parents as our mothers. This is something I really respect and it is covered in this document.

Let me revert back to my earlier point. I also see here gender equality in decision-making and so forth, especially in political affairs. It is most unfortunately; particularly following the election results of last year, that there has been a decrease in female representation in our House here, which to me is most regrettable. However, as I said, my experience in the SWAPO Party is that every time we have a congress, you have an electoral college and in fact, most men vote for women, but women never vote for men. (Interjections). In most cases... (Intervention)

HON BASSON: Comrade Speaker, may I ask a question? Is it really true that the majority of our men at our electoral colleges are voting for women? If you look at the representation of women and men coming to the congresses, it is impossible according to me, because in those cases the men are in the majority. If that were the case, then it should be more than 60% women. I just wanted to know whether it is true that men are voting for women.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Indeed, because I did a scientific study in this area and I am able to answer my Colleague. From 2002 at the SWAPO Congress, the women delegation never constituted less than 46 percent of the delegates and yet, when you receive the end-result at the election, it is pathetic. At the last congress of the SWAPO Party, it was almost fifty-fifty and yet you see the results. It is pathetic and that is why some of us are saying we must also be included in this campaign to make sure that we support our women, we need to be involved and not all the time to say we are the perpetrators and women are the victims. Otherwise, I support the Policy. Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Minister. Honourable Riruako.

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HON RIRUAKO: I am sorry to say, but some cultures do not recognise women as partners, and that there is a partnership between men and women.

In some cultures, women are doomed to stay in the house. That is the habit. I appreciate that my Colleague, Honourable Muharukua, achieved her objective and I thank you. The point I am making is that if we are sometimes losing our powers somehow, we can allow women to practise just as well as us, but with certain polygamy systems, they seem to be stubborn and selfish. It happens in South Africa, but we do not want polygamy out of wedlock, a girlfriend while you are married to three wives. What is that?

I am not here to play games that game is of the past. Let us face the reality in honesty. If you want to make a second woman to become your wife, marry her, but do not meet her around the corner. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: May I ask a question? Chief, what is your comment? I heard certain people are condemning a man who goes with single girls, but I have never heard the condemnation of old men going with women married to other men.

HON RIRUAKO: Like you? (Laughter). I am sorry about that, I am not here to incriminate you. Deputy Speaker, if we allow our wives to practise their freedom, let them do that. All of them are behaving the same way, they can be white, they can be black, and they behave the same. We are supposed to come to the reality of the day and age where we are today. I know what the problems are. I cannot mention them, because some women can go somewhere and have their partners that. I am sorry, I have to be honest with you and the men are becoming nervous. That is the way it is and you know what I am talking about, Deputy Speaker. It is the truth and the truth alone before God. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: It is the DTA, not SWAPO.

HON RIRUAKO: Do not tell me that, I can go beyond that and I can repeat what I am saying. Deputy Speaker, it goes both ways. Women behave and

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they misbehave. There is a limit to everything in these dangerous years. HIV/AIDS is all around and, therefore, all of us must behave. While I am behaving in the House, you are not behaving where you were sent by the Government. Your partner is doing certain things, which can bring agony to the House. This must be limited on both sides.

Then the freedom of speech, acting as Member of Parliament you can do so.
(Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Page? _____

HON RIRUAKO: I do not want to worry about the page you mentioned, I am here to set the principles. Some of the women are roaming around the world misbehave and some of the men misbehave. I cannot talk half the truth. Let us face the reality. Let us limit our activities. I am here to correct the wrong ways. Therefore, this House must adhere to certain principles, respect your manhood and womanhood, and have a happy marriage. Thank you.

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

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I rise to support the National Gender Policy and I want to start by agreeing with Dr Kawana when he says that men and women are both stakeholders and beneficiaries in the promotion of gender equality and, I believe, gender equity.

I also want to agree with him when he says that men are not the exclusive perpetrators of the marginalisation of women and the abuse against women. Maybe the commissions of men in this regard are more visible because they are physically stronger, they tend to dominate the acts of physical violence against women, and their domination in the economy is so visible. Nevertheless, there are also ways that women also tend to perpetrate the marginalisation of women and the abuse of the girl-child and other women.

I believe that when women actually perpetrate this marginalisation, they do it in a more destructive way, because the consequences of their actions would take time to rectify. Why I say this is because we teach our children from very

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young age that the male child is supposed to be respected by the female child. The female person is supposed to submit to the male person. We then teach the boy child that when you cannot agree with a female, you can use force to make that female submit to you, that is what being a caretaker of the family, and being a man is. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: May I ask a question? The point is this, some women are dominating and they tell their husbands to go to hell and I can do what I want, but I cannot blame them for that because the husband was misbehaving all along and then he becomes so violent. Then you say, “*go to hell, I will do what I want.*” It is vice versa, it cannot be blamed on one person.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40

HOUSE RESUMED AT 16:15 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I was saying that we indirectly are perpetrators of our own marginalisation and oppression and those of our girl children by the way we bring up our children. We are the ones that have the greatest influence on our children because we are the ones bringing up these children and we teach our sons and daughters that the males are in authority of some sorts over females and the males, to be real men, ought to assert their authority over women, even to the extent of using violence against them and that women ought to submit themselves to women. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: May I ask a question? Honourable Minister, are you aware that biblical indoctrination that spans generations is difficult to get out of the minds of the society, including men and women. It has taught the people from the beginning that the Creator is a male, your Saviour is a male, and Satan is a male. The protection of those early societies entirely depended on male chauvinism. Therefore, how do I get that out of the mind of my mother? She will say: “*You are a girl; you must listen to your brother,* because the brother is biblically the Creator. He is the protector and he is the work creator. I think we are fighting that would take generations. Let us not run out of patience. (Intervention)

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: What about your rib?

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Yes, like the story of the rib, how can you tell this believer and all of you otherwise? The older you

get, the more you go to the Bible. I know Comrades who we were with, but now that they are church elders, how can you tell them otherwise?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I agree that indoctrination is a very powerful weapon and that is why I say the role of women in perpetuating this marginalisation and oppression is more destructive because it is through indoctrination. You indoctrinate your children that this is how things ought to be. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: Point of Information. Minister of Finance, you do not have to agree with what has been said. You were liberated by the Virgin Mary who brought the Lord Jesus Christ here, not men. Men never had children at all.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Riruako, I was saying that it is because of that, that I think the role played by women is very significant and if we are to break this cycle, we have to look at that aspect. We have to liberate the minds of society and yet it will not take one day.

Yes, it is important for us to have laws and policies and programmes. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: On a Point of Information. Honourable Minister, I think we have to acknowledge the different roles played by men and women in society and we must also acknowledge the roles of parents to prepare the youngsters on what to expect when they go into the community. Let me give two examples:

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If, as a young boy you start beating up girls, you will be called a coward and that you should rather go and fight with the other boys, not with the girl and you will be ridiculed. That is actually to be taught that this is the person that you have to protect as you are growing up and you must at that age, also protect that girl from other boys and other dangers. Then the girls are being taught that they must not do this and that, as a preparation for you to later be a good wife. What kind of wife would you end up if every time you are just insulting the boys? (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: If you are insulting the girls?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: The girl should not be insulted, the boy should not be insulted and that is actually a training, that even if you are growing up, you are not going to insult your husband and you are not going to beat up your wife. Those are the roles that we have to mould into the children.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Katali, it cannot be disputed that our society, especially the African society, holds the view that the male has an authority over a woman. I do not think that can be disputed and that that authority must be protected even to the point of perpetrating violence against a woman in order to force her into submission. I do not think it is possible for anybody to dispute that fact and when a woman has been subjected to violence by a man and they are seen to have been so subjected because they acted in a manner that challenged the authority of the man, even the family members would say, *“you asked for that, that is not how things are done, you do not talk back to your husband, you do not disobey your husband, you do not refuse to be intimate with your husband, even when you know he had an affair with a person who may be infected with AIDS.”* In today’s age, that is what we are told, *“no, you do not just talk about everything you hear, do not believe the rumours they spread in the streets”*, when you are beaten, you are told, *“you are not the only one, it happens in every marriage.”* That is what we are told.

When a daughter misbehaves, instead of the mother punishing that daughter, they will say, *“Titus, your sister misbehaved, rein her in”* and Titus who may even be a younger brother will start to the sister. Maybe it is discouraged that

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a boy out of nowhere just hits the sister here, but when a sister is seen to have misbehaved, the parents will see it as justifiable for the brother to perpetrate violence against this sister to discipline her. It is true! Let me just proceed and then you can disagree with me later. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

May I ask a tiny question? Comrade Minister, do you not think if you start talking about everything you hear, that it could cause you to be called *ondjanga*, that you are rumour mongering, because you are talking about everything you heard. If people discover you are of that nature, they will just come and tell you anything, which did not happen.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I am trying to call for fairness towards our male compatriots here, but the compatriots are not appreciating it. I am trying to say to them that they are not the only ones who perpetrate violent acts against women. That is really what I am trying to say that we as women are actually in a better position to root this evil out of society because of the influence we have over children at the time they are young and they can still be moulded. I think that is true, we should do that. I know that maybe we will feel impatient because there are so many incidents of abuse against women. We all want change today, but maybe we can make parallel efforts. (Intervention)

HON DR ANKAMA: On a Point of Information Comrade Saara, culture is not static, it is evolving and for us to blame culture and gender equality, it is an evolving phenomenon. If you look around your community, women who probably tried to liberate themselves and went too far are being avoided in communities. Either they remain unmarried or they are branded, just because of their behaviour that went to the extreme. I want you to look around in the communities around you of people whom you know very well who behave in a fashion that is contrary to the perceived general behaviour of women in your community. Just look at them and identify those whom people very often shun. When they come closer, people run away. (Interjection)

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: And the men?

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HON DR ANKAMA: And when they talk, people keep quiet or they simply disappear. Are you not concerned about the fast changing general culture without allowing the system to change itself? We need to change it systematically in order to allow things to change in an orderly fashion. Do you not see it that way?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: That is a very good try, but the point I am trying to make is that we as mothers and fathers ought to tell our children that whether you are a son or a daughter, you are a child in this house. Your only authority in this house is your mother and father. If any one of you are aggrieved by the behaviour of the other one, you will come to us and we will respond appropriately to ensure that it is dealt with. It is not your right, just because you are a boy, to use force in order to force your sister to behave and it is not your entitlement to be served lunch and dinner by your sister while both of you came from school and are tired and need to rest and you both have to do your homework.

Then it should be said to the daughter that she deserves better, she does not have to be subjected to this kind of treatment by her brother. If you are unhappy with the way that your brother or your friend in a romantic relationship is treating you, you have the right to act and the law protects you. That is what we ought to teach them, because when we raise them otherwise, this boy who is used to beating up the sister when she has cooked a meal that is distasteful, would do the same to the girlfriend and the same to the wife, because that is what he knows. When a woman does something that is displeasing to a man, they ought to be disciplined by the man. It does not matter what law you pass here, you will not be able to change that man. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: I am trying to follow your line thinking, but I have one question. Honourable Helmut Angula spoke about the biblical indoctrination and there is also a cultural indoctrination coupled to that. How do you teach your son to become a gentleman and when do you teach your daughter to become a lady? I believe in human relations, as a son you are taught by your parents that if a woman's books fall on the floor, as a gentleman you pick it up for her. You are taught to serve a woman in a particular way. When does a

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girl become a lady? Could you try to address that element? It is not Herero culture, it is human culture across the globe.

I do not know whether you have noticed, the farmers and those of us who come from a village would have, that when you throw maize for the chicken, one part of the chicken will not eat until the other part has eaten. Who has taught them to let others eat first? When does a man become a gentleman and when does a woman become a lady?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Indeed, the way to teach males not to be bullies is to try and encourage them to be gentlemen and you can also teach the female that it is possible to be a lady without allowing people to walk all over you. That is common decency and courtesy. Generally I think it is just a law of nature that as human beings we have the tendency to want to do good things to people that we like in order to please them. It is a general trend in all of us. You may decide, even if both of you are working, that today I want to cook dinner and eat dinner with my wife. (Intervention)

HON IIPINGE: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am enjoying the Debate. I just want to get information on the intervention by Honourable Ankama. He said those women who are demanding and exercising their rights are being marginalised. Gender issues are power relation issues and they are struggle issues. Those women are just doing well. They can call them names. When we decided to fight for the Independence of this country, we were called terrorists. We were called all the names and people did not want to associate with those terrorists, but today everybody is enjoying the fruits of independence. Let those women be called names, let people run away from them, but at the end of the day the new generation will enjoy through the suffering of those ones. This is what I want to bring to this House.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Very good my sister, you are very correct, because there are different ways in which you try to transform society. It is by teaching the young ones, it is by passing laws and it is by behaving in an exemplary manner. You have to inspire others, especially the young ones. (Intervention)

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Will you accept a question? Would you allow your husband to cook?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: That is only when a woman has been socialised to see things that way, but a woman who knows differently, who knows that a man is a human being, firstly with emotions like any other and he would also want to act out the affection that he feels towards others. You will appreciate that from a man. As a young girl you are attracted to a guy because maybe he dresses well or he speaks eloquently, but then you are attracted to a man because of the way he sacrifices for his children and family, the fact that he can prepare a meal for you, the fact that he notices when you have a headache. You appreciate those things more and you have more respect for this man than was the case previously. Our male counterparts just have to understand these things and as they say in some of our languages, contrary to the belief that a man ... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: On a Point of Information. I just rise to agree with my Comrade here. I am just trying to ask some information and also to give some information. We should also be careful not to distinguish between facts and emotions. Men play different roles from that of women. Some of these are because of the law of nature. I cannot imagine that it can happen to any man that the wife is the head of the house. I am the head of the house as a man. (Interjections). Can that happen? Up to now, I have not heard of such thing that in that house the wife is the head of the house.

Then this issue of your husband cooking in front of even your friends. The husband is now preparing the meal there. It is a matter of helping each other. I can go and help you while cooking the meal. I am there, you are there, discussing with your friends and cooking the meal.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: You see, I pity those men who actually allow themselves to be constrained by outdated customs and traditions and then lose out on the affection and love of their family members because they cannot be seen cooking for a wife or they cannot apologise to their wife or

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sister when they have done something wrong to them or because they cannot express emotions, so that they suffer from high blood pressure and heart attacks because they are very sad and they cannot cry, they should put on a strong face. There is nothing good in that. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: May I put a question to the Minister? First of all, some of us are very careful to get involved in this kind of Debate and my question is, when mankind manufactured any tool or anything to use, there was always a purpose why it was manufactured, for example a motor vehicle or a pen. My question is, when we debate these issues of equality and not being equal and the one to do this and the one not to do that and even our customs and cultures, do we consult the Creator who have created men and women. He must have had a purpose and I believe even with what we regard as differences between man and women, He must have had a purpose why there is a difference. Do we consult Him and hear from Him whether it is worth fighting for? Do we consult Him or are we just fighting each other for an answer that is with somebody else up there?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I think that is a very interesting point that the Honourable Member has made there. I personally strongly believe that the concept of gender and equity is deeply rooted in the Christian principles, because when you look at the Bible, when God created Adam and Eve, God never gave Adam authority over Eve, He said, "I give you a helper" and He said, "*I give you the whole world, you should enjoy it and control it.*" God has never given any authority to any person over another person. The only authority over a human being is God himself. Therefore, I think that this principle of male domination over women is so contrary to the Christian belief. Let me leave that point.

What I wanted to say is that nothing good comes out of this relationship where one person wants to dominate the other one, because when you find a lady that you like, you are compatible in every other way and you try to dominate her, even if she likes you, she will leave you. (Intervention)

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HON NASHANDI: On a Point of Information. Some of the men can be so gentle that they can assist their wives to bring firewood, etcetera, but the fear of the unknown, what our women normally do, especially during the marula harvesting, *“my husband is doing this.”* (Interjections)

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I was saying that you would lose the person that is otherwise a perfect partner for you. Similarly, when you are a woman who was raised to be subservient, you cannot make a meaningful contribution to a relationship because you always say *“yes, my husband”*. When a person has a problem, you cannot advise the person because you are scared of them. You expect that the person should just give you directives. That husband can even start looking elsewhere, because I mean, is he with a partner or with a daughter, because the person is not contributing to his development as a partner. You are supposed to build and complement each other. That is why when God created Eve He said to Adam, *“look, I have found you a partner so that you can support each other in life, not for you to dominate her.”*

Now I am going to another point, I am trying to say that in addition to us as women now asserting our rights, the men should play their role, but they should not wait to be invited. That is where I differ a little bit from the Honourable Dr Kawana. They should see this as something, which will benefit all of us. Therefore, we should all contribute because I think we all have a very important role. It is more effective for a male to inspire a boy child to be a gentleman, to be able to express their feelings, to respect the rights of the girl, to understand that you are not weak because you respect the rights of your sister, your girlfriend, your spouse, than it is for a woman to do so.

The father is more effective in doing that than the mother trying to tell the son that he should cry if it hurts, because then he will think his mother wants to make him a girl.

When it comes to public policies, we should be prepared to implement the policies that we adopt in practical terms and this should come through in all aspects. With economic empowerment, you would see that we are all upbeat about Affirmative Action when it is about affirming African populations that were previously marginalised during the colonial period, but we are not as passionate about affirming women. Take a look at some of the industries in

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our economy that are coming out to affirm previously disadvantaged persons, but it is only men who are benefitting and if you look at these men, who are selected to benefit, they do not have special skills that women do not have. People seem not to appreciate the importance of gender equity. They think that equity is only important when it is about equity between races. I think we should take this issue more seriously, so that when we talk about economic development, we also have measurable benchmarks for measuring progress in empowering women. For example, we expect to see the financial sector complying with the targets that they have set for themselves on gender when implementing the Charter, thus ensuring participation of women in the ownership, management and financing of projects. We expect the same from the institutions of Government especially in the middle management and even at the level of Permanent Secretary. You will see that it is mostly our male Colleagues who occupy these positions. I am not saying that they are not good enough, but I refuse to accept that there are no women who qualify to be in these positions that our male colleagues are dominating.

Therefore, it should go throughout and we should encourage our girl children to take up careers in education that were previously seen to be exclusive male areas, such as engineering. This means that we must have deliberate programmes to go out there and encourage them. Those women who have made it to these areas should also become visible, so that they can become role models to these young children. I just wanted to raise this point.

I took note of the point, which is saying that the enrolment of girl children in schools is now increasing and when you go to the graduation ceremonies of UNAM and Polytechnic, you see that sometimes there are more women graduating in technical fields. However, when you go to the labour market, you will see that the managerial positions are dominated mainly by men, but you will see that the students, who are awarded for meritorial performance, are increasingly more women than men. I am asking myself the question, if there are more girls qualifying from UNAM with law degrees, if they are graduating with degrees in pre-medicine, in biology, why is it that in some institutions where they are supposed to practise these professions, they cannot be entrusted with responsibilities.

Therefore, I really think we should make deliberate efforts in order to address this issue because it has an impact on our lives, because when you have empowered a woman, you have empowered a Nation. We cannot deny that,

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because when that woman gets her cheque, even if it is only N\$200, it is distributed among all the family members. Everybody gets something.

However, without being discriminatory against our male Colleagues, when you give them a cheque, the first thing they think about is a posh car and a house and their mother is walking bare foot in the village. It is only after five years that they think of sending N\$200 to the mother and when the mother calls they say, "*I have a wife and children now.*"

We should address these issues and I hope that my Colleague at the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare will take the lead in translating this policy into concrete programmes, not to have separate programmes for women, but to integrate them into society so that we will see to it that all the programmes, not only in the Public Sector, but also the private sector, can be contributing towards the attainment of the objectives that we have set for ourselves in this regard. Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The Right Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. It was not my intention to take the Floor, but I see that there are a lot of misconceptions.

Let me, first of all, thank Honourable Muharukua for the excellent job she did in presenting this very important policy document, the Revised Gender Policy for Namibia.

My contribution will centre on two things, namely the origin of gender inequality and what the prospects for gender equality are.

The origin of gender inequality has something to do with the distribution of resources in our communities. It is not really God-given as some people would want us to believe. I can give an example: I come from a traditional society, before it was westernised and the ruling clan of my community, it does not matter whether male or female, and they just follow. A woman who is a member of the ruling clan will actually choose who to marry and you must be a

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person of means. To become *oshitenya*, you must be a person of means and the woman who belongs to the royal family will come and choose you. You cannot afford to refuse, because you will be chased out of the area. Then if you become poor, she will drop you immediately and go to another one. Therefore, the origin of the current gender inequality has something to do with property.

It happened that men, given their physical strength, could go out and hunt, perhaps slaughter an elephant and take an elephant tusk, donate it to the King and the King would give him a cow. Now that you have a cow, you have power. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: May I ask a brotherly question? Comrade Prime Minister is describing his society and I want to know how much difference he finds between the beliefs of his society and that of the biblical race, which we all read because it brought about alphabetism. Probably nobody in his society read it before the biblical time. What did God tell Adam? What did the children of Ishmael say about the children of Abraham and Jacob? Is he not telling them that it is normal to pick one wife from that clan and another one from that clan, so that you can unite the clans into one kingdom? The question is, can we compare his own traditional community with the biblical, historical community of Abraham? When we pray we say the God of Israel, recognising that authority of the male, Abraham. Nobody else was mentioned, Sarah is not mentioned in prayers. After Isaac, it is Jacob that is how you pray. Tell me, how do you take that out of my mind and my mother and father's mind that the male was not ordained to rule?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I am not going to divulge in literature, I just want to say that the Jewish society was no different from our own societies. (Intervention)

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** I just have a small question I want to ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister. Comrade Prime Minister,

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maybe if you can just respond to what Reverend Helmut Angula has asked you, so that I can understand the Reverend? (Laughter).

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: He is a Reverend who belongs to the Good Hope Missionaries, they have their own way of doing things. I was saying that the Jewish society was no different from other societies. Because of the physical strength of the male, Abraham went out there and he was able to tame a camel. A camel is a means of transport, if you have a camel, you can go very far and bring food home. The same thing is with us in our villages. When you train a dog, you go hunting in the forest and bring back something for the pot. That is where the inequality started. Since you provided for the pot, you say, *“well, I provided for the pot, you should cook.”*

When you produce mahangu, it is put in those baskets and you have the authority to decide when you are going to take from that basket for the rest of the month. Therefore, the man has been controlling the means of survival and because of that fact, then of course, he is also controlling the power relations. That is why the institution of patriarchy started.

When there is famine, the man will go to unknown places to go and look for food and bring food back home. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Prime Minister, may I ask a small question and also provide information? Are you aware that there is written history that women were the most powerful in the beginning. They colonised the men, sent them to hunt. When they brought the trophy home, they would cook and send the man the next day to hunt. If you do not kill, they do not give you food. Then the men revolted against their cruelty. Are you aware of that?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: The point about hunting is that it gives security to the household and it also happened that because of the wars, the men are few and women had to compete to get married and because the men happened to have big fields, they needed boys. If you as a woman did not have boys, you would be divorced, because you are not providing labour. The

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labour of cultivating land, that is fine, I am talking about labour such as looking after cattle.

Therefore, the inequality basically has something to do with the resources. It started from there. The resources defined power relations. That is why we have an institution called patriarchy. Even in your own clan, you have a powerful uncle, in my language called *Onkungulu yezimo*. He is the centre of the clan. If you commit a crime, it is that person who is going to bail you out by paying with a head of cattle or something like that. That is history.

For now, wealth is gradually being re-distributed. There is no way you can punish your wife she has her own money. She will go to Woermann Brock and buy her own food. This power relationship is changing. There is no way you can say I am the only one who bought cattle or a car. Gradually this relationship is going to change drastically, in my view, because the resource distribution starts to balance out, then men will be naked, they will have no power to control.

However, since our people like the security of a home, you should not forget that aspect. Like the ruling royal family of the Ndonga, they have latitude to negotiate relationships. The only thing I do not agree with Honourable Saara is this thing of cooking. Some of us love to cook. If you are not in the kitchen, they are cooking. (Interjections). (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: May I ask a question? Right Honourable Prime Minister, when you were a student in America, who was cooking for you?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: You see, when I want to cook, I go to my house in Owamboland. There I am in charge. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: I want to ask a small question. When you were a student, you used to go out for lunch from the University. I did not even dare to think that I have to give all these meals, it was my duty to provide for the student who would become the Prime Minister of this country.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: What the Chief is saying is true, he is the only one who used to have tea, sugar and bread in a refugee camp. Therefore, when he comes out of his room, you go and sit near him and he would give you a cup of tea. It is true, when we went to those schools, we used to take turns and cook, that is not a problem and the only thing now, if your wife finds you behind the pots there, you would be in trouble. You do not even own the pot in the house. Honourable Venaani, in your house you do not own a pot, you do not own a plate. If you go and use somebody's pot, you will be in trouble. Therefore, on the question of cooking, I am not sure whether it can work up to this point.

However, my point really is that as we make this policy and give equal opportunities, these relations are going to change over time and we just have to be persistent. It is true that the majority of learners in schools are girls. You do not see girls standing on street corners here, but if you go to that open market in Katutura, you would find girls selling something.

The women, if there is no income, will do something. They will go and sell *kapana*, they will do something to bring income into the house, but at the end of the day education will be the equaliser, but over time. Education cannot equalise within a short time. I can tell you that twenty years from now the gender basis will be quite different from today. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister. Honourable Ndjoze.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I rise to support the Policy. This Policy is fifteen years old, so it is a really foregone conclusion and it has the blessing of the President and I hope that the concluding remarks of the President in its Foreword will lead us to ensure that gender equity and equality, gender budgeting and gender sensitivity are brought to bear on our National Development Plans as we implement them. Debating is another thing, but to implement what we have been talking about this afternoon in our various Ministries is important to achieving gender equality.

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I support Honourable Dr Kawana, in the first place especially because I know and when I look at this House, most women here were either supported by men or they were wheel-chaired in by men or they were recommended by men and voted for by men. However, when you deduce it, it is always the woman pushing and pulling at another woman's throat. It is a challenge for women in this country to live up to the expectations of the majority of the people of this country, who are women. Namibia is a mother country, more than 51% of us in this country are women, and it does not matter how democratic you want to be, if you exclude the majority from democratic processes of the country, you would have not reached democracy, because democracy is a product and a game of the majority. If you want to educate men to come to Parliament and you do not educate women, you are at a disadvantage as a Nation, because only the minority will have access to governance and the majority will be left outside. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Information. Where you were at school the women cooked, where we were at school abroad, we cooked. We made them to be what they are and we did not even for one day say we are not going to cook. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: What is the point?

HON RIRUAKO: What is the point? You are a stranger to what I am saying. The fact is, when we were at school we cooked, after the school they came and ate with us. All of us here cooked, they ate our meals every night and when we were at school, they cooked. That is the way of life.

We made them what they are, we cooked for them while we were abroad. My former wife was a teacher. I will not say we did not care for women.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: She did not mention that.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: I actually said men were supporting women. Gender as a concept has no sex and that is why I am supporting Honourable Dr Kawana. Gender has to do with socialisation. You can bring up a boy as a girl and socialise a boy as a girl and they will behave like girls. Therefore, it is not like we were born to be like the women in Abraham's story in the Bible, that is fine, that has to do with sex. Gender is however about socialisation and once we socialise our society is when we will educate the girl and that is why FAWENA (Forum for African Women Educationalists in Namibia) is very close to my heart, because what FAWENA does, which is one of the thirty-seven national charters that we have operating on the African continent, is encouraging girls to do studies in the areas that were dominantly considered to be male areas, such as Science as Mathematics. Once a girl is identified as being strong in these areas, they are encouraged and given resources to become what they want to become. That is why in a few years Namibia will see many girls being educated as doctors, as engineers, as mining engineers, etc. We are basically producing them on a daily basis.

That is the socialisation that is going on and I can assure you Honourable Members and the Prime Minister who gave it twenty years. I give it ten years. The kind of women who will be surprised that the man is in the kitchen would be very few, because the girls that will come out of the education system were socialised differently. We also look after boys. They will be socialised differently.

Now, democracy should be about participation and if you want the majority of the Namibians to take part in democracy, get women on board. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: They are already there.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Yes, many got in but we are pushing ourselves out. Men are encouraging women to take part in democracy in Namibia and they really ought to be applauded for what they have done so far. The challenge is now for women to be helpers and to help men to bring about gender equality and equity, not only in governance but in all other domains of society. I look forward to that and I challenge the women, not only in this House, but wherever they are operating to encourage each other to put petty jealousies aside and look at the bigger national interest of the

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Nation and utilise the resources that they have at their disposal to mould this country to become a democracy in the true sense.

I support my sister who brought this Policy, fifteen years old, Policy, developed, researched into and thesis written on it to this House so that we provide the legal framework for it to be implemented in Government institutions and I thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Kazenambo.

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

Honourable Deputy Speaker, let me join the previous speakers in supporting this very progressive Policy and in supporting the progressive Policy, let me commend the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare for the programmes they are running through the NBC on gender violence. Those programmes are educative and the reflect.... (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. NBC is not at liberty, it is not free at all, it does not function according to the norms of the Nation at all. Please we are talking about gender, do not start talking about the NBC.

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

Furthermore, Honourable Deputy Speaker, on the issue of the challenges of gender equality, I would like to refer you to page 11, point 2.2.1 – poverty and rural development. I would want us to consider the aspect of gender and urban poverty, because Independence and freedom have opened doors for increased rural to urban migration and women who find themselves in the cities and other urban areas of our country are confronted with various challenges in their daily existence. This is also equally true for men who are migrating from rural to urban areas. Therefore, the issue of urban poverty, people who are living in informal settlements, also need to be taken into consideration when we are dealing with the issues of gender inequality. (Intervention)

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HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. You have created urban poverty. You said you would take the Government to the people where they are and they did not find you there. Then they looked for a place where they could participate in the economy because the economy has not yet been sent to where they are. That is why I say you created that, so take care of that.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: With due respect to my Honourable Chief, it is a general statement that I would not like to indulge into, because the policy of decentralisation cannot be misinterpreted as a cause of poverty in this country. There are many economic factors that contribute to the socio-economic challenges that we are facing.

However, not to be derailed by the Chief's comment, I think migration patterns have an effect on our people who find themselves in urban areas. The people who live in places such as Havana, Hakahana and Kuisebmond, are making economic efforts to make ends meet with the assistance and contributions from various Ministries. The Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development should also be linked to the efforts being made by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare. Urban poverty is real, you find women and men walking distances to collect firewood as they lack energy for cooking. Poverty is real. You find men and women walking long distances to work, you find men and women walking long distances to clinics for medical care. I would like us to appreciate the issue of urban poverty when we are dealing with gender equality and gender inequality. That is my appeal when we are dealing with this policy framework.

With these few words, let me rest my case.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister Nickey Iyambo.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to support the Gender Policy in front of the House, as proposed by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare.

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I have no doubt in my mind that the gender issue is, obviously, in many ways an element of human rights too, because if we would have some of our human beings whose very existence is socially and otherwise marginalised, that should obviously not be acceptable. However, I wanted to agree with the Honourable Minister of Finance – and I hope I understood her correctly – that the issue of gender equalisation may not be happening a hundred percent as we would like it to happen, but obviously this is also a good time for us to start. We have started already and we have to continue to intensify our efforts in the realisation that we have some of our members of society who are marginalised.

Gender equality being a human rights issue, I would only like to caution that we should not push it too hard, too fast so that it becomes part of the human right equality being professed in the world today, bringing other things in societies, some of which are not accepted culturally and socially in our society. They are being pushed and as we resist as countries, we are then being called names, which tend to disregard our own cultural and social development to where we are.

The Prime Minister also said that this is something we will most probably achieve within the next twenty years and I hope it will be less, but we have to be steadfast, seized with this issue of gender equality, particularly when it comes to our fellow female members of our society. Those norms and tendencies that we practise today have to be corrected. I hope as we correct them, we will not enforce them on the members of society while it seems the whole society is not ready, but starting with our children today.

I have an attitude towards women that is definitely different from what my parents' were. Mine is positive and I believe my children's attitude is going to be even more desirable. We will get there, but obviously, we will also get there by not completely causing a revolution in what we have in place today. People have even been talking about cooking. Maybe some of my colleagues, because of various circumstances, they may find it difficult, but for some of us it is quite normal because of social conditions. However, I believe that it is something that anyone of us can do. The Chief has also said that when they were in a particular situation, they have done that.

Therefore, Honourable Members, I think we are discussing a very important issue and I hope we will not trivialise it. We must believe in it and then we will definitely overcome the gender inequalities that we have in our society

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today. With that, I wholeheartedly support the Gender policy. However, I believe that it is something that anyone of us can do. The Chief has also said that when they were in a particular situation, they have done that.

Therefore, Honourable Members, I think we are discussing a very important issue and I hope we will not trivialise it. We must believe in it and then we will definitely overcome the gender inequalities that we have in our society today. With that, I wholeheartedly support the Gender Policy.

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

HON NAMBAHU: I thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker my contribution will be brief. It is actually based on the intervention of the Right Honourable Prime Minister and later on by Comrade Kazenambo where they said that some of these inequalities and problems actually have their genesis in property and unless something is done, we will not be able to go that far. When you talk about urban poverty, it is not only limited to urban settlements. Maybe one has to build in an element, that estate agents have a social responsibility to educate our people on how to add value to the properties that they have.

I used to stay in a relative's house in Katutura before I went into exile and I cannot tell you how much that property has appreciated since then. There should be education to say that if you build a wall instead of having this meshed fence, the value of the property will increase and you will be able to offer this as a bond to get out of the rat race. That is what is excluding most of us from this circle. What can be done in terms of education to empower these colleagues in order to get out of that situation?

I do not very much subscribe to the notion, whether it is premised in the Bible. When people in Israel were motivated to go to Gaza, they did not want to go until the Israeli Government came up with incentives, that if you buy a house in Tel-Aviv it is 400 000, but if you go to the settlement, it is half the price. Then people started moving. Therefore, property is a very important element in this kind of thing. (Intervention)

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HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Information. The problem is not between wife and husband, the problem is that women can be given the same rights men have. All the rights men have must also be given to women. That is where the problem lies. Now they tend to say that men suppress them, but it is the Government and we are not the Government.

It is for the Government to come up with a law to sustain women rights and to give them the same choices you have.

HON NAMBAHU: The point is and I am not even going into this issue of cooking, how many of you in settlements in exile did not cook? You were just told you are in the kitchen today, you did not say, "*I am a girl, where is your wife that you brought?*" Therefore, some of these arguments are actually misplaced, we were cooking all over.

The other point is to guard against the enticing approach. I have seen people in the traditional set-up.... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: May I ask Honourable Nambahu a question? Are you aware that even in these modern times, 99,9 % of the Traditional Leaders of some communities are male? What is your comment on that? Can we in our law reform programme ensure that any community, which has less than 51% female leaders should not be recognised by Government?

HON NAMBAHU: I think in a way that is something that is commendable, whereby you do not do that, you forfeit the right to talk about these things, because charity should start at home. I also connect that to this practice in the rural areas... (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask you a question? Honourable Nambahu, looking at the 51% of traditional leaders in a certain community being women or men, do you not think that the moment you start saying that more women should be in those position that you are discriminating against men?

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HON NAMBAHU: The fact of the matter is, if you were to go and make a review of the decisions made by those kinds of authorities, I bet they might not be hundred percent correct because of the absence of input by females.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may continue tomorrow, Honourable Member. The House stands adjourned in terms of Rule 90, automatic adjournment.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2010.02.17 AT 14:30

**ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
17 FEBRUARY 2010**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Honourable De Waal.

**REPORT OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON
REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL**

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Review of the Reports of the Auditor-General on Offices, Ministries and Agencies for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2006 for consideration. I so Move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Any further Reports and Papers? Honourable Minister of Finance.

TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

1. Regional Council for the Karas Region for the Financial Years ended March 31st, 2006 and 2007;
2. Regional Council of the Otjozondjupa Region for the Financial Years ended March 31st, 2006 and 2007;
3. Regional Council of the Omaheke Region for the Financial Years ended

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March 31st, 2006 and 2007; and

4. Regional Council of the Caprivi Region for the Financial Years ended March 31st, 2006 and 2007.
-

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Reports? Any further Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Honourable Iipinge.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 97:

HON IIPINGE: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 18 February, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Justice the following question:

The default matrimonial property regime applicable under common law in most civil marriages in Namibia is in community of property. Because of the influence of Namibia's colonial history, the default position on marital property is different for some blacks in Namibia. The Native Administration Proclamation (Number 15 of 1928), which is still in force in post-independence Namibia, makes a different rule for all civil marriages between natives north of the old police zone in the areas, then the so-called Ovamboland, Kavango and Caprivi, which took place after 1 August 1950. These marriages are automatically out of community property, unless a declaration establishing another property regime was made to a Magistrate one month before the marriage took place.

1. Why has the racist law been allowed to remain in our books for many years after Independence?
2. When will the Law Reform and Development Commission move forward with the reform of the law on marital property, which would bring an

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HON TWEYA**

end to the current racist-based rules to which the marital property regime apply?

3. Will couples who are affected by this colonial law be afforded a chance to change their marital property regimes after the fact if they would like to do so?

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

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that tomorrow, Thursday, 18 February 2010, I shall Move –

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to amend the Banking Institutions Act, 1998, so as to provide for certain definitions; to provide for consolidated supervision; to provide for the registration of controlling companies and cancellation thereof; to regulate investment by controlling companies and the restructuring within group of companies; to authorise foreign banking institutions to open branches in Namibia; to prohibit Banking Institutions from converting to branches of foreign banking institutions; to authorise the bank to determine minimum Capital funds in respect of Banking Institutions or banking group; to oblige banking institutions and controlling companies to notify the bank of nomination of any person for appointment as Director or principal officer thirty days prior to such appointment; to prohibit and criminalise pyramid schemes; to subject the appointment of a provisional liquidator, a provisional judicial manager, liquidator or a judicial manager by the Master of the High Court to the recommendation of the bank; to oblige the Master of the High Court to persons designated by the bank to assist provisional liquidators, provisional judicial managers, liquidators or judicial managers to empower the Minister to regulate unfair terms in transactions and contracts between banking institutions and their customers or the general public and to provide for incidental matters.

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I give Notice that tomorrow, the 18th day of February, I shall move –

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to amend the Payment Systems Management Act of 2003, so as to empower the Bank of Namibia to determine standards for user fees and charges for service delivery; to ensure compliance thereof and to take remedial actions for non-compliance; to provide for administrative penalties; to create certain offences and to provide for incidental matters.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Motion? Any further Notices of Motions? The Notice of Motion is the one of Honourable Tsudao Gurirab. Does the Honourable Member move the Motion? Who seconds? Objections?

OBJECTION

HON SPEAKER: Of course, what the presiding officer should do now is to see that the House is divided. I wish I were consulted to have appreciation of the content of the objection for no other reason than to preserve the integrity of the House. I should just do what we do by convention. Can I defer the motivation of the Motion by Honourable Gurirab so that I can consult? If I knew this was going to happen, I would perhaps have advised Honourable Gurirab not to move the Motion to begin with. I will consult, nothing is lost, we have plenty of time. The Secretary will read the first Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF THE DEBATE ON THE SECOND READING –
NAMIBIA INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND
MANAGEMENT BILL**

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HON T GURIRAB / HON DR ANKAMA**

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Thursday, 11 February 2010, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Prime Minister, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable Tsudao Gurirab adjourned the Debate and I give him the Floor.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we had an opportunity to look at the Bill tabled by the Right Honourable Prime Minister and we support the object of the Bill. The Public Service is regulated by the Public Service Act of 1995. It sets out the conditions under which Public Servants are employed. For now, they obtain their qualifications from a variety of Institutions, Universities, Colleges and other places. I understand what the Bill tabled attempts to do is to regularise and standardise the training of Civil Servants and to that extent we support the Bill.

There are many technical matters, which we shall discuss during the Committee Stage. It appears as if the Bill which was initially drafted Oshindonga and translated to English. It reads very poorly in English, but those matters we will take up during the Committee Stage. We wish to register our support for the Bill. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Chief Ankama.

HON DR ANKAMA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I perhaps would in the first place convey congratulations and good wishes to the SWAPO Party for our landslide victory in last year's National Assembly and Presidential elections. The people have spoken and we should just do the right thing and not betray the mandate given into our hands. Therefore, let us deliver better than ever before. The SWAPO Party Manifesto must be fully implemented to the letter and spirit of the electorate.

Fellow Members, the NIPAM Bill on the Floor of this House is long belated and in my view, it should have been introduced during the formative years of our Public Service. NIPAM should have grown alongside our service delivery to the public throughout the past years. The Namibia Institute of Public

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Administration and Management would have greatly improved the screening of recruitment of competent cadres in the Public Service. It would have directed the curbing of dishonest saboteurs, Public Service crooks and administrative cockroaches infesting our Public Service machinery.

Some of these public servants are a liability within the government administration machinery, thus failing the SWAPO Party Government to deliver with distinction its national development programmes to the nation as anticipated. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: May I ask a tiny question? Honourable Ankama, do you not think the Civil Servants are roaming around and they control the Government every day. We have been pleading with you, what is this? You lived with it for twenty years and they have never been told how to behave. They are the ones who tell the Minister what to say and to stop there. Could you clarify that before you going to read about *SWAPO Party doing this or that*?

HON DR ANKAMA: Thank you very much, Honourable Chief. I think the Chief has the power to do so as well, but being a Chief, you could have done better perhaps.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, now that we have this Bill on the Floor of this majestic House I would like to echo my sentiments of appreciation to all those who were involved in the shaping... (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Speaker, I think the Honourable Member made a very serious statement, namely the allegation that certain Namibians who are working in Government are intentionally undermining the activities of Government. Honourable Speaker, that statement is serious in the sense that by implication these people are known. Why is it that Government is not going through the right channels to prosecute these people for sabotaging Government programmes? Why should it be a statement made in this House for television purposes and it ends here?

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HON DR ANKAMA: Honourable Speaker, now that we have the Bill on the Floor of this majestic House, I would like to echo my sentiments of appreciation to all those who were involved in the shaping of this gracious initiative to the crafters of the Bill itself. This Bill, once it becomes an Act of Parliament, it establishes an institution that many of us longed for, an institution that will cure the ills, break the bottlenecks and speed up effective service delivery to the public.

This Bill brings into life an institute with specific objectives. Amongst others, I would like to comment only on three of them on page 5, clause 5(a), (c) and (e) in relation to our current Public Service Act and I quote:

- “(a) To systematise capacity-building interventions and to function as a dedicated training and development institutions for the unified Public Service in Namibia.*
- (c) To foster among Public Servants a sense of purpose, values and traditions of a Public Service which serves the people of Namibia and promotes the welfare and lawful interest.*
- (e) To enable the Public Servants to acquire analytical, creative, advisory, administrative and other skills and knowledge necessary to formulate and execute policies and directives to respond to change, including change in social, cultural and linguistic character of the Namibian society and implement Government programmes, resources and services efficient, effectively, sustainably and equitably, to provide flexible learning opportunities and platform by way of a learning resources centre, supported by authentic information and documentation; to help public servants develop cooperative relationships with colleagues, professionals and other persons at Offices Ministries and Agencies and at all levels of the Public Service through enlightened leadership motivation, effective communication and innovation for high quality service to the public.”*

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, the above-stated objectives of NIPAM and those I left unread, in my view are null and void should they not be accompanied by a practical operational framework. In other words, the NIPAM goals will be useless if, for instance, if we do not scrap or repeal the

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current Public Service Act (Act 13 of 1995) and replace it with a complete new Public Service Act that responds to the new dispensation and overrides colonial practices of the past. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. It will not help to repeal it, you have the power to do it correctly. Some people are untouchable and if it is that way, do not tell us a half-truth. Why do we have the untouchables?

HON DR ANKAMA: Comrade Speaker, failing to do the above, the Namibia Institute for Public Administration and Management will become a ghost institution in itself, which will haunt or frustrate both Public Servants and the private sector and in this way retard its fundamental objectives, such as those stated on page 6 of the Bill under clause 5(j), (k) and (l). These objective are:

- *to establish an observatory of capacity-building needs in the Namibian Public Service especially through capacity evaluation, regular service, impact assessment, studies for Government development and donor agencies and undertake private sector and public management consulting assignments;*
- *to collaborate and strengthen partnership between public administrations and civil society organisation at central, regional and local levels and with other institutions having similar objectives; and*
- *to study and document the good practices, successes and failure stories and create a bank of such practices for public sector capacity building.*

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, establishment of the NIPAM, in my opinion, without considering the repeal of the current Public Service Act (Act 13 of 1995) which has a history of Amendments, will just bring untold confusion and more mal-administration within the Public Service. Good listeners within the Public Service probably heard that currently the Namibian Public Service Act is talked about as the cause of the complexity in recruitment or firing of Public Servants. It slows down recruitment of indigenous Namibians into professional posts, such as of that of engineering and the likes.

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The Act is associated with the direct or indirect cause of the high unemployment rate, particularly among the trained graduates as well as recruitment of incompetent or less qualified workforce at the expense of highly trained and competent cadres.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, to bring NIPAM into life should be deemed as an excellent idea, but without harmonisation of this initiative with relevant laws and other statutory bodies it will defeat its purpose. Likewise, relevant stakeholders, institutes of training, such as schools, vocational training and other at high academic or technical level should be made to adjust components of their curricula to fit and include subjects geared towards complementation of the NIPAM goals and objectives.

In the same vein, the Namibia Institute for Public Administration and Management should by all means try to create a squad of public service excellence, a squad that is fully prepared and in line with the NIPAM objectives, such as in Clause 6(1)(b) on page 6 which aims to assist Offices, Ministries and Agencies, organisational components and other entities of the Government of the Republic of Namibia through capacity-building programmes, operational research, studies and documentation developed by or on behalf of NIPAM.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, the creation of the Namibia Institute for Public Administration and Management is a welcome idea, however it appears a gentle implementation with a sensitivity focus in consultation with relevant stakeholder institutions previously stated in my contribution in order for it to craft consummate Public Service machinery for Namibia. In all, I support the NIPAM Bill and I thank you.

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

HON P MUSHELENGA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I rise to make my contribution to the Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management Bill.

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When I was going through, the purpose of this Institute is not only to provide training, but also to provide operational research and consultancy to the Public Service. Honourable Speaker, I only have some questions on this.

At times, we come, we pass Bills here, but then the implementation will be something that leaves much to be desired. I hope when we have passed this Bill and it has been carried forward, that we will then cut the costs for research and consultancy in the Public Service. I hope that the Committees of Parliament will also rely on this Institute for research, unlike the current situation that we have to outsource research services. Otherwise, we are not doing justice to ourselves to pass a Bill, but when it comes to the implementation, Government will still spend money on consultancy services. (Interjection) I am talking to my own Government and the Prime Minister will know how to address this.

Honourable Speaker, I have some queries on the objects, especially in Clause 5(b), that this Institute would be responsible for conducting such examinations and tests that may be necessary for the qualification, appointment, promotion or transfer of persons in or to the Public Service. Somehow, if this is not clearly spelled out, I see there is going to be a clash between this Institute and the Public Service Commission. Is this Institute now going to have certain tests for the recruitment into positions in all Ministries or for some Ministries only? Each Ministry's management knows the human resource capacities of the staff that they need. There have already been complaints about the bureaucracy at the Public Service Commission, that Ministries are unable to fill some of the positions, because of the bureaucracies there. Now, adding another bureaucracy with this Institute that is now going to set tests and examinations for the purpose of recruitment, promotion and transfer, I foresee another problem. We are adding another problem of bureaucracy to the recruitment, transfer and promotion of Civil Servants.

Honourable Speaker, I am pleased to note among the objectives that part of the duties of this Institute will be to institute a sense of professionalism so that we have effective communication and motivated civil servants, so that this Institute also teach our civil servants the ethics of efficiency and effectiveness. There is an overtime syndrome in the Public Service, whereby people are given work to do, they wait for 5 o'clock and then they claim they did not have enough time, they should work overtime in order to complete their work. I

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really hope this Institute will teach our Civil Servants the essence of ethics, professionalism, efficiency and effectiveness, because ideally overtime in most cases means that you have failed to do what you were supposed to within a prescribed time. Of course, there are certain tasks that come from the principals in the Ministry, that because of certain reasons we need this task to be performed even if it means after hours. However, in most cases officials are not doing what they are supposed to do during allocated office hours so that they find an excuse to do that job as overtime. I really hope this Institute is now going to instil that sense of work ethics, that sense of professionalism, that sense of efficiencies among our Civil Servants.

I am also equally happy, looking at the Constitutional Council, that the Council makes provision for two persons to be seconded by the Prime Minister, considering their academic excellence and expertise, but when I was looking at the Training Board, which is maybe like a senate if you want to convert this into university language, I think somehow there was a need, because while we have the Namibia Qualifications Authority here and a Training Authority, I thought we needed some type of specialist such as the staff members designated by the Office of the Prime Minister, representing the human resource development function. It should be the same as in the Council, that you really have someone with specific academic expertise, because the Training Board is not just a policy-making body, this is the body that is going to look at the training programmes of the Institute.

With these few words, Comrade Speaker, I support the Bill.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I wish to give my sincere support for the Bill, which is long overdue. I wholeheartedly congratulate the Right Honourable Prime Minister for having tabled this Bill. In my view, the establishment of the Namibia Institute for Public Administration and Management is the introduction of an important tool in Public Sector governance, because it is

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going to empower the Civil Servants, including parliamentarians, with skills and knowledge. We are living in modern times, we are living in an age where information is power, where technology is bringing new challenges and Government should have a centre such as this one where the Public Servants can go anytime to seek knowledge to equip them to contribute effectively to the development of this country.

I welcome this Institution as an Institution of empowerment, because many of us who found ourselves working in the Public Service sector have gone through formal education. Some people never had that privilege of going through formal education, but if you listen to them and if you measure their contributions, their contributions sometimes are more genuine and honest than that of some of us who have gone through formal education. Therefore, to provide a centre of excellence like this one proves that Namibia is on the move, Namibia is putting tools of empowerment in place.

I have travelled in several countries and I have gone to school in several. You would find many institutions of this kind in some countries. When I was still working in the Office of the Prime Minister many of my colleagues benefited from institutions of this nature in other countries. The UK is an example where they have many institutions of this nature and even in neighbouring countries, you would find institutions of this nature. This is an instrument of the State to equip people with knowledge, knowledge is power, and this Institute is going to equip us with skills. Without reservation, I welcome the establishment of this Institution. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question, please? The Honourable Deputy Minister is talking about a centre for excellence where people should be trained. You have travelled to so many countries. Why did it take you six years as a Deputy Minister and the Government of the Republic of Namibia twenty years to think about an institution of this nature? Is that a failure from the Government's side or a failure from the Ruling Party's side?

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

Honourable Speaker, you know, those unfortunate leaders who live with a psychology of failure, they will always hear and see failure everywhere and that is not my problem. If you fail to make inroads in the Namibian political landscape, go to the Institution and learn some skills on how to conduct political campaigns and so on.

When I worked in the Office of the Prime Minister, we used to benefit from established centres of this nature in other countries. Sometimes we benefited from grants to go and study, but now Namibia is establishing its own and it is a welcome move and has to be supported. I support it from that perspective. I think the Honourable Colleague has a problem, he only hears what he wants to hear and that is what keeps them in their present status, the status of rejection and seeking sympathy from the Courts.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, information is power and the Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management is not only going to contribute to imparting skills to our people, but it is also going to help to ...
(Intervention)

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Information. There is a difference between justice and sympathy. We want justice and this is what we are seeking, not sympathy.

**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ACTING
ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** May I ask my Colleague a question? Honourable Kazenambo, are you aware that last year November the CoD and another Party which is not in this House and whose name I will not mention, made a statement to the effect that there are certain Parties with new kids on the block, who were going around recruiting their members, saying there is no difference between CoD and that Party and since they lost the election to that Party, they are looking for jobs in SWAPO? Are you aware of that?

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: That is exactly what happened and it is a question of barking up the wrong tree. We are told that apparently, the Colleagues here are not seeking justice, but they are displaying their jealousy in Court.

Honourable Speaker, back to the Bill, while we are subjected to a display of jealousy in Court, the abuse of justice, I was saying that the Institute of Public Administration and Management is very important for consolidation of cohesion, consolidation of a Public Service culture in the Namibian Public Service. This is an institution where people from various Ministries may find themselves sharing a classroom and going into the field together. That working relationship will intensify a one culture. It will promote values of service to the Namibian people.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: In conclusion, an institution like this will enhance Public Service cultural values and ethics. It contributes to promotion of meritocracy in the Public Service. Therefore, this institution is welcomed. In some professions, such as the military profession, one gains skills from the military academy which prepare you for combat and battle. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: On a Point of Information. I just want to inform the Deputy Minister that it is crucially important for an institution of this nature and all of us, including your Ministry, should make use of this institution. Your RDP officers must make use of this opportunity to be trained properly in this institution rather than trying to do it yourself. It is very important.

HON SPEAKER: What institution is that RDP?

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HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I actually meant the Regional Development Officers of the Ministries.

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

Honourable Speaker, the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development cannot be compared to a Political Party that was baptized by one of the Honourable Members of this House as a scrap-yard. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Is it a Political Party in the House or outside?

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

Outside. Now the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development is renamed by those who are obsessed... (Intervention)

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

May I ask a question, please? Honourable Kazenambo, are you aware that during the establishment of the new Political Party, all the Opposition Parties in this House said, “*wait for the new Party, watch out for the new Party.*” How many of them are coming to Parliament?

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

Yes, it is true, the Opposition was saying, “*wait for the next Parliament, the whole CoD will be on the other side in the next Parliament and you did not make it*”. You were annihilated right off the political map and reduced to nothing! You were taught a lesson and now you are following this Party to the graveyard or wherever it goes. That is what you are.

This Institute will contribute to enhancing, consolidating and widening the culture of our Public Servants to be non-partisan.

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HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL: May I ask my Learned Colleague a question? Honourable Kazenambo, are you aware that NUDO ran away from the DTA Alliance and now we see NUDO in a new Alliance. What is the name of that Alliance? Is it a new DTA Alliance or what?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Deputy Minister, stick as much as possible to the question on the Order Paper.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: The DTA is called the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: May I ask my Colleague a tiny question? Is it allowed to talk about people who are not here? I am not talking about DTA or NUDO, I am talking about the law of nature. I am not allied with any Political Party. Take that out of your mind.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Honourable Speaker, in conclusion, we all know the background from which Namibia emerged and the Namibian Public Service needs to be commended and even the Members sitting in this House. I was reading today that Namibia is one of the shining democracies, one of the prosperous countries and some of our country people are invited to attend the conference in London. We really need to congratulate ourselves that despite that we have emerged from a troubled historical background, we have managed to pull together in the past twenty years and the non-partisan Public Servants are trying their best. People who used to work in 13 different Administrations in this country plus those who returned from exile and different cultures placed Namibia as a high priority and they committed themselves to the service of the people of this country irrespective of their different political affiliations, irrespective of their political background and an institution like this one is now in place to enhance their skills. (Intervention)

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HON NAMBAHU: May I ask a question? You were talking about these coalitions and the like. Seeing that there is not only one manifesto for a coalition, there are various ones, which manifesto is a person in office going to implement? In this democracy, we get our mandate from the people....

HON SPEAKER: You do not have the Floor. Continue, Honourable Deputy Minister.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Comrade Nambahu, do not be surprised by the new kid on the block, it is the common denominator.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Deputy Minister, you were wrapping up.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Honourable Speaker, I wholeheartedly welcome the establishment of this institution by the Prime Minister. Keep on equipping the Namibian people with skills and all of us must study computer technology and we must even learn how not to come late, like my Honourable sister. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable De Waal.

HON DE WAAL: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I wonder what the Civil Servants that we want to train now would think if they listened to this Debate this afternoon. What would they think if we tell them that they must be serious about their work and they listen to the Debate?

Honourable Speaker, we support the Bill, it is always good to train people, but I want to deviate a little bit from the training part of the Civil Service.

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You know, today in Namibia we have a couple of very serious problems and before I mention one of the problems, I want to say that it is always so that one rotten apple will spoil the whole box of apples and when I am talking now, I am talking to the one rotten apple and not the rest of the box. I want to seriously talk about this one rotten apple, because this one rotten apple is enough to spoil the whole Civil Service.

Honourable Speaker, I want to start with my own experience here in Parliament. We have people here who are very dedicated, people who can really assist Members of Parliament, but we also have people here where we as Members of Parliament need to do the work of those people, because they simply do not do the work and there is nothing you can do about it. We tried, we spoke to our Speaker, we spoke to the Commissioners, we tried to find a way to solve these problems, but it is in vain. The problem is the Civil Servants know you can do nothing, therefore they just continue. That is the one part of the problem.

The second part of the problem, Honourable Speaker, is the question of delayed service. I want to relate to you my own personal experience and not a hearsay story. I, together with some other people, have been trying for the last three-and-a-half to four years to get a decision from the Windhoek Municipality. It took us three-and-a-half to four years to get that decision, an investment decision. Once we got the decision, it took more than a year and three months to get to the stage where the contract must be put together so that we can continue, but we now have stopped at a ministry and when I asked the person, *“how long does it take after you have handed in these documents before they stamp it?”* They said, *“Mr De Waal, if you are lucky, six months; if you are not lucky, a year”*. Then we are almost at five years. Do you know why people are bribed? It is because of that and the rotten apples in the Civil Service have become clever. (Intervention)

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** On a
Point of Information. (Interjection)

HON RIRUAKO: Are you defending them?

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

There is nothing that I will defend because as a business person I am also subjected to the same procedures, but Honourable De Waal, as much as I appreciate your frustration, which frustration I also experience as a business person, the reality here is there are statutory provisions, policies which the municipalities are subjected to. They have to adhere to certain regulations. Then it continues even at the Ministries. For example, a business like NAMPA is constituted of Permanent Secretaries and people from the private sector and it is difficult to reconcile and harmonise these diverse views. Some of the people from the private sector cannot be forced and some people from different Ministries cannot be forced.

Therefore, you as a Member of Parliament need to consult with the Ministry in the relevant Committee and identify certain statutory provisions, which negatively influence the activities of business and then we try to harmonise this rather than blaming one another, because there are many players as per the requirements of those statutory provisions. It is question where the Executive cannot blame the Parliament, the Parliament cannot blame the Executive, there is stakeholder involvement. Let us identify them.

HON SPEAKER: That is another speech.

HON DE WAAL: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I am not blaming anyone. I am just trying to get to a point where I want to ask something.

Honourable Speaker, this is frustrating and I get the impression nowadays – and you know, I went on a visit not long ago and during that visit, I spoke to some of my Colleagues. When we came back there was a report in the newspapers about the actions taken by the Anti-Corruption Commission, three cases and I want to congratulate the Anti-Corruption Commission. For the first time they are scratching where it is actually itching and this is what I am referring to. What concerns me, Honourable Prime Minister, is that I get the impression that this thing of waiting for three or six months or a year, is a deliberate action of civil servants to frustrate the people that are waiting for a licence or a permit, because the longer you let him wait, the more frustrated he

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gets, the bigger the cheque, the bigger the bribe and the Anti-Corruption Commission is now really scratching where it is itching.

This is not good for our economy. Honourable Speaker, today in the economic situation internationally, with Greece, Spain, Portugal and Britain being where they are today, we do not know where our economy is going. We are all happy because the JSE is going up and up, but it might fall down again before the middle of this year the way we are going. (Interjection) It is possible. I will give you twenty reports from reputable investor specialists who say that what we have seen so far is just peanuts, the next one is before the end of this year. I hope they are wrong.

What I am trying to say, in a climate like the one we have now, our country is dependent on ourselves. Nobody is going to help us, not even the Customs Union is going to help us. We will have to help ourselves. You can help yourself by being effective, having a good service delivery, bring tourists in, because that is the best form of export you can find, make it easy for investors to invest, but not the way we are going on now.

Honourable Prime Minister, go to the websites of some of these organisations. I was astonished the other day that on the website of one of these agencies they have four areas where you can go. If you click on the first one, you get to a page. If you click on the second one, you go to the same page. On the fourth one, you go to the same page. The second article on that page is asking for ladies, for a club and the fourth one is something on gambling. These are Government Agency websites. I get so frustrated about these things and this is what I want to say about this training facility:

It is good to train people on how to write a report and all these things, but if you do not train them in ethics, to have an understanding of what they are supposed to do, that they must have a standard of service delivery, if they do a job in six months which they could have done in a week's time, they are undermining the economy of this country. (Interjection)

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** May I ask Honourable De Waal a question? Honourable De Waal, you are talking about

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Agencies and if it is true what you are saying, it is a serious matter. Are you telling us that they are Government Agencies? If they are Government Agencies, which are those Government Agencies? Could you specify which website is displaying ladies and the rest? I am not defending I am seeking information. (Intervention)

HON MEMBER: Do you want to see the ladies or what?

HON DE WAAL: No, Honourable Speaker, I am not in the game of name and shame that is not my way of doing things. I do not think it is necessary, because if you name one, you must name all of them and if you name all of them, you would definitely leave some out. Just go and look. You say you know how to work a computer, just go and look at the different websites of all the government agencies. See if they are working, first of all, or whether they are dead. Look at the dates on those things. Some of those documents are dated 2004, 2005.

Honourable Speaker, all I am asking and I think the Honourable Prime Minister has taken the lead in this issue, when we train our Civil Servants, let us train them not only with knowledge, but values, values, values. We used to do organisation and method study and I was trained as an organisation and method study officer and we used to go to civil servants in this building on the other side with a stopwatch. First you go without a stopwatch and you talk to the civil servant and he will tell you he has so much work, it is impossible to do all this work. Then you sit with him and say, *“let us write down what you do every day, tell me what you do when you come in at 08:00”* and you write it down, *“how many of these things do you have per day?”* *“I have ten.”* *“How long does it take you to finish it?”* *“I do not know, until about 10:00 in the morning.”* *“Okay, then you go for tea, what do you do after tea?”* *“No, then I have these things”* and you write it down and you go on and on. Then you say to him, *“Okay fine, are you happy, is this your job?”* *“Yes, this is my job and I cannot complete it in a day.”* The next day you come with a stopwatch and say, you have ten of these documents to go through and to sign, I am using the stopwatch. Now the person starts and does his work. Half past nine the work is finished. When you reach 15:00, the table is empty.

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That is why I say, Honourable Prime Minister, if you give me 40% of the savings, I will retire. My request is only the following: Please, let us not only teach people how to work with a computer, that is important, but what is more important is for the Civil Servants to understand what role they have to build this country and to build the economy of this country. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: I have very carefully listened to the previous speakers. One, ethics are forgotten in our Government. Ethics are something that is mentioned in the law, but it is not practised in real life. Why am I saying this?

We are dealing with Civil Servants who have become immune through their habits of the day. I am not here to play games; I am here to come to the point.

We cannot talk in Parliament as we do, we must be straightforward and do the job effectively. The application can go today and after six months you hear you can get the job, there are certain things for you to be exposed to, I will not mention that. Dream about it, bring it to your own understanding, and tell me what.

This document, if we are serious we must do the job quickly in order to have this institution at our disposal. We can have this document and let the public down and they are going to question us, what happened, what kind of institute did you establish in this Government? Go to the media, who is in our media? Civil servants or who? You have to change the stations from one to another. We have to listen to BBC or South Africa or Voice of America, but you have all these opportunities at your disposal. (Interjection)

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** The
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HON RIRUAKO: The Voice of India, if the media is liberated in India, I have to listen to it. If the media is liberated here, I am going to listen to them; there is no question about it.

We are bluffing ourselves and the time for bluffing is gone. Let us do the job properly and that is the kind of message I have to give you. Let us plan together and face the problem, cut it out and come up with the truth. That is the only way to do the job.

I cannot repeat what Honourable De Waal said, the money is at our disposal but it has gone back to Europe, gone back to India, gone back to China, because our Civil Servants are rotten. There is no way out and I do not have other words. They must get what they want first and dress properly, that is the habit and we must erase that. It is our job that is what we are paid for. I do not have a job all the time because you know what I am doing, but luckily you got something out of that. Let us go back to the normal way of life. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: May I ask a question? The Honourable Member is painting a picture of unreliable Civil Servants and the things that they are doing, which is very disturbing. What is the reason why the Civil Servants behave that way? Is there any underlying reason that could be eliminated to improve their performance?

HON RIRUAKO: The underlying reason is that something extraneous intervened in the system without the Executive knowing about it. Extraneous is something foreign coming through this system of ours. (Interjections). Go to the dictionary if you did not understand me. The fact is anyone who will come into the system and change it to his desire must be punished. (Intervention)

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Chief a question, please? Honourable Chief, will you agree with me that at least one of the reasons why Civil Servants are behaving like this, can it be the example that they see? I want you to agree or disagree, monkey-see, monkey-do, the

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Civil Servants are looking up at what the people up there are doing and then they do the same. Can you agree with that?

HON RIRUAKO: To come back to what I was saying, everyone has his own life. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Order. Honourable De Waal made a serious statement, because he earlier said Civil Servants do not perform their jobs or they delay their decisions in order to get paid, in other words corruption and they are doing that because they see up there that is what other people are doing, trying to say that they get it from the politicians. I want Honourable De Waal to elucidate what did the monkey see in order for the monkey to do?

HON DE WAAL: For instance, take your telephone on a Friday afternoon, try to get hold of a Permanent Secretary do it Sir. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Are the Permanent Secretaries monkeys now?

HON DE WAAL: No, nobody is a monkey it is just a paraphrase. I am not even trying to say that the politicians are corrupt, because as far as I know they are not. The problem is that you cannot find a Permanent Secretary on a Friday afternoon. If the Permanent Secretary leaves the office, then the Civil Servants also leave and if they do not leave, they will phone their pals and start talking about plans for the weekend. Corruption is a different story, Prime Minister it is not included in this example. I said one of the things.

HON RIRUAKO: I am not here to instigate someone. (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a Point of Information. We believe some of us are committed and we want fairness and justice. It would be unfair for Honourable De Waal to paint a general picture that all Permanent Secretaries in this Government leave their offices on Friday and they do not set an example.

HON SPEAKER: Deputy Minister, Honourable De Waal did not say all, he set a Permanent Secretary as an example.

HON RIRUAKO: I do not want to say something else, Honourable Deputy Minister of Regional and Local Government and Housing, where is your Permanent Secretary? What was in the paper two weeks ago? (Interjection). You do not have to say that. Let them say.

Honourable Speaker, we are here to tackle the problems in this Government of ours, but we are not here to rely on someone because he is the son of someone. Let us face the problem and tackle it. We cannot blame the world or another country. (Intervention)

HON KASINGO: I would like to put a question for clarity. Is it allowed for us as Members of Parliament to mention the name of a person who is not here, who cannot defend him or herself?

HON SPEAKER: Which name was that? Whom did you name?

HON RIRUAKO: I did not mention any name.

HON KASINGO: He mentioned the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development.

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HON RIRUAKO: There is no name there, we are talking about Permanent Secretaries, yes. It was in the paper! You cannot put a thing in the paper and after that, you try to protect him in the House. There is no Rule like that. We are here to solve the problem for the last time. We cannot sit here day after day.... (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Try to be focused I have a long list of speakers.

HON RIRUAKO: I appeal to my Colleagues that side and my Colleagues this side, let us be honest with one another, this is a parliamentary issue and it has nothing to do with your Political Party or your affiliation. Let us decide how we are going to solve the problem. Thank you.

HON KASINGO: Honourable Speaker, I thank you for giving me the Floor to make comments on the Bill before us. However, before I do that, I would also like to join others in congratulating ourselves as Namibians for conducting very peaceful elections in November, in particular the Members of SWAPO Party. Well done.

Honourable Speaker, I would just like to make a few comments on the Bill on NIPAM. I take note of the previous comments on the knowledge we have to acquire, both Civil Servants and politicians, especially at this level where we are representing the people who have elected us.

When I look at Clause 5(b) of the Bill, the objectives, as well as Clause 6, the powers of NIPAM, the main objective is to cater for the training of the Civil Servants. The Right Honourable Prime Minister was saying that this institution would also be open for us as Members of Parliament, which I welcome wholeheartedly. It is against this background that I would want the objectives of this institution also to cater for the Members of Parliament. I agree that all of us need to be computer literate, but the computer must be fed with knowledge. Otherwise, if you do not understand the environment in

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which you operate, you will end up like one of the students who failed Grade 12, who got all the opportunities but ended up just accessing Facebook on their computers and cellular phones.

In addition to the programmes, which would be befitting the Civil Servants, I would suggest that this institution should come up with programmes befitting us as Parliamentarians. For example, we are here as lawmakers and when we make laws, we are guided by the Constitution as the Supreme Law of this country. We should know the Constitution inside out and not only quote certain Articles. We should also be able to know the interpretation of the Constitution by, for example, the Judiciary and that is why I would like to suggest that a course such as constitutionalism be included in this, so that at the end of the day you will be able even to read some of the cases, know more and cannot be blackmailed by the other people. For example, when you comment on a certain Judgment by a Judge, they will not be able to say the Judiciary cannot be criticised. It depends how, when and at what level. Judges are just human beings. I am not saying that we should at random say this Judge must pass Judgment in favour of me, but when the Judgment is passed, each and everyone will comment. There is nothing unconstitutional about it, it is how you say it and at what level. We can only gain that knowledge if we are serious to learn more about the interpretation of the Constitution, the skills of legal drafting, the interpretation of statutes. We are making laws and we should be able to know how a certain clause is going to be interpreted.

Then there is also the issue of conflict management. We are all aware, Honourable Speaker, that our continent is terrorised by conflict.

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Then there is also the issue of conflict management. We are all aware, Honourable Speaker, that our continent is terrorised by conflict. (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Information. Honourable Kasingo, you said we may not use the name of a person who is not in the House when the Permanent Secretary was mentioned and now you are mentioning the Judge.

HON KASINGO: No, I did not mention an individual Judge, but in general. You will remember that the Chief said of that the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development.

What I am trying to say is that we should put emphasis on the strengthening of our skills in constitutionalism and I was just ending by saying our continent is terrorised by conflict. Conflict resolution at that level by ourselves is also needed, conflict management and conflict prevention, so that at the end of the day when some of us retire, we can do what is done by the wise women and men of Africa, such as Mr Kofi Annan and Madame Machel. When we have this knowledge, once you retire you can be appointed to go and do conflict resolution in Africa. In other words, we should also cater for the needs of parliamentarians.

The Constitution of the Council is provided for in Clause 7. I take note of the composition, but I do not see the representation of people living with disability. (Interjection). My respected Chief, there is nothing wrong with which I am referring to, I am a very objective person and I mean what I say.

I am saying there is no provision in the Constitution of the Council for people with disability. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I pose a question to the Honourable Member?

HON KASINGO: The question is declined because I am winding up. There should be provision for people living with disability to also serve on the Council. You will remember that last year we passed a Bill here that we need to include these people in whatever we do.

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The last one is the appointment of the Executive Director. I hope whoever is going to be appointed, he or she is not going to smell money, because we are really tired of these people, whether they are called Executive Director or Chief Executive Officer, who are getting a tremendous amount of money. The salaries of these people whom they call Chief Executives must be levelled to the level of the Permanent Secretary.

With these few comments, I support the Bill.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kavari.

HON KAVARI: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I just want to add my voice to this Bill before the House. Right Honourable Prime Minister, I want to thank you for this Bill. When I look at Objective (c), it is “*to foster among Public Servants a sense of the purpose, values and traditions of Public Service*”. As the other people have said, what lacks our Public Service are not academic skills. I believe we have those, because when you advertise a post, you would find the qualifications you are looking for. I believe we do have that, given twenty years of our university’s existence and other institutions.

What we are lacking in our Public Service is ethics, loyalty, emotional diligence, innovation and others that are non-academic courses. In my experience with training, I have come to realise that when you train a person who is already employed, you are looking for that person to be able to be more productive than the level he is producing now. That is why you are retraining the person who is already academically trained. I tell people that training is not an expense, it is an investment, but we should be looking at a return on investment. The people who go to these institutions for training should come back being able to produce more.

Honourable Prime Minister, there is a notion in this Nation that when you reach a certain level, you are no longer trainable. When you are a CEO or Permanent Secretary or Minister or Member of Parliament, it is a shame for you to be trained, what will the people say? (Intervention)

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HON RIRUAKO: Even if you are old, you study every day.

HON KAVARI: Honourable Chief, I do agree with you and that is why I want to urge the Right Honourable Prime Minister that people should be trained at all levels. We do have people who have reached that level where they think they are not trainable anymore, but because of technological changes, because of innovations and new books and new ideas and principles being advanced.... (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kavari, do you have a reference point? Are you supporting that Honourable Kasingo said that they should also be included in training? Is there any example where there is resistance to training old people?

HON KAVARI: Yes, there is resistance. I have experience because before coming to Parliament I was involved in training leadership and I have spoken to people who, after being interviewed, we discovered that they have training needs, but they said, "*what will the people say, how will I tell my boss that I need training?*" It is serious, it is happening. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: May I ask a question? Honourable Member, when you were training me in accounting, you were talking about innovation. Is it innovation for CoD to follow a failed Political Party? (Intervention)

HON KAVARI: Honourable Speaker, you were congratulating Members of Parliament who attended the course at UNAM on Parliamentary Practice and Conduct, which I also attended and I graduated with distinction. It was open to all Members of Parliament, but we started with eleven and only seven graduated. I do not think it was only seven who needed the training. All of us

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needed it. Whether you are a Minister, Deputy Minister or backbencher you need training. You did not attend because you think you are above training.

I have spoken to the Chief Executive Officers in this country and if you go to UNAM and see whom the people who are attending courses are, it is not the people whom we think were already trained.

Honourable Speaker, we should inculcate a culture of continuous learning, that should be part of the institution, and the courses offered. (Intervention)

HON KASINGO: I agree with you that we should overcome the fear of being trained, no matter our ages. Do you not think the Founding Father has put a challenge to all of us with his Master's Degree in Geology? Do you not think that should motivate all of us to go and study?

HON KAVARI: Honourable Member, I cannot agree with you more, though one would know the details of the training. However, the fact that he went and registered at UNAM and attended was an example to all of us, that there is a need for continuous learning and we should never stop learning. (Intervention)

HON KAIYAMO: On a Point of Information. I think the Honourable Kavari is sending a wrong impression to the world. I have been in this Parliament for the past ten years and I have seen the willingness of the Parliamentarians to be trained. This Parliament equipped all of us with the basic training, but maybe we need extra training for individual needs. Honourable Hage Geingob attained his degree. Honourable Muharukua attained a diploma. Everybody here studied, what are you saying?

HON KAVARI: Honourable Speaker, if you have a pocket of people who are studying, it does not mean it is everybody who is studying. We all have computers that we are using to play card games and we do not know how to use them.

Honourable Speaker, I rest my case.

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HON SPEAKER: I assume that we all accept that education, learning and training is from cradle to grave. The question is how many of us take advantage of that? Honourable Iilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Let me join the Comrades who congratulated the SWAPO Party and I want to add to that by congratulating the born-frees, they followed the footsteps of their ancestors. Now we are waiting for the children of the born-frees to follow in the footsteps of their mothers and fathers. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I am sorry to disturb the Honourable Member, but may I ask him a question? Honourable Iilonga, last Sunday we were at Okahandja with the Vice-President of the SWAPO Party and we came across a convoy led by one of the Colleagues of the CoD who is in this House. They came very close, just between the stadium and the road and the law says, if there is another activity of another Political Party, you are not allowed to come within five hundred metres. Do you agree with me that some of the people here are provoking the SWAPO Party?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: We are used to their provocation and then later they say SWAPO provoked them.

Comrade Speaker, as I said, I rise to support the creation of the Namibian Institute for Public Administration, which is a very important institution. Honourable Kasingo mentioned the powers and objectives of the Institute. I was not here when the Prime Minister motivated the Bill, but if he really said that this would also cater for the politicians, I hope that it would be included under the objectives during the Committee Stage. If we were only to assume that, people may later ask where it is reflected in the law. I hope that the Prime Minister will accede to that request.

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Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I was listening to Honourable De Waal and I feel as Members of Parliament we should not make blanket statements of condemnation of civil servants that they are not doing their best, as there are definitely some doing that. We always have the positive and the negative and the importance here is that we look at our achievements within twenty years. We cannot just say the Civil Servants are not doing anything. Yes, the lazy ones are there because of the set-up. If a Minister wants to say anything, there are those who say, *“You are Political Office-Bearers, you are not administrators.”*

This Bill should be aimed at training the officials from the Minister to the cleaner. If these people are given certain values and an understanding of productivity, I can tell you that when a draft is brought to you by your Permanent Secretary or one of your officials, you will be in harmony on everything and you will see that there are no loopholes in this draft. You can only do that if you are trained.

I want this institution to also look at what the Government of India is doing. The officials, the Ministers and the Members of Parliament have the same understanding and the Civil Servants will not undermine you, because they know that you will detect it.

I have also seen that this Bill is just dealing with administration from Clause 1 to Clause 30. The business of the Bill is only dealt with in Clause 32. That is all and the others only deal with administration. We really need to see to it that when people design the courses, it must be designed in a way to improve the ethics of hard work – which is the slogan of our SWAPO Party, victorious and united and now victorious and hard work. We should also get rid of that element of undermining to make sure that our Civil Servants understand that the Government is for all. When the SWAPO Party Government gives drought relief, they never ask whether they are from DTA or CoD. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: The Civil Servants ought to listen to the Minister’s orders and obey him all the way.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Therefore, we have to come up with this institution which is going to train us in order for us to value each other, the Civil Servant valuing his or her Political Office-Bearers and the Political Office-Bearers valuing their staff. I think that is very important.

The other issue I want to mention is under Clause 31 of the Bill. I want to find out, if the intention of this Bill is to inculcate skills and honesty into our administration machinery, do we have in mind that the Civil Servants who do not have academic qualifications will also be catered for? If you check Clause 31(b), the Council will be the one to decide on the requirements for admission. This institution must have a variety of courses to cater for the needs of the employees of the Government, because we have those who are not qualified. In another twenty years to come you may not find a person in the Civil Service who is not in a position to read or write, because evolution will take care of that. I just wanted to find out what are the requirements and on what basis will a person be refused entry. Is it going to be selective, that only a few with a certain level of education can be trained and the others not? Those are my few questions to the Prime Minister.

I also see that the diploma and certificate will be on the same level and they will be evaluated by our Namibia Qualifications Authority. I am quite happy that it is not going to be a paper with no value.

With that, Honourable Speaker, I want to remind Honourable De Waal that corruption did not start with this Government. Before Independence, we had commissions such as the Thirion Commission, which was set up to investigate corruption. We cannot say that during the colonial time and the apartheid regime the service delivery was super. That is not true. The Civil Servants were doing the same, except that some of our Colleagues here were just there to supervise. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Information. During the colonial time the whites came from South Africa and a new person became the boss of Honourable Katali who has been working there for a long time and who knew the work.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

As long as a person with high qualifications is a black, he will always be under the whites. Is that not corruption? (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. I am going to be very nice to everybody. It happens in all the Governments, but we are here to teach one another.

HON MEMBER: You were part of that Government.

HON RIRUAKO: I was a part of that Government and those who are part of this Government are following the same method until today.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

That is why we want to do away with what we have inherited from the old dispensation.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, I just want to say that corruption is not something, which only came with Independence of Namibia. I thank you and I support the Bill.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nambahu.

HON NAMBAHU: I also want to register my support for this very important piece of legislation and really to note that we have come off age. There was a time when most of us who were in the Civil Service, who once you asked for an opportunity to go and study were frowned upon and it was said, "*we hired you because we thought you are qualified, now why do you want to study?*" I think that time has passed and when we now have an institution like this one, it means that we recognise that we cannot continue sending people outside to

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study in other people's institutions, because those ones were tailor-made for the conditions of those countries where they are. Therefore, we must have our institution, which is tailor-made to our conditions and which addresses our realities and our shortcomings. That should be saluted and be encouraged.

Once the institution is fully developed, we should maybe think of decentralising so that people in the Regions would not have to leave their duty stations and come to Windhoek.

Looking at the objectives on page 5, point 5(c), "*to foster among Public Servants a sense of purpose, values,*" etcetera, I think all the other institutions in the country should really emulate this and have something on values, because sometimes you condemn these people that they are not doing certain things, but these are people from our organisation and communities. Why do we think it is only Government that should inculcate these values? They even say in the eyes of the law this is wrong or corruption. You do not see it as wrong. Why does no organisation in the country help us to inculcate these values? If a person has been sentenced by Court of Law, the Public Service looks into that and sees what they can do to him, but what about other organisations? Honourable Members, I do not think you would want me to be naming and shaming, but you know which organisations do not have a code of conduct and are thus not enforcing these values.

The other day the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister was talking about the discipline of the Namibian Defence Force and this discipline actually comes from PLAN because of the values and the enforcement of a code of conduct. That really made the Namibian Defence Force what it is today. If you listen to the songs of PLAN, you would think a PLAN combatant does not do this or that and it is enforced. Sometimes we talk about these things, we do not enforce them, and that is where the problem comes in. I think it is problem of the society, not really one of the Public Service. The other day I have seen some people who grab the bags of the ladies, a lady being molested by a young man. I thought this person was admired because the woman is so well dressed, but he was there, grabbing. What does that tell you of our society? (Intervention)

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HON NAMISES: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? I am sorry to interrupt such a great intervention, but I want to find out whether the Honourable Member remembers why I have dread locks today, because the PLAN were trying to beat up and fight our community members and sent two to hospital. Do you know about that?

HON NAMBAHU: I was saying that we should have a code of conduct. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a Point of Information. I think the former comrade, who is on her way back home, mentioned PLAN. I do not know whether there was a plan to beat people or she was talking about the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN).

HON NAMBAHU: She was probably referring to the latter.

HON SPEAKER: Since you want to reply, Honourable Nambahu, you cannot read the Honourable Member's mind.

HON NAMBAHU: Honourable Members, I was trying to develop a certain line of thinking and now the Honourable Member tried to derail me. PLAN has its own regulations and its own code of conduct and it has an impeccable history of discipline and way of doing things. I was not trying to indulge in this.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nambahu, for the records of the HANSARDS, is what the Honourable Namises was talking about, the People's Liberation Army of Namibia?

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HON NAMBAHU: I so concede.

HON SPEAKER: No, I am asking. It is a point thrown at you. Are you responding and did you understand the question? Why do you not verify?

HON NAMBAHU: What I understood is that the allegation is really misplaced, it was not supposed to be a question to be put here.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Speaker, maybe for the benefit of other Honourable Members, Honourable Namises said during the struggle for our liberation, PLAN combatants had a habit of beating members of the community and she said two members of the community had to be taken to hospital because they were beaten by members of PLAN, the People's Liberation Army of Namibia.

HON NAMBAHU: PLAN had no programme of beating community members. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: On a Point of Order. I do not want the public out there to be misled. We want to know when and where these community members were beaten up by PLAN. I happened to be the Chief-of-Staff of the Peoples Liberation Army of Namibia for more than ten years and I would want you to clear this. PLAN was disbanded almost twenty years ago and when and where? Can she give information? We want to know, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: On that note, the House stands adjourned under automatic adjournment until tomorrow afternoon, 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2010.02.18 AT 14:30

**ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
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The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORTS OF NAMIBIA
WILDLIFE RESORTS**

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: I lay upon the Table, Annual Reports of the Namibia Wildlife Resorts for the Financial Years 2004/2005 to 2008/2009.

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

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON P MUSHELENGA: I Move without Notice, that leave of absence, due to her own illness, be granted to Honourable Alexia Manombe-Ncube until the 16th of March 2010.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member please table the Motion? Any further Notices of Motions? This being Thursday, we will commence with Questions. Question 75 is by Honourable Viljoen to the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**RESPONSE - QUESTION BY HON VILJOEN
HON NGATJIZEKO**

QUESTION 75:

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Jurie Viljoen wants to know whether the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare has vacancies for what he termed '*professionally qualified experts like Engineers, Surveyors and similar occupations.*' Honourable Viljoen wants to know whether there are limitations that prevent white Namibians from being appointed to these positions.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I firstly would like to draw the attention of Honourable Viljoen to the mandate of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare as articulated in the enabling statute. The Ministry's responsibilities and mandate are, among others, as follows:

- To create a conducive environment for the management, resolution and prevention of industrial disputes;
- Provide for a social net and social security for the working masses and the most vulnerable of the Namibian society; and
- To promote efforts that seeks to advance the principles and achievement of equity and equality of opportunity in employment.

It is clear from the abovementioned policy objectives and mandate that the Ministry does not necessarily need engineers or technically qualified staff to execute its mandate. Perhaps I also need to remind the Honourable Viljoen that the technical fields of study are no longer the exclusive domain of the white race as it was before the Independence of Namibia. Therefore, Honourable Viljoen's insinuations and inquisitive bravado that posts requiring technical qualifications would remain vacant unless filled by what he believes to be the only qualified race to fill them are as misplaced as they are preposterous.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I do not want to be carried away by these racial antiquities and I would like, therefore, to state that the only technical posts on the establishment of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare are those of factory inspectors which require a relevant qualification.

The posts have remained vacant for some time now mainly because the

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remuneration levels are under-graded and thus not able to attract candidates of the very sought-after and well-paid technical professions. The Ministry is currently seized with the matter and trusts that the occupational posts would eventually get the recognition it deserves.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the final part of my answer to Honourable Viljoen's question addresses the apparent doubt the Honourable Member has as to whether white candidates may qualify for appointment to technical vacant positions in the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I have already answered in sufficient details of the question that deals with the vacant technical posts in the Ministry and trust that the Honourable Member is now better informed and that he now better understands the mandate and responsibilities of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Affirmative Action Act of 1998 requires relevant employers to give preferential treatment to those persons who were discriminated against and disadvantaged because of their race, gender or disability status before Independence of Namibia in 1990 in order to rectify the resultant imbalances of the discriminatory policies. However, Section 43 of the Affirmative Action Act (Act 29 of 1998) explicitly provides that: *"Nothing in this Act shall require a relevant employer to take employment decisions that act as an absolute bar on the recruitment or promotion prospects of a person who does not belong to a designated group."*

In general terms, this Affirmative Action law provision makes it clear that, inasmuch as the law requires that the previously discriminated against are given preferential treatment, persons who are not in designated groups may also apply and may be appointed in any position they apply for.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I trust that I have satisfactorily answered the questions by Honourable Viljoen and I would want to thank him once again for his interest in the affairs of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. I thank you.

HON VILJOEN: I wish to thank the Honourable Minister for the way in which he answered the question.

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HON EKANDJO**

HON SPEAKER: Question 87 is one by Honourable Tsudao Gurirab. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

QUESTION 87:

HON GURIRAB: I put the Question.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members. I am going to respond to questions posed by Honourable Tsudao Gurirab.

The answer to the first question is as follows: Section 84(1) of the Local Authorities Act (Act 23 of 1992), as amended, stipulates that the Financial Year-end for Local Authorities shall be 30 June in each year.

Section 87(1) of the Local Authorities Act indicates that *“the Accounting Officer (Chief Executive Officer) of a Local Authority Council shall within three months or such a longer period as the Auditor-General may approve (and not the Minister) after the end of the Financial Year of the Local Authority Council make out the financial statements in such form as may be determined by the Auditor General.”*

The Minister does not have any mandate, or responsibility to table the Annual Reports for the Local Authorities.

Further, Section 35 of the Regional Councils Act (Act 22 of 1992), as amended, stipulates that the financial year of the Regional Councils shall be 31st March in each year. Section 40(1) of the Regional Councils Act indicate that *“the Accounting Officer shall, within three months or such a longer period as the Auditor General may approve (and not the Minister) after the end of the Financial Year of the Regional Council make out the financial statements in such form as may be determined by the Auditor-General.”* The Regional Councils are not obliged to submit their annual financial reports to the Minister and also the Minister does not have any mandate to table them in this august House.

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HON EKANDJO**

With regard to the second question I first I want to share the information with the Honourable Members that we are all aware that the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, under the Chairmanship of Honourable De Waal, has invited most of the Local Authorities last year to explain to the Public Accounts Committee why they did not submit their financial reports to the Auditor General and not to the Ministry. I believe that the Committee has the names and numbers of those Local Authorities, which have outstanding Reports.

The Committee, I believe, had obtained this information from the Auditor-General, which is the statutory body to examine and audit these entities.

Question 3: *“The names and period of the Financial Years outstanding”.*

As I have already mentioned before, the Office of the Auditor-General is the appropriate institution to provide this information. I believe they have them.

Question 4: *“In the event of the outstanding Annual Reports, what is the Minister doing to ensure compliance with the law?”*

Subsequent to the Auditor-General’s Report, as was the case in the year 2007, the Minister called upon all Regional Councils and Local Authorities who failed to submit their statements for auditing to do so without further delay. Some managed to submit, but some could not submit because they do not have capacity to compile financial statements. Concurrently, the Regional Councils and Local Authorities were assisted financially by the Ministry to appoint consultants to address the backlog in financial statements and I am happy to report that many of them are now up to date with their reports. The Ministry also established a new subdivision for monitoring early warning and evaluation to address and monitor the progress in this regard, while it will continue to assist these entities financially for this specific exercise until the situation is completely normalised.

Question 5: *“Is the Minister happy with the present situation?”*

I am definitely not happy because it is not good business practice, but you cannot only point the figure to someone who is not responsible. However, I believe all citizens in this country have a social responsibility towards service delivery by Local Authorities and Regional Councils. Vision 2030 is everyone’s wishes and I believe that we collectively need to come up with best

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solutions to rectify the situation. The Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development is trying its best to capacitate the staff members at the Regional and Local Authorities level. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister. Question 88 is by Honourable Gurirab. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

QUESTION 88:

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Comrade Speaker, first of all I would like to say that the Regional Councils Act does not require the Minister to table any Report of the traditional leaders to this House. Secondly, I would like to put the Honourable Members into the picture.

Comrade Speaker, in the beginning of 2008 when the late Chief Munjuku passed away, a vacancy occurred in the traditional leadership of the Mbanderu community. Then, as per the law, any Traditional Authority, whenever they appoint a new Chief, have to apply for recognition to the Minister. In August last year I received two applications for recognition through their lawyers, Kauta and Hoveka, for Chief Keharanjo II Nguvauva and on the same day I received another application through Lorentz & Angula, whereby they applied for Kilus Karaerua Nguvauva to be recognised as the Chief. Then I had two applications.

Section 12 of the Traditional Authorities Act deals with disputes and says if there is a dispute on the succession issue, then the disputing parties should petition the Minister, where after the Minister would appoint an investigation committee. I responded to the two parties' lawyers with two identical letters, asking them to consult, solve their problem and to submit only one name. They could not. I wrote and said if they do not comply with Section 12, then they should petition the Minister whereby they declare a dispute, as a result of which I shall appoint a committee from members of the community. I selected Festus Kenatjironga Muharukua, who is a teacher at NAMCOL, as the Chairperson. I requested some Traditional Authorities to submit names of people to serve on the committee. I contacted Chief Liswani of the Masubia and she submitted one name. I contacted late Chief Vita Tom and he

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submitted one name and then I contacted Chief Kambazembi who submitted one name. Chief Zereaua submitted one name. I contacted Chief Ipumbu who submitted his own name and then Kaptein Daniel Luipert of the Swartbooi Traditional Authority gave me one name and Acting Chief Rooi of the Witbooi Traditional Authority gave me one name. Then I added Reverend Dr Kankolo of the CCN on the committee.

I gave terms of reference to the committee to go and discuss with the communities, twelve to fifteen people of each group. I wrote letters to the two groups through their lawyers and said the committee will visit their areas on certain dates and they have to meet with fifteen people from those who support Kilus Nguvauva and fifteen people who support Keharanjo II. They may choose the venue, but I gave them the dates.

The first day the group who support Keharanjo II met the committee somewhere in Gobabis. The second day they met the people who support Kilus Nguvauva at Epukiro (Omaue uozonyanda). The third day they brought the two groups together and the fourth day, they went to the community of Epukiro up to Rietfontein, Otjombinde. When they brought the two groups together, the group that supported Kilus Nguvauva said that culturally, according to the Mbanderu tradition, the son born in wedlock is senior to all the others. Then they said that Chief Munjuku in 2000 signed a statement that in the event of his death, Kilus Nguvauva should succeed him as Chief because Keharanjo II is too young to rule. The others said it is true, but it was nine years ago, he is no longer too young. The fact that the Chief said he is too young to rule, means it is him, otherwise he would not have mentioned it.

They went on, the group that support Kilus said, Keharanjo II is a Botswana citizen, and he studied in South Africa on a Botswana scholarship. The others said, Keharanjo II was born in Namibia, his father sent him to his brother in Botswana so that he can learn the Botswana tradition, but he was born here and you cannot take away somebody's citizenship. Then they also said that besides that, the late Chief was born in Botswana and was called to rule in Namibia. Now you block the one born in Namibia and the one who was born in Botswana ruled here.

The group who support the younger brother said the late Chief had many children out of wedlock and when he was becoming old, the Nguvauvas called

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the Chief and said, *“you are now becoming old, why do you not marry so that you have a son in wedlock who can succeed you.”* Then the mother said, *“yes, the Chief married me while I was 15 so that I can give him a son.”* According to the family tree the lady, Komomupanda Nguvauva, is an offspring of Chief Kahimemwa Nguvauva. I think he married this one. If not married, it is a cousin of a grandchild. The lady was Komozonganda Nguvauva. This lady has two children, one Keharanjo II. She got a son Keharanjo I and then she had a daughter, Kovitjua.

When the committee met, they also interviewed people and the committee gave me two scenarios: We recommend to the Minister to advise the two, according to their culture, the son born in wedlock. Alternatively, if there is a dispute, apply Section 5 of the Traditional Authorities Act, which says if there is a dispute in applying customary law, then there should be an election. Then they put the question, if there is an election, how would we know who is Mbanderu and who is Herero? The father is a Mbanderu, the mother Herero, where would you fall? Thirdly, who is going to conduct the election? Is it the ECN? ECN has to conduct Parliamentary and Regional and Local Authority elections and the loser will say in our tradition we do not elect.

I wrote to them through their lawyers on the 9th of December last year and I gave them a report. I gave them thirty days to respond. Two days later, Weder, Kauta and Hoveka responded, they applied for recognition, they put the 6th of March as the date to install the young brother. I told them to hold on. The next day Lorentz and Angula phoned me and said: *“Minister, we received the report today, the 10th, you gave us thirty days, it is Christmas time, we have until 9th January, we only start on the 15th of January, give us time”* and I gave them time up to the end of February.

I am still awaiting their response up to now. I did not recognise anybody. I do not know what the response will be.

If the report says there is a dispute, the question is, must I apply section 12? Is it customary? The Act is just a general Act, it does not dictate to every Traditional Authority.

The group of Kilus Nguvauva wrote to the President, , where they expressed appreciation for the professional work done by the committee. They went to see the President and followed it up with a letter, where they said

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they thank the Minister, the committee did professional work, meaning they are happy with the report. Now I am waiting to hear from them.

Last week I phoned them, they said they are still studying the document because it is a thick document. If it turns out that they say the committee, which they praised is no longer professional, then the question remains, what does the culture of the Mbanderu say? Do they go for elections? If we allow an election, will it not open a Pandora's Box for all the others?

Once I receive the report I will study it and see what it contains, but what I want to make clear is that the Government is not involved in traditional matters. It is up to the Mbanderu where they want to break or make their culture. The Act only contains the general principles and guidelines, but it is up to the Mbanderu. If they say we must apply Section 5, then we must see who is going to conduct elections, whether a Regional Magistrate and if they say no, then the involvement of Government ends and they have to solve their own problem.

I read in the newspaper that the Minister has recognised this one and that one. The Minister has never recognised anyone. I will not bring the report here unless the Mbanderu people request me to bring the report to the Parliament. Otherwise, I am not obliged.

Comrade Speaker, this is in short what I can say.

HON GURIRAB: I thank the Minister for his short answer and I shall follow up once the Minister has received the report from Lorentz & Angola.

HON SPEAKER: Question 90 is by Honourable Kavari. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**RESPONSE - QUESTION BY HON KAVARI
HON MUHARUKUA**

QUESTION 90:

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to welcome the questions posed by Honourable Kavari. I thank her for that.

The Ministry has a National Orphan and Vulnerable Children Policy in place, which is translated into six local languages, namely Silozi, Rukwangali, Oshivambo, Otjiherero, Afrikaans and Damara-Nama. The Policy is the foundation on which the Ministry and stakeholders build to provide security for orphans and vulnerable children. The Policy defines orphans as children under the age of 18 who have lost one or both parents. The vulnerable children are under the age of 18 who are found to be in need of care and protection.

Honourable Members, the care and protection given to these children is that we provide grants to assist the children. We provide school uniforms and food parcels. These children enjoy their rights by being protected from all forms of abuse and exploitation. There are four types of grants, namely maintenance grants, special maintenance grants for children with disability under 16 years of age, foster care grants and places of safety.

On the second question: The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare does provide for the children of prisoners, especially in cases where the main breadwinner is the one imprisoned. Let us look at the question of who qualifies to be beneficiaries of these grants:

Biological children under 18 years of age and whose spouse, the breadwinner, received an old-age pension or disability grant. If a spouse, the breadwinner, has died, the spouse of the breadwinner is imprisoned for six months or longer.

Question 2: *“Are these children regarded as vulnerable children?”*

Yes, they are regarded as vulnerable children.

Question 3: *“If yes, is this information provided to the affected families at the time of imprisonment?”*

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare launched awareness campaigns throughout the whole year. There are networking and coordination

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BANKING INSTITUTIONS AMENDMENT BILL
HON TWEYA

through ETF, radio talks and community meetings are held. There are social workers in all 13 Regions, which are directly in contact with the grassroots.

Prisons have their own social workers who are in constant interaction with our Ministry.

Question 4: *“If not, how is the Nation or the affected families expected to know about this fund?”*

We have an ongoing programme of providing social grants and free education on a regular basis. We engage in information dissemination campaigns to sensitise the Nation about the rights of the children and matters related thereto.

Honourable Members, I want to give this brochure to Honourable Kavari. We have printed this in 2005. During that time, Honourable Kavari did not even know she was coming to Parliament. This brochure on social grants has been developed and translated into seven indigenous languages and widely disseminated for the communities to know where to access assistance.

Many of the needs of the children are still not yet taken care of due to the lack of national documents and shortage of Magistrates to attend to children in Court. I will provide the answers to the public out there, not to Honourable Kavari who wants to campaign. I thank you.

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

HON SPEAKER: The First Notice of Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Finance. Does the Honourable Minister move that the Bill be now introduced?

**INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING: BANKING INSTITUTIONS
AMENDMENT BILL**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: I Move the Motion.

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

BANKING INSTITUTIONS AMENDMENT BILL

SECOND READING:
BANKING INSTITUTIONS AMENDMENT BILL

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is my pleasure to motivate the tabling of this Amendment to the Banking Institutions Act, Act 2 of 1998.

The current legal framework governing banking business in the Banking Institutions Act, 1998, was enacted in July of 1998. This Act has not been reviewed since its inception over ten years ago. Meanwhile significant changes have taken place in the local and international arena, both in the financial markets and supervisory environment, which warrants the review of the current legal framework and regulatory provisions.

Furthermore, it was noted that some sections in the Act became redundant, while others are problematic in their implementation and justify an Amendment.

The Banking Institutions Amendment Bill will mainly address the following:

The Bill will enable the Bank to introduce certain restrictions to the ownership and shareholding structure of foreign-owned banking institutions in Namibia. Such Amendments will allow the Minister of Finance, on the recommendation of the Bank of Namibia, to decide on the extent of shareholding that any resident or non-resident could hold individually or collectively in banking institutions.

The Bill is seeking to empower the Bank of Namibia to assess and mitigate potential risks that banking institutions could be exposed to as a consequence of the activities of other entities within the same group of companies. This

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means that the Bank will have the power to regulate and supervise holding companies of banking institutions.

Due to the mushrooming of pyramid and similar schemes in Namibia over the past years, the need arose to strengthen the law to effectively deal with such illegal schemes. The Amendment Bill is, therefore proposing a new section that will define, criminalise and explicitly prohibit pyramid schemes.

Limited competition characterises the banking industry in Namibia. In an attempt to address this concern, it is proposed that the law should be amended to allow credible foreign banking institutions to establish branches in Namibia. Currently the law only allows for fully incorporated subsidiaries and representative officers of such institutions. In allowing branches of foreign banking institutions to be established, it will be possible for such institutions to test the local market conditions before setting up a fully-fledged banking institution in Namibia.

Other Amendments are intended to strengthen the oversight function of the Bank of Namibia over activities of commercial banks. For example, it is proposed that the Bank of Namibia should be allowed to issue spot fines to banking institutions for non-compliance with credential requirements. Presently this is not possible as the practice under the current law denotes that a banking institution must first be convicted of an offence before a fine may be levied by the Courts. Apart from clogging up the judicial system, such transgressions can be more effectively dealt with by the introduction of monetary penalties and thereby reducing the burden on our Courts. By presenting such cases in a Court of Law may lead to bad publicity for banking institutions, which in turn may lead to a run on the institution, even though depositors may not be considered to be at risk.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, against this background, I now have the pleasure to introduce the Banking Institutions Amendment Bill, 2010 to this House for its kind and speedy consideration and I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Deputy Minister. Any further discussion?

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**PAYMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

HON T GURIRAB: I move that the Debate be adjourned until Wednesday, next week.

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until Wednesday, next week. The Second Notice of a Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Finance. Does the Minister move that the Bill be now introduced?

**INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING: PAYMENT
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AMENDMENT BILL**

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I Move the Motion?

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

PAYMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AMENDMENT BILL

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Finance move that the Bill be now read a Second Time? Objection? Agreed to. The Minister has the Floor.

**SECOND READING PAYMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
AMENDMENT BILL**

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. A cost-effective, efficient and safe National Payment System is one of the key factors to sustainable economic development.

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A prerequisite for a secure and cost-effective National Payment System is one that allows for the majority of the economic population safe and secure access at a reasonable cost.

Namibia, for the past few years has been inundated with complaints that banking institutions charge high and complex bank fees, that more than fifty percent of the economic population is still unbanked and that there is a lack of pricing competition amongst banking institutions. The public is being charged exorbitant fees at every stage of their interaction with banking institutions, discouraging low-income groups from accessing the National Payment System, thus reducing the potential for efficiency gains. Thus, the Namibian public still relies heavily on the use and safeguarding of cash outside the banking system due to the perception that bank charges are too high.

Further, a cost-effective payment system provides correct price signals, which will make consumers accurately aware of the cost required to provide each payment service, thus moving the economy to make use of the most efficient payment method that is electronic funds transfer. However, the Namibian economy is still utilising paper money that is cheques and cash, more than electronic transfers, largely because banks do not base pricing of services on cost, but rather on market power and thus are achieving some exceptionally high profit margins.

Recent research has further shown that cost-effective and efficient access to a retail bank account is deemed to be a prerequisite for economic growth and development in developing economies. This has called for Government, through the Central Bank, to intervene, as the market has failed to adequately set pricing at a fair and clear level to the public in a manner that attracts the lower income groups.

Additionally credit card fraud has been a growing concern internationally, with Namibia being no exception. Card scheming devices, which are devices used to unlawfully copy credit or debit card information, are becoming more prevalent through Namibia. The law needs to be strengthened in order to make the possession of such devices a legal offence.

The current legal framework governing the National Payment System is the Payment System Management Act of 2003. The Government has encouraged

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the banking industry to reach out to the unbanked and low-income groups, but it has failed to do so satisfactorily, although they have achieved large growths in profits. Government is of the opinion that due to the critical nature of the National Payment System, certain components should be viewed as a public utility and thus regulated to allow for fair and cost-effective access by the public. It is against this background that the proposed Amendments are made.

The Payment System Management Amendment Bill will specifically address the following:

- It will empower the Bank of Namibia to assess and where necessary, regulate Payment System charges throughout the National Payment System. This will allow the Bank to evaluate the costing and pricing practices of banks in order to determine and implement cost-effective pricing;
- It will make the possession of card-scheming devices illegal, thereby allowing the Namibian Police Force to arrest and prosecute individuals in possession of such devices; and
- It will give the Bank of Namibia authority to institute penalties against institutions or persons that are in violation of directives or determinations issued by the Bank.

Honourable Speaker, against this background, I introduce the Payments System Management Amendment Bill, 2010, to Parliament for its consideration. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister. Any further discussion?
Honourable De Waal.

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Speaker, I move that the discussion of this Motion be adjourned until next week, Wednesday.

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**RULING ON MOTION BY HON T GURIRAB
HON SPEAKER**

RULING ON MOTION BY HON T GURIRAB

HON SPEAKER: The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until Wednesday, next week. Honourable Members, you will remember what happened to the Motion by Honourable Gurirab yesterday, but before I get to that Motion, I have one or two things to say and it has to do with my understanding of what Rules and Orders are there for. There are many reasons dictating choices we make when reading constitutions, laws as well as Standing Rules and Orders. Reading and understanding them is but only one thing, interpreting is another matter. It is for that reason, namely the latter, that we resort to lawyers, Judges and legal experts for deeper comprehension. We read holy books and think we understand the words, chapters and verses, but we still need pastors and theologians telling us the meaning, interpreting things for us, in other words. Mind you, no two lawyers, Judges, pastors or theologians agree on the interpretation or meaning of what is written. At the end humans, rely on precedents, convention and good common sense. Nothing in human life is written in stone. Even the Holy Books are subject to review and rethinking these days as human knowledge helps us to unravel ancient mysteries and hidden secrets. J E Carter is right in saying, *“Standing Rules and Orders must not be a stumbling block to the process of passing and processing legislation. Rules and regulations were never meant to be a deterrent to common sense.”*

Yesterday I deferred ruling on this Motion for consultations. Having done that, I now give my Ruling: In terms of Commonwealth practice, matters awaiting judicial decision may not be considered in Parliament, in this case in the National Assembly. This matter, therefore, remains pending and we shall accordingly await the outcome of the Court proceedings. That is my Ruling and we are, therefore, not going to consider this Motion of Honourable Gurirab.

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

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**CONSIDERATION OF DEFENCE POLICY
HON DR KAWANA**

**RESUMPTION OF THE DEBATE:
CONSIDERATION OF DEFENCE POLICY**

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Thursday, 11 February, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Defence. The Honourable Minister of Presidential Affairs adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I rise to join my Colleagues who have supported the Defence Policy as tabled by my Learned Colleague and General, my former instructor during the days of PLAN when I specialised in what we called then PLAN Special Forces, which were divided into two groups, one being called Engineering, which was mainly explosives and the other one Reconnaissance. He taught me reconnaissance.

I commend the Minister, the Honourable Deputy Minister and the Ministry for this noble and transparent way of doing things. I know matters of security are sometimes of such a nature that there is certain information, which should not be divulged in public, but as a democracy and a country that has nothing to hide, we live by our Rules and principles and now we are openly debating the Defence Policy in our Parliament.

I want to address two items in terms of this Policy, but before I do so, allow me, Honourable Speaker, to briefly touch on the history of our journey to freedom.

During the colonial period, there was community resistance against colonialism. Examples are our legendary Hendrik Witbooi in the South, Samuel Maharero in the Midlands and Nehale Iya Npingana up North, Mandume Ndemufayo up North, Ipumbu Ya Tshirongo up North and many other heroes and heroines. However, during the sixties, the SWAPO Party realised that in order to succeed, we have to mobilise the entire Namibian Nation to rally behind the SWAPO Party to procure a nationally-based liberation struggle for freedom and independence. As a result, in PLAN there were representatives from all the backgrounds of the Namibian community. It was a force to reckon with, a proud force. We had a stake to free the Namibian

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Nation from bondage, oppression, exploitation and foreign domination and we achieved our objective.

Comrade Speaker, I am one of those citizens of Namibia and, indeed, schooled in the philosophy, principles, aims and objectives of the SWAPO Party, that inclusiveness is the most important part of our mission to achieve any stated objective. In this regard, I would like to read on page 22 of the Policy to amplify what I mean:

“The Ministry of Defence/NDF shall foster and promote this spirit of a united Nation by ensuring, through its policy of accommodation and in line with the Constitution and other pieces of national legislation that every section of the Namibian society is represented in the rank and file of the Namibian Defence Force. The structure and composition of the NDF shall be a reflection of this national character.”

Comrade Minister, you may recall that some of us said the security of this Nation is not negotiable, we will be ever willing and ready to make sure that we support the needs of our Defence Force by way of acquiring equipment in order to guarantee our security as a Nation and also, indeed, to support allocation of resources which must go to the welfare of our men and women in uniform. You have an ally in advance in that regard.

However, Honourable Minister, on several occasions I raised the question of the promotion policy in the Defence Force. I know and I am aware that in other forces they have a promotion policy that is objective, transparent and at least known in advance. A recruit completing his or her training would within a certain period know at what rank that person would be if that person's behaviour is satisfactory. In terms of policy on promotion, I have noticed that it has the effect of discouraging in some cases our men and women in uniform, because if there is no objective criteria for promotion, some of the people affected, rightly or wrongly, might think that they are not promoted because of tribal affiliation. There will be ill-feelings and that is why I am pleading with my senior Colleague to ensure that an objective, transparent promotion policy is adopted within our Defence Force. This will at least avoid the perception of tribalism, the perception of racism and the perception of sexism and if this policy is adopted, I will be one of those citizens in this country who will be very happy.

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HON BASSON

Secondly, in terms of medal awards I would also like to see a situation that is also objective. You may recall, Comrade Minister, and as you rightly said, you were Chief-of-Staff of PLAN, during those days, to be commended to get a medal in PLAN, you should have demonstrated through practical means your bravery in battle and I feel this policy must also continue within our Defence Force, because if there are no consistent, objective criteria for awarding medals, there will always be some of these complaints.

I was a very happy and proud citizen during the 26 August commemoration at Eenhana where a number of medals were awarded to various citizens of our country from various communities, various backgrounds, because that was a reflection of PLAN during the liberation struggle.

However, apart from these two issues, which I plead with the Honourable Minister, namely a promotion policy that is transparent and objective and also the award of medals that is transparent and objective, I wholeheartedly support the Defence Policy and I thank you.

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

HON BASSON: Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I support the Defence Policy. I would like to express my gratitude to the Defence Minister, Comrade Namoloh and his dedicated staff for tabling this well-prepared and articulate Defence Policy, which addresses the mission, and roles of the Ministry of Defence and the Namibian Defence Force as provided for in the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia.

Comrade Speaker, the creation of the Ministry of Defence and the Namibian Defence Force shortly after Independence was an expression of the Namibian people's will and desire through the elected representatives in the Parliament to safeguard the hard-won Independence and the assert the sovereign right to pursue the social, political, economic and cultural activities in a secure and stable political environment.

Comrade Speaker, I will fail in my duty as Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee which has an oversight function over the Ministry of Defence if I omit to acknowledge the immense contribution made by the Ministry of

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Defence and the Namibian Defence Force in safeguarding and consolidating the gains of Independence by creating a stable politically environment locally as well as internationally.

Honourable Members, recently, the NDF has been engaged in peacetime duties that the Nation expects it to fulfil in support of the civil powers and local authorities. In this respect, the NDF has over the period of twenty years of its existence been involved in rendering assistance and support to Local Governments and civil communities, especially during the times of national disasters and other calamities that have befallen the country. The deployment of men and women in uniform and the availing of the NDF aircraft and vehicles during the recent national emergency programme involving the flood in the Caprivi and then northern Regions of Oshikoto, Oshana, Ohangwena and Kunene are classic examples of the Defence Force engagements in domestic support operations.

Comrade Speaker, in 2008 during the floods I have mentioned, the NDF has availed a light aircraft to my Committee, because it was the rainy season and we could not travel by road, to conduct inspections on military installations, police stations, prison cells and border posts and also to assess the impact of the flood areas in the north and north-eastern regions. Comrade Speaker, that is a very good thing and I am so happy for that aircraft we were able to use.

Comrade Speaker, the NDF also supported and promoted the furtherance of Namibia's Foreign Policy objectives as well as the country's adherence to its international obligations. In the domain of peacekeeping, Namibia is now regarded as one of the major troop contributing countries to the United Nations sponsored peace support missions. From the time of its first peacekeeping mission in Cambodia in 1993, Namibia has deployed its troops in several peace support missions in the form of contingents and individuals in Angola, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Liberia, Sudan, Ivory Coast and Kosovo. Following the acceptance of the request from the United Nations, as the Minister has informed us, we have also now granted support by sending troops to the peace mission in Chad.

The NDF has also championed the efforts of promoting peace and security in the SADC Region. An example of this effort was the deployment of the NDF troops in the DRC together with other SADC countries, whose heroic exploits

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have saved the Government from the war in the DRC from falling into the hands of the rebels.

Honourable Members, our memories of the war in the DRC are still fresh. The NDF also contributed to the SADC Standby Force in line with the requirements of the African Union Peace and Security Chapter. In this regard, NDF troops have participated in SADC regional peace training exercises which took place in Angola, Mozambique and South Africa during 2008 and 2009, respectively.

Comrade Speaker, as far as gender issues are concerned, the NDF and the Ministry of Defence regard the integration and representation of women in rank and file of the Ministry of Defence to be one of its policy priorities. The institution has introduced a policy that states that for every one thousand people who recruited in the NDF, twenty percent of that figure should represent women, but Comrade Minister, this twenty percent is not enough, it should be at least thirty percent.

The NDF is one of the Defence Forces in the SADC Region with the highest level of women representation. Currently, according to information, there are two Brigadier Generals and quite a few Colonels and Lieutenant Colonels. However, as I was visiting throughout the country the picture was not so good when I addressed some of the soldiers. In the top management of the NDF there are maybe two or three women.

Comrade Speaker, in conclusion, my Committee's recent visits to the military installations underscored the need for the Ministry of Defence to speed up the upgrading of the physical infrastructure of army bases, as some are in dilapidated states and need complete reconstruction.

Comrade Minister, more attention should be given to the quality and modern weapons so that we can do the job as it is supposed to be done. With these few remarks, I support the Defence Policy.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Lempy Lucas.

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HON LUCAS

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker I thank you very much for according me the Floor. Honourable Members, I rise to contribute to the Debate on the Defence Policy, which is currently under consideration in this august House and to commend the Minister of Defence, Honourable Major General Ndaxu Namoloh for tabling this very important document before this House.

Defence and security matters are dear to my heart as a former combatant. My contribution will mainly focus on Chapter 4 of the Policy, which deals with international and regional security environment and refugee problems.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, when apartheid was abolished in South Africa, there was widespread hope in the whole of southern Africa that development in the Region would enter a new phase, characterised by a strong commitment to cooperation and integration within the Southern African Development Community and peaceful relations within and among SADC Member countries. There can be no doubt that southern Africa has indeed entered a new regional conflict formation, fundamentally determined in its dynamics by the enmity between the then apartheid regime in South Africa and the majority rule countries in the Region. It has transformed itself into a group of African countries to form new friendly relationships and promote neighbourliness between each other and to work together for a better future. These redefined realities created the context for a new quality of relations between the SADC Region, which opened the possibilities for the Region to improve security for itself, its States and the people.

The need for endeavours to enhance the security cooperation was explicitly stressed by the Southern African Heads of State and Government in the Windhoek Declaration which they adopted in 1992 together with the SADC Treaties and the founding fathers of SADC said in the document: *“Good and strengthened political relations among the countries of the region, peace and mutual security are critical components of the total environment for regional cooperation and integration. The Region needs to establish a framework and mechanism to strengthen regional solidarity and provide for mutual peace and security.”*

Honourable Speaker, since the SADC Member States have been acting in accordance with the principles enunciated in Article 4 of the SADC Treaty as follows:

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1. *Sovereign equality of all Member States;*
2. *Solidarity, peace and security;*
3. *Human rights, democracy and the Rule of Law; and*
4. *Peaceful settlements of disputes,*

there has been tremendous achievements since the establishment of SADC institutional mechanisms for addressing peaceful settlements of the disputes in the Region and I wish to assure the members of the Namibian Defence Force that the Nation is with you in honouring national, regional and international obligations, as demonstrated recently by this Honourable House by unanimously agreeing to commit 800 of the Namibian Defence Force to serve under the UN flag with the primary objective to strengthen security and restore international peace to the people of Chad.

Lastly, Comrade Speaker, allow me to touch on the issue of refugee problems. I fully agree with the formulation in the Policy that the number of refugees who are fleeing their countries for one reason or the other has steeply increased and this is a non-disputable phenomenon. However, Honourable Speaker, as a country we need to take a stand to determine who are the real refugees who qualify to live in our refugee settlements at the present moment.

During the time of our struggle for national Independence, some Namibians also happened to be refugees in foreign countries because of the prevailing harsh conditions in the country. When they were refugees, they had high respect for laws of the host countries and had no choice, but to comply. We were called all kinds of names and I wanted the Prime Minister to be here so that he could confirm that one of the combat names given to the Namibian refugees during those years was the FF, meaning Ma Freedom Fighters. However, we had no choice but to comply.

Honourable Speaker, the political environment of some of these countries whose refugees are still living in Namibia has normalised. It is incumbent upon us, the Namibians, in conjunction with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to encourage the so-called refugees to go back to their respective countries of origin and take part in the construction and development of their countries in order to lessen the burden of the refugees on the Government of Namibia.

With these few remarks, I support the Defence Policy and I thank you.

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HON DR AMWEELO

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Amweelo.

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. First I would like to add my voice and thank the Minister, his Deputy and the whole staff component of the Ministry of Defence for this comprehensive Defence Policy.

Comrade Speaker, I wish to refer to page 8, point (a), in regard to environmental degradation. I fully agree with what is stated in the Policy, but I would like to emphasise two points, which I regard as two of the most important forms of environmental degradation in Namibia.

The first is loss of vegetation cover and secondly, soil erosion by water. The loss of vegetation cover is a very serious problem in our country. Right now people are talking about climate change all over the world, which is affecting all people of all countries and I want to relate my experience here in our country. On Saturdays I used to cycle to Brakwater and one finds especially women cutting trees down. I fully understand that it is to be used for cooking, but I feel this is a problem, because if we do not seriously address this issue, it could cause many problems.

Forest protection and a sustainable use scheme helps to reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation effectively and at a relatively low cost and growing trees. Trees take up carbon through photosynthesis, which is stored in the tree biomass, dead wood, litter and the soil. Therefore, I think there is a need to develop a community-based approach to effectively rehabilitate the degradation of land and improve livelihoods. I think if we develop this committee-based approach where the men and women in uniform would be part of that, we will improve the livelihoods of our people.

Secondly, we need to strengthen the existing projects and plant billions and billions of trees. The capacity of the planners and land-users in managing degraded land also needs to be developed. Those are the points I wanted to mention to the Minister to be considered in the Policy.

I wish to refer to pages 8 to 9, especially the paragraph which states that agricultural energy needs to be multiplied. I fully agree, but again population trends play an important role in the larger context of the economic,

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technological and social trends that affect the climate system. In addition, population trends are intimately connected to the growth of the greenhouse gases, which cause climate change. Therefore, population growth is occurring most rapidly in the developing world, increasing the scale of vulnerability to projected impacts of climate change. I therefore, think as the world seeks effective strategies to meet the climate change challenges, population trends related to gender considerations should not be left out.

Many of the policies that affect population trends, such as meeting the demand for family planning, re-productive health services among the world's women and families can play an important role in climate change adaptation and mitigation. Otherwise, I support the Policy.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Dr Nicky Iyambo.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I likewise rise to support the Defence Policy under discussion in this House.

The coming into being and the existence of the Namibian Defence Force is catered for in Article 118 of the Namibian Constitution. We have heard here of the marvellous important international missions that the Namibian Defence Force has taken and are taking in the name of the Namibian Nation to contribute to international peace under the United Nations. We have also heard of the important role that the Namibian Defence Force are playing when they are called upon to exhibit their civic responsibilities in our communities. It was two or three weeks ago when the Namibian Defence Force were called upon and assisted in the eradication of measles vaccination in the Kunene Region. However, I also want to remind you, Honourable Members, as one of those people that had the rare opportunity to be a member participating in the drafting of our Constitution, I want to remind you that in the discussion about the establishment of the Namibian Defence Force then in that committee – and that Debate was carried over to this House – there were voices that were against the establishment of this institution. I wonder had people not persisted to say Namibia could not live without a Defence Force, even though we are at peace internally and we are at peace with our neighbours. The internal development requires the participation of the Namibian Defence Force, as I

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have just alluded to, participating in the flood rescue, participating in measles vaccination and other national campaigns. It is a very important institution that needs to be supported locally, regionally and when we are called upon to contribute to international peace.

I hope those who were opposing – they are no longer here – would reflect back and regret having voiced their opposition to the creation of the Namibian Defence Force. In creating national institutions like this, we must always stand together, because we can never tell when some of these institutions would be needed.

Honourable Minister, your Deputy Minister, your able Permanent Secretary, as leaders of that institution, I have no doubt the professionalism of our Defence Force will be shaped up more and more as we develop.

Honourable Members, much has been said, but I want to draw your attention to page 23, protection of the environment. It says here that the Namibian Defence Force, when deployed in the field for training, are made aware not to cause damage to the environment, either by their training or the damage which can also be caused by excessive excavation, littering, pollution of the soil, air or water. I had the opportunity and the luxury of visiting the installations of the Namibian Defence Force, as many of you Honourable Members have done, and it pleases one to notice that the surroundings are clean in relative terms and I am trying to compare the life of the soldiers and the life of our civilian population. Go anywhere in this country, in any village, any town, any locality, you will be shocked by the littering. Honestly, I do not know what we can do to let our people realise that this environment should be made safe for us and our children and if the current destruction continues, there is a likelihood that the underground water table will be polluted and that is where all of us do live. In this respect, we need to congratulate you for the efforts you are doing. That is an example to be emulated.

Of course, a policy is a living document, there will always be improvements as we go and I have no doubt, Honourable Minister, you will do so when the need arises. Meanwhile this Defence Policy has my full support. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Iilonga

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HON IILONGA**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I rise to support the Defence Policy and to support my neighbour. I want to start by thanking the Commander-in-Chief of the Namibian Defence Force, Comrade President, the Minister, the Deputy Minister and all the members of the Namibian Defence Force, including the civilian component.

Comrade Speaker, I rise to support this Policy and I have three points, which I want to make. The one I have already made with the salutations and support of the Minister and staff who have come up with a very progressive Policy.

On page 13 it deals with the Force Development under point 46 and this has already been dealt with by Honourable Kawana. It states: *“This would include site maintenance, the conventional Force, the development, training, equipping and sustaining specialised mission and vocation tailored forces that are specially designed and operate and survive in inhospitable and harsh conditions, say the desert and semi-desert.”*

Comrade Minister, I want to bring the issue of promotion here, concerning those sentences I have read, that we have our comrades, the ex-PLAN combatants who voluntarily left this country to fight and the liberated this country with no pay and some of us have turned sixty and others have retired, but because we did not plan to have a policy to cater for the promotion of these Comrades who really sacrificed their lives, I wonder if the policy could go a little bit further and look at that, so that we do not look at the issue of academics. If it comes to harsh situations, I can tell you, the Iilonga's and others are the ones who will survive those harsh conditions, but when it comes to promotion, they are not considered and they are overlooked. When these people retire, they have nothing, they are ordinary soldiers, the salary is as it is and, therefore, I want us to look at those that remain. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD

WELFARE: May I ask a question? You talked about the former PLAN combatants. After Independence the war, hunger and thirst were forgotten. Even when we are here, people are speaking English, but who are going to promote people who do not speak English? Comrades, you will remember that our ancestors in this country did not speak English, but they liberated this

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country. Now the people who were beating us are the ones who are promoting it.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

That is why I appeal that we look into this. There are already those Comrades who have reached retirement and we want to see that they be looked after. If we say that in the Namibian military, we cannot promote a person if he cannot speak English, let us make a policy and promote these Comrades. People come here from other countries and they do not speak English. The importance is the work to be done in a crisis. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Iilonga, listening to you I am getting the impression that since you are a senior member in your Party that what you are saying by implication is that people are not promoted in the Defence Force because they cannot speak English, but my understanding is that anyone, whether they speak German or Otjiherero or English, if you qualify for promotion then you are supposed to be promoted. What is actually the point that you are trying to make, because you are causing confusion. We are getting the impression that people in the Defence are not being promoted, because they cannot speak English. Is that what you are saying?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Honourable Tjihuiko always tries to derail one and this is not the time for taking chances. Let us look at how we can help those comrades. If the Ministry has already started doing, I will be happy to hear that. In this House, we always talk about the security personnel of the Ministers and we definitely see some reasons for them to be promoted. The question is not that they do not speak English, but it is because we did not have a policy and while we now have a policy, let us look into this issue and see how we can assist the Comrades.

When we were fighting for liberation we had some Comrades who could not speak English, but they were doing their work. As we sit here, we are not all in a position to do certain things, such as writing a book, but those who can

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write a book can start writing a book on information I have given. Therefore, Comrade Minister, that is my contribution on the promotion.

I then refer to point 71, the vision and mission of the Namibian Defence Force. I chose that one to demonstrate the real work of the Force, that it is not academics, but training. The Defence Force may be small in number, but what counts is the way they have been trained, the way they attack and their bravery. If bravery is inculcated in their minds and they know exactly what to defend, I can tell you Namibia will emerge victorious. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: May I ask a question? Comrade Iilonga, how many members of UDF are soldiers in Okahandja?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: I think there is one. We know that people say that with modern equipment there is a need that they are able to read and write and it is true. We were however using Katusha and many others without having degrees. We were using missiles to bring down those jet fighters, piloted by people who have degrees and later we even made our own guns.

Comrade Minister, you are an experienced person, you command these Comrades I am mentioning here, let us look after them. We need to design special training for them so that they acquire skills. I can tell you they can read a map in a better way than anyone else can. As we were saying here yesterday, training is an ongoing process. Also in the military training is an ongoing process. We now find that a person who was a commander is now commanded by a person who came in after Independence.

With those comments, I support the Defence Policy and we stand behind our Force and wish them success in the mission they are now going to undertake, so that continue to put Namibia on the international map. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nujoma.

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HON NUJOMA

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you for giving me the Floor Comrade Speaker. I want to thank the Minister of Defence, Honourable Ndaxu Charles Namoloh, for coming up with this very comprehensive Defence Policy. I would also like to thank the Deputy Minister and the staff of the Ministry of Defence for their hard work they have put into this very comprehensive document which looks into all the aspects – economic, social, environmental – which are very important for Namibia.

When Honourable Namoloh was speaking, I was zooming back to the days of the war and I can assure you, I am one of those people who have been close to Namoloh as our commander during the liberation struggle. We have been together, we have faced the challenges because we were the most targeted because we were at a certain places and the South African Defence Forces wanted us because they also heard the Nujoma Junior with a small beard was there and they wanted us badly, but they could not get us.

I really appreciate the human resource strategy which they have put in place and I only want to read page 29, point 98: *“In order to address some of the human resource issues in the Defence Force, the following human resource development strategies shall be pursued and implemented: (a) The Force will embark upon the professional training of officers and other ranks for each level of career progression in the Force. It will ensure that selection of new recruits reflects the diversity of the country in terms of racial and ethnic representation.”* I like this, because it is important that all members of our society are presented, our diversity is represented in the Force. I know that the Ministry of Defence attempted to recruit some of our San people from Gam, I do not know how many they are now, and I really applaud this policy.

Then: *“To plan for a career path and progression in order to boost the morale and performance standards of the Defence Force and to create an opportunity for NDF members to attend foreign courses in order to improve their qualifications.”* What I wanted to emphasise here is what Dr Kawana said, that it is important that the career progression and promotion must be transparent, so that we do not leave other groups behind. It is very important that the promotion should be on merit and also taking into account our diversity. In Africa, you know that once a person has been appointed to such a high profile office, he will always look at his own group first and I do not think that is the intention. We have to work towards maintaining the diversity.

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Another important aspect which I also want to emphasise and which was also mentioned by Dr Kawana is that our diversity should also be reflected in the appointments in military attaches to different countries, so that we mould this thing that we have fought for – One Namibia, One Nation. I thank you.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I move that the Debate be adjourned until Tuesday, 2 March 2010.

**REPORT ON ACCOUNTS OF REGIONAL
COUNCILS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

HON SPEAKER: Before we rise, may I inform the House that in terms of Article 74(1)(b), I received the Report by Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Economy on the Review of the Reports of the Auditor General on the Accounts of Regional Councils and Local Authorities for the Financial Years ended 31st March 2005 for the Regional Councils and 30 June 2006 for the Local Authorities from the Honourable Chairman of the National Council. I now refer this Report to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts of this august House for review and report back. I thank you.

The House stands adjourned under Rule 90 until Tuesday, 23rd February 2010 at 14:30

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2010.02.23 AT 14:30

**ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
23 FEBRUARY 2010**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

BILL CONFIRMED BY NATIONAL COUNCIL

HON SPEAKER: I have been informed by the Chairman of the National Council that the Council, in terms of Article 72(2) of the Constitution, considered and confirmed the Tobacco Products Control Bill [B7-09] without Amendments.

I shall now, in terms of Article 75(3), refer this Bill to the President to deal with it under Article 56 and 64 of our Constitution.

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

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MINISTRY OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT**

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: I lay upon the Table, the 2003/2004 Annual Report of the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Report? Any further Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? The Notice of Motion is the one of Honourable Mr Mbai. Does the

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Honourable Member move the Motion? Who seconds? Any objection?
Agreed to. Honourable Mbai, you have the Floor.

MOTION ON HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC

HON MBAI: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, thank you for availing me this opportunity to motivate why it is again necessary for us to look at and discuss some issues regarding the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

It is history that the first incident of HIV/AIDS was recorded around 1986, 1987 in this country. Since then, between 2007, 2008, \pm 14,200 young Namibians were estimated to be living with the disease. According to the Ministry of Health and Social Services in 2008, it is estimated that 15,500 individuals will become infected with HIV/AIDS each year for the next 5 years. Approximately 204,000 individuals were living with the disease in Namibia in 2007. This number is predicted to increase to 247,000 by the year 2013 if prevention efforts remain at their current levels.

One out of four new infections occurs among people aged between 15 and 24 years. The embodiment and cream of our Nation is targeted. It is, therefore, paramount for all hands, including us parliamentarians, to be on deck to salvage this very important segment of the population for the overall interest of our society.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is no secret that labour migration in southern African countries, apartheid and the legacy of colonialism created a perfect hothouse for the spread of the sexually transmitted disease. The elderly in my community used to say, *“it is unfortunate, the poison lies in the water and you cannot live without water, water is life.”*

We have made huge progress in understanding the signs of the retrovirus that causes AIDS. We are still a long way from having a cure or vaccine and have been proven lamentably inadequate in stopping its progress in many communities. It was for these reasons that the Government of the Republic of Namibia established the first National AIDS Control Programme in 1990. I

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believe under this programme awareness and prevention campaigns were advocated. Subsequently, the Second Medium Term Strategy was launched in March 1999, in order to intensify the awareness and prevention campaigns throughout and expand the multi-sectoral national response. The Third Medium Term Plan Strategy was launched again between the years 2004 and 2009. The third one was unique, because it goes a step further by introducing and consolidating access to treatment with ante-retroviral medicines to those infected with the disease.

It further pulls together efforts from all Government Ministries and Agencies, Regions, Non-Governmental Organisations, community-based organisations, the private sector and various development partners in order to play a drastic role in reducing the burden caused by the scourge of HIV/AIDS, which means structures are in place, the policies are there, plans are on the table to supplement one another, but what is the problem that we are now just stabilising the prevalence, but the infection is still increasing, more specifically under the young people of our population. What is the relationship between these existing institutional structures? How are they coordinated? How frequently are they meeting and giving reports so that their progress and achievements be qualified?

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is assumed that the National AIDS Coordinating Committee usually holds a full stakeholders progress review meeting after a certain period of time where a permanent agenda had been labelled, *“Monitoring and Evaluation Data Review.”* The stakeholders can review progress and address implementation challenges based on the evidence displayed by the data and, therefore, set next targets for the next period of time appropriately.

Honourable Speaker, is it a problem again of the implementation issue? It seems the policies there, the structures are also there, the database is provided. Then if we are not making significant progress in reducing new infections, then the problem lies with implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Honourable Speaker, finally yet importantly, the slow implementation of policies and programmes of gender and HIV/AIDS has prompted questions such as to why and what could Parliamentarians do about this pandemic. This apparent slow implementation has resulted in the need for stronger

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accountability that would ensure that Members of Parliament carry their commitment made to the integration of HIV/AIDS and gender programmes. One way of doing so would be through gender budget work. That can increase the responsiveness of physical policy to poverty, social needs, support, gender mainstreaming and strengthening the monitoring and evaluation of Government outcomes.

According to SADC, "*From a Regional Perspective*", the key and immediate priority action needed is to halve new HIV/AIDS infections by 2015. The slogan is "*Fifty by Fifteen*" and achieves the virtual elimination of mother-to-child HIV transmission.

HIV/AIDS is a major developmental challenge and is central to Namibia's achievement of national goals of poverty reduction, macro-economic growth and sustainable development of especially the rural poor communities. With this I beg the indulgence of the House to discuss the Motion and to refer the Motion to the relevant Committee, the Committee on Human Resources, Social and Community Development. I thank you.

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

HON KAVETUNA: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to thank the Honourable Member for tabling this very important Motion and simultaneously I would like to request the indulgence of the House to postpone this Motion until tomorrow.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? The Motion stands adjourned until tomorrow. The Secretary will read the first Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE
CONSIDERATION OF THE DEFENCE POLICY**

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**CONSIDERATION: DEFENCE POLICY
HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Thursday, the 11th of February, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Defence. Any further discussion?

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, Defence Policies are one of those implementing tools of foreign policies and, therefore, Comrade Speaker, as an author of the Namibian Foreign Policy, I guess if you were given a chance today, you would use this moment to express yourself on this matter.

Comrade Speaker, I rise to make my contribution on this very important instrument. Let me first thank the Honourable Minister of Defence, Comrade Charles Namoloh “Ho Chi Mihn” who presented this Policy to this august House. In the same vein, I would like to thank the Deputy Minister, the staff of the Ministry of Defence and that of the Namibian Defence Force for a well thought-out policy. This is indeed a watershed as for about two decades our Defence Force has been operating based on the Defence Policy Statement that was presented in this august House in 1993 by the first Minister of Defence, late Peter Mweshihange. I believe the Namibian Defence Force shall now operate within the ambit of the Defence Policy we are considering.

Comrade Speaker, as we may be aware, the Constitution that was adopted on the 9th February 1990 is the Supreme Law of the Land of the Brave. Chapter 15, Article 118, states that:” *There shall be established by Act of Parliament a Namibian Defence Force with prescribed compositions, powers, duties and procedures in order to defend the territorial and national interests of Namibia.*” That means the establishment of the Defence Force is in line with the Constitution and it has to carry out its mandate within the prescribed laws and policies.

As required by the Supreme Law of the land, this august House has passed the Defence Act in 2002, Act No. 1 of 2002. That Act very broadly articulates what is expected of the Namibian Defence Force. The same Act has laid down rules relating to a military disciplinary code and today we are here to consider the Defence Policy, an operational instrument that shall be at the disposal of commanders when training and conducting actual operations.

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It is an acceptable norm that every State needs to survive. In order to survive, a State needs to possess elements of national power and this includes national boundaries. While we understand the importance of living within the given boundaries of a territory, it is sometimes difficult to measure the importance of a Defence Force unless the people of that particular country feel insecure, but permanent security needs permanent military preparedness. The Defence Force that is not combat ready, shall not be able to deter and thwart the would-be aggressor when the State is at peril. Therefore, for Namibia to have a Defence Policy aimed at establishing an enabling defence mechanism for the defence of our State is commendable.

Comrade Speaker, the Defence Policy is just a means to an end and not an end in itself. There shall be a dire need to have some enabling mechanisms to propel the Defence Policy towards its perennial end States. Some of those enabling mechanisms could be by way of employing qualified military leadership that is able and capable of leading the forces to the highest heights. The military leaders' abilities and capabilities must also be augmented by technology in order to ensure a quality Force. The element of employing technology is clearly stipulated in the vision and mission of this Defence Policy. The vision and mission calls for small, highly mobile, well-trained, well-equipped and professional Forces that shall stand ready to protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Namibia. That means that the Namibian Defence Force cannot accomplish its mission without being augmented by state-of-the-art technology of the 21st century.

Comrade Speaker, I fully agree with some of the Honourable Members who have expressed their concern on the status of members of the Namibian Defence Force who have no qualifications, but have participated in the liberation struggle and brought about independence of our country. I believe most of them are approaching their retirement age and some arrangement can be made for them to have peace of mind in their old age. As for the young ones, they must be encouraged to study, more especially now that the Policy under discussion is to lead our country into the future. We are living in a world, which is changing so rapidly, with technology moving at the speed of light, and those who are left behind will not be able to catch up with those who are advancing.

Recently the Right Honourable Prime Minister has launched the e-government. I wonder how many of us sitting under this roof will understand or will be able

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to operate in the e-government before we retire. I would want to think that that scheme is above the comprehension of the majority of us sitting here and it will remain so until we retire. However, it is within the comprehension of those who will take over from us and that is the same technology the members of the Defence Force must understand, manipulate and work efficiently.

In relation to the Namibian Defence Force, in Vision 2030 we set ourselves the following: *“There is a need to formulate and implement coherent modernisation plans for the procurement of modern military hardware, maintain a credible Defence Force structure that is qualitatively on par with the best Defence Force in the Region.”*

The above objective can only be realised by investing more in human capital, by qualifying them with all the necessary skills, capabilities and abilities that will enable them to propel the Defence Force into the future and able to compete with other forces in the Region. Failure to interpret the above objective into action, Vision 2030 result in remaining a dream that will never be realised.

The other day I was watching News on NBC-TV and I noticed sophisticated war machinery being loaded in a ship in Walvis Bay for peace-support operations in Chad. That was followed by jet flying war machines that were piloted by our young pilots at Grootfontein Air Base. That made me to believe that a sophisticated arsenal can only be operated by sophisticated and highly advanced minds. We must hail the Namibian Defence Force for gearing towards the implementation of Vision 2030.

Based on those premises, the professionalism and employing of high-tech advocated in this Policy, demands a paradigm shift. Professionalism is something that cannot be compromised and professionalism comes with time. Any profession has its norms and in order to be in conformity with professionalism, there is a need to adhere to certain professional principles, traditions, ethics and values and I believe any Defence Force in the world cannot be an exception to that rule.

Honourable Speaker, the Namibian Defence Force, as an element of national power, shall remain an effective State instrument for our Foreign Policy for

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peace and stability. As spelled out in our Foreign Policy, without peace and stability no meaningful stability can be achieved and, likewise, development cannot take place for socio-economic development.

As mentioned by some previous speakers, the Namibian Defence Force, as an instrument of Foreign Policy, has been able to carry out international peace-support operations for years. The Namibian Defence Force was deployed and successfully executed its duties in missions in Cambodia while it was only two years old. It was further deployed to our neighbour Angola for a similar mission and of recent and more importantly, it was deployed to Liberia where our gallant women and men were part of that democratic election process that brought to power the first woman President on the African continent.

The Honourable Minister also announced in this House that soon the Namibian Defence Force would again be deployed to Chad. It is gratifying to see the Namibian Defence Force continuing to play an important role within the SADC structure. Some important regional structures where the Namibian Defence Force has a stake are the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence, Security, Cooperation and SADC Mutual Defence Pact. The SADC Mutual Defence Pact advocates an individual and collective self-defence capacity to maintain peace, stability and security in the Region where an attack on a State party shall be considered as a threat to regional peace and security. It is under those structural frameworks that SADC has put in place the Regional Standby Force Structure, as prescribed by the AU.

Comrade Speaker, I held my head up when I was part of the team that was auditing the AU structures. SADC was among the regions that have complied with the AU resolution by establishing the Standby Force in which the Namibian Defence Force is a member. The Standby Force structure is designed to carry out peace-support operations and it is composed of military, police and civilians. All those demand professionalism in order to be able to play our national and international roles with competence, as required by those structures.

It was in this august House when the Honourable Minister of Defence did announce last year that the Regional Standby Force was exercising for the operationalisation. We must be proud as a Nation that the Namibian Defence Force also fully participated and our country, hosted part of the exercise in Walvis Bay. All those are important milestones that our brave women and

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men in combat uniform were able to achieve within a limited time of their existence.

Comrade Speaker, turning specifically to the Defence Force under discussion, it has become very clear that all elements that could form part of the Defence Policy are well articulated in this document. Elements of statutory provision, policy guidelines, national vision, value and interest, strategic environment, strategic response, defence organisation, military strategy, military structure are all part of it. It is, I believe, that those anticipated elements, once adhered to make the Defence Policy a workable instrument for our Defence Force.

Finally, Comrade Speaker, we all know that the formulation and adoption of a policy are the responsibilities of the Executive. However, to bring the policy to this House is to ensure that the implementation is our responsibility as a nation. I however want to emphasise that the formulation of any policy is quite easy, but the process of implementation is more difficult and a policy that is not implemented, is just as good as if it was never formulated. Let us all support the implementation of the Defence Policy. Once again, Comrade Speaker, I congratulate the Minister of Defence, the Deputy Minister and the staff and I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister. Honourable Dienda.

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, as was said by the Chief Whip of the CoD, Honourable Gurirab, we support the Policy, but Honourable Speaker, the Policy itself is like a skeleton, there is no meat on it and I want to contribute towards this skeleton.

Honourable Speaker, within this Policy there are also other policies, which we might not be aware of and which can be harmful to the Nation. On page 10 of the Policy, under the heading, "*Domestic Security Environment*", since we do not currently experience any war in Namibia, we are still challenged with issues such as crime, rape, domestic violence, etcetera and I want to know from the Honourable Minister what is the possibility that the Defence Force be deployed into the Ministry of Safety and Security since they are currently facing a shortage of staff members? (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

On a Point of Information. Honourable Dienda needs to be informed that just a week ago the Defence Force was sent to Kunene to immunise our people against measles. What is it then that she wants to bring in here?

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, I do not want a fight in the corridors with the Honourable Member, so I will not comment on that one.

Honourable Speaker, I am aware of a case where last week a six-year old girl was raped on her way back from school in a riverbed. If the Defence members could be there, these things might not happen.

Honourable Speaker, on page 16 under “*Peace Support Missions*”, what are the criteria to select members from the NDF to join such missions?

Honourable Speaker, page 22, under “*Recruitment*”: I have observed the following in your Recruitment Policy of 1994: Honourable Speaker, soldiers must be between the age of 18 and 25 years old, Grade 10 as minimum educational qualification, they must be medically fit, they must be security cleared with no criminal record and they must be Namibian citizens. I have a problem with points 1 and 3, 18 to 25 years old and number 3, that they must be medically fit. In order to maintain the required force levels at all times, the recruitment exercise shall be an ongoing activity. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD

WELFARE: Honourable Speaker, when we talk about the Ministry of Defence, that is our Ministry in Namibia, the Ministry which accommodates all the Namibian people, especially the people who do not even recognise when the people are Hiding. They are recognising them during the election. I am talking about the Kaoko people. I thank you.

HON DIENDA: I do not know where that appears, but I shall just proceed. In your Promotion Policy under “*Selection*”, I have observed that a soldier, although qualified and recommended, must be selected for promotion.

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Selection will depend on the availability of vacant posts. Soldiers have no right to automatic promotion. Then the same policy reads as follows: “*Any member who is considered to be non-promotable from the rank in which he or she is serving may have his or her service terminated.*” Honourable Speaker, this is good, I wish we could do the same with the rest of the public servants. However, my question remains, that when nepotism and favouritism come in, where people who are not promotable are promoted and people who are promotable are disqualified for promotion, then we have to revisit into this matter. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Order. When we talk about recruitment, as I said earlier on, there is room for the marginalised group in the Ministry of Defence. Which recruitment are you talking about? There is room for the marginalised people who do not even read and write. Please, we have to tell the truth, not tell them things, which are not related to them.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, page 22 of the Defence Policy, Recruitment. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: On a Point of Information. I just want to remind the Honourable Member Dienda that there is a big difference between the then army and the current Namibian Defence Force when it comes to promotion. That time they were promoted when they have killed somebody, but now they are promoted when they perform.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, I am referring to the Defence Human Resources Policy of 1994, I have nothing to do with colonial times, I was not part of it.

Honourable Speaker, the second point is that they must be medical fit to the minimum standard stipulated by the NDF Recruitment Policy. The Defence Act, 1 of 2002 provides under Section 7, qualifications of members of the Defence Force as follows: “*No person may be appointed in the Defence Force*

unless such person, (1) has notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any other law contained undergone the prescribed medical examination and it has on account of such examination been established that such person does not have any physical or mental defect or does not suffer from any diseases.”

Honourable Speaker, the National Policy of HIV/AIDS, Point 2.3.9 says: “*No person shall be excluded from recruitment in the uniformed services solely on the basis of their HIV/AIDS status, save as may be provided for in the applicable legislation.*” Honourable Speaker, the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia states in Article 10: “*No person will be discriminated against.*” The Minister of Defence promised us that he will bring the HIV/AIDS Policy of the Ministry of Defence to this House for consideration and we are still waiting for that Policy.

The NDF has to be commended for not discriminating against members who are HIV/AIDS positive by not discharging those who are already in the Force. However, the concern is still that of recruitment, where individuals who are HIV/AIDS positive will not be recruited. What is the rationale for that discrimination? What if a person is still in the window period? Are we not leaving capable Namibians out of employment by this law and policy, yet we are losing some through death, discharge, and etcetera. What message are we sending to the young ones when we do not recruit them if they are HIV/AIDS positive? This goes against the efforts of the Government to address the stigma and discrimination, which has been identified as an obstacle in the fight against the challenge of HIV/AIDS.

Honourable Speaker, page 12, Gender Balance: In 2009 new recruits were appointed for this Ministry. Only a few women were taken in and I raised the question in Parliament. Are there certain positions, which can only be filled by men or was it just a mistake from your side?

Honourable Speaker, page 23, Affirmative Action: If we are taking Affirmative Action seriously, then we should have seen more women, irrespective of their colour, in the Defence Force, which is not currently the case. We have signed the SADC Declaration of fifty-fifty, but in the Defence Force, we are still discriminating against women. (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

May I ask Honourable Dienda a question? Honourable Dienda, you mentioned gender, which refers to men and women, but now I understand that you are talking about women. Do you want the Minister of Defence to go and take the women from their houses by force to join the Army? They have to apply voluntarily there is no conscription there. If that were the case, your concern could have been valid, but now it is voluntary. There are those who are talking about colour, but how many of our white compatriots have applied? Honourable Muharukua advised you not to make politics of everything, but that is your right, this is your last contribution.

HON DIENDA: After the Court case, you will be out and I will be in. (Interjections). You people have no conscience you rigged the elections.

Honourable Speaker, page 30 reads “*Promote job satisfaction of members by improving their remuneration and entitlements*”. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in 2009 we have read in one of our local newspapers about our Defence Force members operating shebeens at the military camps to complement their salaries and it was said by those interviewed, it is not a hearsay story. Honourable Speaker, do you not think that maybe this is as a result of too low salaries? Special attention needs to be paid to the working conditions and the remuneration of our Defence Force.

Honourable Speaker, I would like to call on the incoming President.... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I thought the Honourable Member was making very good points, but now she is making some points, which are difficult to overlook. First, she said the Court will decide who will come to this House. Here is the lawmaker, now the Court will decide who will be President. Is that what we are telling the public out there, that the Court will decide who will be President? No, the voters will decide and they have decided who will be in this House.

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HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, we have asked for the nullification of the elections, so that is why I am saying the Courts must rule on the matter.

Honourable Speaker, I would like to appeal to the next President of this country to please appoint a woman as Minister of Defence and a man as Minister of Gender in his Cabinet. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I rise to support the Defence Policy of our country and I only want to make a few points while supporting this important document in the interest of permanent peace and security for our country, our neighbours and the world at last.

Honourable Speaker, I give my wholehearted support to this document and also Chapter 12 of the document, which profoundly speaks about the need for research development in the Defence Policy and I want to agree with Honourable Nandi-Ndaitwah who said the Defence Force should make a paradigm shift in the way we are doing things. One very important area is the area of research and development. Internationally different armed forces of countries are the ones who are coming up with innovation in society in general. If we give enough resources to the research capability of the Defence Force, you would be able to have an army, which is equipped to deal with modern technology and challenges.

One area that comes to mind is the area of engineering. Our country has made us proud that we are selling these Werewolves internationally. The biggest armies in the world are coming to this country to buy these Werewolves and it makes us proud to see a Namibian made product being sold. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: May I ask Honourable Venaani a question? Honourable Venaani, you made a very good point, but the DTA is on record in this House that it did not want the Budget of the Defence Force to be increased for the

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same activities that you are now advocating should be done. Why those double standards?

HON VENAANI: Honourable Katali, if a choice is given to spend more money on addressing poverty, housing, education and upgrading our health facilities, of course the DTA supports those as key priorities. If the budget of the Defence is more than these key priorities, then of course we are going to complain about it. However, it does not denote that the Defence has a particular role to play in the interest of developing this country, but it is not the most important. (Interjection). You were asking why I opposed the Defence Budget; I am opposing it because of other urgent competing needs.

What I am saying is that it is important for us to expand on the area of research and development. If you look at the civic duty of an Armed Force, for the period when there is no combat engagement, no peacekeeping missions, a lot of the time is consumed by members to do the necessary training just to keep them fit. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL: May I ask a question to the Honourable Member? Honourable Venaani, last year I watched you on NBC when you were savagely attacked the coalition. You coined a term, “*scrap-yard*” and now we read that you are part of that coalition. Does it mean that the new name of the coalition is the Scrap-yard Coalition?

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:15 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I was trying to put my thoughts on the paradigm shift of the Defence in relation to engineering and there is one area that I would want to challenge the retired General, namely that of the Osona Base. For example, it is very close to Ovitoto and every time during the rainy season people are dying as a result of a lack of bridges in the areas of Omaruru, Otjiwarongo, Ovitoto and some parts of the South, but if the Army if given the necessary capabilities, it would be able to engineer bridges across

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rivers. It is one area where our army can create a Namibian made bridge to help communities during those times and use it for other military engagements. We really need our Defence to venture into these areas and research cannot become effective if we do not partner our Defence with institutions of higher learning. There is a need to interlink the University of Namibia to the Ministry of Defence to collaborate on areas, which can advance human resource development and technology in our country.

Honourable Speaker, to move to another issue, I give credit where credit is due and I want to go on record that I was one of the Parliamentarians who raised the issue of unfair promotion in the Defence Force, but I have seen a great element of improvement. When you walk around this country, you would see different faces as Majors, as Captains or Sergeants. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: On merit.

HON VENAANI: Yes, it is on merit, but it did not happen that time. We have seen certain promotions and now we are seeing it across the board and I am thanking you for that.

Honourable Speaker, I want to commend the Ministry for what they have done and one thing that makes one proud, and we do not say it very often, is that I remember on a private occasion there was a young female veterinarian. While you as a farmer think you know everything, your father has taught you to work with the cattle, this lady came there and said, "*no, you are doing it wrongly.*" It makes us proud to see high-ranking officials. It has something that we have come to respect; because every man thinks they can do better than a lady. It is something that makes us proud in this country.

However, Honourable Speaker, I want to venture into the area of the power of the Armed Forces. The power that they yield is like a silent power that they have. We are seeing danger resurfacing on the African continent of silent armies taking over power through coup d'états. A few days ago the President of Niger, while having a Cabinet meeting... (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask Honourable Venaani a question? I just want to know for interest sake, how does the promotion of *Otjiserandu*, the Red Flags work, because I also want to become a Major.

HON SPEAKER: You are out of order, Honourable Deputy Minister, I want to hear about the Coup in Niger.

HON VENAANI: The *Otjiserandu* is a cultural army. The son of Katjimune cannot just be a ordinary commoner in the army, he must at least have a ceremonial rank of Lieutenant. He hails from a family that has a lot of power.

However, addressing the question of silent power that armies across the world yield is the resurfacing of coup d'états on our continent, in Guinea Bissau, recently in Niger, Mauritania, Madagascar. It tells you that we need to do more as leaders to engage the Defence Forces to play an impartial role in affairs of our states. It makes a person wonder how it comes about for a Captain or a Colonel, for that matter, to take over a country. You would also think that either a Chief-of-Staff, a Major-General, somebody who yields power in the army would do that, but you find a junior officer or non-commissioned officer taking over a country. That is the power of the gun and I know it is a sensitive territory.... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Speaker, may I ask Honourable Venaani a question? Honourable Venaani, you are talking about very important things, that of communicating to the men in uniforms with their equipment, but do you not think that in most cases it is us, the politicians, who are not campaigning to win elections, but forming coalitions of the scrap-yard? Do you not think that is an encouragement of the men in uniform to take unconstitutional decisions?

HON VENAANI: The Honourable Members are persisting in pursuing this issue, but the important thing is that your worries on that side of the isle may not be my worries and my worries on this side of the Isle may not be your worries. (Intervention)

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HON KAURA: May I ask Honourable Venaani a question? Honourable Venaani, is a change in vocabulary not normal, that even at one point the Honourable Member who just asked a question was referred to as a terrorist, but today he is Honourable? Is it not normal that vocabulary can change?

HON VENAANI: Honourable Kaura, as a teacher you know that vocabulary changes. Honourable Speaker, I want to address this issue of the influence of politicians on the army, because you hear certain people bragging about having influence in certain quarters of the military and it gives any person sleepless nights – like the one looking at me. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: We are all looking at you.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I am speaking of the one looking at me, not all. Somebody talks about having certain influence in the army and you wonder what kind of influence would a Public Official want to wield in the army. We are seeing these examples on a daily basis. The Cabinet is sitting in a particular country, a General just tells you “*you are no more winning , just get out*”. I mean, what does it tell you? There are people that wield a lot of power.

However, the issue is, how do we make sure that we have intelligence auditing, auditing senior and junior officials in our Army? If you take a person in the Army who has political ambition, either to become president, it compromises the power that he currently serves. A lot of you are experienced, you have lived on the continent of Africa in the sixties and seventies where coup d'états were common. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask Honourable Venaani a question? You talk about compromise, but in your coalition the DTA did not make a compromise on Okahandja.

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HON VENAANI: It just shows that the other side of the isle is so worried about the coalition. We are debating military issues, issues of the security of this country and I do not want to mention the elections because it is *sub judice*, but it is these things of you are going to do what if it happens. Wait for the results. This thing of we are going to do this, are you doing it administratively or otherwise? Leave the debate wait for the election results. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:
On a Point of Information. Honourable Venaani, when we were fighting to liberate this country, we said we are going to win and we did that.

HON VENAANI: I respect your liberation credentials. (Interjection)

HON DE WAAL: Hamutenya also said that time he will win.

HON VENAANI: My senior leader and somebody whose liberation credentials I respect, has failed in his mission to detonate that bomb.

Honourable Speaker, there needs to be an interlink between the power of the Defence and the State to double-check these powers, so that they make sure that our senior officials in the Ministries are just doing what they are supposed to do as per this Policy, serving in the interest of the country.

What is happening today is that when they take over power, they say they are working in the interest of the people. Which people gave you the mandate to work in their interest and take over the Government? I therefore think the Ministry should do more to do regular intelligence audits in the Army to make sure that our Generals are accountable in all that they say.

Honourable Speaker, the other issue that I want to raise is the question of international and State terrorism, because this has become one of the greatest global security problems today, because for one reason I do not understand what the Jihadists want. If they find Honourable Marco Hausiku on a plane en route to Geneva and the plane happens to belong to a country they do not like,

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they will blow it up whether Marco Hausiku is on the plane as Foreign Minister or not. How are we geared towards fighting international terrorism?

More than often we believe that international terrorism is more an issue for the Western countries, but the terrorists have shown through the bombings in Kenya and Tanzania that they are people without borders. Even the World Cup here could raise such possibilities of international terrorism. There is a need for our Defence to create the necessary mechanisms and I want to ask the question bluntly, how are we protected against terrorism? (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Ask De Waal

HON VENAANI: Yes I am asking him and you through him. My fear is that a lot of people are accessing our borders. People, for different reasons, are just coming into this country. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: My Colleague is making a very interesting statement. I would like to pose a question to him. Honourable Venaani, you are advancing an argument and I agree with you that somehow the Defence or Police or Intelligence need to be empowered and assisted in their work to deal with these big problems in the world today, including international terrorism, and to detect in good time what could possibly happen. My question is that just two or three months ago in this very Chamber we were dealing with the Communications Bill and we were advancing arguments from this side that one of the objectives of that particular piece of legislation, particularly with regard to establishing the centres to get the information, is exactly to do what you are now advancing and you people were vehemently opposed. How do you reconcile that with what you are saying now?

HON VENAANI: The Honourable Member is raising a very fundamental question, which deserves a answer. The division on the piece of legislation that the Honourable Minister is referring to is that we asked when we want to intercept, you need to get a Court Order. You wanted to invade people's privacy without informing the relevant authority and our argument was that

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you should get a Court Order. There was no fundamental division, but how to make sure that people's privacy is protected. Every side has its pro's and con's. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Why did you walk out?

HON VENAANI: We walked out because you were using your majority not to listen and I hope the next Parliament would have more Members who listen to minorities. Just because you have green tie and you have a majority should not make you stand up all the time. The House is a House of engagement, of Debate, a consultative process.

Honourable Mutorwa, my worry, is that Namibia is a secular state and I respect that. There are people who look strange in this country, one wonders what they come and do here. They get permits to be here. You get a work permit to sell ten wheelbarrows in this country and it is a serious challenge we have to address, who is entering our borders and for what purposes?

Namibia is a country that pursues a policy of non-alignment. We receive people that could be targets, we receive even those who are perpetrating this, if they are friendly to Namibia, but the problem of terrorism is that many people are accessing African countries, using our relaxed immigration laws to their advantage to pursue what they want to pursue. There is a need for our Defence force to have a technical mechanism to be able to detect the people who come and sell ten wheelbarrows and tomorrow he does something else.

I have been raised in Katutura and in Katutura, there are a few schools, which teach certain religions. You wonder what the premise of the request by these people to come to this country was. To come and teach religion here? I do not want to point fingers, but I am just saying that we really need to confront this issue of international terrorism head-on and our Defence force should not be found wanting in this matter.

Honourable Speaker, another important issue is a green-conscious Defence Force. The world is talking about climate change. Not long ago, the Honourable Kazenambo and I and a few other Colleagues went to India. We had the privilege to enter one of India's military installations and were shown

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how they want to make India part of the green revolution. It is amazing what they are doing. It is important that we create a green culture in the choice of armaments that we buy, the choice of electrical equipment that we use so that we also promote a green culture in our country.

One issue that is very close to my heart is this issue of *efundja*. Every year we get these floods, houses are destroyed, businesses are destroyed, families' lives are destroyed, but I think an army can play a much bigger role. Not so long ago, while with a delegation in China, we went and saw these underground water reservoirs in China and Korea and I wondered why the Defence force cannot use their manpower to construct some of these underground water reservoirs to save water and to save lives. These are some of the areas where our Defence force can play a role in mitigating poverty in our country.

Honourable Speaker, in conclusion, I have been mooted an idea with the Minister and I am not saying we should implement it today or tomorrow, but finance allowing, there is a greater need for us as a country to have voluntary conscription to the army, a six months period to create a reserve force for this country. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: What can you do in 6 months?

HON VENAANI: Just look at the Haiti situation, imagine if you had forty thousand trained reservists in your country, people with calamity preparedness. One thing that the Defence Force does to a person's life is it instils a culture of discipline. Many soldiers are disciplined people because you depend on other persons for your safety. I have seen countries where people have gone for military training. If I train my sister on the other side of the Isle as a soldier for 6 months and here comes this guy from another village who thinks he can do what he wants, she can defend herself and even that guy that goes out with her is also disciplined, because he knows the power of human relations. I do not want to create a situation where people only have to go to a training camp for 6 weeks ... (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask Honourable Venaani a question before he concludes? Honourable Venaani, you were telling us a story of your trip with

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Honourable Kazenambo to India and I just want to know for curiosity's sake, what did you discuss with Honourable Kazenambo on your way back?

HON VENAANI: Well, what we discussed was nothing in relation to the Defence Policy, and there was no idea of mooted a Coup d'etat and I was sitting next to her and we were discussing our village stories and other things. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: May I ask Honourable Venaani a question? Honourable Venaani, it is true that most of the army personnel are disciplined. Before Independence there was conscription of certain people. Do you want to tell me that those who went there were disciplined, including Honourable Henk Mudge?

HON SPEAKER: I hope that we are not going to compare NDF with the past before Independence, then we will be insulting the NDF. Continue Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, it has been my consistent reasoning that trying to compare an Independent and free Namibia with post-independence, there must be a difference and there is a big difference. Conscription then was compulsory conscription. You did not have a choice and you were put in the firing line to kill your brother on the other side. If a child of eighteen years decides that he does not want to join the Force *per se*, but I want to do 6 months training, it is good for experience and for the level of understanding, he will yield as a person, and I believe we have to instil discipline in our children. For our country to become prepared when facing calamities, you need to have trained, disciplined people. In countries where you do not have trained people and calamity strikes, the people do not know what to do. In the Army you are taught how to deal with first-aid kits, you are taught how to escape fire, you are taught a lot of other things, besides how to cook, although there are colleagues who do not want to be taught how to cook. It will instil a culture of discipline in our country and promote our country's preparedness. I raised it with the Minister in a private conversation that I am

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also ready to go for six months training to become a disciplined soldier. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Nambahu.

HON NAMBAHU: Comrade Speaker, I want to register my support for this very important document and more so given the comprehensiveness of the document. Perhaps it is good for any organisation or any entity that it has a chapter on instilling a patriotic sense. These kinds of things need to be emulated, because if we are saying Vision 2030 has to be implemented, we need to create people that are up to the task by 2030 so that they can implement this Vision.

A lot of things have already been said by the other Colleagues and especially on the promotion of people who have really contributed to the liberation of this country. You find some of them in the village and when they see you as a politician wielding power, then this colleague would say, *“you know, in the struggle you used to call me Lieutenant, but here I retired as a private”* and all the work he had done seems not to be recognised by the country. It is something that we should really think about. Can there not be a policy on what to do with the people who are retiring from the army.

A person who was so active all his life, who contributed so much, now finds himself in the village and people do not even know what he has done. This is very sad as far as I am concerned and we have to look at that. People can even be invited to schools to tell the history and all that they have done to make the youngsters appreciate it. In the West, they have people going out on the Day of Waterloo to speak to the kids and the civilians and that is how you instil patriotism.

For example, we do not have gyms in the rural areas. Why can these colleagues not be used to physically train our people so that they can become fit? It can be done in rudimentary ways. We did not have all those training equipment in the bush. Rudimentary centres could be put up and the people retiring from the army could be helpful. (Intervention)

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HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? I am trying to follow your argument, I am really trying, but I am not getting what you are trying to say. You are talking about the Comrades who have contributed immensely throughout their lives. They never had a break, they never had a holiday, and they never went to school. The only time in their lives they have to sit down and think about something else is the time after their retirement. Your argument is that they should not be allowed to have peace of mind. They must go and train African Stars. What is it that you are really trying to say? Do they not have the right to rest just like any retired professional?

HON NAMBAHU: Honourable Speaker, the argument I am trying to advance is that these persons have been active, they have so much to offer. Some of them are military engineers, they have different professions, but you allow the person to sit there idle and actually not exploiting him to plough back. That was just an example and I can tell you, in some countries, the people in the old-aged homes join clubs and that exercise actually minimises hospitalisation because of their fitness. The point is, can we not think of something that these colleagues could plough back? It is the utilisation of the capacity of the human resources that we still have. That is the point I am trying to make.

It is said a good policy is actually in its implementation, but it is also for us to respect that policy. Imagine a person who has all his life been told to be patriotic, to be loyal, to be true to the values of his country and he is not allowed to belong to unions and he just has to look at people messing up, doing things without regard that he had sacrificed to give them those values. A person who is patriotic, who has fought for this country will do everything to defend the name of the country, yet when he comes out, someone is messing up. In some countries, this has caused the military to go out of the barracks.

Finally, I want to call upon all the citizens to look at the Defence Policy and all the organisations to have Codes of Conduct, values, patriotism and enforce them, because that is what makes the Army to be what it is and we have to be proud of them. I support the Defence Policy.

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

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HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would also like to express my support for the Defence Policy as tabled by the Minister of Defence and would like to make a few comments in this regard.

Firstly, I want to agree with the provision in the Policy that the objective of any Defence Force is not only to defend the sovereignty and integrity of the motherland, but also to promote national interest, not only at home but also abroad. I think every Defence Force has that objective and that is a very important objective for any Nation.

We have seen in Africa that the lack of stability has always eroded the continent's ability to promote economic growth, therefore it becomes even more important for Namibia to promote cooperation and coordination with other Member States, especially in the SADC Region, to make sure that a conducive environment is created for the regional economy to grow and optimise benefits for the citizens of our Region.

I am happy to note that the Ministry continues to ensure the strengthening of existing structures, including joint commissions with neighbouring states, as well as other security structures that are created through the African Union and SADC Regional structures. It is very important that these structures should have active programmes that would ensure that any efforts to destabilise the region are identified and curbed before they result in conflict situations. In addition, where conflicts arise, we should not look at the rest of the world to come to Africa's aid, but we should actually take charge of the situation, even if it means intervening militarily. I know that there is an aversion of some sort in this country to conflict resolution through military intervention, but there are certain situations that warrant that. At times you cannot just go there with the UN and peacekeepers, because it may be necessary to motivate the warring parties to come to the negotiation table by making them realise that they will not be allowed to be at each other's throats at the expense of the citizens of that country and also the Region. Therefore, I applaud the fact that the Ministry of Defence is looking at that.

Then I would also like to comment on the issue of industrialisation and technology development as one of the objectives that this Policy is advocating. I want to expand the argument further than from where Honourable Venaani has left it, because he talked about it being important to ensure that we have a very effective Defence Force, being adequately equipped as a result of

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production efforts that we are making ourselves, not having to rely on imports from other countries. In some countries the defence industries were the genesis of national industries. Products such as cell phones actually started as military products. You can therefore not only look at the Defence Budget from the point of view of training officers and acquiring military equipment, but we also have to look at it from the point of view of supporting a national industrialisation strategy, contributing to economic growth and also job creation. It is very important that we realise the potential for Defence to become not only a consumer, but also actually a creator of wealth and I am happy that the Ministry has realised that and I believe that there are going to be deliberate efforts to assist the Government in this objective.

The other issue is with regard to training of the Defence personnel in order to ensure that they are professionals and here I would again like to push the argument a bit further, as with the issue of industrialisation, to say that training within the Defence Force can also complement the national skills development programme. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Minister a question, please? I am very impressed by the contribution, especially on the role of the army in the industrialisation of the country. I hope that these thoughts will also be reflected in the next Budget. However, the Honourable Minister is fully aware of the fact that for the last four years she has emphasised in her budget speech the pro-poor, pro-growth, pro-employment budget, but what has happened is 51,2% unemployment. Were these strategies meant to create employment or meant to create unemployment?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Tjihuiko, I know that all of us are physically residing in this country, but it seems some of us are oblivious of what is happening here. Yes, we still have a problem of poverty and unemployment continuing, but we also have successes of the SWAPO Party Government in curbing these problems. I think that is visible in every aspect of life. Every person that was in this country five years ago and returns here, always expresses admiration at the development that we have achieved so far, and the manner in which the Government has worked hard to bring about that development. Wherever you got your information from, the reality of the situation is that there were recent developments around the world and these

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developments have not only affected Namibia, they have affected the most admired countries in the world and as a result of that crisis, they are experiencing a situation that is undesirable. Namibia is affected by that situation and that does not mean that this Government does not have policies, or that the policies of this Government are not working. In fact, it is because we have policies that are working, that we still have an economy that is on its feet and not on its knees, in spite of the size of our economy and in spite of the challenges that we face.

Yes, we have experienced a downturn in certain sectors of the economy, which resulted in some people losing their jobs, but the economy is still on its feet, projections are positive and we are optimistic about next year. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

May I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Honourable Minister, Honourable Tjiuiko put a question to you on pro-poor, pro-growth. Are you aware that the reason why we have that high unemployment rate is this labour hire system, that those people who are hired to plough like donkeys are not registered?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Member, I am aware that there are many things that are not the way they ought to be in this country and as a result of that, they take away from the successes that we have realised so far and they continue to assert pressure on the progress we are able to make. However, thanks to the resilience, foresight, and persistence of the SWAPO Party and its Government, we are making progress. I was saying to the Honourable Member, whatever he says, the truth is that more of our children have access to education, more have access to health care service, and more of our people have access to clean water and housing. Our economy is growing, more of our children are finding jobs inasmuch as we know that there are many that still need to find jobs. Even in the rural areas where we come from, the scenery is completely different from the way it was in 1989 when many of us came back home from exile, when the Government that was in power which was supported by some Honourable Members, such as the one who is always trying to influence people to see things negatively in this House and bash Government and all its efforts. When those Governments were in power, we

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had an awful situation, but thanks to the SWAPO Party and its policies, we have the progress that we are experiencing now.

Apart from the contribution to growth, job creation, national industrialisation, the Defence Force could also, through their training programmes support national skills development, so that the benefit will not only be limited to a professional force, but would actually also assist us to achieve a broader skills base in the country, which would strengthen the capacity of the Nation to more vigorously promote the agenda of national development. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Minister of Finance a last question? Honourable Minister, everybody is listening to what the Minister of Finance is saying. Are you now telling me and through me, the public out there, that you are hundred percent happy with the employment rate which rose from 30 to 51% under your Government? Are you happy those twenty years after Independence our children are taught in tents and under trees? Are you happy that the hospitals are dilapidated? Are you really saying that the SWAPO Party Government and the SWAPO Ministers sitting here are one hundred percent happy with the situation as it is? I take it that by implication, that is what you have said and I hope that you are not going to change what you have said by implication.

HON SPEAKER: Let us try to stick to the Defence Policy.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Maybe I should just say, in order not to allow myself to be diverted, that as an elected representative of the Namibian people in this House, I am not here to express what I am happy about and what I am not happy about, I am here to pass laws and find solutions to problems that are affecting our people out there. I believe that is what my Colleagues on this side of the House are here for and that is with what we are going to preoccupy ourselves. It is the tradition of SWAPO that even if we are making progress, we are always keen to further improve, because we think nothing is too good for our people, they deserve the very best that can ever be achieved. We will continue to conduct ourselves on the basis of these principles. (Intervention)

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**CONSIDERATION: DEFENCE POLICY
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: May I put a tiny question to the Honourable Minister? Honourable Minister, the question of unemployment is something being distorted. The 51% is the broad definition and the narrow definition is another case. It is not by chance that we have this unemployment rate. If you look at big economies in the world, even the United States, how many jobs were lost? How many jobs were lost with our neighbours in SADC? We are talking about millions. It is not a question of Namibia alone, it is a global problem and that is why we are trying to find solutions. Honourable Minister, are you aware of this?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Yes, I am indeed aware and I know that however hard they are trying not to take notice of what is happening around them, they would also be aware of that. Unfortunately, there is an election coming and given the fact that some Opposition Parties would see all their seats in this House going to the new kid on the block, they are now desperately trying to hang on to the one or two that are left and using all sorts of tactics, including rumour-mongering. Unfortunately, the Namibian public is very mature and they know how to select their information.

I was saying that I support this Policy and I hope that it would help Namibia to have a professional Defence Force to protect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of our country, defend the national interest of our country here and abroad, including the social and economic interests, which are to achieve improved welfare conditions for our people and high economic growth and industrialisation for our country.

Finally, I am very happy that the Policy is also looking at HIV/AIDS, because as it is stated, as a result of the mobility of the Armed Forces, they are more susceptible to HIV-infection and it becomes very important for us to have deliberate policies to ensure that they are protected from HIV-infection and I want to commend the Minister of Defence for that. Otherwise I salute our men and women in uniform for the great job that they are doing. It makes all of us proud. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Does the Minister wish to reply?

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CONSIDERATION: DEFENCE POLICY
HON NAMOLOH

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: I thank you, Honourable Speaker. In the first place, I would like to thank all the Honourable Members who have supported the Defence Policy of the Ministry of Defence and I would also like to answer some of the queries.

You know, if wishes were horses, all of us could ride. I started with the Defence Force in 1989. I was appointed to lead a team from the SWAPO side to integrate the Defence Force. We started very small and we were also told that there will be no Defence Force since there is no war and we have no threat. We started with 1,500 from the 20,000 on the side of PLAN and the 9 000 from the ex-SWATF. Most of them were left out we could not accommodate them. We had chaotic situations in the camps, people wanted to come in by force, but because of the structure we could not accommodate them.

The Government decided that we could increase the number yearly as resources were made available. With the first group the Government felt the necessity for a professional Defence Force, very formidable, to defend the territorial integrity of this Nation and to serve it.

Our first international mission was in Cambodia in 1992 when we were only two years old and then the necessity of having a professional Defence Force to serve even the international community was underlined.

When the situation in Angola did not improve, the threat on our borders grew and the Government felt the need to increase the members of the Defence Force. A limit of 10,000 was put and we had to grow every year to reach that 10,000. Some of the old combatants were ageing, retiring and were also dying. Therefore, to reach that level of 10,000 took some years. We would want to have a Force of 15,000, but you cannot reach it in one day because they are retiring and resources are limited.

Concerns were expressed about the old combatants and it is also our concern. The question was asked whether they are being promoted or not. Many of those who have high ranks are former combatants. Of course, in the Defence Force, we do not have Affirmative Action or BEE, they are being promoted on merit. You must have been in a position or rank for a certain period in order to climb that ladder and it is a pyramid, very narrow at the top and big at the bottom. You cannot have two Chiefs of the Defence Force, only one, and you

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HON NAMOLOH**

cannot have two Lieutenant Generals, only one. That is the reality of the situation.

We have tried our level best to also accommodate the former combatants. We have extended their retirement period to the age of 60. We have also done a lot to improve their salaries. Two or three years ago when we presented our Budget here, we mentioned that we are going to improve their salaries and we did that and we are still improving them every year although resources are limited and Honourable Members cry that our Budget is too big.

Another issue mentioned was the females in the Defence Force. We have two female Generals. When we started, we had only five Generals, Lieutenant-General Dimo Amaambo, Major-General Jesus Awala, Major-General Ndaxu Namoloh, Brigadier-General Shali and Brigadier-General Louw. As we speak, after 20 years, we have four Major-Generals, one Lieutenant-General and then we have about six Major-Generals. Some of those who were promoted stayed for more than 10 years as Brigadier generals. Among the 10 Brigadier Generals, 2 are female. We have two weeks ago promoted a female to full colonel.

What we should understand here in all honesty is that there will be no day in the whole world that there will be a fifty-fifty basis in the Defence Force. It will never happen. I want to be honest with you, it will never happen anywhere in the world. It is the ability to do certain things in the Defence Force. Even in highly mobile Defence Forces, such as the United States, the UK and elsewhere, it is never fifty-fifty, not even in the Air Forces and those countries are 400 years old. It will never happen.

Promotion in the Defence Force is as fair as possible. It is not done randomly there are boards. The number one board is chaired by His Excellency, the Commander-in-Chief, which promotes from Brigadier-General to Major-General and from Major-General to Lieutenant-General.

Board number two is chaired by the Minister of Defence, which promotes from Lieutenant-Colonel to Colonel and Colonel to Brigadier-General and this goes for the rest of the boards. Names are brought to you and there are certain criteria. It does not mean that everyone who has seen the doors of an academy will be promoted. You can attend an academy, come back and serve in your current rank. Promotion is also not fought for, you cannot fight to be

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promoted, you have to be recommended by those bodies in order to be promoted and you never apply. I know there are people who feel they are suitable for a position and then they tell the politicians that they are being discriminated against, but it has to do with leadership. You can be a staff officer, but you cannot be a commanding officer, because there are categories where you can command. If I take you to the battlefield, you cannot command, but you are very good at plotting maps in the office.

Therefore, we have different categories, we analyse, we deploy them accordingly, and this is also, what we are stating in this Defence Policy. How we want to lead this Defence Force is according to this Policy, that it small and very effective. We do not want anybody to cry *"I want this, I want this."*

Another comment was that the Defence Force should be national and we are working on that. We have recruitment quotas per Region, but of course, we do not ask whether they are Kwanyama or Ndonga, it is by Region.

We are also trying to go to the most disadvantaged, such as those in Tsumkwe, and recruit them even if they do not meet the requirements. Sometimes they only have Grade 6, but we take them, so that the Defence Force is representative. There are communities where they do not have Grade 12 or 10, but we go there and do that deliberately. We are going to recruit one thousand and the people who are going to do the selection do not belong to the Personnel Department in the Ministry of Defence, they belong to other departments. There may be corruption, but we are trying our level best.

Others talked about the defence industry. As the Minister of Finance said, many things, such as cell phones, started with defence. The Global Positioning System also started with defence. We are also trying, we are only twenty years old, not four hundred or two hundred years, but what we have done in this space of time is that we have manufactured our own radio communication for our Defence Force, our own design. We do not buy from anywhere, we manufacture them according to our own specifications and our own requirements and they mount them in our vehicles. We also equipped the vehicles of Home Affairs at the Windhoek Maschinenfabrik. We are doing what we can and what we have in the Budget is what helped us to research into this. Of course, the capacity of the personnel in the Research Department has to be enhanced. It takes time to have engineers, designers and technicians in that department.

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HON NAMBAHU**

It was mentioned that our Defence Force should have cooperation with our institutions of higher learning. We have a Masters Degree in Security with UNAM, we are working on another one with Polytechnic, to have Bachelor of Science in other subjects. We have the Military School at Osona and we want to build a Defence Academy at the old Augustineum in Okahandja where even civilians can come and study certain subjects. We are gradually growing towards Vision 2030. If you look at the ICT in Defence, it is highly advanced. Our logistics system is computerised. If you are in Grootfontein, you can see what is on and what is not on and it is done centrally in Windhoek.

Honourable Speaker, I hope I have accommodated all the questions raised and I would like to thank the Honourable Members for supporting the Defence Policy.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister. I now put the Question, that the Defence Policy be adopted. Any objection? Agreed to. The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE: NAMIBIA INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT BILL**

HON SPEAKER: When the House adjourned Wednesday, 17 February 2010, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Prime Minister, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable Nambahu had the Floor and he may continue.

HON NAMBAHU: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I was about to conclude that day before I was derailed with some questions and I probably did not understand the question put to me that day and looking at the HANSARD now, I am trying to make sense of what the question was. It is really an unfortunate question because it is an unfounded allegation, that PLAN combatants did beat some community members and stuff like that. The Namibian people out there will condemn whoever asks a question like that, because they know it has

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never happened, there is no record of that. Therefore, it was misplaced and should not have been asked.

I was about to conclude by saying that this is actually a good centre in that it is tailor-made to our needs, where we can make our own needs assessments and we do not need to send people to other institutions that were not designed for and according to our conditions. In that spirit, it is really a commendable exercise.

Reading the Bill, I have not seen the word “*research*” in the purposes and I was thinking that maybe it is deliberate that it is not one of the purposes, but when one goes to 7(i) in the constitution of the Council, “*two persons nominated by the Minister to represent the capacity-building research or related interests.*” I feel that it should also be extrapolated and put in the objectives, so that if they do not have the capacity, they could commission that kind of research. It speaks of surveys and studies, but I did not see that in the purposes.

Another aspect is the language. It is probably the first time that I agree with my Colleague, Honourable Gurirab that it perhaps needs to be put into legal language. It is probably still a layman’s draft and I want that to be taken as constructive criticism. Sometimes people jump to the defence when we say something, but even during the struggle we gave constructive criticism, which is done in a good spirit to take us to new heights in our deliberations.

With those remarks, I recommend that all the other organisations should emulate and come up with programmes like this and capacity building should be across all the sectors. I know the Ministry of Fisheries has a Maritime Institute for capacity-building and we should emulate each other and not necessarily go to other countries to learn something that we could learn from our own Ministries. With that, I support the Bill.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjihuiko.

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HON TJIHUIKO**

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I thank you very much for the opportunity to raise one or two issues on this very important Bill. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker, may I ask Honourable Tjiuiko a question? Honourable Tjiuiko, my understanding of this “*coalition of scrap-yard*” is that (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: You are Out of Order.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, one should support an institution of this nature, there is no question about that, but if one looks at other experiences and my experience for the last couple of days that I have been listening to the contributions in this House, I got the impression that there is certain information that has not been availed to us. When one looks at an Act of this

nature, one would like to know how it was decided that there is a need for an institution of this nature. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: May I ask a question? It is on the question of “*Why this?*” May I ask the Honourable Member, why did you become violent and beat up the journalist?

HON TJIHUIKO: When one looks at an institution of this nature, I would have liked to see the information that has led us to decide on this institution. Perhaps the Colleagues have seen a feasibility study that was done and it is not proper for us as lawmakers to pass a law for the sake of passing a law here. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: May I ask the Colleague a question? Honourable Tjiuiko, when you were campaigning last

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year, you wanted your president to win and Honourable Venaani wanted his president to win. (Interjection)

HON SPEAKER: Proceed.

HON TJIHUIKO: I am saying this because I was a Civil Servant in the Government of the Republic of Namibia for fifteen years and I have seen a number of projects, which were started. People were coming to the Ministries and saying they are going to put up a project here and they are Going to see if it is going to be feasible and then it will be transferred to Government. What happened is that after 3 years.... (Intervention)

HON DR ANKAMA: May I ask the Honourable TjiHuiko a small question? Honourable TjiHuiko, you have seen some projects in the past. The new project called the “*coalition of something*”....

HON SPEAKER: Honourable TjiHuiko, you will have an opportunity to continue. The House stands adjourned under Rule 90 until tomorrow afternoon, 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2010.02.24 AT 14:30

**ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
24 FEBRUARY 2010**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

**TABLING: REPORT ON PARLIAMENTARY
OUTREACH PROGRAMME TO OTJOZONDJUPA REGION**

HON SIOKA: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise once again, today with a sense of fulfilment, to lay upon the Table, the Report of the Parliamentary Outreach Programme to Otjozondjupa Region. The visits were undertaken during mid-July and August 2009 recess and I was accompanied by Honourable Royal /Ui/o/oo, Honourable Alexia Manombe-Ncube and Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase.

Our Parliament, which is the Legislative Branch of the Government of the Republic of Namibia was established in terms of Article 44 of the Constitution and has the statutory duty to pass laws according to which the Nation is governed and also a constitutional oversight responsibility on the Executive, which is to ensure service delivery to the people.

We are happy to report that seven constituencies were visited with the aim to introduce Parliament and to meet the local regional, traditional, church and community leaders and also to engage communities in service delivery. The constituencies visited were Tsumkwe, Grootfontein, Otavi, Otjiwarongo, Okakarara, Omatako and Okahandja.

Honourable Speaker, I am convinced that these visits have brought Parliament, especially the National Assembly, to the doorsteps of these rural communities and that we have had a meaningful dialogue on issues of national importance. Lawmakers benefited greatly from the open exchange with the electorate,

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HON SIOKA**

sharing the pain and burden of the communities in the quest to improve the quality of life of our citizens. The meetings with both politicians and communities raised a variety of issue, challenges and problems facing our citizens.

The Report I am tabling today has been formatted in such a way that these issues, challenges and problems raised have been grouped and categorised for each constituency visited according to the Line Ministries concerned. It is important to note that various host Ministries and Agencies were represented by staff members who accompanied the delegation and they were given the opportunity to respond to some of the queries and questions raised on the spot. Some of the major issues, challenges and problems faced by the communities are:

1. Lack of national documents, especially Gam residents.

I have already met with the Minister and I informed her before the tabling of this Report.

2. Poor road conditions in rural constituencies, like Tsumkwe and Omatako.
3. Slow implementation of the rural electrification programme.
4. Unemployment especially among the youth.
5. Lack of ambulances and clinics in villages.
6. Problems related to land resettlement; and
7. Rural water supply.

Comrade Speaker, these visits have again highlighted the need for more outreach programmes to all regions, simply because the electorate need to be educated on the separation of powers between the Legislature, Executive and the Judiciary. Such visits furthermore create a national platform for the elected representatives to have a meaningful dialogue with communities in respect of their political affiliation.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON TWEYA**

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, I want to urge and encourage each and every Member of this august House to study this Report and especially Ministries to take note of concerns and issues related to your respective Ministries or visits to some of these communities by your respective Ministry officials and to become open to channels of communication with our citizens.

Therefore, Comrade Speaker, I lay upon the Table the Report on the Deputy Speaker Outreach Programme to the Otjozondjupa Region on 26 July to 5th August 2009 under the theme, “*Enhancing Parliament Participation in the Legislative Process.*” I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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

TABLING: REPORTS OF THE 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:

1. Village Council of Ruacana for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2009;
 2. Regional Council of the Khomas Region for the Financial Years ended 31 March 2006 and 2007;
 3. Village Council of Uis for the Financial Years ended 30 June 2006 and 2007; and
 4. Regional Council of the Ohangwena Region for the Financial Years ended 31 March 2006 and 2007.
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HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Deputy Minister please table the Reports? Any further Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? Dr Kawana.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR KAWANA**

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Speaker, I rise to make a Ministerial Statement in my capacity as Acting Attorney General regarding the issue of the independence of the Judiciary and freedom of speech.

It is factually correct that the Namibian people had a long journey to freedom and Independence. Namibia was referred to as the last colony on the African continent. The march to freedom and Independence was first spearheaded by our forbearers, the heroes and heroines of our revolution, such as Hendrik Witbooi, Samuel Maherero, Nehale Lya Mpingana, Mandume Ndemufayo and Ipumbu Ya Tshirongo, among others.

These heroes and heroines rejected colonialism and oppression in all its manifestations. It was the courage, determination and tenacity of our forbearers, which inspired the SWAPO Party, under the leadership of Dr Sam Shafishuna Nujoma, our Founding President and Father of the Namibian Nation, to wage a modern national liberation struggle until the dawn of Independence on the 21st of March 1990.

Honourable Speaker, it is a well-known fact that the aims and objectives of our struggle for national Independence and freedom was to be masters Of our own destiny, to become a sovereign State founded on the Rule of Law and democracy, which were denied to us during the colonial period.

Through the dictates of the Namibian Constitution we created three arms of the State, namely the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary. All these three arms of the State, just like in any other democratic country, are accountable to our Nation. The Namibian Nation, through eligible voters, elected Members of Parliament and the President. The President appoints the Cabinet from the Members of the National Assembly. On a lighter note, this is the period when the majority of the Members-elect of the National Assembly are eagerly waiting to be called to State House. I am reliably informed that most Members are within reach, just in case they are called.

Honourable Speaker, in order to complete our democratic institutions of governance, the democratically elected President appoints Judges on the

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recommendation of the Judicial Service Commission. Among the three arms of the State, the Judiciary is perhaps one of those institutions, which are heavily dependent on the Executive in the enforcement of its Judgments. I may also add that the adjudication function of the Judiciary is such that one party wins and the other party loses the case. Naturally, the party, which loses, will always be disappointed. This must be accepted as normal in any democracy. The function of adjudication should not be compared with a game of soccer where the possibility of a draw exists. Indeed, even here both teams may criticise the referee in order to justify why they did not win. If one team wins and the other loses, the winning team will praise the referee, while the losing team will curse him.

Honourable Speaker, in recent months there has been much debate and in some cases reported in both electronic and print media regarding the conduct of Judicial Officers of both the High Court and the Supreme Court. Unfortunately, in some cases remarks have been directed against the person of some Judges. Some of the remarks are certainly beyond the bounds of acceptable criticism of institutions of the State in a democratic country.

It is fully accepted that law is not an exact science, whereas one plus one is always two. In law, if one asks a legal question to three lawyers, the possibility of receiving three different answers is very high.

We may recall that in respect of the Labour Hire case the High Court and the Supreme Court handed down two different judgments. Let me put it on record that even the Judiciary itself accepts the constitutional right of freedom of expression, which includes the right to criticise the Judiciary as an institution. This principle is fully accepted and respected, because in a democracy there are no holy cows. However, criticism must be done in such a manner that our nation should not lose faith in our Judiciary. As I have already pointed out, personal attacks against individual Judges must be avoided.

Honourable Speaker, I believe that our democracy will only take deeper root if our people have faith and trust in our institutions of governance, which include the Judiciary. Article 78(3) of the Namibian Constitution is very clear it explicitly states that: *“No Member of the Cabinet or the Legislature or any other person shall interfere with Judges or Judicial Officers in the exercise of their judicial function and all organs of the State shall accord such assistance*

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as the Courts may require to protect their independence, dignity and effectiveness, subject to the terms of this Constitution or any other law.”

In our democratic set-up, no public institution or office is above criticism. None, from the Head of the State, who is our President, to the lowest public offices is immune to criticism.

Honourable Speaker, I am also aware that serious allegations of conflict of interest were made against some judicial officers. The Judicial Service Commission views some of these allegations in a very serious light. Against this background, those who made the allegations will be invited to submit information to the Commission for further investigation. We do not want to undermine the integrity of our Judiciary, which has the potential of losing trust and confidence in the eyes of our Nation. Let us follow established channels if we have information against individual Judges whose conduct is likely to put the Judiciary into disrepute. Complaints against individual Judges should be channelled to the Judicial Service Commission. This is the body established in terms of Article 85(1) of the Namibian Constitution to handle matters of this nature and make recommendations to the President.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, I wish to reiterate the Government's commitment to the principle of the independence of the Judiciary, as enshrined in Article 78(3) of the Namibian Constitution. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: This is indeed a very important statement by the Acting Attorney-General. Law, whether it is the Supreme Law, the Constitution or laws passed by Parliament, is a double-edged sword. It leaves no winners or losers and that is the beauty of democracy. I would direct the Front Office to make sure that every Member seated here, including the Speaker, would get copies of the statement the Minister made. It is very important. Any further Ministerial Statements? Before we refer to today's Order Paper, I have to make some rearrangements, that what is indicated as Item 4 on the Order Paper will become Item 1. The Secretary will read the Fourth Order of the Day.

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**AMENDMENT OF RULES OF PENSION FUND
HON DE WAAL**

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE MOTION ON THE
AMENDMENT OF RULES OF PENSION FUND:**

HON SPEAKER: When the Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, 16 February, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance. Honourable De Waal adjourned the Debate and I give him the Floor now.

HON DE WAAL: I thank you, Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members I will be brief.

First of all, we support the Motion by the Honourable Prime Minister to amend the Rules of the Pension Fund of Members of Parliament and other Office-bearers. As the Prime Minister correctly stated in his opening remarks, a lot of trust and transparency is needed in the case of pension funds so that Members can sleep at night, knowing very well that their pension moneys are safe and that it is properly invested. I have spoken to some of the Colleagues in the House and very few of them actually know what is happening with our pension funds. One gets a letter at the end of the year, if you are lucky and have complained enough, with a certain amount and it is compared to the previous year and nobody really knows what is happening.

Having said that, Honourable Speaker, it is so much more important that the trustees that we appoint must know exactly what is happening in the pension fund and they should actually inform the Members of the pension fund on a regular basis. I must say the media statements of the last couple of weeks did not make us sleep well, because one gets the impression that somewhere, somehow, there is some confusion and confusion and money never works well together.

What we are trying to ask from our side is that we must really have a look at how we are represented on this Trust and to make sure that we have people there who have time to spend on the pension fund.

Lastly, Honourable Speaker, the performance of our pension fund has been good for a couple of years, but currently I am not quite so sure whether we are

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**AMENDMENT OF RULES OF PENSION FUND
HON KASINGO**

still on track as far as our earnings are concerned, because we are a little bit below the JSE performance for the year 2009 and that should not be the case.

However, having said all that, we support the Motion and I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kasingo.

HON KASINGO: Honourable Speaker I thank you for giving me the Floor to make a short contribution to the topic before us. Before I make my contribution, allow me to publicly thank the Founding Father of the Namibian Nation, the former President Sam Shafishuna Nujoma, who organised the people from Omusati to do voluntary work in the field of the Ondonga Kingdom, to which I belong. I want to thank him publicly, because this is a very good example for us. It is an indication that we must revive our rich cultural customs, because there used to be a practice where a group of young people organised themselves and worked voluntarily in the fields of other people, but it seems this is dying out.

I would like to make a small contribution to the topic before us. I also support the Amendment by the Board of Trustees and I am happy that they have done away with the discrimination in relation to age. I would however like to urge the Board of Trustees to look at the discrimination against single Members. I take note that the Fund only provides for the surviving spouse. We are experiencing many deaths in Namibia and many of us will be left with young people to be taken care of. I think this discrimination must also be looked into.

Lastly I want to join Honourable De Waal and say that I am made to understand that the type of investment which would benefit us depends on the Board of Trustees. I would like to urge that we appoint Trustees who are able to see windows of opportunity, so that at the end of the day we do not lose. Mind you, our Fund is a defined contribution fund and if the investment does not go well, then we are going to lose, unlike the Civil Servants who will lose nothing in case of negative impact on the investment. I support the Amendment. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Kawana.

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**AMENDMENT OF RULES OF PENSION FUND
HON DR KAWANA / HON P MUSHELENGA**

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I rise to add my voice to the Motion on the Floor of this august House. Let me, first, commend the Minister of Finance for tabling this very important Motion. Let me, in accordance with tradition, declare my interest because I am also a beneficiary.

Comrade Speaker, in my culture we say, if you are a professional hunter of lions and you are killed by a lion, do not complain because that is your trade. It is also said that politics is one of the most hazardous occupations, which knows no term called "*security of tenure*." As such, it is really proper that the Namibian Parliament is elected for five years, our mandate is for five years. At the end of that mandate period, consistent with international standards, we should be deemed to be retired and, therefore, be eligible to access our pension.

I am also happy that the discriminatory aspect in our Pension Fund has been done away with, both on account of age as well as on account of gender. I am very happy about this, because some of us were adversely affected. The previous Rules required that in order to access the pension, you should be fifty-five and above. Indeed, I was so desperate that I was trying to make an appointment with the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration to change my birth certificate and I am sure some of the Colleagues were contemplating the same measures. I am happy about this, because it is consistent with international standards, it is consistent with the benefits in all Parliaments of the world. It is not unique to Namibia and I appeal to our colleagues from the media that this is definitely not a gravy train, but that we are trying to regularise what has been abnormal. I support the Motion.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Mushelenga.

HON P MUSHELENGA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I also want to add my voice to the previous speakers who participated in the Debate on the Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance.

The Right Honourable Prime Minister highlighted a very important aspect, namely transparency. This Motion has brought transparency in the sense that

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Members are going to acquire their portion of the pension transparently, without unnecessarily being put under pressure of resigning before the end of their term and then coming back.

Secondly, when we take an oath as Members of Parliament the first day, it is quite clear that we are taking up a contract of employment for five years – renewable or not renewable. Many people are not willing to take the risk of contract jobs. Some Members are taking up these contract jobs while obviously being able to get better employment elsewhere and this should also be underlined. Therefore, it is only fair to recognise that risk of contract employment and that when one retires, he or she should be deemed as having retired.

I want to applaud the Trustees for doing away with the age discrimination. This restriction was going to keep away a lot of young people from this risk-taking exercise, because no one would want to leave their better employment, come here and take a risk for 5 years, especially when it is difficult for them to be taken up in the job market. It was obviously going to keep away many young people and many Members in this House were going to be affected by the fifty-five years. Imagine when you leave this Parliament at the age of fifty-two, you have more or less become unemployable, because no employer wants to take an old person that they know will eventually retire. Most of the Members of that age were going to be adversely affected. Younger Members can at least get employment elsewhere, but especially Members of that age were going to be adversely affected, because no one would want to employ someone whom they know will retire soon anyhow. With these few words, Honourable Speaker, I support the Motion.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Gurirab.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Speaker, I rise in support of the Motion and I want to say a few things by way of supporting the Motion tabled by the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees.

Honourable Speaker, firstly I would like to say that sometimes there is confusion about which funds Members belong to. The Members are not members of GIPF, your Fund is separate from GIPF, and your Fund is called

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Political Office-bearers Pension Fund. The GIPF, through an agency they have created, are administrators of your Fund, for which your Fund is paying a fee. Therefore, your Fund is not GIPF. The GIPF is for the Civil Servants.

The second thing I want to say is that your Fund is registered like all other pension funds with the Ministry of Finance as a pension fund and the idea of a pension fund is to look after members once they have retired. I am a Trustee, the information which comes to the Board is privileged, so I am not going to talk about that, but all I want to say here is that different categories of Members have applied to the Fund to access their portions of the funds for all kinds of things and the Trustees, acting in your best interest, have turned down all those requests because the Trustees' responsibility is to look after your best interest, to say this money is for you when you retire and you can only access it when you retire. However, the Fund has already made some Amendments through which some of us are benefiting and I refer here to an arrangement which the Fund has to enable the members to get a roof over their heads and I take the point that Honourable De Waal is making about Members not being properly informed about their benefits, etcetera. One of the arrangements, which the Fund has already made to Members, is through an arrangement with Standard Bank, Members can access the funds to buy a house in Usakos or wherever they want to buy it, through a guarantee. That arrangement is already in place.

The Amendment, which the Chairperson of the Board is bringing, is two-fold: One is to remove the discrimination, but that is only in respect of Members who have joined the Fund since 2000. The Members, who have joined the Fund before that, even if the person is 30, will still qualify for the benefit. Therefore, it is only those members who have joined post-2000 who were affected by this discrimination and what is proposed is to remove the age requirement. The second Amendment is to enable those Members who may be re-elected – as I am – to continue after the 21st of March, who may want to access their benefits. What the Amendment does is to enable Members who may continue after the 21st to access their benefits up to a third of their benefits. It does not say you should take a third of your benefits, so those who are leaving, of course they have to take a third of their benefits, but Members who are remaining in this Honourable House, what the new Rule is saying is that you can access up to a third. If you do not want it, you do not have to take the money and you also do not have to take the whole third of it if you want only one percent of it. However, what the Rule says is that even if you are

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coming back, you can access up to a third of the benefits under the Fund. (Interjection). No, the resolution, which the Minister tabled, says that if you adopt the resolution, it is effective from September last year. Once you adopt the resolution, it is effective and once you leave here, you can call the administrators to access your benefits. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: May I ask a question for clarity? Comrade Speaker, I want to ask the Honourable Member with regard to the retrospective principle. Does it mean that while we are still Members of this House we can access that one-third from September last year? Can I just get clarity on that?

HON T GURIRAB: Yes, that is the sense of the document, which the Minister has tabled, of which I assumed all the Members received a copy. That is what it says, that all the benefits will accrue (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable Gurirab a question? I just want to understand properly, is it the understanding that you are theoretically able to access your funds from September? You cannot actually access it, that has passed, you can access it from tomorrow if we pass it today. Is it from tomorrow up to the 21st of March for those who are continuing?

HON T GURIRAB: All it says that the resolution was passed by the Board of Trustees at the meeting where we had the privilege of the Prime Minister attending the meeting. At that meeting, the resolution was taken. Therefore, in theory it is effective, subject to your approval here in this Honourable House, that whatever benefits would accrue would be backdated to the 30th of September of last year. In practice, of course, it is only effective from the resolution being taken. There is no cut-off date. (Intervention)

HON DE WAAL: May I ask the Honourable Trustee a question, please? We do not always get the time to talk to them on this issue, so let me ask him to explain to us who is this company, Namibia Asset Managers, which is

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investing some of our funds? Who are they, where is their head office, who are the kingpins in the Company?

HON T GURIRAB: I was going to come to the performance of the Fund. The trustees do not have the professional expertise, it is a lot of money and it would be a risk to leave your money with me to invest on your behalf. Therefore, what the Trustees do is to contract professional fund managers, such as the one, which has been mentioned. At the moment there are two fund managers of our Fund, the one is the Old Mutual one, and the second one is Investec. What Trustees do is to give money to these people to invest on behalf of the Trustees for the benefit of the members. I also accept, and that is of course obvious, that because of the global markets in the last 18 to 24 months, the money is invested in equities and stock markets. It is a paper loss, you only lose if you are cashing in at that point. It is a paper loss, it is not that the money has disappeared. It is as the value of Namibian Breweries was in September last year three dollars, you only lose if you are cashing in, but if you do not, it will come back to ten, eleven dollars. Therefore, it is not money that has disappeared or money that has been lost, but that is how stock markets work, Namibian Breweries today are three dollars, the other day five dollars, the other day ten dollars. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask a question? I just want Honourable Gurirab to confirm that those who are going to continue in Parliament after the 21st of March are continuing on a new mandate and they will not be able to access the one-third. If you do not access it before that, you will not be able to access the one-third.

HON T GURIRAB: It is not the intention to communicate wrong information, but to the best of my understanding, there is no cut-off date and the Members will be able to access up to a third of their present value. Effectively, in terms of the resolution, you should access it from the end of September last year, but that is something you can check. As far as I understand, there is no cut-off date. (Intervention)

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HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: We are now starting to be our own legal advisors and the more we advise ourselves, the more we misinform and misadvise ourselves. Firstly, we as a Parliament must pass this resolution. The other one was a resolution by the Board of Trustees that Honourable Gurirab, the Honourable Minister of Finance, I, one Member from the National Council and other members who have retired. Once we pass this, it has to go to NAMFISA, the Financial Institutions Regulatory Authority and then they will endorse and gazette it. After gazetting, you can access. I think I agree with the other Trustee, it is not a question of cut-off when you can access it, the main thing is that you can only access what you have in this bracket. You cannot come in April or June and say that you also want that portion that is added after your new term, that is not accessible, that belongs to another term. As soon as all these things are done legally, then you can access what you already had. Let us please not get bogged down in the details.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Speaker, finally I wanted to say that in terms of the Rules, Members are entitled to a so-called benefit statement at the end of each year, which reflects the value of each Member in the Fund, but I know it takes quite a while before Members receive that. Members can call the Administrators at any time to find out what their worth is at any point in time. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Does the Honourable Minister of Finance wish to reply?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I just want to thank the Members for the expedient processing of this resolution of the Board of Trustees and to thank the Honourable Members who have provided clarity in my absence. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I now put the Question, that the Motion be adopted. Any objection? Agreed to.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:22 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

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

**RESUMPTION OF THE DEBATE ON THE SECOND READING –
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HON SPEAKER: When the House adjourned on Tuesday, 23 February 2010, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Prime Minister, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable Tjihuiko had the floor and he may continue.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Before I start with my contribution, allow me to congratulate the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry for having taken the bold decision to accept and adopt the re-implementation of the small stock marketing scheme. Congratulations for that.

Honourable Speaker, as I was listening to the Debate, my main concern on this issue was the question of whether we have decided to approve this Bill simply because it has been tabled in this House. Are we going to do this based on the actual facts that necessitated the establishment of an Institution of this nature.

I am not sure whether the Colleagues here had access to a feasibility study on this Institution or even a liability study, whether this Institution is going to be able to sustain itself. I think this is the main concern that is bothering me now.

Honourable Speaker, I am saying this, because having been a Civil Servant for a couple of years – and a good one for that matter – I am fully aware of the fact that foreign investors were always coming with things they called pilot schemes. They come in, buy a building, renovate it, start doing certain things,

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give themselves three years and after three years, without having proper consultations and having considered the Government's Budget, they say the project is now successful and turn it over to the Government. Then they will tell the whole world they spent these millions in assisting the Namibian Government, but in fact, they have created problems. These are the things that are being done without consultation, without proper feasibility studies.

The contributions to the Debate were mainly centred on the current Government employees. If this institution was meant to facilitate only that, then we are in trouble, it will not see the sun the next day. I do not know whether there is any study, which justifies that there are other people who are going to benefit from this. There are a number of young people who are also going to be trained there. More importantly, have we identified the needs in the job market? Does the private sector need people with these kinds of qualifications or are we training these people for the streets? There are no answers as far as I am concerned and I hope that the Right Honourable Prime Minister will provide that information, because the training of people without looking at the market needs is a total waste of time and I think we are very good at that. We have this problem of refusing to think and to plan properly and these are the things that are always creating problems, like just passing a law for the sake of passing a law, or setting up an institution for the sake of setting up an institution.

Honourable Speaker, looking at the kind of Institutions that we have, I am not sure whether the things we want to achieve with this institution cannot be accommodate within the structures of the current institutions.

Secondly, if you set up an Institution of this nature, it should also facilitate a developmental effort that is parallel to the Institution. That is why an institution such as Augustineum was taken to Okahandja, it was to boost the economy of Okahandja. That is why we took part of the university to the North. It is not only that they wanted to be there, but Government is trying to boost the economy of that specific area. Where is this institution going to be? Obviously in Windhoek. I therefore think that the idea of this Institution was ill thought it was not properly done.

Right Honourable Prime Minister, I have a concern. We are facing high unemployment among the youth. (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: May I ask Honourable Tjiuiko a question? Honourable Speaker, Honourable Tjiuiko made reference to “*an ill-thought institution*”. Can he substantiate what he means by this “*ill-thought institution*”, because there is nothing like ill-thought Institutions in the Land of the Brave.

HON TJIHUIKO: I said an ill-thought idea. An ill-thought idea is when a group of friends are sitting somewhere in a Shebeen in Katutura, talking about the good old things and asking themselves what they should do to make money. Then they decide to set up this Institution, Government will support it for 5 years and after 5 years it can close down, because by then we would have made our money. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Tjiuiko, in our democratic set-up every Political Party has programmes and projects, including manifestos which cover education. Now that you have thrown away your manifesto, which policy are you advocating in terms of education?

HON TJIHUIKO: The Honourable Member Dr Ankama the other day moved a Motion in this House for us to look at the crisis of the trained and qualified unemployment young Namibians. We are creating an institution to train... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask a question on the coalition?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member, there is no coalition in this House. I only know of individual Parties, so if the Chief Whip could communicate to me about the coalition, I will be wiser.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Honourable Speaker, I do agree with you, but this thing started in 2009 when the new Party has not even been formed. You are talking about a Shebeen in Katutura and I want the public to understand what you are talking about, because there are shebeens all over Katutura, including the *Herero Mall*, which one are you referring to?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I was saying that the other day we were seriously discussing the issue of unemployed trained, qualified young Namibians and we have expressed our concerns. The reason why we have these young trained and qualified young people sitting on the street corners is that they are not employable. They were advised to go into the wrong directions. We produce what the job market does not demand. We have failed to identify the needs in the job market. (Intervention)

HON NAMBAHU: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, do you understand what specialised training is?

HON TJIHUIKO: That is exactly what I am saying. When you are talking about specialised training, then it means that you have identified the needs in the market that require that special training and I have not seen a Report to that effect. What I see is the obvious, that yes we must pass the law. We have become a rubberstamp House. We are not really getting into the nitty-gritty of what is being presented to us.

We were discussing the unemployed young Namibians. They are trained, they are qualified, they cannot get jobs. Why? And we are now starting an institution to train more, to send more into the streets. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: May I ask Honourable Tjiuiko a question? Honourable Tjiuiko, you were a Deputy Director in the Ministry of Trade and Industry, which is there to advise how to develop Namibia. Can you bring to this House some of your proposals

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where you advised Government to train people in certain trades? Do you have such a document?

HON TJIHUIKO: I think that when you are making such statements you should remember that your neighbour on your right-hand side was not a Deputy Director, he was actually a Deputy Minister. If you are trying to say, nothing was happening in that Ministry, if you are saying that, your next-door neighbour has also failed together with TjiHuiko? Be careful when making some of these statements. It is like Ramatex, the decision to set up a Company of that nature was approved by Cabinet.

I am very serious about this issue of training of young Namibians. I believe we should first do a study on the market needs for the next five years. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: On a Point of Information, just for clarification on what was said earlier on. There was a question whether the “*coalition of the nine*” are here and I just want to confirm that they are here, represented by two Parties.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, two days ago I was reading in a newspaper that a fish pond was established somewhere near a river and what happened is that the fish grew and the crocodile came from the river and ate the fish. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable TjiHuiko a question? Honourable TjiHuiko, I know what you are a successful farmer. Have you killed all the jackal and leopards that are destroying your small stock?

HON TJIHUIKO: On a serious note, I believe that the moment we decide to embark on training, we need to do a study and identify what is needed by the

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market and train people for the market, not train people for the streets.
(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I would like to ask the Honourable Member a question. I want to query that comment by the Honourable Member where he said that this House is not a rubberstamp House, to be provided with a Bill that they should just pass it. They ought to have been provided with a feasibility study that shows this is feasible and there is a demand. This project of establishing NIPAM as probably been on our Budget for three years or more and this House has been appropriating funds to Vote 02, Office of the Prime Minister, to do, amongst others, what they have done under the NIPAM project. If the Honourable Members were expecting a Report before they pass the Bill, why is it that they appropriated so much money to establish the Institution, if they are not certain about the feasibility of establishing the Institution? Is the comment of the Honourable Member not somehow casting doubt on the judgment of the Members of this House?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Minister, if you look at the comments by the people from this side of the House when it comes to the Budget of Education, that is the most criticised Budget. We were always saying that do not Budget unless (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. The Honourable Minister is talking about Vote 02, not Vote 10.

HON TJIHUIKO: Anything that has something to do with education is with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Education. There must be a link, they should not be treated in isolation and that is the problem that you have every Ministry doing their own little thing and there is no coordination.

What I am saying is that any training that is being done by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare should be in line with the objectives of the Ministry

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of Education and for the Minister of Education to be able to direct, because we are talking about training and education. That is why we are always coming up with this thing of available training, but training for what? Let us look at what does the market want?

We have a report here from the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, which states that they do not have trained social workers. We need to train social workers because the Ministry needs social workers. We need to give scholarships for people to be trained for that sector. What do we do? We are now discussing something that was not properly done and that is my concern. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY; I am rising in terms of Rule 102. Comrade Speaker, I know that you have not yet applied the first part of that Rule, but I also know that the Honourable Member who is now on the Floor has been speaking for three days now. I am just trying to find out whether Rule 102 could not be invoked. Is the time not fast approaching for that Rule to be invoked?

HON TJIHUIKO: If it were not the interruptions, I could have concluded by now. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask Honourable Tjiuiko a question? Honourable Tjiuiko, you are talking about the crocodiles eating the fish in the pond. When an animal was created here, I warned you that this animal is coming to eat you and it has eaten you already. You have thrown away your Manifesto's.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Minister, when you have developed a fear of something and you see your own shadow, then you say "*Hidipo!*" That is the problem. Sorry, I withdraw that. That is the problem, when you see your own shadow, then you think about that. (Intervention)

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Tjihuiko, I know that you have never read this Bill, you just want to make political statements, but let me ask you a question. Honourable Tjihuiko, do you know the word “*cannibalisation?*” The only person who should fear the shadow of a cannibal is you, because you do not want to be cannibalised.

HON TJIHUIKO: I think the Right Honourable Prime Minister should withdraw that one. In conclusion, Honourable Speaker.... (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: I really would want us to make progress. I am going to announce how many days we have left before the 21st of March to do business in this House and I will be asking the Honourable Members to make interventions only when necessary, otherwise the Government’s programme that is now on the calendar of the House is going to be thrown out.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, the biggest problem that we have in this beautiful country of ours is the problem of refusing to think, the problem of refusing to read and the problem of refusing to plan properly. We have an attitude of shoot first and ask questions later. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: I think the point that Minister Mutorwa made is becoming valid. You are allowing yourself to be derailed and it is eating too much into your own time.

HON NAMBAHU: I have sympathy with the Speaker’s appeal, but the Honourable Member keeps on talking about training for no market. Educate me, Honourable Member, how do you conduct a feasibility study or a market study for in-service training? I just want to hear how that is done. If you have not read the Bill, you should probably just sit down.

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HON TJIHUIKO: In-service training and you are setting up a new Institution. Then you must have information on which you are going to base your decision to establish an institution of that nature. Now you are raising my exact concern. You train people but young people should also come to the Public Service. What would happen to those? (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I just want to share information. First of all, we have regularly released reports on labour market information in this country, so we do know the gaps in the market. We also know the capacity of the current educational institutions to address the gaps in the market and we know what excess gaps remain that can still be addressed within an Institution like this. We are already doing something on the Budget, so he really does not have to be concerned about that, we have done our assignment and we are confident that this Institution will serve a useful purpose.

HON TJIHUIKO: Let me try to conclude, but before I conclude, Honourable Minister, if you have done your studies, as you are saying, you could have set up an institution for entrepreneurship training and not for the training of civil servants, because this country needs entrepreneurs. This country has young people who cannot get jobs, so you need to train these people to start creating jobs. Therefore, your target is wrong, as usual. (Intervention)

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE,
SPORT AND CULTURE:** I just want to ask a question to Honourable Tjiuiko. Honourable Tjiuiko, since you are so concerned about feasibility studies and information before you do that, I am just wondering whether a feasibility study was done to ascertain the viability of the “*Coalition of Okahandja?*”

HON SPEAKER: Out of Order.

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HON TJIHUIKO: Before I embark upon a new institution, I would definitely look at the basic information and then, on the basis of that, I would decide that yes, indeed, there is a need for that specific Institution and we need to spend money on that, because it will address a specific identified problem, not only for us as a country, but it should also be beneficial to our neighbouring countries, because that will be the only way you will have an institution which is able to sustain itself. If we concentrate on the current Civil Servants we have, people are getting old and getting out of Government, therefore young people will be tempted to be trained in order for them to be ready to take over those vacancies.

Therefore, let us look at what is needed in this country and then do exactly that. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Katali.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: I thank you, Honourable Speaker. I rise to give my brief contribution to the Bill. I would like to welcome and support the institution that this Bill seeks to establish.

Honourable Speaker, a lot has already been said about the importance of the institution and I do not intend to repeat what others have said, but it is true that we have Civil Servants who came from different backgrounds in terms of those who were professionally trained in their fields and those who were not professionally trained for what they are doing. Those who have received training might have missed some of the work ethics, while at the same time there are those who received training in their professions combined with the work ethics.

A week ago, I called on one of the officials in a certain Ministry and I know it was exactly 12:51 on my watch and then the person told me, “*no, the person you are looking for is not available, it is lunchtime.*” It was very unfortunate for that official, because I had to ask, “*What time does your boss go for lunch?*” That official never looked at her watch to see what time it was and then I insisted that whether it is lunchtime, I am also working for the Government

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and I can call a person even during lunchtime. Then after a small argument, it happened that she gave me the number of the person I was looking for. I called the person, the person happened to be in the office, but the secretary said that person is on lunch. Comrade Prime Minister, that alone and many other examples that can be cited is enough reason for us to have the institution that we seek to establish. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a small question? Honourable Deputy Minister, when people are employed in Government, they are being interviewed and based on the interviews the best candidate is selected. You are now creating the impression as if you employ a person to be trained. Do you not think that sometimes we are employing the wrong people to be trained later?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: When I was studying, I happened to attend a workshop in a foreign country and during that workshop, I happened to be there with some Ministers from other countries, meaning that other countries are also training their Members of Parliament and Cabinet Ministers. Training is not supposed to be only for the Civil Servants. We are still young and we need a lot of information in terms of training. Therefore, the training should not be limited to the Civil Servants. We also need training in order for us to run our Ministries. Therefore, Right Honourable Prime Minister, as others have said, we need to look at how this Institution could target training for people like Honourable Kaura and others.

Comrade Speaker, I understand that training is essential and necessary, but I believe it is not the only solution to our problem, because a person can be trained, but if that person has not changed his or her attitude, that training is useless. We have experienced as a school principal that you have well-trained teachers from institutions of higher learning who know almost everything they are supposed to do in the classrooms, but being human-beings, some do not apply their training. That is why I believe that supervision and control must always go together with the training we give, because human beings like to be rewarded for whatever they do good and at the same time to be punished if they are not doing what they are expected to do. If our training goes together

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with these elements of punishment and reward, we are going to see a change in our civil service forces.

The additional elements to supervision and control and enforcement of the training go together with the legislation that governs the Civil Servants. Chief Ankama mentioned this fact in his contribution, that in order for us to do justice to the training and control, we also need to look at the Public Service Act. If the Public Service Act is not aligned to the solutions that we are seeking in order to improve service within our institutions, then we need to critically look at the Public Service Act. Sometimes it takes from 6 months to a year for a Civil Servant to be recruited because of this bureaucracy, going from this office to that Ministry, to that institution and that only for the appointment of a Clerk or Chief Clerk. Why are we so suspicious all the time and we do not want to trust each other with the responsibility? *I appointed Katali and Katali must do a, b, c and my boss must be able to see that I am performing or not*, rather than having so many layers.

It happens that a person is suspended and it takes a year for disciplinary action to be taken. It seems as though that post was never needed if you are able to suspend a person for a whole year. All this culminates into lack of certain values that this institution will try to address. However, as I am saying, it has to go together with changes in the Public Service Act.

For example, to dismiss a person will take many, many years. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL: May I ask a question? Comrade Katali, when is the DTA going to hold a Congress, now that the elections are over?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Once the Public Service Act is aligned to the objectives of the training, then there will be justice. I was informed that Under-Secretaries, Directors and Deputy Directors have no authority to transfer a person to another office because there is a critical need, it has to go right up to the Prime Minister's Office. It is a mere transfer the conditions have not

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changed. If we are to address all these things, the envisaged training will do justice to our service delivery in our country.

Comrade Speaker, with that brief contribution I support the Bill and I thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: I wish the Deputy Speaker could have risen to say yes, to what you said. I hope that the Prime Minister would look seriously into this. I have two Directors in my office, they were employed under different headings, but just to shift them, I have to go to the Public Service Commission. That is not good administration, that is very bad and if that is general across the system, it is not good. Honourable Kawana.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I rise to join my Colleagues, including the member of the SWAPO pioneers, to contribute to the Debate before this august House.

Let me, firstly take this opportunity to thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister, the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and, indeed, the entire staff of the Office of the Prime Minister for tabling this very important Bill. Finally, we have this Bill. Where we have efficient governance, they have always endeavoured to establish these Institutions. I am very pleased to see that at least this Bill is before this august House.

Let me first maybe address one or two issues, in the first place to emphasise Article 41 of the Namibian Constitution which states as follows: “*All Ministers shall be accountable individually for the administration of their own Ministries and collectively for the administration of the work of the Cabinet, both to the President and to Parliament.*” This goes to show that the Supreme Law of the land assigns a Minister to be accountable for the administration of the Ministry. Sometimes there is confusion, because there is a belief that a Minister has no power to direct the functions of certain Civil Servants, including Accounting Officers, in the Ministry. This is not correct according to Article 41 of the Supreme Law of the land. Therefore, the Minister, together with senior management, together with the Civil Servants in the Office,

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Ministry and Agency must work as a team and always remembering that should something go wrong, ultimately the Minister is accountable. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Comrade Kawana, I fully understand you on the issue of Article 41 of the Namibian Constitution. Theoretically, it is in writing, but it is not implemented in practice. I do not know whether you remember how many times I stated in this House that we need the Ministers to be directly accountable. His Excellency said that if a Parastatal under your Ministry fails, you will be held accountable, but what we see is that when things become worse and money goes missing, which you were not part of, it is only debated here and you are insulted by the Opposition, but you were not there.

HON SPEAKER: The implication of what the Deputy Minister is saying is serious. In the absence of the Head of Government, which is the President, the Leader of the Government Business is the Right Honourable Prime Minister and if Ministers are not allowed to do what is obvious, is it you, Right Honourable Prime Minister, who is the obstacle?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I am informed that the Right Honourable Prime Minister will address that issue.

Comrade Speaker, it is said that *knowledge is power* and, therefore, training is part of imparting knowledge to our Civil Servants. Let me also take this opportunity to address an issue, which is very close to my heart. In terms of the Public Service Act of 1995, it allows Civil Servants below management cadre to hold public offices in Political Parties and, indeed, that is done as one way of respecting the Supreme Law of our land, the Constitution. However, I think there is also confusion in that regard, because some of those Civil Servants have a habit of sabotaging the policies and programmes of the Government. Right Honourable Prime Minister, I hope this will be part of the training, to say that Civil Servants must be loyal to the Government of the day and if they are not, then they must go. I look forward to seeing a scenario

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whereby when you officially open this NIPAM, one of the fundamental documents of training for Civil Servants will be the 2009 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto, because that is the contract between the SWAPO Party and this Nation. That Manifesto contains some programmes that we promised this Nation. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: On a Point of Information. I am terribly sorry to disturb the Honourable Minister, you are raising a very important point, that Civil Servants must be accountable to Government at all times and that means any Government. However, for you to espouse the idea that a Civil Servant must adopt the SWAPO Party Manifesto in his work is wrong. The Ministers, as enshrined in the Constitution, who have collective accountability for the administration of the country, are the persons that must be guided by their Party Manifesto and execute their policies. To however, to tell a Director that there must be a Party Manifesto in your drawer, you are teaching Civil Servants to be loyal to SWAPO rather than to Government. SWAPO is a Party in public office, a Civil Servant must be loyal to public office. By educating people to be loyal to the SWAPO Party Manifesto, you are educating them to be loyal to SWAPO, which is wrong, and that is why some of the Members who are no longer SWAPO are trying to sabotage the Government.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Comrade Speaker, those who sabotage Government will face the music from now on. The Republic of Namibia is founded on the Rule of Law and democracy, the guiding principle is the Namibian Constitution. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Comrade Speaker, I would like to request my Honourable Colleague, AK-47, whether I can pose a question to him. I was following your argument very well. During election campaigns the participating Political Parties canvas for support from the voters. We go to these voters on the basis of promises which are in our manifestos and, therefore, the argument is that once these Political Parties go to elections and the voters express their preference in electing a particular Political Party on the basis of what is in the manifesto, then that Manifesto of the Party which has won the elections, necessarily is transformed

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into Government policies. I think that is what I understood from you. Am I right to understand that the message which you want to convey is that we went into elections in 2009, SWAPO won the election and, therefore, the Manifesto, the basis on which we were elected, is now transformed into Government policies and, therefore, there is no contradiction in requiring those that must implement the policies to adhere to the Manifesto? Is that the right understanding?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Speaker, it is not a new thing for us as the Ruling Party. Every election we have this Manifesto. Now it is 2009 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto. I am sorry, some of the Parties only have one paragraph in their manifestos. Secondly, you only come to learn about some Political Parties at election time. They are like mosquitoes, you do not see them in winter, and you only see them during the rainy season. In that sense, they are true hibernators, but SWAPO does not hibernate.

What do we do after elections, Comrade Speaker? We take this document to the Cabinet. Cabinet adopts this document, including programmes, which are in this document, to now be affected in Government programmes. That is why I am saying a Civil Servant must never sabotage programmes of the Government of the day. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: May I ask my neighbour a question? Honourable Kawana, you are talking about delivery of services particularly by the Civil Servants. How does it work in the rest of the world where there is a new Government? Do you keep those who sabotage or do you clean up?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL: The United States is a good example. Be it the Republicans or the Democrats, when a new President comes, he comes with a completely new team. To me it is very important that the Civil Servants must be made to understand that inasmuch as they are members of the Central

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Committee of the CoD, members of the Central Committee of DTA, members of the Central Committee of NUDO, members of the Central Committee of the “*Scrap-yard Coalition*”, they must follow the policies and programmes of the Government of the day. (Intervention)

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Information. I have also been a Civil Servant, I will never implement the SWAPO policy, and you cannot make me do it. What you can do is to make me to implement government policies. You take the SWAPO Manifesto, you bring it to Cabinet, and it is made a policy. Then you take it away and you print government policy. It can have exactly the same wording, but it must say on top, “*Government of Namibia Policy*”. There are two reasons for that. If you give me a SWAPO document like that and I am a Civil Servant, I will throw it in the dustbin because it does not mean anything to me.

Secondly, when you become a Cabinet, you are no longer a SWAPO Cabinet. Even if you get seventy percent of the votes, what about the 30%?

You are a Government even for me, His Excellency Mr Pohamba is my President, therefore you cannot force me to use that SWAPO document and I can tell you, the more you force that SWAPO document on the Civil Servants, the more they will rebel. Just take that cover off, take the word “*SWAPO*” out and replace it with the Government of Namibia and they will cooperate with you.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Comrade Speaker, I have never seen a DTA Election Manifesto, so maybe that is why the Honourable Member is talking like that. Maybe Honourable Kaura, the President of DTA, will give him a lecture.

Before Independence there was a DTA Government and that was never rejected and Honourable Kaura was a Minister in that DTA Government. There is a Republican Government, there is a Democrats Government in the USA, there is a Conservative Government in France, a Labour Government in the United Kingdom, you will never run away from that and those

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Governments are implementing programmes and projects that they promised the people during elections. That is what I am explaining to you and there is absolutely no contradiction. This is the document, you translate this into programmes and projects of Government and those programmes, and projects must be implemented to the letter. Those who are allergic to SWAPO Party policies and Government policy implementation must be shown the door and I will be very happy about that.

Honourable Speaker, I want to address a few aspects on page 6 of the Bill. In Clause 5(k) it says: *“To collaborate and strengthen partnerships between public administrations and Civil Society Organisation at central, regional and local levels.”* I am missing continental and international and maybe those two could be inserted. Why I am saying this is because we are coordinating some of our institutions, those at the sub-regional level within SADC and also at the AU level. If we say continental, we will take into account those policies we have adopted at that level.

On page 19 of the Bill, Clause 32(2), I get the impression that the training you are talking about is formal training, but I thought that one of the objectives of this institution is in-service training and when you do in-service training, there will be a situation where you will have to issue certificates and diplomas, but there are situations where you merely what is called a Certificate of Attendance and this is part of the aspects that we have to take into account. Sometimes it is mere workshops, which are refresher courses, whereby you issue the participant with a Certificate of Attendance.

Lastly, Right Honourable Prime Minister, if you mix orange juice, vodka, gin, *oshikundu*, *kaalgat Lager*, *tombo* etcetera, do you think there is any person who will buy such a drink? If that drink is not bought and the owner goes bankrupt, will that owner now take Government to Court? The scrap-yard coalition lost because it is a mixture of *kaalgat* and all those things. I rest my case.

HON SPEAKER: Before the Minister’s last sentence, I was going to tell the Minister that such a drink is called honey punch. Honourable Kaapanda.

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**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGY:** I thank you, Comrade Speaker. I also want to add my voice to this important Debate on the Namibian Institute of Public Administration and Management.

Comrade Speaker, the importance of this Institution has been underlined and emphasised. Government saw it fit to establish such an Institution after having realised its importance in addressing shortcomings and deficiencies in our Civil Service. Therefore, it is a well-conceived proposition, well thought and, hence, an important institution that will serve a very important purpose in our society.

Many speakers before me spoke about the lack of ethics and commitment to duty in our Civil Servants and this is one of the reasons why Government came up with the idea of establishing such an institution, which is not only unique to Namibia, but many countries around the world who have managed to establish well-organised and an efficient Civil Service have put up these institutions where capacity-building and training are imparted to their Civil Servants.

I believe that NIPAM will transform our Civil Servants through capacity building and training and through capacity building and training, our Civil Servants will change in terms of performance.

Comrade Speaker, lack of work ethics and commitment to duty is not only a problem with the government service, it is a general trend in Namibia. In other words, the private sector too is facing a problem of lack of performance. Therefore, when NIPAM is up and running, the training programme that will be conducted will not only be for civil servants specific, but I believe even people from the private sector will benefit greatly through capacity-building at NIPAM.

There is a general notion among our people of entitlement to salary, whether one has worked or not and this is an unacceptable notion. In my culture, we say “*Sha nakulya osha nakulonga*”, who works is entitled to it. If you do not work, you should not eat. In other words, no work, no food. (Intervention)

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HON HOFFMANN: I have a tiny question to ask the Honourable Member. Has the Honourable Member observed the same attitude that I have noticed at my kindergarten, namely that the workers say, *//Aetama ib xa ta ga //ō xawe ta //aetama* “I do not care from where they will get the money, as long as I know that I am working and they must pay me”, that attitude of “I do not care.” Are you aware of that attitude and what can we do about it? I believe in productive work for a productive salary. That must be the attitude of our people if we want to build this country and the Nation.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: That attitude that is prevalent amongst our people... (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, I would like the Honourable Member to respect the hard work of the donkeys. They carry water, they plough, and they are being whipped.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: I think the Right Honourable Prime Minister derailed my line of thinking, but I think donkeys deserve a good meal and freedom after hard work.

The attitude of do not care is what we are targeting to be eradicated amongst our people, so that they become productive workers. Productivity brings progress and development. NIPAM wants to change the mindset and inculcate a sense of paradigm shift in the minds of our Civil Servants to perform better, to understand their responsibility to be accountable and responsive to the needs of society.

However, to be able to achieve the above, I believe there should be some mechanism that would enhance the achievements of the goals of NIPAM. As was indicated, there are some measures that need to be taken, especially when looking at the Public Service Act. The issues of recruitment and disciplinary hearings should be addressed. Likewise, a performance agreement system should be put in place. People need to be held accountable, whether for their

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success so that they can be rewarded, or for their failure so that they can be punished. The issue of reward and punishment should come into play to keep our Civil Servants on their toes. People must understand that they have a responsibility towards the Nation, they are the servants of society, and hence they must perform and deliver.

We know that there are those who are sitting on files and delaying the implementation of Government policies and projects. We fail to create jobs and address the issue of poverty. The money is there, but somebody sits on the file deliberately and delays the implementation of the project that could have changed the lives of the people.

Therefore, I simply feel that NIPAM, when implemented, will change the face of our Civil Service. With that, I support the Bill. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until tomorrow, 14:30. The House stands adjourned until tomorrow, 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2010.02.25 AT 14:30

**ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
25 FEBRUARY 2010**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON SPEAKER: I have a note here from the Administrative Secretary of the United Democratic Front of Namibia that they would wish the House to know that today is their 21st birthday. Congratulations.

I said yesterday that the Government side should particularly look carefully at the communications we have received that are reflected each day on the Order Paper. If you were to count from today, the 25th of February, up to March the 18th, you must count the days and you, therefore, must advise us as to which items on the Order Paper are important so that we can schedule them. If we do not dispose of them, they will lapse. Those that are important in the judgment of the Executive will be reintroduced when the new National Assembly is sworn in. I thought it is your responsibility, we will do what we are advised to do.

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Dr Amweelo.

TABLING: REPORT ON 11th APAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

HON DR AMWEELO: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Report on the 11th APAC Annual Conference, held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 27th August to 3rd September 2009 by the Parliamentary Committee on Public

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Accounts.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member please table the Report? Any further Reports of Standing and Select Committees? Honourable Mushelenga.

**TABLING: REPORT ON THE MOTION ON THE FINANCING
OF SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES**

HON P MUSHELENGA: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Report on the Motion on Financing of Small and Medium Enterprises in Namibia by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration for consideration.

**TABLING: REPORT ON MODERNISING
PROPERTY RIGHTS IN COMMUNAL AREAS**

HON P MUSHELENGA: I further lay upon the Table, Report on the Modernising of Property Rights in Communal Areas by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration for consideration.

**TABLING: REPORT ON THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY
CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

HON MUSHELENGA: I further lay upon the Table, Report on the Pan-African Parliamentary Conference on Climate Change, held in Cameroon from the 25th to the 27th of June 2009 by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration for information.

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**TABLING : REPORT ON VISITS TO
CONSERVANCIES IN CAPRIVI REGION**

HON P MUSHELENGA: I further lay upon the Table, Report on Familiarisation Visits to Conservancies in the Caprivi Region by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration for information.

**TABLING : REPORT ON PEACEKEEPING IN THE
LAKES REGION**

HON P MUSHELENGA: I further lay upon the Table, Report of the Regional Seminar on the Contribution of Parliaments to the Long-term Peacekeeping in the extended Great Lakes Region held in Nairobi, Kenya, from the 7th to the 9th of December 2009 on behalf of the IPU Group.

**TABLING: REPORT ON THE UNITED NATIONS'
CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE**

HON P MUSHELENGA: I further lay upon the Table for note-taking the Summary Report of the Inter-Parliamentary Union on the Parliamentary Meeting at the occasion of the United Nations' Climate Change Conference, attended by a delegation of the IPU Namibia Group and I encourage Parliamentarians to read the Report as it contains useful information and proposals from the perspectives of Parliamentarians around the world. The Report will be submitted to the Line Ministry and the National Group on Climate Change for inclusion in future strategies.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Reports?
Honourable De Waal.

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TABLING: REPORT ON THE 10TH APAC CONFERENCE

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table for note-taking, the Report of the 10th Biannual APAC Conference held in Wellington, New Zealand from the 15th to the 17th of April 2009.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Report? Honourable Basson.

**TABLING: REPORT ON A VISIT TO THE PARLIAMENT
OF ZAMBIA**

HON BASSON: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security on its visits to the Parliament of Zambia from the 23rd to the 27th of March 2009.

**TABLING: REPORT ON A STUDY VISIT TO THE
PARLIAMENT OF KENYA**

HON BASSON: I further lay upon the Table, Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security on its Study Visit to the Parliament of Kenya from the 16th to the 20th of March 2009.

**TABLING: REPORT ON A VISIT TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
AND NAMIBIAN EMBASSIES IN SWEDEN AND AUSTRIA**

HON BASSON: I further lay upon the Table, the Report of the Visit of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security to the State

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HON BASSON**

Duma of the Russian Federation, Namibian Embassies in Sweden and Austria from the 12th to the 21st of October 2009.

Comrade Speaker, before I table the Reports, allow me to highlight some important issues that I have just taken from the Report on the Visit to the State Duma.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, as we all know, the relationship between Namibia and the Russian Federation dates back to the time when the Namibian people, under the leadership of Comrade Sam Shafishuna Nujoma, the Founding Father of the Nation, with the SWAPO Party of Namibia were fighting for national liberation and Independence from the apartheid colonial regime in Namibia. During that time, the then Soviet Union provided all support, which included political, diplomatic and material support to the people of Namibia through SWAPO.

After Independence of Namibia in 1990, this historic relationship was transformed and consolidated when the two countries established diplomatic relationships.

Comrade Speaker, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security is a Standing Committee of the Legislature of Namibia. It plays the role of oversight over the Executive through consultations with the relevant Government Ministries and Agencies. It can also undertake visits to its counterparts in other countries of the world to learn about best Parliamentary practices.

In October 2009, the Standing Committee, on its counterpart, was invited by the State Duma and we paid an official visit to that country. The visit of the Standing Committee to the State Duma took place shortly after the visit to Namibia by the President of the Russian Federation in June 2009.

Honourable Speaker, I want to bring out some important issues, which were discussed between our two Standing Committees. The Namibian delegation enquired about the possibility of purchasing the Namibian Chancery, which is also serving as residence of our Ambassador and residence for other Namibian diplomats, because as everybody knows, Moscow is a very expensive city. Therefore, we were just asking them to assist us. The delegation, in this regard requested the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs of the State Duma, and

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in particular its Chairperson, to assist the Namibian Government in purchasing the Chancery and other residences for Namibian diplomats through private treaty. He agreed to take up the issue with the relevant authority. I think this is an issue our Minister of Foreign Affairs can pursue further.

At the meeting between our Standing Committee and the Security Committee of the State Duma, the Chairperson of the Security Commission promised to assist Namibia in whatever way possible. He informed the Namibian delegation that a study was made on Namibia by their side and it was found that Namibia needs assistance in the development of its energy and security sectors. He further informed the delegation that they are currently studying proposals from Namibia in the energy and security sectors. He also stated that the Defence Ministry was willing to assist our Ministry of Defence with legislative drafting, depending on the required assistance,. I would suggest that our Ministries of Defence, Mines, and Energy could respectively engage the Russian Government on those needs and requirements.

Comrade Speaker, about the meeting with the Namibian students in Moscow, the Namibian delegation was briefed about the problems faced by the students there. Some problems included issues such as inadequate stipends for students, given the high cost of living in the country, lack of opportunities for internship for medical students in that country. Hence, students have to travel back to Namibia for their medical practices. I urge the Ministries of Education, Health, and Social Services to look into these problems.

Comrade Speaker, why I am making these comments is that sometimes when we table the Reports in the Parliament for note taking, you are not following up on what are in the Reports.

Regarding the Standing Committee's visit to our Embassy in Stockholm, Sweden, the Committee was informed of the high cost of living and Namibian diplomats receive their cost of living allowances in local currency. The staff members are prepared to have their collar in Euro, because they travel to other countries, which the Embassy is accredited to and where the collar is legal tender.

The delegation was also informed of the need for our Government to purchase residences for the Namibian diplomats, as it is cheaper in the long run.

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HON IILONGA**

Diplomats of foreign governments are allowed to buy properties on hire purchase. I hope our Ministry of Foreign Affairs is taking note of this.

Just like our Embassy in Sweden, the delegation was informed by our Embassy in Austria of the inadequate collar due to the high cost of living, the need to purchase residences for Namibians, including the Ambassador, the need to increase the staff complement at the Mission with at least one more staff member as the Mission, apart from being accredited to other countries, it is also accredited to the UN Mission in Vienna.

In conclusion, Comrade Speaker, the delegation was further informed that the Embassy was presently negotiating with the United Nations' Industrial Development Organisation for assistance to Namibia's small and medium enterprises and that the Organisation for Oil Producing and Exporting Countries has a fund that funds projects in none oil producing countries. I urge both the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Industry to look into these proposals.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, the Standing Committee delegation was urged to attend joint conference and meetings in Vienna and elsewhere. I thank you, Comrade Speaker, and I move.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Report? Minister Ngatjizeko.

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
EMPLOYMENT EQUITY COMMISSION**

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Comrade Speaker, may I use this opportunity to congratulate the people of Okahandja Constituency for the democratic way they have expressed themselves and especially the SWAPO Party for winning the combined forces.

I lay upon the Table, the Annual Report of the Employment Equity Commission for the year 2009.

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NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON TWEYA

HON SPEAKER: Table the Report. Any further Reports of Standing and Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions?

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Tuesday, 2nd of March, I shall Move –

That this Assembly ratifies the SADC Protocol on Finance and Investment.

HON SPEAKER: Minister Ngatjizeko.

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Comrade Speaker, I give Notice that on Tuesday, the 2nd of March 2010, I shall Move –

That this Assembly ratifies the International Labour Organisation Convention 100, that is the Convention concerning Equal Remuneration.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister please table the Report? Ministerial Statements?

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Speaker, thank you very much for giving me a few minutes to say something on a very important day today and a very important day yesterday, especially in Okahandja Constituency.

I would like to speak to the figures and I have a calculator and anyone who challenges the figures, may use my calculator.

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTION BY HON VILJOEN
RT HON N ANGULA**

Yesterday the people of Okahandja freely, democratically, and independently voted to select a candidate to represent them in the Otjozondjupa Regional Council and the results are as follows:

The total votes cast are 5,275 and the results are as follows:

SWANU, the oldest party, 51 votes, which amounts to 0,9%.

The independent candidate got 480 votes, which amounts to 9%.

The coalition of six parties, got 1,559, which is exactly 29,5% and if you are generous, make that 30 %.

The candidate of the SWAPO Party, Steve Biko Booys, son of Hans Booys, got 3,153, which is 59,77%, which is 60% and the winner is Steve Biko Booys. He will be sworn in as a Councillor of the Otjozondjupa Region tomorrow. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: We congratulate the SWAPO Party for yet another big victory and we are particularly happy that all went well, no violence, no incidents of any kind and that should be the way that we conduct matters of democracy in our country. Question 89 is one by Honourable Viljoen. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

QUESTION 89:

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I thank Honourable Viljoen for his question and I would like to reply as follows:

Late last year I launched the Performance Management Programme in the Public Service of Namibia. This is not the same thing as performance appraisal measures, these are two different things and the difference is as follows:

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTION BY HON VILJOEN
RT HON N ANGULA**

The Performance Management Programme requires that each Office, Ministry and Agency of Government, including the state-owned enterprises, be required to develop a strategic plan, clearly indicating the mission and vision, goals, objective and targets to be reached annually, resources required and a monitoring system. Based on annual targets, Permanent Secretaries enter into a performance agreement with the Secretary to the Cabinet. In turn, each Permanent Secretary enters into performance agreements with senior staff. The senior staff members enter into performance agreements with medium level staff and medium level staff members enter into performance agreements with lower level staff.

By way of a simple illustration, let us take the example of a Minister of Education, with which Honourable Member Viljoen is fully conversant. The Permanent Secretary in that Ministry shall enter into a performance agreement with the Secretary to Cabinet on behalf of that Ministry. The Permanent Secretary in turn enters into performance agreements with various Directors of Programmes and Directors of Education Regions. A Director of Education in the Region enters into performance agreements with Circuit Inspectors, a Circuit Inspector enters into performance agreements with school Principals, a school Principal enters into performance agreements with Heads of Departments at school and the Heads of Department enter into performance agreements with subject teachers.

The performance agreement is aimed at enhancing performance in the Public Sector by making Public Servants more accountable to their actions or no actions. Those who perform well on their promises shall be publicly recognised and those who do not perform shall of course, be penalised. That is the difference between the Performance Management System and the old appraisal system. Thank you.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I wish to thank the Prime Minister for the clear answer.

HON SPEAKER: Question 91 is by Honourable Kavari. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTION BY HON KAVARI
HON KAAPANDA**

QUESTION 91:

HON KAVARI: I put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I wish join the Deputy Secretary-General of the SWAPO Party. (Interjection). Yes, the same song must be sung repeatedly so that the whole world can hear.

Comrade Speaker, I would like to congratulate the SWAPO Party for winning the by-election in Okahandja convincingly. This is another milestone in our democracy. In the same vein, I would like to express my sympathy to the Honourable Members of the coalition who lost the election. Try again do not give up.

I would like to thank the Honourable Member who posed the question and I would like to attempt to provide answers. Hence, I rise to respond to the questions posed by Honourable Kaveri Kavari, a Member of this august House, with regard to the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation.

Firstly, I would like to inform the Honourable Member that the NBC is a public broadcaster, established in terms of Namibian Broadcasting Corporation Act (Act 9 of 1992) with the mandate to inform, educate and entertain the Namibian public and in order to promote peace and national unity.

The NBC is run by the Board of Directors, appointed by the Minister with the approval of Cabinet in terms of Section 6 of the aforementioned Act, while the Director-General is appointed by the Board under Section 13 of the same Act.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, currently the position of the Director General at the Namibia Broadcasting Corporation is vacant after the termination of the contract of Mr Bob Vezera Kandetu by the Board in 2009. Since then NBC is run by a Director-General in an acting capacity, appointed within the parameters of the Act, supported by a team of managers at the various departments of the Corporation. Hence, there is only one Acting Director-General at the Corporation.

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTION BY HON KAVARI
HON KAAPANDA**

Mr Speaker, administrative functions of the Corporation is managed by the Director General in cooperation with the managers of various departments. This team exercises control and supervision over the employees. The Board provides policy guidelines regarding the operation of the broadcaster in accordance with the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation Act.

Therefore, the notion of political interference in the Corporation should be considered a non-starter. In other words, there is no political interference at all.

The recruitment and selection process for this high-level staff appointment involve the following key actions:

- (a) The post is advertised in the print media, clearly stating the minimum appointment requirements and procedure to be followed when applying.
- (b) When applications are received, a shortlist is drawn up by the Board. Based on the requirements and specifications, the Board may decide on other additional methods, for example, psychometric assessment by a human resource practitioner.
- (c) The candidate shortlisted is interviewed by the Board or by a panel appointed by the Board.
- (d) An offer of employment will be made to the most suitable candidate for the job.

The advertisement for the position is currently running because the position is vacant and all interested candidates are welcome to apply. The appointment requirements are adequately stated in the job advertisement notice and nowhere in the notice is party-political affiliation stated as a requirement for this public office. I thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON KAVARI: I thank the Honourable Minister for his reply.

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTION BY HON DIENDA
HON MBUMBA**

HON SPEAKER: Question 92 is by Honourable Dienda. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

QUESTION 92:

HON DIENDA: I put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Speaker, I would like to thank Honourable Dienda for her question and her interest in matters pertaining to education.

The question was on the issue of a circular sent by the Director of Education of the Khomas Region and whether this was discussed with all stakeholders who were mentioned, including Trade Unions and the answer is straightforward, no, it was not discussed.

“If yes, when and what was the outcome of the meeting?” No meeting took place.

“If not, why not?” Then the elaborate answer is as follows:

The introduction of the intervention was considered an administrative arrangement and a regulatory mechanism. It is pertinent to note that teachers are Public Servants like any other Public Servant. In terms of Section 21 of the Public Service Staff Regulations, made under the Public Service Act (Act 13 of 1995), Public Servants are required to work for 8 hours per day. Section 17(1)(a) of the Public Service Act states that: *“Unless otherwise provided in his or her conditions of service, every staff member of the Public Service shall place the whole of his or her time to the disposal of Government.”* Further, Section 34(2) of the Public Service Act recognises that the Prime Minister can make different and unique regulations in respect of different categories of staff members to suit the varying requirements in respect of Offices, Ministries and Agencies or of different kinds of employment in the Public Service. As far, as can be determined, no unique regulations for teachers have been promulgated in terms of that Section.

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTION BY HON DIENDA
HON MBUMBA**

“If the trade union refuses that their members act on this call, what will the next step be?”

Trade Unions work closely with Government and it is my belief that they too have the interest of learners at heart and will, not refuse their members to adhere to this call as it is in line with the Public Service Act. It is expected for them to show understanding and commitment towards making quality education a reality in our country.

“Will compulsory remedial teaching, which is being referred to in the same paragraph, be free of charge?”

Compulsory remedial teaching is a pedagogical technique of teaching and its purpose is to provide remedy or to compensate learners for what they did not understand in the previous grades or past lessons. Learners do not pay for remedial teaching, nor are teachers paid for variation of teaching methodology or time period.

“Extramural activities mentioned in the same paragraph, what about teachers who are saying that they do not work for the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture?”

All of us work for one and the same Government, but the answer is: Sport activities such as school soccer, netball, volleyball, hockey, athletics and many others are part and parcel of school programmes and do not fall under the sister Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture, nor are they regulated by the said Ministry. Similarly, activities such as debating, essay writing competitions, educational excursions and so on are other examples of extramural activities that form part of school programmes.

“What is the outcome that the Ministry expects through this exercise and is it for the whole country?”

Yes, it is expected to be for the whole country. In the Khomas Region itself, there are already a number of schools that have made it a culture to work after school hours and we commend them even before doing so. Regions, such as Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto and Ohangwena, have now been operating on these principles for a number of years and they are doing quite well. It is

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTION BY HON DIENDA
HON MBUMBA**

expected of other Regions to implement the provision of Section 21 of the Public Service Staff Regulations, Section 34(2) of the Public Service Act.

I must explain that the new Regional Director of Education in the Khomas Region comes from Ohangwena Region where this system is practised. Maybe that is the reason why he quickly decided to announce it.

The intervention is informed by evidence that many of the schools that perform well are those whose teachers productively utilise afternoon sessions for activities such as:

1. Catching up with work that lags behind when students have been ill or when teachers were on workshop missions;
2. Doing lesson preparations for the following day;
3. Marking learners' homework and/or assignments;
4. Carryout compulsory remedial teaching;
5. Doing extramural activities, such as sport;
6. Holding staff meetings;
7. Conducting staff development programmes;
8. Conducting any other related or relevant pedagogical matters, and Assisting learners with further consultations. Learners who may have difficulty with certain components of their subjects and may want to consult their teachers after school hours are given the option to do so.

I would like to emphasise that this intervention is for the whole country as its implementation is supported by the Public Service Act as I have already mentioned. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Question 93 is by Honourable Dienda. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTION BY HON DIENDA
HON MBUMBA**

QUESTION 93:

HON DIENDA: I put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Comrade Speaker, the question is as follows: “*What are the criteria used to fund private schools?*” The answer is as follows:

The provision of aid to private schools is stipulated in the Education Act (Act 16 of 2001), in particular Section 49(1) and (5).

“(1) The Minister may out of money appropriated for the purpose by Parliament grant aid to private schools on the prescribed conditions and such other conditions as the Minister may impose, which may require the private school, among other things, to regulate admission of learners to the schools.

(5) Aid to a private school or hostel may be granted in the form of subsidy, the provision of materials, the provision of teachers through staff members of the Ministry, the combination of two or more of the forms referred to above, any other form of aid determined by the Minister.”

The newly introduced funding formula, as approved by Cabinet, with implementation starting in the 2009/2010 Financial Year, guides funding for private schools. It will be fully implemented as from April 1st this year. The criteria used are that all eligible private schools should admit at least 10% of their learners from formerly disadvantaged communities on full scholarships. However, if a private school is found not to be complying, a penalty equivalent to three times of the per capita subsidy is enforced.

The funding formula used to allocate the per capita subsidy in each private school will be calculated by adding 10% required for students on full scholarships, not paying anything at all, to the remaining number of the school-paying students, that is ninety percent of the enrolment and multiplied by the unit cost of providing education in a public school. If the school exceeds the required ten percent, extra compensation is given. The full scholarship does not include transport to and from school, as this remains the responsibility of parents and grandparents.

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HON MBUMBA**

What do we fund? The Ministry of Education pays teachers' salaries in some schools, provide textbooks, learning materials, hostel upkeep and feeding of learners, as well as school maintenance.

How much do we fund? For the current financial year only the Ministry has subsidised the private schools nation-wide to the tune of N\$74,516,107. Of that, N\$26,267,338 are for hostels and N\$48,249,168 are for school operations, paying for teachers and the maintenance of the schools.

Who are the private schools that are being funded? Below is a list of schools per Region that are being funded, but I must say here it is not the names of the schools, it is the number of schools per Region.

In Caprivi there are 98 schools and two private schools are being subsidised by the Government. In Erongo there are 47 schools and 15 private schools are being subsidised. In Hardap there are 51 schools, five private schools are being subsidised. Karas, 39 schools, nine private schools. Kavango, 322 schools and five private schools. Khomas, 70 schools and 30 are private schools. Kunene, 51 schools and three are private schools. Ohangwena, 235 schools, three are private schools. Omaheke, 34 schools, seven are private schools. Omusati, 266 schools, four are private schools. Oshana, 125 schools, six are private schools. Oshikoto, 186 schools, six are private schools. Otjozondjupa, 36 schools, nine are private schools.

I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: The House shall rise for refreshments.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:30 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

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

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**NAMIBIA INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT BILL
HON VENAANI**

**RESUMPTION OF THE DEBATE ON THE NAMIBIA INSTITUTE OF
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT BILL**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the House adjourned on Wednesday, 24 February 2010, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Right Honourable Prime Minister, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Any further discussions? Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I rise to support the Bill under discussion and I want to raise a few issues in relation to the Public Service.

Many scholars and professors have argued, rightly or wrongly, that many Third World countries are in their positions because of bad management of their affairs and the Civil Servants are the most powerful people to bring about socio-economic progress and prosperity of any country and if Civil Servants are not working to improve the livelihood of their citizens, then no Nation can develop. However, there is one notion across the globe, that Government business is nobody's business and it is a very negative notion that must be fought tooth and nail. There is a culture that when somebody gets into a Government vehicle, he or she drives it up to 180, because the petrol fuelling this car is not yours. However, when driving your own pickup to Otjiwarongo, you will drive at 120, because you know you have to pay for the petrol. This is why many resources are wasted by this notion that Government's business is nobody's business. Therefore, I feel this institution will play a very important role to ensure that we instil a culture of discipline in our Civil Servants.

Another issue which is very important and which is also worrisome, Honourable Prime Minister, is promotion in the Civil Service. The other day the Minister of Defence was explaining the hierarchy of the Defence, only one Lieutenant-General. Even in other positions in the Ministries, you are a Director for life until your retirement. Whether you perform or do not perform, you remain a Director because somebody has hired you as a Director and you have people underneath who want to propel the work of Government to serve communities better, but they are hampered by this one called a

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Director, because all he is doing is calculating his pension, he knows within ten years he will retire and he does not have to perform, because he has reached the limits of his career. Therefore, it is important for us to interrogate the question of a performance contract in this country. When you get a job, you must be able to deliver.

Most of the Ministers are subjected to performance. If you do not perform, you will not stay in that job, but a Director is Director for life. If you want to shift him, you shift him with his salary and all his benefits and the lack of performance contract with our management cadres is stalling efficiency and effectiveness in the Civil Service.

I therefore feel an Institution such as this can retrain our people to have the necessary ethics, that when you are given a job, it is not a job entitlement, it is a service that you must provide.

Taking the example of hospitals, there is a belief in especially Third World countries that a superintendent of a hospital must be a medical doctor. Many First World countries have realised that to run a hospital has to do with management and business administration, because you must ensure that there are enough drugs and that the linen are clean, but most of the time we think someone who becomes the Minister of Health must be a doctor or somebody who must run a hospital must be a doctor and that is not always the case. This Institution would be able to zero in on Superintendents who are doctors, who can be retrained to be able to manage those Institutions better and efficiently. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask Honourable Venaani a question? The question, Honourable Venaani, do you not think that if you have a person who is qualified in that line of business would be an added advantage for administration? An administrator may not know anything about medicines, therefore it would be an added advantage if it were someone who is knowledgeable in that line of business. It is not to say that a doctor must not be a manager. Doctors also have managerial training and all these things and it is not always correct to say a person must have an MBA.

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HON VENAANI**

HON VENAANI: You just entered the House two minutes ago, you did not hear what I was saying. You are saying exactly what I have said.

Generally, when you have to manage a place like a hospital, it has nothing to do with science, it has to do with business administration skills, because it is a business entity that you must run and if you are a doctor and a Superintendent, this institution can help you to get the necessary additional training to be able to efficiently run the hospital. In England, people have moved away from the notion that a doctor has to run a hospital. They require the person to have the necessary skills in business administration. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: On a Point of Information. Honourable Venaani, you are right, but the only problem is that when you take a developing country like Namibia and we adopt a system where an administrator of a hospital has to be a medical doctor, the problem is that many of them are practising while they are administering because Namibia needs doctors. However, what you are saying is that we should move away from having medical doctors as administrators, it would be very good, but then the administrators should be assisted to generally know about medical issues.

HON VENAANI: The other issue I want to raise, coupled to this Institution, is a culture prevalent in many developing countries. People obtain degrees and then do not pursue their line of studies. There is no culture of academia in this country and we need to bring it back. I always wonder why the University of Namibia cannot use people like Honourable Kaura, Dr Kawana, the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Tsudao Gurirab and many Colleagues to give classes. If the Honourable Speaker can give a lecture on international relations, he would be able to impart a wealth of knowledge to students.

One does not remember everything you learned at school and University, therefore you need to read continuously for you to be able to update yourself. If you have obtained a particular degree in 1970 and for all those years, you have not read a book, then you only have the basic knowledge. That is why lawyers have piles and piles of books and I am sure the Attorney-General has

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piles of books in his office. You need to update yourself on cases and law for you to be able to sharpen your wits on the subject matter.

Many of our Civil Servants have the necessary qualifications, but because of this culture of not reading, the knowledge is sometimes lost. We have a wealth of knowledge, and I have used the example of our Colleagues here, that can help alleviate this country from poverty and inform and educate people.

If you go to a country like Lebanon and see the size of literature on history, every hour of Lebanon are documented in books. There is a culture of writing in that country, but in this country, besides two or three *Informanté* stories, the culture of information is lacking and we need to promote it and an institution such as this can play that cardinal role.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the other issue that I want to touch on is the deliberate bureaucracy with the implementation of Budget allocations. We appropriate funds in this House, the Ministries want to implement certain programmes, and then you have the Under-Secretary who has forgotten to sign something for three months. You wait and every year the money goes back to Treasury and Civil Servants must be held accountable and every person who asks money for a programme must be held accountable why he or she did not spend the money. It is easy for Civil Servants to overspend on S&T and overtime. There they are not found wanting, but when it comes to spending money on projects that can alleviate poverty, then you hear they could not implement the programme because the time was too short. People in managerial posts who have to implement certain capital projects must be held accountable.

Lastly, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Kawana raised a very important issue yesterday of Article 41 on the Ministers' role to administer Ministries. There is a culture in many African countries that you become a "*Workshop Minister*". When you come to your office you are told to *go and open a workshop*, you do not have time to administer your own Ministry. There are some Civil Servants that have used this vacuum to remote control the Ministers and they think that they are better able to administer. Accounting Officers deal with matters of money, but matters of policy and direction should be done by the leaders, the people who are entrusted directly with the power by the people of this country. They must be the ones running their Ministries. I

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think Tony Blair wrote something on how powerful your secretary is, because your secretary decides who should meet you. If your secretary likes Venaani and Venaani calls and says he wants to see Honourable Mbumba, she would make sure that I see him. They are so powerful they control your life.

If you are lobbying Senators in the United States of America, do not talk to the Senator, talk to the *aide-de-camp*. The person who walks behind the Senator is the person who will have your appointments ready. This is the power that these people wield and if we do not control this power, you will realise that your life is continuously remote controlled, because you are not checking the work and parameters of the Civil Servants and your work as a Political Office-Bearer.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, with these few remarks.... (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Venaani, it is a pity that you are concluding, because your point you are making is very important. My question is, in order for us to get the system going, what can be done to help these remote controlled Ministers?

HON VENAANI: The one issue in this country is this culture of “*permanency*”. You have what you call Permanent Secretaries. If you do not want a Permanent Secretary, you take him to another Ministry, but if a person fails to run a Ministry, even if you take him to Prisons, he would also fail to run Prisons. There is a need for us to really ponder on the question of performance contract. You must reach certain targets at a certain time. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Comrade Deputy Speaker, may I ask Honourable Venaani a question? Honourable Venaani, to use the philosophy of remote control, NUDO, UDF, CoD

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, Honourable Member. Conclude Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Deputy Speaker, this is a very important issue and I conclude by supporting it.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Kaura.

HON KAURA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. When I saw this Bill on NIPAM, I was wondering why it did not happen twenty years ago. I am particularly impressed with (d) and (e) under the objectives of NIPAM, where it states that, *“to develop a new generation of holistic managers with the capacity to manage public policies, strategies and projects in a dynamic and complex environment”*. That really impressed me very much when I read the objectives of NIPAM and that is why I am saying I wish it happened twenty years ago.

Under (e) it states: *“To enable the Public Servants to acquire analytical, creative, advisory, administrative and other skills and knowledge necessary to formulate and execute policies and directives, respond to change, including changes in social, cultural, racial and linguistic character of the Namibian society and implement Government programmes, resources and services efficiently, effectively, sustainably and equitably.”*

That impressed me very much and as a student of History it took me back to a time in Japanese history where a person had to write a rigorous exam before he could become a civil servant. You do not become a Civil Servant because you were trained in a particular discipline. In Japan you had to take a rigorous exam, your whole family dedicated itself to your education to become a Civil Servant, and if a student failed those exams, they committed *Hara-kiri* or suicide.

There are only certain professions in Namibia, for example, where it is known that you will become a Civil Servant and that is particularly being a teacher, a

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nurse or a social worker. If you are an accountant or a medical doctor or engineer, you can go into the private sector, you do not need to go into the public sector, but because of the fact that there is job security in the Civil Service, people tend to go into the Civil Service just to have that job security as the people in the Civil Service do not get fired easily, even if you are lazy in performing your responsibilities.

One wonders, when you go to our hospitals and meet nurses, whether they took the Florence Nightingale oath. When you see the way they behave and their job performance, you wonder whether they just go there to get a salary or whether they are really dedicated to that profession. The same also holds for teachers. Those Standard 6 teachers or Grade 8 teachers who educated us were really dedicated. Those were teachers who did not wear a T-shirt to class, they were properly dressed and you could see from a distance that this is a teacher.

Our Civil Servants even lack the basic civility of dealing with the public, just being courteous. They still have this attitude of, “*what do you want*” instead of “*can I help you?*” This Institution, NIPAM, will really go a long way to train our people to become true professionals and to become true Civil Servants, because the Civil Servants constitute the first battle line in any success of any country and Government. If your Civil Servants were good, your Government would be good. If your Civil Servants are poor, your Government will be poor.

Every year the President addresses the Civil Servants and says they must shape up and even the Prime Minister did it this year, but now with the establishment of this Institution, it might not be necessary and I hope the establishment of this Institution will take our Civil Servants to greater heights and I support the Bill.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Any further discussion? Honourable Minister Mutorwa.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:
Comrade Speaker, I move that the Debate be adjourned until Tuesday, the 2nd of March 2010.

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BANKING INSTITUTIONS AMENDMENT BILL
HON T GURIRAB

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Debate stands over until Tuesday. The Secretary will read the second Order of the Day.

RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING:
BANKING INSTITUTIONS AMENDMENT BILL

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Thursday, the 18th of February 2010, the Question before the Assembly was the Motion by the Honourable Deputy Minister of Finance, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable Tsudao Gurirab adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I rise to say that we support the object of the Bill. Honourable Deputy Speaker, we all have recently witnessed the meltdown of the global financial system. At the core of the meltdown of this system was the governance of the financial system, and

the Bill that is being brought in front of us is to strengthen the governance and oversight of our financial system. It does two things, one it does that, and secondly it strengthens the governance of the regulatory system, which already is in place. I said here, speaking in a different debate, that already the system we have in place, if compared to jurisdictions of other systems, is a robust one. What this Amendment will do is to strengthen what is already a functional system.

The second thing that the Bill does, Honourable Deputy Speaker, is to look after the interests of the clients, because after all, one of the key responsibilities of authorities is to look after the investments, savings and deposits of the general public, and what the Bill does is to strengthen that governance part of looking after the interest of the customers. These are the two things the Bill does and for those reasons, we support the Bill.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Any further discussion? None. Does the Honourable Deputy Minister of Finance wish to reply?

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PAYMENT SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT BILL
HON DR KAWANA

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, let me thank the Honourable Tsudao Gurirab and the Honourable Members for their overwhelming support. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I now put the Question, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Any objections? Agreed to. The Secretary will read the Bill a Second Time.

BANKING INSTITUTIONS AMENDMENT BILL

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

**RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING: PAYMENT SYSTEMS
MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT BILL**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Thursday, 18 February, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable De Waal adjourned the Debate. Any further discussion? Honourable Kawana.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Deputy Speaker, let me take this opportunity to commend my senior Colleague, the Honourable Minister of Finance, the Deputy Minister and indeed, the entire staff of the Ministry for coming up with this very important piece of legislation.

For some time now the Namibian people, especially depositors, have receive a raw deal from our banking and other financial institutions. I am reliably informed that Namibia is one of those countries within SADC, if not within the continent, where banks make more profits on bank charges than on any other

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HON DR KAWANA

item. We are all aware that when you open a bank account and you deposit money in that account, there will be deductions. Every time you withdraw money, there are deductions. Even if you do not withdraw, you will after a certain period be told your bank account is negative and you owe the bank some money, because they want you to deposit so that they deduct, they want you to withdraw so that they deduct. At the end of the day, you become poor like the poor and, indeed, you are discouraged to deposit.

Therefore, this Bill is aimed at addressing this most unfortunate situation, which is robbing our people, especially the low-income people, because some of these bank charges are fixed at very, very unreasonable rates.

I am aware that when you deposit money, there is a fixed percentage charge; when you withdraw, there is a fixed amount. I know of some victims who have suffered where with every withdrawal they were charged with more than thirty dollars.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, I know we are victims of the free market economy, we are victims of the capitalist system, but even the headquarters of capitalism, Western Europe and North America, have learned the hard way. This *laissez-faire* theory of saying, let the market regulate itself, that does not really apply. Otherwise, there will be cartels, in which case the depositors will become victims. We have seen the financial scandals of Western Europe, North America where depositors were taken for granted, and as a result, those banks would have collapsed had the Government not applied socialist systems of bankrolling them, so much, so that today most of those are public institutions, contrary to the core principle of capitalism.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, let me also maybe add another element, which is part of this Second Reading Debate. Sometimes I compare certain situations in life, such as Siamese twins who are sharing one heart and they are told that this one heart can no longer save both babies and, therefore, there must be an operation and it is inevitable that one of the babies must die. This is exactly the situation in Namibia regarding the Opposition Political Parties. They are heading for extinction. That is why they formed the scrap-yard coalition to see if they can survive, but unfortunately they are sharing one heart and it is impossible for one heart to sustain all of them. In this regard, let me congratulate the SWAPO Party for its decisive victory. I thank you.

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RT HON N ANGULA

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I would like to congratulate the Minister of Finance for introducing this Bill. I believe this Amendment is in respect of late Honourable Reinhardt Kalla Gertze who left the Motion on this issue on the Table and for that, I congratulate the Minister.

The Amendment seeks for the Bank of Namibia to determine the standards for user fees and charges. This is a step in the right direction, but I have one issue that I want the Minister to include here.

There is this problem in our banking system: Those of us who have a culture to save sometimes put our money into an inflation flexi kind of instrument and if you are lucky, they will give you 7%, but when you go there to borrow, they demand 17%. The difference between 7 and 17 is too big. The basic Repo Rate is 13%, there should at least be a relationship between the basic Repo Rate and earnings on my investment. There should also be a relationship between the Repo Rate and what the bank earns on my money, which is borrowed by somebody else. However, there is no relationship and I thought these things should also be regulated, that the savers should also be compensated. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: May I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister a question? Right Honourable Prime Minister, are you aware of the fact that when the Bank of Namibia announces a drop of the Repo Rate, the banks would take between a month and three months to adjust? How is it allowed? The Reserve Bank announced a drop to ease the pressure on the economy of people, but the banks would only comply after a period of time. Have you seen that trend?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Yes, that is still a quarrel between the Central Bank of Namibia and some commercial banks. Some of them have simply refused to do that. Why? Because decisions of that nature are not

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made here, decisions of that nature are made across the border and those people across the border look out for themselves, they do not think about what it means for a small economy such as Namibia. Last year the Bank of Namibia refused to follow the Reserve Bank of South Africa, especially on this thing of inflation targeting.

I suspect the big people across the border think that if our banks follow the Repo rate of the Bank of Namibia, borrowers will come to Namibia, borrow from here because it will be cheaper, and ignore their banks there in South Africa. I suspect that may be the reason. The other reason is greed. These people are compensated with profit and the urge to charge you so that they can make exorbitant profits so that they can also earn exorbitant income is to do that kind of manipulation. This happens in many other instances.

When our own company called NAMCOR buys oil, they are always caught in that kind of situation. The people decide not to supply oil until the price has gone up, then they start offloading at the higher price, whereas we were supposed to have benefited from the low price of crude oil. That is happening all over the place and it is a consequence of greed and it is really a problem to protect the public. However, at least the Minister has gone a long way to respond to the concerns of late Gertze and also the concerns of this Parliament, but I want her to go further and also regularise what you earn on your savings and when you borrow money from the bank, so that there is some kind of relationship there. For now, there is no incentive for people to save because of that imbalance.

Another issue is that because of this sort of thing, there is a tendency developing in Namibia with certain companies who do not want to accept cheques or credit cards. There is now a tendency of a cash economy. Imagine, the other day I went to buy a reconditioned engine from a certain company which costs N\$7,000. The person wanted me to pay N\$7,000 from my pocket. I wanted to know whether he would accept a bank guaranteed cheque, he said *no*, not anything to do with the bank, *and I do not work with them because they charge too much*. Very soon this economy is going to be a China Town economy if these charges are not properly controlled and I think the Minister should do something about it so that the banking system should be responsive to the needs of the client. With those few words, I support the Bill.

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HON T GURIRAB

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Gurirab.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Deputy Speaker, when I rose on an earlier Motion it was an oversight on my part not to congratulate my Colleagues who were successful in the elections in Okahandja.

Deputy Speaker, we welcome this Amendment. We particularly wish to congratulate the authorities for developing the National Payment System over the last couple of years. The Bill in front of us is to amend the Act, which is already in place. What the Amendment does is to give the authorities discretion and here they say the essence of a good law is not to have discretion or to have as little discretion at all as possible. I trust this discretion to determine, to decide on the charges, which the banks will levy to clients, and that the authorities will use this new instrument, this additional power in a judicious manner, because the last thing we want to do is to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs.

If I were the Prime Minister's financial adviser, I would tell the Prime Minister not to take his money to a bank at all. The only safe place to invest it is to put it on your mortgage bond and again, if you are borrowing, to borrow it from that instrument. Anything else with the bank is a waste of time, but that is beside the point.

Returning to the Act on the Floor of the House, Deputy Speaker, and the Amendment Bill is to allow, as I already said, to give the authorities the power to determine what costs the banks should charge in delivering these services to us. I agree with other Honourable Members who have spoken before me that the cost of delivering banking services to the public here is simply exorbitant. Anybody can at the end of the trading period of any bank pick up their annual report and look at the profit margins. The costs, which the banks are charging, are simply exorbitant and I believe the object of this Bill is to try to do something about that, but I want to caution that the intention is not to overreact, to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs.

Those are the few remarks I wanted to make, Honourable Deputy Speaker and we support the object of this Bill.

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HON NAMBAHU

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Nambahu.

HON NAMBAHU: I also want to congratulate the Minister for going a step further in trying to reign in the banks. I have only one question, like the Right Honourable Prime Minister and all the other Colleagues who have asked how the Ministry is preparing to go a step further. I do not know whether that phenomenon is taking place here, but it is taking place somewhere else and it is actually the instruments that the banks are coming up with to make money for the bank and not for their shareholders. That borders on speculation, money that is not there and at the end of the day this is a collusion of inflating and they even employ people to make money for the bank, not for anyone else. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: May I ask Comrade Nambahu a question? The philosophy of providing services is to make money. We are not saying that the bank should not make money. However, are you aware that the 7% interest they are giving you per year is divided monthly and you are only getting it for six months? They double their profits in this manner because people are not really calculating. It sounds as if it is interest for the whole year but in reality, it is only for six months.

HON NAMBAHU: These are actually the kinds of tricks that are built into the system. Somebody spoke about banks making money for themselves and not for the shareholders and if you go into the reasons, why the banks in the United States got into trouble, then that is one of the reasons. No one wants to talk about that because there is almost no way of stopping it and that we want to know if the phenomenon is also prevalent in this part of the world and if so, what could be done? (Intervention)

HON T GURIRAB: On a Point of Information. The two Bills, which we are discussing are complementary. You are in business to make money for shareholders, but in institutions such as banks, we put our money there and if the bank fails, it is not only the money of the shareholders, which is at risk, it is

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also our money, which we have deposited with the bank which is lost. The bank will make money for themselves and for the shareholders. I believe what my Colleague is talking about is risky investments in which the banks invest our money and what the first Bill is trying to do is to tighten those, to have a regulatory environment, that the authorities have greater instruments to control that the banks do not risk our money on those kind of things. Therefore, the two Bills we are discussing are complementary.

HON NAMBAHU: I thank Honourable Gurirab for understanding. The point I am trying to make is that regulation that has to come in to curb that risky part, whereby if the bank collapses, it is not only the money of the shareholders, it is all the other people. What do you understand when they say it is too big to fail? It is because of all those other things.

My question was just for us to really flag that point and if you investigate a bit further, you would find that that is a hot potato that no Government wants to publicly tackle. I just wanted to find out that if that phenomenon is around here, how is it addressed and if not, would there be measures to look into that?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Katali.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: I Move that the Debate be adjourned until Tuesday, next week.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Debate stands adjourned until next week Tuesday. I ask the Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House until Tuesday next week.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I Move that the House adjourns until Tuesday, the 2nd of March.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2010.03.02 AT 14:30.

**ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
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The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

TABLING: REPORT ON THE 6TH SADCOPAC CONFERENCE

HON DIERGAARDT: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table for note taking, the Report on the 6th SADCOPAC Conference, held in Lusaka, Zambia from the 31st of August to the 3rd of September 2009, attended by a delegation of Namibian members of the Public Accounts Committee.

SADCOPAC is an organisation of Public Accounts Committees that was established in October 2003 in Johannesburg, South Africa and its membership is open to all members of the SADC Region. The conference dealt with four thematic issues, namely, enhancing the oversight functions of Public Accounts Committees through networking; secondly, transparency and accountability in defence and security sectors; thirdly, relationship between Public Accounts Committees and security and law enforcement agencies involved in the fight against the abuse of public resources and challenges posed by legal frameworks in enhancing the oversight function of Public Accounts Committees.

The conference was attended by all SADC Member countries and representatives from eastern and western African Regions as observers. Also in attendance were a representative of the World Bank and a representative of the House of Commons in the United Kingdom.

I encourage Parliamentarians to read the Report, as it contains useful information on the oversight functions of the Legislature over the Executive.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON TWEYA / HON ESAU**

The operational reports, such as the audit report on the books of SADCOPAC, done by the Auditor-General of the Republic of Namibia, the Governing Council Report on 2008, the Good Practice guide, the Strategic Plan 2010 to 2012, the Business Plan 2010 to 2012, the SADCOPAC Operational Budget and the Project Proposal to support SADCOPAC and APAC are available at our Secretariat. I thank you and I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Report. Any further Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Honourable Tweya.

TABLING: REPORTS OF AUDITOR-GENERAL

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, Sir, I lay upon the Table, Reports of the Auditor General on the Accounts of –

1. Village Council of Gochas for the Financial Years ended 30 June 2003 and 2004;
 2. Village Council of Gochas for the Financial Years ended 30 June 2005 and 2006; and
 3. Village Council of Gochas for the Financial Years ended 30 June 2007 and 2008.
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HON SPEAKER: Will the Deputy Minister table the Reports? Honourable Esau.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I lay upon the Table, the Annual Report of the

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON VILJOEN**

Ministry of Mines and Energy for the year 2008/2009 as well as the National Petroleum Corporation of Namibia (Pty) Ltd Annual Financial Statements for the year ending March 2009.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Deputy Minister table the Reports. Any further Reports and Papers? Any Notices of Questions?

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 98:

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 11th March 2010, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Justice the following questions:

If a Namibian citizen has sufficient evidence or is convinced after getting a legal opinion that a law or part of a law is unconstitutional, whom can he or she approach for advice, guidance and objection to the mentioned law or part of it?

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Question? Any further Notices of Questions? Any Notices of Motions? Ministerial Statements? Honourable Mutorwa.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly. I wish to inform the Namibian public and the residents in our country through this august House that the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry is very much concerned about the worsening rabies situation in dogs, particularly in the northern communal areas of our country.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON MUTORWA**

Rabies is a viral disease, mainly affecting dogs, cats and wild carnivores, but can also affect all warm-blooded animals, including human beings. The disease is transmitted from animal to animal through bites by infected animals. Rabies is thus a contagious and fatal viral disease of dogs and other mammals, transmissible through the saliva to human beings. Rabies can cause madness and convulsions. Affected dogs show unusual behaviour, which may include biting with little or no provocation at all. Dogs may become paralysed and are unable to swallow. Other signs include dilated pupils, biting other animals or any moving object. Young puppies become over-friendly and seek human companionship, but will bite when petted.

The high number of rabies cases in dogs, including three reported human deaths, is unacceptable, considering that the disease can be easily prevented through vaccination of dogs and cats. Anyone who is bitten by a dog must seek medical assistance immediately. Once a person starts showing clinical signs, then it is too late and the disease can be fatal. The heads of animals suspected of having died from rabies must be presented for post mortem at any veterinary office in our country.

Honourable Speaker, the rabies disease, in animals can be prevented through the vaccination of dogs and cats. The Government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry's Directorate of Veterinary Services vaccinates pets for free. Their owners are urged to take their pets for vaccination at the nearest State veterinary office or veterinary clinic.

Vaccination of pets is also done during vaccination campaigns for other livestock diseases. The response of pet owners to calls from the authorities to bring their animals for vaccination is currently very slow and very poor. For more information the public is urged to contact the nearest Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry's Veterinary Office or any available veterinary clinic.

We, from our side as Government, through the Ministry, are also appealing to and requesting the Regional Governors, the Regional Councillors, Local Authority Councillors Traditional Authorities and veterinarians to assist in disseminating this information to all concerned in the respective areas of jurisdiction.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON NGATJIZEKO**

Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for allowing me to make this brief but very important statement and to give the relevant information regarding this matter of rabies to all concerned. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister for the important information shared with us. Honourable Ngatjizeko.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly. I rise before you today to clarify some of the issues that have been raised with reference to the 2008 Labour Force Survey that was conducted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and to provide information generally on the surveys conducted by the Ministry.

As you might be aware, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare conducts national labour and employment related surveys to provide information on development and especially in the labour market that is necessary for national planning and policy formulation.

The methodologies used by the Ministry's Department of Labour Market Services conforms to internationally accepted norms and definitions, which enables comparisons to be made with labour market developments in other countries. Labour market surveys require considerable financial, technological and human resources. The department adheres to the following procedures in conducting surveys:

- Identify the overall reasons for conducting the survey, that is, what will we know after conducting the survey?
- Identify the respondents who will provide the most useful data.
- Determine when to conduct the survey in order to maximise coverage of respondents.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON NGATJIZEKO**

- Design the methodology of conducting the survey, including the number of people to be surveyed and how they are to be contacted;
- Design and produce the survey forms with the aim of helping people being surveyed to give information required in a clear and uncomplicated manner.
- Recruit and train interviewers to conduct the survey - in most cases surveys are indirect – by direct interviews to collect information, and
- Input and analyse the data, utilising specialised software for analysing social science statistical data and then report the results.

The final task of conducting a survey is to communicate the findings clearly and accurately, so that they can be used for decision-making.

The Ministry conducts labour force surveys every four years. The labour force surveys provide information about economic activities of the population aged 15 years and above, namely the overall rates of unemployment and under-employment as well as the details of such status by gender, by age group, by education sectors and occupations, regional, rural and urban inhabitants and the like, and also surveys the main source of household income and other relevant data. Information is collected by trained interviewers who visit selected households for interviews.

In accordance with the internationally accepted methodology, the survey uses a fixed date, like 28 September 2008, as a reference point to determine whether the interviewees are economically active.

The question that was posed is: *“During the last seven days, did you work for at least one hour for pay or profit or for family gain?”* Those who responded with a yes to this question are then regarded as being employed, while those who answered no are considered being unemployed.

Two definitions of unemployment are used in the survey. The broad definition covers people who are economically active and are available for work, but who are without work and who may be actively looking for work or may be discouraged and have given up looking for work. The rate of unemployment according to the broad definition is always higher than the stricter definition

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which measures those who are economically active and without work, but are actively looking for work.

The Report on findings from this survey has been finalised and was tabled in Cabinet. Cabinet, after discussing the report, referred it to the Cabinet Committee on Lands and Social Issues for further discussions before its release.

The Ministry also conducts *ad hoc* surveys of business establishments between labour force surveys, based upon planning and labour market needs. Such surveys include the Occupational Wages Survey of 2002 and Occupational Skills Assessment Survey of 2006. In the latter case, the establishment survey assessed the skills and occupations of the employed and identified employment opportunities, skills gaps and the causes of mismatches in employment.

The Ministry intends to seek resources to expand its capacity to conduct frequent labour force surveys and *ad hoc* establishment surveys. It is my sincere hope, Honourable Speaker, that this explanation and clarification has been useful to inform Honourable Members of the National Assembly on the manner in which the surveys are conducted. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for the important statement. Any further Ministerial Statements? None. The First Notice of Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Finance. Does the Honourable Minister move the Motion? Secondment? Objections? Agreed to. The Minister has the Floor.

**RATIFICATION: SADC FINANCE AND
INVESTMENT PROTOCOL**

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament. I take this opportunity to table the SADC Finance and Investment Protocol before this august House for ratification.

The purpose of the Finance and Investment Protocol is to facilitate deeper regional integration, cooperation and coordination between finance and

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investment sectors in the SADC Member States. It is aimed at diversifying and expanding the productive sectors of the SADC economies and enhancing intra-SADC trade to achieve sustainable economic development and growth so as to eradicate poverty.

The Protocol would further facilitate deeper regional economic integration between member states. SADC has agreed that the regional integration agenda be guided by the SADC Indicative Strategic Development Plan, which provides for:

1. A SADC Free Trade Area to be achieved by 2008; (which has been achieved so far);
2. A SADC Customs Unions to be achieved by 2010;
3. A SADC common market to be created by 2015;
4. A SADC Central Bank to be established by 2016;
5. A monetary union by 2016; and
6. A common currency by 2018.

The Protocol was signed by all SADC Heads of State and Government. However, it is not yet ratified by all SADC Member States. Thus far, only seven of the fifteen SADC Member States have ratified it. Namibia, by ratifying the Protocol, will bring the region a step closer to deeper regional integration.

Once Namibia has ratified the Protocol, it will become binding on us and we will be required to implement and comply with provisions of the Protocol. Within this context, specific policies and legislation alignments will be necessary, including in the following areas:

1. Creating a favourable investment climate for promoting and attracting investment;
2. Macro-economic policy area by achieving macro-economic convergence and harmonisation of fiscal and monetary policies;

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3. Mobilising inter-regional savings and investment;
4. Coordinating the work of central banks and non-banking financial institutions and harmonising their regulatory frameworks and practices; and
5. Cooperating in managing international capital flows and promoting the effective functioning of development financial institutions.

Implementation of these policies does not only affect public sector operations, but also those of private sector institutions. The local stakeholders in this process include the Bank of Namibia, NAMFISA and the Namibian Stock Exchange, to name but a few.

Significant progress has already been made in Namibia to harmonise policies and practices to those contained in the Protocol. Greater harmonisation has, for example been achieved already in the areas of customs and excise, statistics, foreign exchange liberalisation and macro-economic convergence.

Regional integration holds manifold benefits. Harmonisation of policies will provide more predictability in regional policies, which will encourage investment in the Region. However, countries will still have the flexibility to adjust their investment promotion efforts and programmes to maintain their competitive niche in the relevant sectors. In the case of Namibia, this could include mining, tourism and financial services.

Namibia's economy, as part of the larger SADC family, would be enabled to grow beyond the boundaries of our small market as a result of this Protocol and thus more easily tap into other SADC markets. This, in turn, would enable us to better address challenges such as poverty and unemployment.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I have, therefore, tabled this Finance and Investment Protocol document for the consideration of this House and for its ratification. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister. Any further discussion?
Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I rise to support the Protocol on Finance and Investment. Honourable Speaker, I think this is a very important international instrument in our Region to have a harmonised financial system within the Region, because all stronger economies across the globe are teaming up to strengthen their own economies and I think it is important for Africa and SADC to do the same.

One important area that this Protocol is addressing is the area of investment. Some parts of the African continent and more specifically some parts of SADC, for example, the Great Congo, Tanzania, can learn something from us. Some of these countries have no formal fishing sector, any citizen can go to sea and catch fish and Namibia, a country which has really gone to great lengths and whose Fishing Sector is respected globally, can rope in some of these markets. They can learn something from us, they can team up with our companies and create markets, which in turn would create jobs for those countries. It is one area where investment is needed for us to promote trade amongst our countries.

Another issue is the financial systems. One is able to make use of your debit or credit card across the globe, but in certain African and SADC countries you are not able to do so and it is just not acceptable that you can do business in Fiji with a Credit Card and you cannot do business in the Kisangani or Badaka in the DRC. Therefore, this instrument can play a big role in trying to link up the financial systems, so that it is easier for people to do business.

Lastly, Honourable Speaker, is the need for us to trust the financial systems, because when one conducts business in many parts of our continent, there is this lack of trust. Some countries expect you to carry suitcases to go and do business – like a former President of a country used to do, the late Kuku Wa Za Banga – because they do not trust the banking system. I do not want to mention countries names, but if you want to do business with your good neighbours, you can only do so under risky business conditions. I think this Protocol will be able to bring about security in the financial system of our neighbouring countries. Investors of our country go to those countries, but the financial cultures are very different, people expect you to pay from the boot of a car. Houses in Windhoek are bought from the boot of a car. People come and offer you five million, they just open the boot of the Pajero, and you get the money. These things are happening here.

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HON KAZENAMBO**

Therefore, it is important that we have financial security and control within the Region, because many things are happening. Many people are doing business here and they do not put their money in the banks, they stuff them into pillows. This Protocol can go a long way in addressing these problems. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Right Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. First I wish to thank the Minister of Finance for this very important Protocol and I have to say that next week the Republic of Ghana will be fifty-three years old. Ghana, as you know, was the flagship of African Independence and Kwame Nkrumah said, "*let us unite*" and that call is still very imperative for all of us.

The Imperialist forces forced us to go into territorial nationalism and we think that being Namibian is the highest form of patriotism, it is not. We must unite, starting with using regional building blocks until we unite the whole of Africa and this Protocol is promoting just that.

Namibia as a country wants to serve as a service centre for Southern Africa, to provide services to our neighbours through our ports, our railways, our road infrastructure, our communication systems, we want to provide that service on clear and transparent agreements, and this agreement is promoting just that in the Financial Sector. Therefore, I hope this Protocol will go a long way to push for SADC unity as a building block for the larger unity of the African people. That is the only way we can gain strength, face the world with full confidence, and hope that we can compete. Honourable Minister, I thank you for tabling this Protocol, I support it.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister for his upbeat contribution. Deputy Minister Kazenambo.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I support the introduction of the Protocol by the Minister of Finance. The provision on page 33 of the Protocol which deals

with harmonisation of policies and laws reads that: *“State Parties shall pursue harmonisation with the objective of developing the Region into a SADC Investment Zone which shall, among others, include the harmonisation of investment regimes, including policies, laws and practices in accordance with best practices within the overall strategy towards regional integration.”* That has captured my attention and it is highly appreciated in the sense that perhaps through this provision of harmonisation of the laws, mechanisms and remedies will be put in place with regard to losses, which are experienced by some Namibian investors.

There are some Namibian business people who have lost millions of Namibian dollars in some neighbouring countries and there are no mechanisms in place. Some of them have tried to call those neighbouring countries’ Embassies and they have also resorted to calling the offices of various leaders of Government and Political Parties, but to no avail. Therefore, I hope this instrument will address their plight.

It would also be good if a Protocol such as this could be accompanied by information-sharing campaigns by various Ministries for those who are aggrieved or who have lost money and even business people from other countries that come here and do transactions from car boots in dark corners in the mountains of Auasblich and Klein Windhoek. Those are the people who disappear, wear expensive suits, and threaten Members of Parliament that you dare not question me. Therefore, a mechanism like this one is very important for one to know where to report that if you are aggrieved, you have been robbed of your commodities. I welcome that the law will be applicable across the SADC Region in order to protect our business people.

Having addressed investment, I want to say something about finance, which has eloquently been addressed by the Honourable Member who is hoping to get something from the Courts, not from the electorate. (Laughter) I hope this Protocol will also address what we are experiencing with our financial institutions. What I am saying should not be construed as being anti-South Africa. No, those are our brothers and sisters and whether we like it or not, we are going to remain neighbours, but it does not make any business sense and it does not augur well for respecting one another in 20 years into Independence your ATM card is processed in Johannesburg or you are phoned by somebody from Johannesburg when you are dealing with financial matters. It is imperialism, it is economic ... (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Kazenambo, the Prime Minister spoke eloquently of Namibia becoming a service destination. India is one country where you have international call centres. You may be sitting in New York and you would want to ask about your bank problems, but the calls would be rerouted to India, to Bangalore or Bombay. We want to bring in the same business to Namibia because of the English eloquence of Namibians and the time zone. Would you in your mind argue that if Namibia ropes these international businesses through call centres, if people are calling us here, would that be imperialism or would that just be business? That is one question.

Then you were raising a very important matter. Most of the time countries accede to these international instruments and one part of your argument is very fundamental. While acceding to international instruments, Member States move away to negotiate as sovereign States to their own benefit while they have made deals with the BLNS or with the Region. How do we ensure that by acceding to this Protocol, we address the question of conformity or consistency? It is one thing to accede to a document, it is another thing to follow it and I think it is important that if our partners accede to this document, they must also follow them. Those are my two questions to you.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: You have taken it to another level and it is highly appreciated so that I can clarify. You have raised two fundamental questions that I will attempt to answer. Firstly, I agree a hundred percent with the thoughts or philosophies which the Right Honourable Prime Minister was advancing, which is the core of your question and which should be addressed. What I am saying will sound as if I am contradicting what the Right Honourable Prime Minister is saying and what your questions are also leading to.

I appreciate and respect it completely that in today's global economy the economies are positioning themselves to become economic service centres. Economic linkages and integration is a reality, it is something that we should appreciate, but while we are trying to open up and involve others to become equal players, you are putting up procedures and mechanisms that are disadvantaging and weakening them, either through bureaucratic red tape, or

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through other mechanisms. At the end of the day, it is more beneficial to the others, because the others do not have the instruments, which you have.

Agreeing with and appreciating your question and the thoughts of the Prime Minister on positioning Namibia as a strategic centre, I am saying that the instruments that we have in place twenty years into Independence, are not instruments that are compatible with the management of the global economy. They are primitive in nature, bureaucratic in nature, they have no respect for citizens of other countries. We are not equal partners. If you have lost your card, you are put through to Cape Town or Johannesburg and you are put on hold. You will wait and music is playing. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question, please?

HON SPEAKER: You may ask the question when we return from tea-break.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40

HOUSE RESUMED AT 16:215 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

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

Honourable Speaker, I will conclude by answering a tough question by Honourable Venaani.

Honourable Venaani, you have made reference to the role which India plays in international business and international economy and it is very true, but when you are dealing with protocols like this one *vis-à-vis* the example of India and the position of the Right Honourable Prime Minister of making Namibia a service centre, there are other mechanisms and other instruments that you have to put in place. India is specialised in certain sectors. We know that today the City of Bangalore is the capital of the information and technology sector and because of the investments in development of the information and technology sector, the companies based in New York, London or Japan are not using India

for the sake of that. They are using India because it makes economic sense, from the business perspective, the product perspective and other perspectives. Therefore, it makes sense for India to become a hub and although India today is a centre of linkages in information technology, they have not surrendered their laws and culture. They are a force to be reckoned with when it comes to World Trade Organisation and when it comes to liberalisation and opening up of the markets, they are not being pushed left, right and centre, because they have a sector which they control.

When we are digesting this Protocol, let us not kid ourselves here. Sometimes we must be realistic about the global business environment. For example, if we sign a bilateral protocol between Russia and Namibia that our ships will be operating in each other's seawaters while you do not even have a ship, in whose best interest will this instrument be? You do not have a ship you have a boat, but after how many months will you reach the Russian waters with your boat? We must be practical. Yes, it gives the advantage that you can apply certain measures when the Russian ships are docking at your ports, but you do not sign these things blindly for the sake of it.

Today we have companies operating in neighbouring countries and we must be thankful that we have our Namibian laws. Some of the companies that are investing in this country are subjected to international trade policy instruments and they pay tax here. In certain countries in this continent of ours, the companies operating there do not pay tax. These multi-national companies are mining there without any concern for the citizens. In Namibia we do not have such a situation and that is why I am saying that while we are promoting investment within SADC and Africa, we must we must also scrutinise the behaviour of individual firms operating in our markets, because some of these multi-national companies have no loyalty and patriotism towards your country and it is a reality, whether we like it or not. They are here to do business and to exploit the resources in the best interest of their shareholders and their countries for profit maximisation. They are not here for charity, they are here for business and we must protect ourselves when we are signing protocols. We must scrutinise them, see what floodgates they are opening, what job opportunities are they opening for our citizens, and not facilitate a role for other bigger economies. Here we have EPA, some countries are signed and we are still negotiating.

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With these few words, I support the Protocol, it is very beautiful and good, but it must work in our best interest, especially to protect our business people. Let us provide legal mechanisms so that our business people who are operating in the regional market will not be robbed of their products and money. I thank you and I support the Protocol.

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

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, I will be very brief.

Honourable Speaker, the ratification of this Protocol, as far as I am concerned, is long overdue. It is something that should have been done yesterday. It is indeed very important in the sense that, looking at the direction the world has taken, Regions are regrouping not just to try to show off. There is a direct benefit to the group and having a protocol of this nature ratified, obviously one would be looking forward to see its implementation, which is the critical part and I think Honourable Kazenambo has alluded to that.

There are a few things that we in Africa need to do, especially SADC and SACU, we need to improve on our inter-trade relationship, and we need to look at our direct strength. Namibia has its strength, therefore should not have a similar structure, they should use the structure Namibia has, so that Namibia can also help Botswana in other ways. These are the things that we need to attend to seriously. The financial benefits would be that the Region will be better and investors would now be looking at a bigger market, which is more attractive and, therefore, if we position ourselves correctly, Namibia would definitely benefit from this system.

The Right Honourable Prime Minister has mentioned something that is very close to my heart and that is the question of service centres for the whole of SADC. I believe that if Namibia seriously looks at moving towards being a real service centre, it will not only be for SADC. Namibia is strategic, it can also be used by the East, moving to the West. That is one area that we have neglected, to say the least.

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We were not wrong to try to establish manufacturing industries, but looking at the direction we have taken now, manufacturing will be very difficult. We may not be that competitive in producing products in Namibia and competing effectively in the SADC market. Our ties are really with the service industry.

A couple of years ago when I was still a good Civil Servant in the Ministry of Trade and Industry I had visited Mauritius and I was surprised that they have no industries. I saw that every shop in Mauritius has materials, which they are getting from other countries, export to South Africa and we go and buy from South Africa. They were buying from India, South Africa buys from Mauritius and we go and buy from South Africa. A service centre of this nature can also play that role, where now Namibia would now be the centre and whoever wants to buy materials would not have to go into the more crowded, bigger markets. They would come down to Namibia, which is more spacious and friendly. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: May I ask Honourable Tjihuiko a question? I think you are moving in the right direction. I just wanted to ask whether in your own assessment you really think we are serious as a Region and ready to cooperate in the manner that we want to cooperate now. I am asking this question in the wake of what I read last week about Inga, where DRC has to withdraw for its own narrow interest and leaving the others in the cold and we are supposed to be moving in the direction of intensified cooperation, yet individual countries are doing what DRC has done. Are we ready?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Minister, we might not be ready right now, but we are moving in the right direction. There will be many obstacles for us as Africans to achieve anything.

This morning we had a very good briefing by the Minister of Trade on EPAS and listening to what the Minister was saying and looking at it from a distance, one would wonder what is the problem that Namibia is not signing this thing, but when you listen to someone who is dealing with it on a daily basis, you will see that the road is rocky, but the point is that, indeed, *Rome was not built in one day*. I hope that in ten or 15 years' time, we will be able to reach this objective and I think it is something we need to take on.

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In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, I want to emphasise the point of this service centre and I believe this is something that the relevant Ministries should take serious and start doing a proper study. Manufacturing is the obvious way if we want to create jobs, but given the circumstances in which we find ourselves now, we should try to promote these two sectors and see how best we can move into being a service centre if the need arises. We should not leave manufacturing completely, but we should look at the industries that would be competitive in this open market. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: On a Point of Information in relation to the question asked by Honourable Tjiriange. The issue of signing and acceding to instruments, there is a link between those instruments and our own domestic laws. I think many of these instruments are built on the model of the European Union and also SADC, but the problem that we have with many of these instruments that we accede to is that countries often do not want to seek their own domestic positions *vis-à-vis* the greater instruments that we have and I think the Colleague should know that we have not created a trusted judicial institution where members would be forced to comply with something we have acceded to. This morning the former Prime Minister, Honourable Geingob, raised a very important issue during the meeting. He said most of the time countries decide to sign, but yet they do not want to comply, and that is a serious problem that we need to address.

I agree with you that SADC should not go ahead and sign these things, but we as countries should be able to know that these laws have direct applicability on our own domestic laws and we should be able to conform to them.

HON TJIHUIKO: If I have known, what Honourable Venaani is going to say I would not have said yes, because the information that he provided is exactly what I wanted to conclude with.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: May I ask a question? Honourable Tjiuiko, here we are talking about finance and investment and you are mentioning a very important point, that of balancing

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manufacturing with promoting the service sector. Maybe you can elaborate on the service sector, which would include transport, financing and other services. Are you aware that some of the neighbouring countries are running bus services between Namibia and these neighbouring countries, even between Namibia and Botswana and Zambia and our neighbours are making money? However, it is very difficult for an ordinary Namibian who wants to enter this sector. It is not only difficult to get a licence, but even more difficult to get money to buy a bus. What mechanism can we put in place?

HON TJIHUIKO: This is what I was saying, Honourable Deputy Minister. I was saying we should leave this to the relevant Ministries to look at it from a legal point of view and to see how Namibians could benefit from the structure that we have put in place. For instance, these buses could also be one of the things to be considered, as to how best Government can support the transport industry to do exactly what you are saying. I however do not think right now as I am standing here I have an answer, but I believe if the relevant Ministries sit down and look at it, they could definitely come up with proposals that would move us in that direction.

With those few words, I support the Protocol.

HON SPEAKER: I thank Honourable Tjihuiko. Honourable Iilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I rise to give my support to the ratification of the SADC Protocol and I do not have much to say.

I want to say that this is a business treaty, it has very good aims and objectives especially aimed at unifying our currencies. When Portugal did not have the Euro, you needed a suitcase to carry the Escudos. If we could have implemented this before, Zimbabwe would not have experienced problems because we would have one currency. We want to see that the officials work hard to see that by the year 2018 we realise that very important dream.

Another important aspect is the harmonisation of promoting and attracting investments in the Region. Investors should be encouraged to enter the region,

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but as Honourable Kazenambo already alluded to, some already have a base here and when the treaty comes into operation, we need to have an administrative mechanism to protect our own interests.

Having said that, I want to refer to Article 2 on page 15 and I want the Minister of Finance to explain. It says: *“The Protocol seeks to foster harmonisation of the finance and investment policies of the State Parties in order to make them consistent with the objectives of SADC and ensure that any changes to financial and investment policy in State Party do not necessitate undesirable adjustment in another State Party.”* It came with good intentions, but again it is diluted and I need some clarification there.

The other article I want to refer to is Article 16 on page 33 where it states: *“The State Party undertakes, through cooperation, to advance a competition policy in the Region.”* I think this is where the concern of Honourable Kazenambo comes in. At what level are we going to have that competition policy? We are not on an equal footing when it comes to industrialisation and I believe we need to pay attention to that.

In Article 17, they are talking about intra-regional and extra-regional agreements. Extra-regional means outside the region and while we say we want to harmonise, some countries may sign agreements outside the region and harmonisation will become a problem.

Article 18 deals with trade, investment and industrial policy and it also has a bearing on the competition policy. We are made to believe that capitalism is the best model, which it truly is not. It has caused us to be in the situation where others came in for profit.

Comrade Speaker, Article 5 on page 30 is to defend the capitalists' interest. It is the same problem we have in our Constitution, it sounds as if it is a fundamental right, that investments shall not be nationalised or expropriated in the territory of any State Party. Then they say: *“except for a public purpose under the due process of law”*. There is already an obstacle because those with money could have the best lawyers who can twist things around for you to succeed. It was already tested in Namibia when we tried to expropriate the farms of expatriates and the same principle is exercised here. Therefore, I only want to say that when this Protocol is going to be implemented, we need to

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have a law to implement it, rather than being a law on its own. I do not know whether it will be promulgated by SADC or each individual country.

With those few words, I support the ratification and we really have to organise ourselves so that we are not flooded with investments from other countries while we do not have any investment in those countries. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank Honourable Ilonga for his constructive contribution. Honourable Esau.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: I thank you, Honourable Speaker. I want to register my support for the Finance and Investment Protocol of SADC and I only have a few questions since the Protocol is calling for regional integration, cooperation and coordination within the finance and investment sectors.

Mine is with reference to page 16: “*Operating and coordinating among State Parties in collaboration with central banks and exchange of policies*”. On this one I want to find out why we have different exchange rates, repo rates and things like that whereas we are signatories to this Protocol and when will this Protocol be enforced to at least harmonise those exchange regimes, because it is the cost of capital that makes me to invest or not to invest.

There is a big outcry on dual listings of companies on the stock exchange and I do not know if the Honourable Minister of Finance could shed some light on the pros and cons of listing, because some people are not feeling comfortable with dual listing. I know when you list, you are doing it to raise capital.

On the enforcement of the Protocol, Article 29 on page 23: “*The Protocol shall enter into force after the deposit of the instrument for ratification by at least two-thirds of all Member States.*” Could we maybe get some indication how many Member States have already ratified this Protocol?

Lastly, on page 25 I can see that some of the countries have not signed, such as Angola, Madagascar. These are my few questions and I support the Protocol. I thank you.

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HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Deputy Speaker. Any further discussion? Does the Honourable Minister wish to reply?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I would, firstly thank all the Honourable Members for their interest in the Protocol and the constructive comments that they have made. I also thank them for their generous support of the Protocol, because I have not heard anyone who advocated for a rejection of this Protocol. It is indeed a very important instrument for promoting investment in our Region and in our domestic economies and trade amongst us as Members of the SADC Region. This is very important for the survival of our Region in the global economy and for the survival of our individual economies, because as small economies our best chance of survival is if we stick together as a group.

To react to some specific comments made by the Honourable Members, starting with the comments of *Honourable Venaani*, I just want to emphasise that the idea of harmonisation of policies espoused in this document is specifically intended to address the concerns that he has raised, because if we harmonise policies, be they sectoral policies in the area of fisheries or financial policies, means we get to learn about each other's experiences. We share the expertise and knowledge and, we promote a consensus among ourselves with regard to the direction we are to take in order to pursue the overall objectives for our Region. I think it is specified in the Protocol that amongst the areas where we would need to foster cooperation and coordination is the area of payment systems, where Central Banks would have to cooperate and this would promote the integrity of financial systems and also the promotion of good governance in that area, so that we make sure that there is appropriate supervision of these institutions in order to create a fostering of the integrity of the system and, therefore, the trust that is needed for people to feel comfortable to conduct business in our countries.

I believe what would be important in this regard will also be the promotion of legal governance, to make sure that people have access to the Courts and also to ensure that justice is delivered efficiently and timeously, in order to ensure that there is enforceability of contracts. If people can enter into contracts, whether written or unwritten, and they are not able to enforce those contracts because there are no systems in ensuring that, it becomes a problem. I think Namibia is already far ahead in this area. I think we have assured the world

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that they can come and invest in our country, that there are appropriate laws to protect their investments. However, where there are disputes, there is a credible system to ensure the resolution of the dispute. If these disputes involve stakeholders at the level of States, there is also a provision made in the Protocol whereby recourse can be sought through arbitration and I think that is extremely important that it is applicable in all the Member States of SADC. I think that the coordination and especially the structures provided for in here, the committees consisting of Ministers, would assist us to realise the commitments that are being made in here.

The *Right Honourable Prime Minister* talked about the need to promote SADC unity and I agree with that. The integration that is to be pursued through this instrument would also help us to realise that, because if we can realise in more practical terms how intertwined our destiny is, we have a greater encouragement to unite. If each one of us think that they can survive without the other or that their interest can be promoted by short-changing the other one, then it becomes difficult to foster unity. However, once you promote intra-regional investments and trade, then we have increased interactions, better understanding and there is a better chance of realising greater unit.

Honourable Kazenambo talked about the need to ensure remedies for losses and I think that would also be catered for under the provision that talks about the investment protection and also functional Courts that would ensure that there is recourse when people have been short-changed.

I also acknowledge the concern that he rose with regard to the processing of what sometimes are purely administrative matters beyond the borders. Our payment system requires for our financial institutions to localise the processing of these administrative matters. There is still a possibility for improvement in the compliance by stakeholders in the market, but there is commitment both from the Government and from the supervisors to ensure that there is full compliance by the members of especially the financial sector with regard to this provision. I see no reason why, if your card is lost, you have to call South Africa, because it makes the costs very high. I think that is something that they should be able to process here. Even if they have to organise for that card to come from South Africa, at least the query should be directed to a local point and be processed here locally.

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You mentioned that there is no judicial institution to force us to comply with commitments. I think that is very important for us as the Legislature to assure the public and our business partners out there that these institutions actually exist in Namibia and they are functioning satisfactorily. We have judicial institutions where, if you are aggrieved even by an action of Government, you can go to a Court and get justice there. People should have no concerns about that and I have already talked about the arbitration of disputes between States.

Honourable Ilonga had queries about the common currency. Yes, the common currency is very important. Unfortunately, there are very challenging measures that we would have to implement in order to get to that point. One of the issues, for example, is macro-economic convergence. If you look at the macro-economic situation in our Member States, they are so far apart and in a situation like that, it becomes difficult to have a common currency. Therefore, macro-economic convergence is one of the first steps that we have to take in order to move substantially towards a common currency and in terms of this Protocol, we would have to achieve other measures, like a common market and the harmonisation of policies.

I understand the dilution of that phrase in Article 2 to actually mean that we will harmonise policies as Member States within the Region, but there will still be flexibility for Member States to introduce measures that may be necessary to enable them to exploit certain niches within their own markets. Therefore, there is that flexibility, but then there is a limit put to say that provided that these adjustments to the policies, would not have negative consequences for another Member State, so that another Member State will be forced to make an adjustment that would be detrimental to them. That is what I understand this provision to be saying.

A competition policy means that we should have policies in place to regulate the conduct of corporate citizens. For example, we now have a situation where the bigger corporate entities from across the borders come here and engage in undesirable conduct, which has detrimental effects for the growth of industries in this country and the growth of our own economy. We would have standards of competition among the Member States to ensure that our corporate entities play the game according to fair rules and that that is done in a manner that enhances growth and equity within the Region. That is actually the idea, but that competition policy would not preclude any specific measures to protect strategic industries by any Member State within the procedures that are agreed.

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There are always procedures that would allow Member States to protect a certain industry, provided it has followed the procedures that have been agreed.

It was asked what would happen if other people are concluding agreements. That is a challenge of institution building and also a matter of development of a common policy, because if we harmonise and develop our common policies, we reduce the chance of us clashing when we have to negotiate with third parties. If we however, do not have harmonisation of policies, then there are no common objectives. Even if you are together as a group, each one is guided by its own national interest and may not be very well aligned with the other one. I think as long as gap exists where we do not harmonise our policies, we will always run that risk of clashing, because at the end of the day people will have to think about their national interest. In order for us to succeed to work together to pursue regional interest, there must be an alignment between these regional interests with the individual national interest of individual States.

Industrialisation and openness, I think openness in the context of the Region, because if we are agree that we are working towards a common market, we have to commit ourselves not to create official barriers among ourselves and we have to open up and that is going to create challenges for the smaller economies like Namibia. That would require that we should really make special efforts to build technical capacities and capacities of institutions if we are able to benefit, to optimise the benefits that come with this kind of integration that we are pursuing here.

I understand that expropriation is disallowed only to the extent that it is not done in terms of the relevant laws of a member state. I think the provision here is to say that the member States can pursue expropriation to the extent that that is done in line with their own laws that they have passed. In our own case, for example, expropriation is allowed, provided that there is a law and there is due compensation. I think if it happens that way, then we will not have to be concerned about violating this one.

I think the Protocol would be implemented through the adjustment to a variety of policies that are affected in the various sectors, as outlined here, where necessary. As I have indicated, in a number of cases, we have already adjusted and there would be only a few areas where we would have to make special adjustments, but probably not through a self-standing separate law.

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There was mention of different exchange rates. We are bound to have that, because an exchange rate is the rate of conversion between one currency and another and at this point in time we have a variety of currencies and it is bound that we are going to have different exchange rates. It will only be a concern if within a Common Monetary Area where our currencies are linked, like the Namibian dollar and the Rand, if we start to pursue different exchange rates. That would be a contradiction because we are linked one-to-one and it is not possible to have a different exchange rate. However, between the Namibia Dollar and the Botswana Pula we will have different exchange rates. What this Protocol commits us to be to have common standards for managing exchange rates, so that we do not have one country, which has strictly controlled exchange rates and fixed interest rates and you have another one that allows the currency to float or that kind of thing.

We do not have a common central bank and a common central bank is one of the things that we have to realise before we move on to a common currency and when we have a common Central Bank, then it means we have one monetary policy and one interest rate.

Concerning the dual listing on the stock exchange, I do not understand exactly what the concern is here, but what I know is that our concern in regard to dual listing was the way people implemented the domestic asset requirement, where we said 35% of the income of pension funds and insurance companies must be retained in the country. They also included investments in dual-listed shares and that was the concern that we had, but the concern was only in as far as determining domestic investment was concerned, but that has now been addressed through an Amendment to the Regulations that says that in 5 years only 10% of the investment in dual-listed shares would qualify as domestic investment, the rest would count as foreign investment. However, dual listing *per se* is not a problem.

Then on the question of how many countries have ratified, seven countries have ratified according to the information we have, but as to how many of them have deposited the instruments is a very liquid situation, because depositing can take a day. I may today say three have deposited, but maybe by now all of them have deposited. Thank you.

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EQUAL REMUNERATION CONVENTION
HON NGATJIZEKO

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for the elaborate reply. I now put the Question that the Motion be adopted. Any objection? Agreed to. The Second Notice of Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Labour. Does the Honourable Member move the Motion? Seconded? Any objection? Agreed to. Honourable Minister, you have the Floor.

RATIFICATION: EQUAL REMUNERATION CONVENTION

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, in recent days and weeks this Honourable House has been debating issues relating to the implementation of the National Gender Policy which has at its heart the elimination of discrimination against women and achievement of equality between women and men in our society. I am, therefore, pleased to rise today to place before the National Assembly for ratification ILO Convention 100, also known as the Equal Remuneration Convention of 1951. The long title is, “*Convention concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value*”.

Before discussing its provisions, I will provide some relevant background:

Namibia is one of the few countries in the world that has committed itself in its national Constitution to adhere to conventions and recommendations of the International Labour Organisation. Article 95 of the Namibian Constitution on the Promotion of the Welfare of the People provides:

“The State shall promote and maintain the welfare of the people by adopting, inter alia, policies aimed at the following: (d) membership of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and where possible, adherence to and action in accordance with the international Conventions and Recommendations of the ILO.”

The International Labour Organisation has identified eight Conventions that it terms “*core labour standards*”, meaning that they contain fundamental labour rights that should be expected by all member countries regardless of their level of development. To date Namibia has ratified the following seven of the eight ILO core Conventions:

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1. Convention 87 of 1947 on Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise;
2. Convention 98 of 1949 on the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining;
3. Convention 23 of 1930 on Forced Labour;
4. Convention 105 of 1959 on Abolition of Forced Labour;
5. Convention 138 of 1973 on Minimum Age;
6. Convention 182 of 1999 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, and the
7. Convention 111 of 1958 on Discrimination.

The Equal Remuneration Convention of 1951 is the only ILO core convention that Namibia has not yet ratified. It has been ratified by all of the other SADC countries. It has also been ratified by 54 African countries and 167 countries worldwide. In Namibia, the Tripartite Labour Advisory Council has recommended the ratification of Convention 100.

Convention 100 provides in Article 1:

- (a) *“For the purpose of this Convention, the term “remuneration” includes the ordinary basic or minimum wage or salary and any additional emoluments whatsoever payable directly or indirectly, whether in cash or in kind, by the employer to the worker and arising out of the worker’s employment.*
- (b) *The term “equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value” refers to rates of remuneration established without discrimination based on sex.”*

Article 2 provides that:

“Each Member shall by means appropriate to the methods in operation on determining rates of remuneration, promote and in so far as is consistent with such methods, ensure application to all workers of the principle of equal

remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value. This principle may be applied by means of national laws and regulations by legally established or recognised machinery for wage determination, collective agreements between employers and workers or a combination of these various means.”

Article 3 provides that:

- (1) *“Where such action will assist in giving effect to the provisions of this Convention, measures shall be taken to promote objective appraisal of jobs on the basis of the work to be performed, and*
- (2) *The methods to be followed in this appraisal may be decided upon by the authorities responsible for the determination of rates of remuneration or where such rates are determined by collective agreement by the parties thereto.*

I will briefly discuss what the object of this Convention is and what its implications for Namibia are.

Limited statistical evidence concerning the wages and male and female employees indicates that there is a wage gap between men and women workers in Namibia, but we cannot quantify it precisely without further research. The reasons for a gender wage gap can be many, including educational levels and fields of study, fulltime or part-time employment, work experience, seniority within an employer enterprise, type of Industry.

The pay differential between men and women due to such factors does not constitute discrimination *per se*. However, two types of pay discrimination have been found to exist in national labour markets, which fall within the purview of Convention 100:

Firstly, the payment of different wages to men and women workers for the same job, with the same qualifications, same seniority and responsibilities. This form of discrimination violates the principle of equal pay for equal work. This type of discrimination is often associated with the entry of females into traditionally male occupations. This type of discrimination is relatively easy to remedy under conventional anti-discrimination laws.

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Secondly, the payment of different wages to men and women, performing work of equal value, value being determined by qualifications, effort, responsibility and the conditions under which work is performed. It may be that a historical male position in an employing establishment, such as a truck driver, may pay more than a historically female position, such as a nurse. The reasons for such disparity may be based on stereotypes and prejudices with regard to women's work, traditional job evaluation methods based on the requirements of male-dominated jobs or weaker bargaining power of female workers.

In order to identify and eliminate such forms of discrimination, it is necessary to conduct a gender neutral evaluation and comparison of jobs in which males or females tend to predominate.

By ratifying Convention 100, Namibia will commit itself to achieving pay equality for men and women workers performing work of equal value. This will strengthen the legal framework for the achievement of gender equality at the workplace. I am informed that a new system of job evaluation and grading, about to be undertaken by the Office of the Prime Minister throughout the Public Service, incorporates gender-neutral evaluation methods that can address such discrimination to the extent that it exists. Similar exercises should be undertaken at the initiative of all Namibian employers or through collective bargaining, between employers and Trade Unions.

The legal framework for the implementation of Convention 100 already exists in Namibian law. Article 10 of the Namibian Constitution on Equality and Freedom from Discrimination prohibits discrimination on grounds of sex, among others.

The principle of equal remuneration for work of men and women of equal value was contained in Namibia's first post-independence Labour Statute that is the Labour Act (Act 6 of 1992). It is now contained in Section 5 of the current Labour Act (Act 11 of 2007). I will in due course introduce a small technical Amendment to the Labour Act to bring it into conformity with Convention 100.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, I now move that the National Assembly ratifies Convention 100 without reservation and I thank you very much.

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

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I want to express my support for the ratification of the Convention. I think it is a very important instrument which deals with the discrimination perpetrated against women, which most often we try to justify with customs, traditions and lack of skills, but which it turns out is sometimes being perpetrated against even people with skills and it needs to be confronted directly and more aggressively. I want to thank the Minister for his commitment to urgently bring to this House an Amendment to the relevant provision in the Labour Act in order to enable Namibia to take on this evil in a very effective way.

I also want to appreciate that there are other initiatives within Government, including evaluating the situation within the Public Service in order to identify where this situation is prevailing. I hope that this investigation will not only look at the most obvious discrimination, but would actually try to identify discrimination where it is perpetuated in a more subtle way, because I think people would resort to this way of discriminating against women in a way that is subtle and that makes it difficult to confront the perpetrators. I hope that eventually when we have identified these issues and formulated and adopted a report, we would actually identify measures that would be employed in order to curb the continued practice of this discrimination, types of measures that would really discourage people from continuing with this discrimination and also that we would have in place mechanisms that would facilitate reporting of these incidences, because the employers are going to come up with ways and means of intimidating people, especially young women, so that they will put up with this type of discrimination silently.

I also hope that within the same spirit, we would look at the process of activating the provision of the Labour Act that deals with full maternity pay and leave benefits for women who experience complications during child birth, because there was a provision, which was suspended when the Labour Act was promulgated by Parliament. The promulgation of this provision was subjected to further work that was to be carried out concerning full maternity pay by the Social Security Commission. (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a Point of Order. We are being discriminated here. What about paternity leave?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Yes, I will come to that very important point, but what I wanted to say is that it is being said that is difficult to provide for proportional contribution based on the full range of income levels in order to facilitate for a full maternity benefit payment that is based on level of income and that is why we have a maximum ceiling at N\$6,000. However, we have a tax table that covers the full range of income levels. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Minister a question, please? I agree with the concept that people should be paid equally according to the jobs that they are doing and qualifications, but there is this natural element that the man should entertain his wife, take his girlfriend out. Do you not think the bigger salaries are to cover those?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: It cannot be justified by that and actually, in this day and age one could argue that it is mostly the ladies who are subsidising the families, because some gentlemen, even if they are paid four, five times more than the lady, they squander their income and when they come home, they pretend to be very angry and unapproachable because they do not want the mother to ask about the school fees for the child and the fact that there is a crack in the wall. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: May I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Who are the people carrying plastic bags after work? The women are carrying plastic bags.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I agree that on payday you will see these women, especially the ones going to Katutura, sometimes walking on foot because they do not have taxi fare, carrying plastic bags with bread and stationery for the children. Do you know where you will find the gentlemen?

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They are having dinner at a Restaurant, enjoying a nice juicy steak and after that go home empty-handed ... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Comrade Minister, what you said, is that a fact, or is that just a perception? Could you clarify that? Is it a fact or a perception that men go to restaurants, having a nice steak and having no money for the wife?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I know that there are some committed men out there, but it is very difficult for society not to have this perception about men, because the majority of men are conducting themselves in a way that perpetuates this perception. Even now, you will find seventy percent of men are in the restaurants and the women are somewhere else, doing something.

I was saying that the Ministry of Finance has a complete tax table with a full range of income levels and the Social Security Commission does not have to reinvent the wheel and I think it is very important that we proceed in order that we can pay this maternity benefit, because that can also be a constraint. This discrimination against women could be perpetuated by employers in a manner where some employers would simply refuse to employ women of a certain age in certain positions, because they want to avoid this obligation. We are not allowing women to contribute according to these levels and, therefore, we have this limitation, which is making it difficult for them. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: On a Point of Information. I understand your argument for full maternity leave, but the contribution to Social Security is not to the level of your actual salary. You are only asked to give N\$54. If that came into force, it would definitely be affordable. We started with N\$3,000 and now it is N\$6,000, but the more the ceiling is lifted, the deeper we have to dig into our pockets, especially the men who do not have paternity leave. You answered partially when the Honourable Minister Iyambo asked about the perception and you said there are responsible men. It is also true that women are doing things, which we do not know. I thank you for recognising there are responsible men.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Is it speaking from practical experience, since my friend lived for about three months in Tokyo? You should share it in such a manner so that the people would know you are speaking from practical experience recently.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Ilonga, yes indeed, I am aware of that and I am saying we should not continue with that maximum at N\$54 contribution, we should allow for contribution to the full range of income levels, the same way that we charge taxes on a full range of income levels. That information is available and they will be able to structure that in whatever way they need to structure it to allow for full contribution.

With regard to maternity leave, I would like to say that our male counterparts should not see it as though they are being discriminated against, because maternity leave and maternity pay is only granted to women, because that is to the mutual benefit of both the father, the mother and the child and I want to illustrate why. If two parents are both working, then they have planned their Budget based on two salaries. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I have a small question. I come from a matrilineal community where the child belongs to the mother. Now I am making a contribution to maternity leave and at the end of the day, the child belongs to the mother. I am supporting the mother during maternity and also for owning the child. When I am old, this child will not even assist me in anything. Do you not think something should be done about that?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: In fact, in my family the male members of our family also co-own their children. All those children born also belong to our clan. I know that saying the child belongs to the mother is said for convenience, because in some of our communities which are supposed to be matrilineal, the child is given a name by the father and the father can call this child anything, *“leave me alone, stop talking about me, do not tell lies about me”* and all sorts of names. Now he wants to say the child belongs to the mother. How can the child belong to the mother if he has the exclusive right to name the child? Then the child carries only his name, whether or not he supports that child. Then thirdly, the man says he is the head of the household,

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he gives orders to everybody. He does not tell them to ask permission from the mother when they want to go somewhere, he says, *“I am the head of this house and I am saying you are not going”*. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Minister a question on the increase in the contribution from N\$54 to double that amount? Somehow, I agree with that, but do you not think that both parents should contribute double that amount and both of them get three months maternity leave? It is our baby and both of us should be there to take care of the baby, helping each other to change the nappies? Do you think it is perhaps a good idea for a man to have these three months to help the mother where necessary?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: No, for two reasons. The one reason is the one I was trying to explain before there was an interjection. If you are parents of a child and you are both working, then you get used to a certain Budget that takes into consideration that both of you have a salary. Now all of a sudden the woman has to go on maternity leave and if there is no full maternity benefit, it means the whole of the one salary disappears. All of a sudden you find yourself unable to afford the repayment of the home loan, the repayment of the car, the caretaker for the child and even the basic needs for the child and, of course, the husband who is not on leave and being the one bringing the income home gets very agitated, *“I am the only one paying for everything” and he thinks the child is crying too much and he cannot sleep while he has to go to work tomorrow*... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Are you aware that some of our Colleagues here will take paternity leave even three times.... (Laughter)

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: That is the second point that I was coming up, namely the impact on the economy, because it is true, our Colleagues here could even go on paternity leave five times a year. Every time they are just on paternity leave and what is happening to the economy? The men are perpetually on paternity leave and they are paid and they are not producing. At

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least with a woman you know she will not go on maternity leave three times a year or twice every year.

We also know that some of our colleagues will stay at home six hours out of the 24 hours of the day and during the six hours that he is at home, he will not help out with the child. He will say hello to the child like this for five minutes and then he goes out and that does not justify paternity leave. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: I want to share a small story. A man was left with a baby and then when the mother came back, she found him with the Doom because the baby has excreted. The child developed rash because it was six hours in the excretion and the man was just busy with the Doom. We cannot trust them with paternity leave, and the man was just busy with the Doom. We cannot trust them with paternity leave.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Yes, I agree and with those few remarks, I support the Protocol.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Dr Tjiriange.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I am rising to support the Convention. It is very important in our laws we have this kind of adjustment that would look after our female Colleagues. I did not want to participate at this point in time, but after the intervention by some Colleagues, I thought I had to say one or two words.

Firstly, the issue of asking for paternity leave is a non-starter because the two people in the relationship have determined roles to play. Even if you are a father, you are not subjected to carrying this child for nine months. You are there, but this baby is being incubated by somebody else for the nine months with all the complications that go with it and after the child has been delivered, it has a physical and psychological effect on that person and not on you. Therefore, I think it is just proper that there must be a rehabilitation period for that person. (Intervention)

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HON DR ANKAMA: May I ask my Colleague a very short question? I understand you said men do not carry the baby for nine months. Indeed, it is probably a heavy load, but is it not justifiable that during the phase the men labour just to make sure that the woman carries the nine months load is too cumbersome?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: There is nothing biologically that you can prove that his man was carrying that baby. The fact is that biologically it is the woman that carries the baby those nine months and also with all the physical difficulties that a person experiences under those circumstances, it is just proper that after a successful delivery, a person should be able to be rehabilitated, to live a normal life again.

Therefore, you cannot compare yourself with a person who was carrying this baby for nine months and then ask for paternity leave. Nature has determined it that way and we have to live with that. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: May I ask the Honourable Minister a question on that issue of not comparing men to women when it comes to paternity leave? I understand that, but the reason why it was meant that men could also take paternity leave is also to assist the mother who has been carrying the baby for nine months and she needs to rest. That might have been the consideration, although it will not work.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I think you can do a lot by helping the mother in the manner that we have doing as usual. You do not need an extra hour to be added to go and help your wife. You can do a lot within those hours, you can adjust your time to help the woman while she is on maternity leave. There is no justification whatsoever.

Nevertheless, I want to go to another point.

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ADJOURNMENT

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, you can continue tomorrow. The House shall adjourn under automatic adjournment and continue the business of the House tomorrow afternoon, 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2010.03.03 AT 14:30.