

**LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

SPEAKER

Dr T-B Gurirab (Mr)

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

Ms Loide Kasingo

THE CABINET

MINISTERS

(21 March 2010 – Elected in terms of Article 133 of the Constitution)

Mr N Angula	<i>(Prime Minister)</i>
Mr M Hausiku	<i>(Deputy Prime Minister)</i>
Dr G H Geingob (Mr)	<i>(Trade and Industry)</i>
Ms P Iivula-Ithana	<i>(Justice)</i>
Mr N Mbumba	<i>(Safety and Security)</i>
Dr A Kawana (Mr)	<i>(Presidential Affairs & Attorney- General)</i>
Ms S Kuugongelwa-Amadhila	<i>(Finance)</i>
Mr J Ekandjo	<i>(Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development)</i>
Mr U Nujoma	<i>(Foreign Affairs)</i>
Mr E Nghimtina	<i>(Works and Transport)</i>
Dr A Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Education)</i>
Ms D Sioka	<i>(Gender Equality and Child Welfare)</i>
Mr J Mutorwa	<i>(Agriculture, Water & Forestry)</i>
Mr J Kaapanda	<i>(Information & Communication Technology)</i>
Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwah	<i>(Environment and Tourism)</i>
Dr N Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Veterans Affairs)</i>
Mr I Ngatjizeko	<i>(Labour & Social Welfare)</i>
Mr A !Naruseb	<i>(Lands & Resettlement)</i>
Dr R Kamwi (Mr)	<i>(Health and Social Services)</i>
Ms R Nghidinwa	<i>(Home Affairs and Immigration)</i>

Mr C Namoloh *(Defence)*
Mr B Esau *(Fisheries and Marine Resources)*
Mr I Katali *(Mines and Energy)*
Mr K Kazenambo *(Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture)*

DEPUTY MINISTERS

(21 March 2010 – Elected in terms of Article 133 of the Constitution)

Ms P Haingura *(Health and Social Services)*
Ms A Muharukua *(Gender Equality and Child Welfare)*
Mr A Muheua *(Labour and Social Welfare)*
Ms L Lucas *(Defence)*
Mr P Iilonga *(Agriculture, Water & Forestry)*
Mr E Utoni *(Safety and Security)*
Mr T Nambahu *(Justice)*
Mr T Tweya *(Trade and Industry)*
Dr S C Ankama Mr *(Works and Transport)*
Mr P Mushelenga *(Foreign Affairs)*
Mr P Shifeta *(Youth, National Service, Sport & Culture)*

Mr W Isaacks *(Mines and Energy)*
Mr S Simataa *(Information and Communication Technology)*

Mr E Kaiyamo *(Home Affairs and Immigration)*
Ms P Beukes *(Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development)*

Mr U Herunga *(Environment and Tourism)*
Mr C Schlettwein *(Finance)*
Dr. D Namwandi (Mr) *(Education)*

SECRETARY

Mr. J Jacobs

DEPUTY SECRETARY

Mr F S Harker

LIST OF MEMBERS AND PARTIES WHICH THEY REPRESENT

ALL PEOPLE'S PARTY (APP)

Mr I Shixwameni *(Chief Whip and Party Leader)*

CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS (COD)

Mr B Ulanga *(Chief Whip and Party Leader)*

DTA OF NAMIBIA

Mr K Kaura *(Party Leader)*

Mr P Moongo *(Chief Whip)*

NATIONAL UNITY DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION OF NAMIBIA (NUDO)

Mr K Riruako *(Party Leader)*

Mr A Tjihuike *(Chief Whip)*

RALLY FOR DEMOCRACY AND PROGRESS (RDP)

Mr S Bezuidenhoudt

Mr Hidipo Hamutenya *(Party Leader)*

Ms A Limbo

Mr H Lucks

Mr P Naholo

Mr K Nehova

Mr J Nyamu

Mr A von Wietersheim

REPUBLICAN PARTY

Ms C Gowases

SWANU

Mr U Maamberua *(Chief Whip and Party Leader)*

SWAPO OF NAMIBIA

Mr B Amathila	
Dr M Amweelo (Mr)	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>
Mr N Angula	<i>(Prime Minister)</i>
Dr S C Ankama (Mr)	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms P Beukes	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr E Dingara	
Mr J Ekandjo	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr B Esau	<i>(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>(Deputy Prime Minister)</i>
Mr U Herunga	
Mr P Iilonga	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr W Isaacks	
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	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Dr R Kamwi (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr P I Kapia	
Ms L Kasingo	<i>(Deputy Speaker)</i>
Mr I Katali	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms J Kavetuna	
Dr A Kawana (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr K Kazenambo	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms S Kuugongelwa – Amadhila	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms L Lucas	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms S Makgone	
Ms A Manombe-Ncube	
Mr N Mbumba	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms A Muharukua	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr A Muheaua	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr P Mushelenga	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr J Mutorwa	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr B Mwaningange	
Mr T Nambahu	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>

Mr C Namoloh	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr D Namwandi (Mr)	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr A !Naruseb	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms E !Nawases-Taeyele	<i>(Assistant Whip)</i>
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>(Minister)</i>
Mr P Shifeta	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms D Sioka	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr T Tweya	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr F Ueitele	
Mr E Utoni	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr Piet van der Walt	
Ms L Witbooi	

UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT (UDF)

Mr J //Garoëb	<i>(Party Leader)</i>
Mr S Tjongarero	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>

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

Ms M Jankowski	
Prof. P Katjavivi (Mr)	<i>(Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee)</i>
Mr C Schleittwein	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr S Simataa	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms S Swartz	
Ms A Tjongarero	

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
28 JUNE 2011**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON SPEAKER: I have an announcement to make. Last week Wednesday the Front Desk Secretariat sent out a list for the Members to write down their e-mail addresses alongside their names. The purpose of this is to enable the Secretariat to send out the Minutes and Order Papers to the Members' e-mails during morning hours on a daily basis. Honourable Members are again reminded that whoever has the list should complete it and pass it on to the next Member.

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

**TABLING: REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL
PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE**

HON VAN DER WALT: I lay upon the Table for consideration by the august House, the Report on the International Parliamentary Conference on Parliaments – Minorities and Indigenous People's Effective Participation in Politics held in Tuxtla, State of Chiapas, Mexico from 31 October to 3 November 2010.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON SHIXWAMENI**

Contained in the Report is the a Chiapas Declaration that urges all Parliaments to hold a special Debate on the issue and adopt a plan of action to make the right to equal participation and non-discrimination a reality for minorities and indigenous peoples. It also asks the Inter-Parliamentary Union to monitor implementation of the Declaration and to convene a meeting two years from November 2010 to review progress. The IPU is, therefore, inviting our Parliament to implement recommendations set out in the Declaration. The IPU would also be very pleased to provide whatever our Parliament may require in undertaking this important exercise.

It is against this background that I move, Honourable Speaker, for the consideration of this Report. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Report? Any other Reports and Papers? Any Notices of Questions? Honourable Shixwameni.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 22:

HON SHIXWAMENI: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 30th of June 2011 I shall ask the Honourable Minister of information and Communication Technology the following question:

Given the importance of information and the need to disseminate information and communicate ideas and information timeously and accurately in an easy way and in a language that one understands or speaks and for the easy promotion of all indigenous languages, cultures and traditions on an equal basis throughout our beautiful country, Namibia, and given the fact that people who speak the Rukavango dialects

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are scattered all over the country and particularly on farms in the so-called Police Zone and have no other means of communication to hear what is happening both in their Regions of origin and nationally, I shall ask the Minister:

1. Whether there are any technical challenges hindering the nationwide broadcasting of the NBC Rukavango Service?
2. If yes, what are the exact technical challenges and estimated cost to meet these challenges?
3. If there are no technical challenges, when shall Government and NBC in particular make the NBC Rukavango Service available countrywide like all the other major language services of the NBC, such as Damara-Nama, Oshiwambo, Afrikaans, Otjiherero and the National Service which are heard countrywide?

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

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on the 7th of July 2011, I shall Move –

That this Assembly –

Debates and discusses the importance of introducing interpretation services at all State health institutions, that is hospitals and clinics; and

Debates and discusses the need for a Health Services Ombudsman in Namibia.

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HON IILONGA**

Resolves to ask the Minister responsible for Health to consider to gradually introduce interpretation for patients in the State health institutions, that is hospitals and clinics; and

Resolves to ask the Minister responsible for Health to advise this House on the practicality or otherwise of the creation of a function for a Health Services Ombudsman.

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

**RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING
CONFERMENT OF NATIONAL HONOURS BILL**

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, 15 June 2011, the Question before the Assembly was Motion by the Honourable Minister of Veterans Affairs, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Any further discussion? Honourable Iilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I rise to contribute to this very important Bill which gives the appointing authority the power to confer honours on persons. However, when I read through the Bill I realised that anything contained in the Bill may become mandatory and one may find that a person can even take His Excellency to court because the honour to be conferred on a person depends on the activities by a person.

I do not think it is a good thing to say in Section 3(2)(i) that it is a veteran and we end there. A veteran has been defined in an existing Act and we

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qualify that it is a veteran of the liberation struggle who participated inside the country or outside the country and then His Excellency has the right to consider that particular person. Currently it only says “*veteran*”.

Comrade Speaker, Section 3(2)(iii)(b) is even worse, unless we want to prescribe to the authority that a person ought to be conferred with honours. If a person made a noteworthy contribution, that is supposed to be the criteria. I do not see the logic to say a Member of the National Assembly or the National Council and even worse, a leader of a Political Party. We know that the world is in trouble because of these Opposition Political Parties and now it is contained in the Bill. If a person has done his or her level best, nobody will question the conferment of honours.

Another problem I have is with the application. How can a person apply to be conferred with honours? If it is said to be nomination that will be understood, but how on earth can I apply to be accorded an honour?

Comrade Speaker, if we say “*veteran*”, it should be stipulated what kind of veteran. Not even all the veterans of the liberation struggle qualify for these honours and to say Members of National Assembly, National Council and leaders of Political Parties, I cannot see that the President will do this on his own. People will ask why not a certain person as he is a Member of the National Assembly and already qualifies for a noteworthy service. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: I would like to ask my Colleague and Comrade a question. Comrade Iilonga, you are concerned about people applying to become heroes and heroines. Do you think they are going to make application forms available across the country for people to apply and whoever wants can just fill in the application form or how would it be practically possible to apply for hero status?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: That is my concern; I do not know how that will be done in

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practice. However, in another Section it says the Minister may ask the Ministries or whoever for nominations and that is understandable. Maybe there will be an application form for those who want to be conferred with honours, but I do not want us to prescribe to the appointing authority so that he or she will not be in a position to use common sense and look objectively at the noteworthy service.

I am also happy to see that the Bill proposes to establish national and Regional Heroes' Acres, which will provide for an individual's wish as to where he or she wants to be buried. However, I do not think there is a need for the prescriptions I mentioned to be contained in the law. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Ueitele.

HON UEITELE: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament. I would firstly like to congratulate the Ministry and the staff members of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs for coming up with this Conferment of National Heroes Honours Bill which makes provision for the establishment of the National Honours Advisory and Regional Advisory Committees to advise the President on conferment of honours. It also makes provision for the establishment of the National Heroes Acre and Regional Heroes Acres. I am confident and I strongly believe that the introduction of this Bill will create a fair and democratic chance to deal with this sensitive issue of conferment of honours in Namibia. It will create a balance and equitable manner of recognition of our heroes and heroines. It will eliminate the current disputes on conferment of honours and State funerals at national and regional level. It will also eliminate the current confusion and unnecessary distortions about the burial at the National Heroes Acre and granting of State funerals. The National Heroes Acre currently will not have the capacity to accommodate all our heroes and heroines. I, therefore, believe that with the establishment of the Regional Heroes Acres and Advisory Committees some of our forgotten heroes who contributed immensely to the liberation

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struggle inside and outside the country will be accorded the honours they deserve in their respective regions.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to support the Conferment of National Heroes Bill tabled by the Minister of Veteran Affairs. Before I make proposals for the adoption of this very important Bill, allow me to share the following comments on some Sections in the Bill.

On Page 3, Section 3(6)(iii) I propose that the Local and Regional Authorities to be added to this provision because these Authorities are also key role players in the national obligation of service delivery.

On Page 5, Subsection (2), I propose that the provision must also state that a person who is removed from the Committee due to any proven misconduct or violation of this Act during his term of office as a member of the Committee will not be eligible for reappointment to this committee.

On Page 5, Section 6(1), I propose that Local Authorities also be included in the composition of the Regional Honours Advisory Committees. This is important because most of the land in our regions are owned and managed by Local Authorities.

Page 8, Section 6(1): The Act is only making provision for application of conferment of honours and launch of objections, but there is no clear provision for notice of objection and procedures for filing this objection. I also appreciate the provision made in this Bill by the expansion of the definition of hero and heroine to accommodate anyone who made significant contributions to the betterment of a region or the Namibian Nation in the economic, social, scientific, academic and public administration, security or any other field of human endeavour in Namibia.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, with these three remarks I wholeheartedly support the Bill and I thank you.

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

HON MAKGONE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I rise to make some comments on the Bill and I start with Sections 5 and 6 which deal with the establishment of the Committees. Provision is made for a Chairperson and Vice-chairperson, but I thought there will be administrative work to be done, so provision should be made for a Secretary and it would be good if this Secretary comes from the custodian Ministry.

Section 5 and 6, Sub-section (2) as already mentioned by Honourable Ueitele, but I thought that a Clause could be included to deal with vacancies in the Committees and disqualification of members.

Section 8 deals with the function of the Committees, that is to advise the President, but when I scrutinised the Bill I could not find the role of the Minister, except where the Minister is receiving nominations and making regulations. It seems as if these Committees will have no obligation towards the Minister.

There is no relationship between the Regional Committees and the National Committee. When the Regional Committees receive applications, it is sent directly to the President and the same applies to the National Committee, which means there is no coordination. Even Section 3(2) says the National Committee is only to recommend national honours. Does it mean that everybody from the thirteen Regions who want national conferment will send their applications directly to the National Committee and the regional will only apply to the Regional Committee?

If someone is recommended to the Regional Committee and it is felt that this person deserves national conferment, can the Regional Committee refer it to the National Committee? It seems as if there is no coordination.

On Page 8, Subsection (4): Any person can send a request directly to the President and we may not be able to handle this in the end. Perhaps we

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should say it must be done through the Regional Committee to the National Committee, which will then refer it to the President through the responsible Ministry. Otherwise the Minister will just hear that the President received twenty applications. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: On a Point of Information. The Honourable Member seems to be very much concerned that the applications will go directly to the President. No, they will first go to Honourable Kawana, the Minister, and then to the President, so there is a stop in-between.

HON MAKGONE: If someone applies to the President, the President will then refer it back to the relevant Committee, which will deal with it and then again refer it to the President, which seems to be cumbersome.

There will be 13 Regional Committees that will receive applications for both regional and national honours. The Committee will scrutinise the applications and recommend accordingly to the National Committee, which in turn will scrutinise and recommend to the President.

On Page 8, Sub-section (7) deals with lodging an objection to conferred honours. It says someone can lodge an objection with the committee or if the President receives an objection, it can be referred back to the committee for investigation. The Clause ends there and it seems to be incomplete. Perhaps it should be stipulated what would happen after the investigation. Then Section 3(4) will apply because there it is stated what will happen to someone who fraudulently received the honour.

On Page 9, Section 10(2) reads as follows: *“The procedure and quorum at any meeting held by the National Honours Advisory Committee or the Regional Honours Advisory Committee must be decided by the relevant Committee, including the number of votes required for a decision.”* This is open to abuse, because at any meeting the Committee can decide

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beforehand what will be a quorum, the other one will be saying four will form a quorum. I thank you and I support the Bill.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Kazenambo.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I rise to support this important Bill which is long overdue as it will provide guidance.

On Page 7 it deals with application for and objections against conferment of honours and after Parliament has approved this Bill there will be a need for awareness campaigns for even some of us to understand the importance of this Bill, because at the moment, if we put hypocrisy aside, there is contestation and uneasiness among people as to who is a hero and who not; why is this one treated as a hero and not the other one? We have been talking about this in our houses and if we can put aside what Comrade Shixwameni once referred to as universal hypocrisy, I think this is the tool which was long overdue.

It is now clear from the Bill that a hero is not only confined to a person who participated in the liberation struggle. It does mean that when I have crossed the border, I was a SWANU leader in London and before I chickened out and joined other reactionary elements, I will automatically qualify as a hero. When you were in SWANU, you must prove what have you contributed to qualify as a hero. We know some of the people with whom we were in exile were cowards, who used to be sick or limp when they have to go into battle. Now I see them here around town as big heroes, simply because they were in Lubango or somewhere. There were even some people who shot themselves in their ankles. They were in Lubango, in Tanzania or in London and today you are one of them; yes Honourable Tjiuiko is one of them. I am sorry, I withdraw that one. (Intervention)

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HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Speaker, may I ask a question? Honourable Kazenambo, would you recommend the Brave Warriors for medals under this Bill?

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Yes, at the moment it is tricky to answer that one, because if I say they do not qualify, I may dismiss myself from the job. I think at one point when they will start working hard and match the name Brave Warriors, they might qualify. In the field of sport some of their members may qualify to be declared heroes. The Zambian team that perished in an aeroplane – may their souls rest in peace – they did not only make Zambia proud, but Southern Africa if not Africa proud in the field of sport and they qualify to be heroes.

On the issue of Political Parties, it does not mean if you are in the Ruling Party you are a hero; that is not my understanding. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Honourable Speaker, I am at pains to interrupt Comrade Kazenambo, but may I ask him a small question, please? True to your reference to those who were limping, is it true and epitomised to those who were known who were ever tightening their shoelaces when people were marching to confront the enemy, tightening their shoelaces so that they would not be the first ones to approach the enemy?

HON SPEAKER: The House shall rise for refreshments.

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:13 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

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HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Before we went on recess, I was saying that to be a hero does not necessarily mean that you must belong to the Ruling Party and I am saying that in relation to Section 9 on application. If a person is not nominated or is not being recognised, it should be the right of that person to remind the State and the powers-that-be that I think I also qualify to be a hero because I contributed to nation-building, be it in the academic field, economic field, policies field or whatever area, where someone has contributed to humanity, where someone has contributed to nation-building. We are a democratic Nation, Honourable Speaker that is striving to build to an egalitarian society, a society that is inclusive in its manifestation and character and that is why this document is very important. It is inclusive and in the spirit of what we are trying to build. (Intervention)

HON NYAMU: Comrade Speaker, I would like to ask the Honourable Member a question. Minister, I have gone around the country and so far I have not come across a street which is named after you. Do you consider people whose names are all over the place as heroes as non-heroes?

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you very much. At a personal level, Kazenambo standing here does not need a street to be named after me. Even if it were my choice, I do not need a street to be named after me. I am young, titles do not mean anything to me and I am not trying to say this to denigrate and downplay the contribution of those whose names are mentioned for recognition, the Honourable Theo-Ben Gurirab's of this world, the Honourable Hidipo Hamutenya, Honourable Nyamu and Dr Libertine Amathila and the list goes on. These were icons of the liberation struggle; these are the people who brought us here. (Intervention)

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HON RIRUAKO: Who were the icons? What have they done here before they went abroad? We fought here, not there, we fought from here. How did they win those icon positions? Could you spell that out for us? (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: If I may be protected so that I can concentrate on my contribution, but I will answer that if you are patient. This is exactly what I was saying, that I appreciate what is listed here and at the risk of repeating what I said, a hero for me is not a person who is in the Ruling Party alone. I may differ today, honestly speaking, to answer Honourable Nyamu and also to answer you, I differ ideologically and otherwise from Honourable Hamutenya in terms of political pursuit, but before 2004 he was my icon, he was my hero, he inspired me. I can produce signatures where he sent me to school and I used to sit with him during the night, writing to *Namibia Today*, defending the policy of this Government while some of the people this side of the House were sleeping in their beds. We came a long way, today I differ from him but I cannot deny the role that he played in the shaping of this Nation. I cannot erase it; I do not have any quarrel if Honourable Hidipo Hamutenya is declared for what he has contributed during the liberation struggle. I have no quarrel with that, but I will differ from him ideologically and otherwise on issues. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: You said you differ ideologically, but how do you differ from one another? I do not see any new ideology with any of you two.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: I will keep referring to how progressive this document is, because it is not confined to politics alone, it is not confined to the liberation struggle. It is a guiding tool that is providing guidelines for the shaping of this Nation.

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To answer many unanswered questions, you do not make laws that are tailor-made, you make progressive laws to cater for your Nation today in the future and I do not see a conflict even to confer honours on leaders of Opposition Parties, because we must depart from the misconception that Namibia is peaceful because of the Ruling Party. If the Opposition Parties decide to go the way many African countries have gone, this country would not be peaceful. It takes two to tango to be peaceful.

I told you that I need to be principled, I do not need to be a Minister or a Member of Parliament for my survival and when I was a young combatant, there was no reward, it was a cause and I am talking on a cause of building this Nation. Namibia is not peaceful because of certain individuals; it is a collective exercise that involves different stakeholders and, therefore, we may differ and we may campaign, but when it comes to the national project, this Nation can be a winning Nation if we embrace and accommodate one another.

Heroes are not only confined to people who were carrying a gun, there were people in the diplomatic arena who were pressing the ideology of the liberation struggle. There were students who excelled at universities who contributed to the shaping of the new administration and they are heroes in their own right. How do I, for example, compare Kazenambo with Honourable Marco Hausiku or Muharukua or !Naruseb? These were heroes without guns, so the notion that you are a hero because you were in exile in the bush is a distortion. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: May I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Comrade Kazenambo, did anyone who contributed today say the heroes are only those who were outside? It sounds as if someone said only those who were outside are heroes. I am the one who said we need to qualify and I do not have a problem. As I am standing here I do not think there is anyone in the Opposition who would regard Iilonga as their hero.

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HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: To answer the Honourable Member, I am not referring to you, I said if we are not addressing universal hypocrisy, this Bill answers the question that we discussed amongst ourselves outside and it is long overdue. There are people in our constituencies who are questioning it and recently the President was attacked because he did not declare Comrade Danger Ashipala a hero. It was in the newspapers and some of the people were questioning the same about Comrade Moses Garoëb and Comrade Mweshihange and the list goes on until we cloud ourselves with hypocrisy. However, this document provides answers to all those.

The question which Honourable Riruako is asking can be linked to the question by Comrade !Naruseb. Heroes that cannot be compared under whatever circumstances. There is no way I can compare to Honourable Hausiku. He was in the leadership; he used to take responsibility for all SWAPO Members in this country. I was confined to only a section or a platoon. The people who used to face the bullets are here, those who used to march as kids are the Shixwameni's, to be overcome by the Casspirs, but I had a gun to defend myself. Should he not today qualify as hero because today he is in APP? It is not a Nation with those values which we are building. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Comrade Speaker, I am at a loss and I need direction. I am sorry to mention somebody's name, but I do not know whether this person qualifies to be a hero and I need guidance, like for instance Mr Muyongo if he comes back and apologises for what he has done. We know the contribution by Mr Muyongo, nobody will deny it, but if he comes back, will we regard him as a hero because of his contribution?

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: It is good that you have asked that question. This document provides that even if honours were conferred in a subjective

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manner, the President has the right to revoke and forfeit that. It is not an entitlement for life. If the panel, because of Muyongo's activities then, now or in the future, will render him unqualified, then it should be a discussion in the panel, rather than a few people on the basis that they are from the Ruling Party or because they have good political connections. There are some people who consider themselves better Namibians than other Namibians, the criteria are not known. There are people in SWAPO who think that they are better SWAPO than others, the criteria are not known. I am saying the panel should consider that on the basis of this document and this document is very inclusive at the regional level, church level, etcetera, and I support it academically and politically.

There are people who suffered and friends of mine who complain that they see people being given medals at parades and I know people who could qualify. If they are forgotten, let them apply, that I used to be a Kommissar in Tobias Hainyeko, and I qualify. I used to be a NANSO Member as a student or a church leader and then let them apply and either qualify or be disqualified. That is all I am saying.

An Economist like Adam Smith claims he has made a difference in the management of the economists and they are heroes in their own right. People like Frankie Fredericks and Agnes Samaria qualify as heroes in the field of sport. It should not only be confined to politics and that is it. It should apply to religion and to every aspect that builds society that moulds a society to take it to the next stage. They may be lawyers, they may be doctors, they may be nurses, and they may even be taxi drivers.

With these words, I support this long overdue document and I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Utoni.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Mine is on Page 3, Section 3(2)(iii)

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and, of course, other Honourable Members have also touched on this. It is a very important Bill because many people consider the National Heroes Acre as a very small house and Namibia has many heroes and it is good that it is now being extended to the Regions.

Under (iii) it is talking about a person who has provided a noteworthy service to the betterment of the Region or the Namibian Nation as a Member of the National Assembly, the National Council or as a leader of a Political Party, religious domination or a traditional community. There may be some additional criteria or definitions that will be provided somewhere else, because as it stands here, it stands in the broader sense. You talk about a Member of Parliament, how do you identify that Member? Would you look at how loud the person speaks, how he prepares his Motions or how will you identify this Member? This is why I am saying it is so broad.

This Bill is only singling out a leader of a Political Party and the other members of the Political Party are forgotten. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: May I ask a question? Are you aware that Honourable Nyamu, the Secretary-General of the RDP agrees with you when you say it should not only be the leader of a Political Party?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Yes, Honourable Nyamu also wants to become a hero, but he should forget because the Bill stipulates it should be the leader. Maybe we should improve on this otherwise it will not auger well.

The Bill mentions Political Parties, but here in this country there is a push and pull in terms of ideologies. Whoever becomes the Ruling Party will not agree with the ideologies of other Parties, they are always criticising you. Are we also going to look at that? Maybe we should also look at the

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ideologies of the Political Parties.

On Page 7, Section 9(iii) is talking about the criteria and the definitions, where the Advisory Committees would then determine who should be a hero. Here it says a person who in the opinion of the applicants and this is a contradiction. It is like the applicant has to form an opinion and make some determination to the Advisory Committee. The applicant should not have criteria to determine, the Advisory Committee should be at liberty to determine who should be a hero that such a person is worth to be a hero. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: May I ask Honourable Utoni a question? Honourable Utoni, you are talking about political leaders and I am becoming puzzled about the subjectivity of declaring someone as a hero. Say, for example, in a war situation you have both sides fighting and both sides have a hero, when we are going to declare a hero, are they both heroes while they were not fighting for the same cause or how do we determine the Nation so that one of those leaders will now become the hero of that Nation?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: This is exactly what I am saying, that we want this to be clarified, because as we are talking here each Political Party has its own heroes. Maybe we need to be given more information.

I was saying that the applying party should not form part of the determination; it should be done by the Advisory Committee. With this I support the Bill.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Moongo.

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HON MOONGO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I can see there are no differences in the House and since the Bill is urgent, why do we not agree to it? However, I just wanted to give some advice to the Minister. Whenever a hero passes away, seven cattle are slaughtered for the State funeral while that person was poor and was not being assisted. Why do you not give assistance while the person is suffering instead of slaughtering cattle for a big funeral? Some of you are even doing the same to your parents. Some of you do not help your old parents in the village, but when they pass away, you slaughter ten cattle, buy expensive coffins and all those things. I only appeal to the Minister to consider helping those recognised heroes while alive so that they do not live in poverty. I support the Bill.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. I would like to say a few words in support of this very important Bill.

Heroism, in actual fact, is a mark of national convergence. It is where the Nation meets because heroes and heroines are national icons, very important people in the eyes of the people of a particular Nation. Heroism indeed instils national unity and pride because the people feel he is our hero, they feel the oneness, and they feel united. Heroism transmits history, because people from generation to generation learn about the history of their heroes and heroines, they want to know what these people did for them or for the Nation. Heroism is also a teacher because heroism itself teaches people how to behave, to emulate or to take good examples of what the heroes or heroines have done. Therefore, it is a mark of national convergence where people meet.

I would also like to say something about the Heroes Acres now being extended to Regions. You would want to go and greet your heroes and heroines at their graves and that would be a very good thing to do.

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Naturally people would go near there rather than travelling to Windhoek and when visitors come in our country, be they tourists, ordinary visitors or ourselves, they would go to the Heroes Acre. I would think that there would be some kind of economic activities taking place where people are selling their artefacts, sculptures or little booklets just to give the history of the country and the lifestyle of the people and also maybe explaining what the people buried there have been doing in the past. It will be an economic activity in a way.

At the same time, I am not too sure how the issue of tombs of unknown soldiers are embedded within the Bill and I do not know how many tombs of unknown soldiers we have at the moment. During the liberation struggle, freedom fighters were buried by the community members in villages and they know where they are and during national days they usually go there. At the same time I also do not know, because I have not seen it, how sculptures within our towns, cities and villages of heroes and heroines or the marking of important events in particular areas could be incorporated. Usually visitors would ask what the person did and then there would be history, activities around that sculpture. Maybe it is something we need to think about.

There are important venues that need recognition in terms of history, be it the history of the liberation struggle or activities that have taken place way back that have perhaps saved people or have done something good to the people in that particular area. Such places probably also need to be considered and I do not know how they can be incorporated.
(Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member, there is a document and the Minister is taking copious notes and what he really expects is contributions to the document that is in front of you, how to correct what is missing, how to add, how to improve on the languages rather than making speeches. There is a text in front of you, if you feel that it should be thrown out, so be it, but there is a document that you are speaking on to improve upon. Continue.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:

Honourable Speaker, what I am trying to raise here is that there should be an incorporation of the sculptures, venues of historical nature that have contributed to the history of our Nation, just to make sure that they are also part of this Bill. Eventually I would like to support the Bill. It came at the right time and we were able to contribute in kind to its formation. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Bezuidenhout.

HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. My contribution is precisely aimed at improving the text and the substance of this Bill and to strengthen it. I will still say that there is a lot of history in this House and members who were part of that history need to think of documenting it for record purposes so that we can have the books for later years and generations to come.

Coming back to the Bill, all the laws that are prepared and passed here and eventually signed by the President are laws subject to interpretation and application by the Courts. That is why we must be very specific in some of the language that we use in the Bills.

I want to refer to Page 3, Conferment of Honours by the President, Clause 3, where a term is used that is also part of the constitutional text, namely "*Friends of Namibia.*" It is for citizens, residents and friends of Namibia. I think friends of Namibia may be defined a bit better so that we all know who would be construed under the law as a Friend of Namibia.

The Bill provides for two Advisory Committees, national as well as regional, and I think the word that needs to be stressed in the popularisation of this Bill in future would be the word "*advisory*", because this is a Committee that will advise the President to confer or not to confer hero or heroine status on a specific individual. It is not a

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decision-making organisation and Members of that Committee must understand very clearly that they do not decide, they merely advise.

Then I would want the Minister to look at the structure of these two Committees. According to how I interpret the Bill, both are equal, both send applications to the President independently and I would want the National Honours Advisory Committee to be the collecting point of all suggestions and applications from the Regions so that it can be forwarded in an orderly manner to State House for the President's consideration rather than coming from all 13 Regions all the time. The status of the national body and the regional body must be clear so that the one is superior to the other. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: May I ask a question? Honourable Member, could you clarify that if you want the Regional advisory body to be lower than the national one, how would the national body know the heroes in the different Regions?

HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: I think my point is more administratively. They still gather all the information, they still get the applications, but instead of directing them straight to the President, it first comes to the National Advisory Committee, not to scrutinise but to put everything together, because the Khomas Region will have two Advisory Committees, a national and a regional. This is just something for the Minister to look into.

Then in the objective of the Act, I would recommend that if there are administrative procedures that would flow out of this discussion in addition to the Bill so that the objective also reflects that there will be administrative procedures to be adhered to.

Some points were already discussed by other Members, but on Page 5, the establishment of both the National Honours Advisory Committee and the

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Regional Advisory Committees... (Intervention)

HON UEITELE: Comrade Chair, I just want clarity from Honourable Bezuidenhoudt. I understood him to say that Khomas Region will have two Committees. I thought that the National Advisory Committee will be based in Windhoek but it will not be a Committee of Khomas, it will be the National Committee.

HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: It will be two in number, one for the Region of Khomas which will be situated in the Region of Khomas and then the National one would probably be situated in the capital, so it will be two. Khomas as a Region is entitled to have a Regional Advisory Committee and the domicile of the National Advisory Committee would be Windhoek, so that will be two Committees situated in the area of the Khomas Region.

Honourable Speaker, Clause 5(h) on the composition of the Advisory Committees, both national and regional, states: *“one member appointed from nomination received from an association of Namibian veterans.”* I would recommend to the Minister to stipulate that it must be a registered association of veterans, because we sometimes have this mushrooming of organisations and the Act must be very clear to avoid lawyers getting involved in matters concerning heroism. That should go for both National and Regional Advisory Committees. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? While I agree with the Honourable Member on his concern about the mushrooming of associations and the involvement of lawyers, is he also talking from his practical experiences of the mushrooming of Political Parties and Court cases and lawyers?

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HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: No, that is regulated under another Act.
(Intervention)

HON NYAMU: May I ask a question? When the Honourable Member mentioned lawyers I got scared, because I can foresee a situation where the President will be taken to Court for having conferred or not having conferred the status of veteran. Is there a way we can ensure this law is not open to Court challenges?

HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: I think by virtue of the Constitution the President is immune to prosecution for decisions taken while in office and I think maybe that is assumed in the Act or it can be made clearer.

On page 9 on the meetings of both Advisory Committees, it would be an administrative positive if the number of meetings be kept to a minimum, because it is important for people to understand that if the Committee meets quarterly and it is only in March, that my application which I submitted in January has not been hijacked or kept under the table. We need to know so that people have clarity on these issues. That is just a suggestion on the administrative side. It also means there must be proper record-keeping of applications received, minutes of meetings so that if there is a query, there will be a paper trail going back to the beginning. It also comes back to what Honourable Makgone said that the meetings will be abused. The quorum and the number of votes required for a decision also need to be more specific.

On the remuneration side I concur with the Minister of Finance that there must be more clarity on some of these S&T issues and that must be regulated by the Minister in terms of Clause 14.

With regard to the establishment of regional hero's acres in Clause 12, I think it will just be appropriate that the words "*Regional Heroes Acre*" are inserted in that specific clause, that the Ministry of Veterans Affairs must, in consultation with the President and respective Regional Councils, establish a regional heroes acre in each Region.

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With that, Honourable Speaker, thank you very much for the opportunity and those are my contributions to the Bill.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Ndaitwah.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, I rise to support the Bill under discussion. Honourable Members and the general public will recall that at the time we were preparing to finalise the Heroes Acre, Cabinet has established a Cabinet Committee on the subject matter. I am sure if the Chairperson of that Committee, Libertine Amathila, was here, she would have made a contribution to this particular Bill. I may say, for those who served in this Committee and of course, the Cabinet, the work is finally done and the Bill which will administer the conferment of hero status by the President by way of assisting him to fulfil his constitutional obligation has now come to Parliament to be finalised so that there will be clear guidelines as to how the President can be assisted.

In discussing this Bill, Comrade Speaker, I believe we are fully aware that the Bill does not intend to define who is a hero, but rather just to assist the President in executing his duties. There are documents which I am sure will be made available to those who are going to serve on these bodies as a guide, where there is a definition of a hero. Of course, as mentioned earlier, heroes can be found both in the political, economic, social, academic and many other fields and this is not confined to any single group, but open to each and every Namibian. In accordance to the law we are about to pass, it is open to Friends of Namibia.

Therefore, Comrade Speaker, with that understanding I believe all of us agree that Namibia has heroes in those fields which are mentioned. Of course, our country being young in terms of Independence, our focus is on political heroes. As time goes on we will grow out of that, because these laws will stay forever. Many of us or Namibians in general who have

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liberated their country are heroes, but of course, they will be in different categories. I have to tell you that when we were doing research that brought about what we are discussing now, we found that in some countries that have been independent for a long time, at the time of our research had only three people buried in their Heroes Acres. However, that is their situation; we have our own different situation that we have to accept because there are others who have even more. That is why I say the issue of heroism has to be seen in the context in which we find ourselves.

Nevertheless, with the establishment of the National Advisory Committee and the Regional Advisory Committees, I am sure things will become easier. We are only pleading to ourselves as Namibians and individuals who are going to be given this responsibility to be very sincere and have a clear conscience as to what we want to achieve, knowing that all of us have contributed. (Intervention)

HON NYAMU: May I ask a question? Thank you for your very eloquent submission. I was a Member of that Committee you made reference to. You went on a study tour, which you alluded to, and I think you visited Zimbabwe and others. Would you be in a position to give us guidance, having considered how that status is conferred by other countries? You mentioned one country with only three heroes and Namibia probably has over a hundred. Does it sound credible that a country as small as this one can produce so many heroes in such a short period of time? Can you give us some guidance, but my view is that we are mass producing heroes.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: It is true; I was one of the fortunate ones to be given this responsibility and managed to do research on the subject matter. In terms of giving guidelines, I will be available to those who are going to be given the responsibility, because here we are not advising the President to confer hero status on anybody, but I will be available for advice to those who are going to be given the

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responsibility.

On the number of heroes we have, as I said everything depends on the circumstances on the ground of a particular country and that is what had happened and that is what is going to happen. I said, as time goes on our Independence, our revolution is going to mature, but at the same time we also do not know what other heroes are coming. For example, if today a Namibian discovers medicine that can cure cancer that will definitely be a scientific hero and will be accorded that status. That is the situation in which we find ourselves.

Comrade Speaker, when this Bill becomes an Act we should really be critical and objective, because a hero is really something extraordinary. At the time where we are now we have those who have done extraordinary things and those responsible have to look into that. It is also true that the final decision remains with the President, but those who are responsible should not run away from their responsibility; they must assist the President to take correct decisions. If your foreign policy is based on false information coming from your diplomats, your foreign policy will definitely backfire. That is why sincerity and honesty is very necessary in a subject like this one which is of critical national importance. I support the Bill, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Mr Speaker, I have been listening to the speakers in the House, but I am not going to confine myself to certain issues, I will start with Kambukuaza, a man who was in jail for quite a considerable time on Shark Island and he remained there until he died. He is the man who happened to rescue Samuel Maharero from being shot by the Germans and after that they caught him and put him in jail until after the war. He was joined by Cornelius Frederick, the father of David Frederick of today and that one was beheaded and the other one too who was

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beheaded alongside Cornelius Frederick. Those are the heroes of yesterday.

The fact is that we have Wilhelm Maharero who fought the battle all the way down from Okandjira, Ovijombo and until at Hamakari and he is the man who was commanding the war and he lies in Tjihitua today. Some of the people went there; they do not know who Wilhelm Maharero was. You know him by name but you are not aware of his deeds.

We have a man called Nehale of Ondonga who became known for the battle of Namutoni. He is a hero and also Handenge of Uukwambi. I do not know why you keep your history under cover. Those are the first heroes who fought the battles beside those who were hanged by either Kavikunua or Hija Pungairika Nguvauva. These are the people who happened to face the music and they are heroes in name, but their activities, how they fought the war, are not revealed. The people should know were these people who and what they were doing. Go back to the archives and research your history better than you are doing now.

We must not forget where we come from, where we are now, where we want to go. If it were not for those people we could not be here. They fought the battle, they did not deliver our country to the Germans on a silver plate and this battle was fought by several people who gave their lives. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Chief, the Committee about which your Colleagues have spoken.... (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: I do understand what you say, Mr Speaker, but the Committee never said this. (Intervention)

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HON SPEAKER: No, one person at a time, I am speaking now. Honourable Ndaitwah has offered that she will be available to this Committee when it is called to order. You certainly would be one of the people. I know your mind, you are a great historian among other things and you will be one of the people, no doubt, who would be invited to inform the Committee about the heroes and heroines. Now I would want you to look at the document in front of you and see how we can improve upon it. What you are saying will come later. If you have nothing to contribute to the text as it stands, then I will call the next person.

HON RIRUAKO: Call the next person.

HON SPEAKER: In any case, you can always approach Honourable Iyambo. Honourable Nambahu.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you very much for giving me the Floor. I want to join the other Comrades who have spoken in favour of this very important Bill which, in my opinion, is long overdue. I attach much importance to the issue of heroism and would like to echo the sentiments expressed by other Colleagues that by declaring a person a hero, you are actually trying to inspire and invite the present and future generations to emulate the deeds of that heroic individual that your society once upon a time produced. I think it is very important for us to educate our children and I am saying so because as we live in present Namibia, you see a lot of ideological confusion. I have raised it here once, that schools are named after people and then you say, "*I know this person as a hero, why do you not name your school after this person?*" (Intervention)

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HON SPEAKER: Honourable Deputy Minister, I will repeat what I just said to Honourable Riruako. There must be a definition available, you saw the definition and if you want to improve on the language of the definition as it stands.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I have seen that, Comrade Speaker, but my problem is really when it comes to the Committee that is going to give advice. Is it not proper for them to be given the power to co-opt? If we are going to discuss the conferment of hero status to somebody that discovered a certain medicine, is it not proper for the Committee to be given that power to co-opt a person who is knowledgeable in that area they are going to deliberate on? It is something I would like to suggest.

I know that Hitler is not a hero in Germany and I wonder if the Minister could not put some criteria as to who should not be a hero, because if you were fighting against a certain cause or did not contribute to nation-building, why should people even be concerned.

Are we going to provide training to members so that they can really provide leadership so that I do not lobby and then my whole village ends up occupying the whole of the Regional Heroes acre at the expense of other people? When we were fighting there was a strong spirit against regionalism, but in present-day Namibia that is not the case. I want the Minister to look at these issues and I definitely support the Bill.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Kaiyamo.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: I move that the Debate be adjourned until tomorrow.

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**REPORT: OUTREACH TO ERONGO REGION
HON KASINGO**

HON SPEAKER: The Debate stands adjourned until tomorrow, 14:30. The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

**CONSIDERATION: REPORT ON DEPUTY SPEAKER'S
OUTREACH TO ERONGO REGION**

HON SPEAKER: This Report was withdrawn for consultations on the comments made during the Debate. The Question before the Assembly was a Report by the Deputy Speaker for consideration. Any further discussion? Does the Honourable Deputy Speaker wish to reply?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Speaker, in the absence of any contribution, I would like to defer the response to next week, Tuesday.

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? So decided. The Secretary will read the Third Order of the Day.

RECONSIDERATION OF STATISTICS BILL

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Member move that the Assembly now reconsiders the Bill?

**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND
ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** I so Move, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: The Chairperson of the Whole House Committee will take the Chair.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: STATISTICS BILL
HON DR KAWANA**

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:

**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE:** The Committee has to reconsider the Statistics Bill.

Clause 1 put.

**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND
ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Thank you very much, Honourable
Chairperson. In Clause 1 –

- (a) Substitute the following definition for the definition of “*research institution*”:

“Research institution” means any institution conducting research into any matter referred to in Schedule 1 and includes any person who conducts such research.

- (b) Substitute following definition for the definition of “statistical collection:

“Statistical collection” means the process of -

- (a)(i) *Any census other than a census referred to in Paragraph (b) or survey in respect of any matter referred to in Schedule 1;*
- (ii) *The collation of administrative documents, information or records;
or*
- (iii) *The storage of information for the collection, production and dissemination of official statistics, but excludes the collection, production and dissemination of statistical information or data by a person strictly for private use;*
- (b) *Undertaking a population or housing census; or*

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(c) *Undertaking a collection of spatial data for statistical purposes;
and*

Substitute the following reference in the definition of a “statistics producer” for the reference 35(6) to 35(5).

I so move, Comrade Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Clause 1, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 6 put.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Comrade Chairperson, in Clause 6 –

Substitute the following paragraph for Paragraph (a) of Sub-clause (3):

“(a) The employees of the agency and other associate professionals employed by an entity referred to in Paragraphs (a), (b), (c) and (d) of the definition of “Government body.”

I so Move, Comrade Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Clause as amended put and agreed to.

Clause 40 put.

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND
ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** In Clause 40 –

Substitute the following introductory sentence for the introductory sentence of Sub-clause (1):

“(1) In achieving any of the objectives of the National Statistics System, the Statistician-General may, by notice in writing, direct any respondent or any other person designated in the standards to.”

I so Move, Comrade Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Clause, as amended, put and agreed to.

I shall report the Bill with Amendments.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED:

Bill reported with Amendments.

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

**MOTION ON CREATION OF NATIONAL RESERVE
FUND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS**

28 June 2011

**CREATION OF NATIONAL RESERVE FUND
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Tuesday 14 June 2011, the Question before the Assembly was Motion by the Honourable Shixwameni. The Honourable Deputy Minister of Finance adjourned the Debate and I give him the Floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I am aware that the matter contained in the Motion has been discussed in a Standing Committee already and that it is currently still under consideration. Nevertheless, I rise to respond to the proposed call for the establishment of a National Reserve Fund for future generations, as tabled by Honourable Shixwameni.

The Honourable Shixwameni observed that the establishment of such a reserve fund should be capitalised with, amongst others, tax revenues derived from proceeds of exploiting natural resources, both renewable and non-renewable. This in turn would continue to provide for stable revenue flows once that natural resource is depleted. Honourable Shixwameni further articulated the purpose of the fund to be that of guaranteeing future socio-economic prosperity and political stability.

Honourable Speaker, the economic rationale of reserve funds, or more appropriately known as sovereign wealth funds, is derived from the so-called permanent income hypothesis which postulates that present-day generation could forego consumption today for consumption in the future. The validity of this postulation makes sense only if the flow of revenue from such resources were put to mere present-day consumption and expenditure of operational nature. When, however, revenue flows from the proceeds of exploiting natural resources are put to productive use, that is, invested in productive and wealth-creating assets, such investment serves the dual objective of addressing both the present-day challenges as well as those for the future generations.

The Motion before us presents, therefore, two alternative choices, namely, on the one hand, to address socio-economic challenges and grow the economy today and thus enhance long-term wealth creating for a better

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tomorrow or, on the other, park the money in some reserve fund and thus accumulate more socio-economic deficits with the hope that future generations will solve that.

Honourable Speaker, the prerequisites of establishing sovereign wealth funds emanate from sustained availability of large budget surpluses or sustained increases in foreign exchange reserves. Some oil producing countries or mineral commodity exporters with trade surpluses have been able to passively invest funds in foreign equity markets. For now, let me observe that we are not in a surplus situation. On the contrary, our public expenditure currently surpasses our total revenue and, therefore, we are in fact in a deficit situation.

Honourable Members, the theoretical objectives of a typical reserve fund may be noble in principle; however it is my opinion that the practical realities and peculiar risks associated with such funds and our socio-economic circumstances must be taken into consideration when we deliberate on this topic. The most fundamental questions are: Can we mitigate the risks associated with investments of such funds when the global financial crisis persists and does Namibia's socio-economic situation warrant parking of money somewhere offshore while hundreds of children are taught under impoverished structures and have no sufficient text books? Can we as a Nation afford to witness the unemployment situation deteriorating to as much as 51% and respond by setting money aside for investments in foreign assets elsewhere? My hunch is that the future generations who are purported to be the beneficiaries of such intention will judge us harshly if we have to postpone the solution of present-day challenges to distant future.

Our circumstances today do not argue for investing in a social wealth fund. The hard facts, in my opinion, are the following:

Our economy faces severe structural challenges. We have to overcome supply-side constraints, characterised by a narrow production and manufacturing base, if we are to join the league of industrialised nations by 2030. Unemployment has not been abated in recent years with a spill-over effect on the poverty indices. Shortages of technical skills underpin

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the significant mileage that we have to traverse en route our vision. The scarce resources at our disposal have not been sufficient enough to address these challenges. Parking some of these scarce resources in a reserve fund or a sovereign wealth fund has that opportunity cost. Fewer retroviral drugs for the people living with HIV/AIDS, less textbooks for learners, deferral of regional development infrastructure and more youth joining the unemployment army. The list as I have indicated here is not conclusive, it is actually endless.

Capital outflows are another consideration. Honourable Speaker, Namibia has a particular problem with capital outflow, with billions of private savings flowing out of our economy. We as the legislators have responded to this situation by enacting domestic asset requirements and legislation to ensure that some of these private savings are indeed invested in Namibia to enhance domestic economic development.

Honourable Speaker, the Motion before this august House does not curb capital flight, in fact it could promote capital flight. When capital is invested abroad, it does not sit idle in any investment vehicle. Such capital is used to fund economic activities elsewhere and investing funds in foreign investment vehicles is not riskless. During the global financial crisis, for instance, the Norwegian Sovereign Wealth Fund, propelled by the oil industry in that country, loss not less than 25% of its total value in one year. It will be a sad day for Namibia if scarce public resources get parked to offshore funds and get exposed to systemic market risks over which we have no control.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, we should not defer today's challenges to future generations. We have high general unemployment rates and even higher youth unemployment. We are committed to tackling these challenges head-on instead of parking funds in some offshore wealth fund. We have demonstrated that investing the resources in productive undertakings in the Namibian economy and the development of our human capital is a more appropriate way to secure a better tomorrow for current and future generations.

In an increasingly integrated regional and global economy we should

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spare neither effort, not resources to improve our competitiveness as long-term growth prospects of our own economy. We must invest in our productive capacity and advances in technology. We should as leaders assume the responsibility and not roll over redress of our socio-economic challenges to future generations on account of a reserve fund.

On the basis of these material facts and principled commitment, I am of the opinion that much more research and investigations are required before a Motion of this nature can be supported. In any event, I believe that our investments into the Namibian economy are a far better way in ensuring a prosperous tomorrow for current and future generations. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Deputy Minister for his eloquent contribution on this Motion. Any further discussion? Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: I move, on behalf of Honourable Shixwameni, that the Debate be adjourned until tomorrow.

HON SPEAKER: I have the following to say to the House, that in view of the very demanding Conference on Education which is ongoing at the present time at the Safari Court Hotel and secondly, the preparations for the memorial service and funeral of our late departed hero, John Ya Otto Nankudhu, it is my intention, subject to the concurrence of the House, to adjourn the House now until Tuesday, next week. So decided. The House shall meet Tuesday, next week.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2011.07.05 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
05 JULY 2011**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, you are kindly reminded, as per the invitation on your desk from the Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture with regard to the 125 Years of Coca Cola Celebrations. The Honourable Members are required to organise themselves for a football match between Members of Parliament and members of the Diplomatic Corps. The Minister concerned will explain and give us more clarity on this matter in due course, but just read the invitation.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, you are cordially invited to go and play soccer for a good cause. It is an imperialist company, but it has globalised and it is for a good cause, not to sponsor war in Afghanistan.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Honourable Amathila.

**TABLING: REPORT ON REGIONAL WORKSHOP
ON CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION**

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON AMATHILA / HON SCHLETTWEIN / HON KAAPANDA**

HON AMATHILA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I lay upon the Table the Report on the Regional Workshop on Climate Change Mitigation and Green Economic Development in the SACU Region.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Reports. Other Reports and Papers?

TABLING: REPORTS OF AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

- Municipality of Omaruru for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2010;
- Town Council of Omuthiya for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2010; and
- Town Council of Outapi for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2010.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Reports? Any further Reports and Papers? I recognise Honourable Minister Kaapanda.

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT:
NAMIBIA POST LTD.**

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Annual Report of Namibia Post Ltd, for the year 2010.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON NAHOLO**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Report. Any further Reports and Papers? Notices of Questions? Honourable Naholo.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 23:

HON NAHOLO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 14th of July 2011, I shall ask the Minister of Finance the following:

It has frequently been reported in the print media during the past weeks that the Honourable Minister of Finance was interfering in the affairs of the Roads Fund Administration. According to the reports the Minister was fighting tooth and nail to bring back the suspended CEO, a certain Mr Penda Kiiyala who has been suspended by Roads Fund Administration Board of Directors.

As per the Companies Act (Act 6 of 1973), read together with the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Act (Act 2 of 2006), there are clear demarcations and separation of power between:

- (a) The shareholder;
- (b) The Board of Directors; and
- (c) The Management.

These demarcations are meant to enhance good working relations as opposed to contradictions and conflict creation.

1. Can the Honourable Minister explain to this Honourable House whether her alleged interference in the affairs of the Roads Administration Fund has taken into account the fiduciary responsibility and accepted common principles of corporate governance by the Board of Directors of Roads Administration Fund?

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2. Can the Honourable Minister inform this august House whether the Council of State-Owned Enterprises was consulted in this matter and if the answer is yes, what was their advice?
3. As per the State-Owned Enterprises Act (Act 2 of 2006), when does the relevant portfolio Minister and/or shareholder intervene in the affairs of a corporate governance and when does he or she call for reinstatement of a CEO and/or his suspension?
4. Is the share certificate of Roads Fund Administration in the name of the Ministry of Finance or in the name of the Ministry of Works and Transport? Who is the shareholder or relevant portfolio Minister here?
5. If in the end the Auditor-General's findings happen to confirm the anomalies that were found by the Deloitte & Touché auditors, how will the Honourable Minister react, because the Nation is waiting with keen interest to know the truth.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Table the Questions, please. Any further Notices of Questions? Notices of Motions? Minister of Works and Transport.

NOTICES OF MOTION

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I give Notice that tomorrow, the 6th of July 2011, I shall Move -

That this Assembly –

Ratifies the Memorandum of Understanding between the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Namibia, the Republic of Zambia on

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the establishment of the Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi Development Corridor.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Motion. Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING:
CONFERMENT OF NATIONAL HONOURS BILL**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, the 28th of June 2011, the Question before the Assembly was Motion by the Honourable Minister of Veteran Affairs , that the Bill be read a Second Time. The Honourable Deputy Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor. Honourable Kaiyamo.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I welcome the Bill to the House but as usual I want us to be on the same page at all levels of our society. I do not want us to move fast and leave most of our people behind with this Bill.

In my view, which I believe is not in line with some of the Colleagues, whether you wavered in 1970 or 1980 or wavered in 2004 is the same and you are not a hero. Why do we want to bring heroism through the backdoor? Why do we want to bring in people who could not constantly be heroes? Maybe the Minister can explain to us why we want to talk about heroism here while we have heroes in the Veterans Bill, which clearly states that you can be a hero if you were part and parcel of the struggle from day one to the end. Some of these Colleagues wavered in the struggle now want to be awarded with heroism. Maybe the Minister can explain to me and the society at large why we want to honour people

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who do not deserve these awards. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question, please? I am very sorry to interrupt you, Honourable Deputy Minister, but I think it is very important for me to be on the same page as you. You are referring to those who did not waver from the first day until the last day. When is the last day so that we can be on the same page?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Just like Comrade Nankudhu, this is the last day. You constantly have to be a hero of the struggle. Some of the people who want to be awarded these national honours stayed away from the funeral of the late Nankudhu, our commander.

I feel the Bill needs to define who are friends of Namibia and “*noteworthy service*” also needs to be defined. I am also of the opinion that maybe we need to take this Bill to the people. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: May I ask a question? Comrade Kaiyamo, I noticed that on Friday there were only a few here, but on Saturday at the Heroes Acre I did not even see those who were here on Friday. I thought that maybe it is because the late Nankudhu is not their hero. Are you aware that they decided to attend the American national day?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: I am aware of that and these are the people who want to be awarded national honours but they did not want to pay their respects to a hero of the struggle of Namibia, our commander. I know some of the people went to other funerals, but I know of some who were around town

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who did not turn up at this funeral.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, maybe we need to define who are friends of Namibia and “*noteworthy contribution*”. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: On a Point of Information. I appreciate the comment by the Deputy Minister that certain people were on the streets; they did not go to the Heroes Acre. I just want to inform the Honourable Deputy Minister that in our society there are those elements who are going to events not because they are sympathetic or concerned, it is only because they want to show their faces so that people can see that they are serious. Among them are those who “*five-to-eleven*” new members in a Party with party flags on their cars just to show that they are more committed than the others. Therefore, be careful when you say that.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: I was also of the opinion that this Bill needs to be taken to the people, but the Minister informed me that the Bill is really urgent. With these few words, I support the Bill.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Kapia.

HON KAPIA: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. I rise to support the idea to come up with a law of this nature, but I just want to put on record that Honourable Makgone pinpointed serious issues in this Bill as well as Comrades Ilonga, Uutoni and Kaiyamo. I will have a problem as an elected Member of this House to pass this Bill in its current form and I want to be on record, because heroes are not made by anybody, heroes do heroic deeds, distinguishing themselves as educationists,

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doctors or those who participated in the liberation struggle. (Intervention)

HON NAHOLO: I want to ask the Honourable Member a question.

HON KAPIA: I decline. (Interjection)

HON NAHOLO: Decline? Coward.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you withdraw the word “*coward*”?

HON NAHOLO: I withdraw.

HON KAPIA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I said that to start a Political Party or to be a Member of Parliament does not make you a hero and that is one of my concerns. Although I know the Bill is urgent, we also need to do things properly. I am on record for urging the young people of this country to follow the Debates in Parliament and the laws we are passing. (Intervention)

HON NAHOLO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, on a Point of Information. I am told that the Honourable Member who is speaking now was a member of Battalion 101. Can the Member deny or confirm that?

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: What does it have to with the Bill? Just proceed.

HON KAPIA: Thank you very much. Honourable Deputy Speaker, I know there are two Honourable Members here who have a serious disease in their heads about Battalion 101 and I challenge you not to cook up stories which can destroy people. Do not cook up stories in this House and even out there. One Honourable Member also said it the other day and I kept quiet, but I want to warn you that I, as Paulus Ilonga Kapia know where I was born, how I grew up and what I did in my life. Go and tell your reactionary puppets out there that what you are saying is nonsense, it is your own cooked up stories. I withdraw “*nonsense.*” (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed with the matter on the Table, please.

HON KAPIA: Therefore, I want you to go and tell your people who cooked up those stories that I know them. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, you cannot slap on your table and point to the Honourable Member. Proceed with the issue on the Table.

HON KAPIA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I just want to make it clear because it concerns me and I know that some people in the RDP are the ones who cooked up that story in 2003 and I know how it started and I investigated the whole matter. Therefore, I want to tell you that you must take note, my name is clean, I never in my life collaborated with the enemy and I know why I am saying it.

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Honourable Deputy Speaker, I want to appeal to the Ministry of Veterans Affairs to consider the concerns we have with the Bill. I do not know whether we are expected to pass this Bill before next week in its current form.

On the issue of application, I do not know whom we are favouring and whom we want to appease. To apply for what? We are not solving the problem, we are going to create more problems. Therefore, I am sorry for those who want to be favoured by this law. (Intervention)

MINISTER OF DEFENCE: I am sorry to interrupt the Honourable Member but I just want to give some direction. Some of us were involved in the drafting of this Bill and I think you should read it carefully in order to understand the issue of application. Nobody can stand up and proclaim himself or herself as a hero. The application here is not for an individual to apply, it is when you want to recommend somebody as a hero to the body. It is not that you yourself apply to be a hero; it implies that you recognise somebody and you state what he has done and should be honoured as a hero.

I am not saying you should not criticise the Bill, but it is a reflection of what we felt could be acceptable to everyone who could be declared a hero – those who have participated in the struggle, those who have distinguished themselves in other fields.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sure the Minister will also have the right to clarify the intention behind that particular provision so that everybody can understand.

HON KAPIA: I want to conclude by thanking the Minister for that information and it needs to be made clear in the Bill itself so that everybody is clear on that. As I said, Honourable Makgone highlighted

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most of the issues. (Intervention)

HON LUCKS: On a Point of Information. The Honourable Member mentioned that he knows of two people in this House... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just sit down; I do not want to reopen that.

HON LUCKS: The Constitution of Namibia is very clear on that. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you sit down? Please proceed.

HON KAPIA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I want to support the Bill with the proposals by Honourable Makgone and Honourable Ilonga taken into consideration.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Naholo.

HON NAHOLO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I rise to make my humble contribution to this very sensitive but important Bill. This Bill was introduced by the Honourable Minister of Veteran Affairs, which clearly means that it will be implemented by his Ministry.

I would like to refer this Honourable House to the following: Firstly, I would like to suggest that the Bill should read as follows: “*Conferment of*

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National and Regional Honours Bill.” Secondly, the Veterans Act, Act 2 of 2008, Part I(b) on Definitions dictates, among others, that “veteran” “means any person who consistently and persistently participated or engaged in any political, diplomatic or underground activity in furtherance of the liberation struggle”. Part II (1) on responsibilities of the Minister states “that the Minister responsible for the administration of this Act and the initiation, formulation and development of policies on matters pertaining to veterans affairs and dependents of veterans registered under this Act and relating to the fund, and for that purpose he or she may without prejudice to subsection (ii) give general or specific directions to the Board.”

Part II(3)(iii) states that: “The Minister may during each year or at any appropriate time nominate veterans for consideration by the President to receive honours during their lifetime or posthumously for their contribution in the liberation.”

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the main purpose of this Bill, as defined, is “to establish a National Honours Advisory Committee and Regional Honours Advisory Committees to advise the President of the Republic of Namibia when exercising his or her discretion to confer honours, to provide for the establishment of a National Heroes Acre and Regional Heroes Acres and to provide for incidental matters.” (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: On a Point of Information. Please read the document, “*Conferment of Honours.*” This is not confined to veterans alone. The Veterans Act is clear; it is conferment of national honours on various fields. Do not take it that it is for you alone. Please address the Bill, do not address your expectations.

HON NAHOLO: It is a pity that the Honourable Member is trying to jump the gun, which is very dangerous.

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Considering Part II(2)(iii) of the Veterans Act which gives the power of nomination to the Minister responsible and this Bill which aims at establishing the National Honours Advisory Committee and Regional Advisory Committees to advise the President of the Republic of Namibia when exercising his or her discretion to confer honours, there is a serious contradiction here. The Minister of Veterans Affairs deals with veterans of the liberation struggle only, whereas the Bill under debate intends to deal with the conferment of honours to all Namibians irrespective of whether one is a veteran or a civilian, as long as one is nominated.

The Minister of Veterans Affairs is only responsible for honours of registered and qualified veterans of the liberation struggle as defined by the Veterans Act and this Bill is aimed at honouring all Namibians, whether they are veterans or ordinary citizens, but with outstanding qualities. Really, if not carefully considered, I foresee the possibility of the two pieces of legislation overlapping each other.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, it is my firm belief that the Ministry of Veterans Affairs is not the right institution to deal with this very sensitive and serious issue of the said honours as this may lead to biasness towards its clients, the war veterans – including myself – of the liberation struggle only, unless the Bill aims to recognise and honour the veterans only. This is a national issue which is part of inheritance and culture. Therefore, the national honorary issue should be entrusted to the Ministry responsible for culture and not veterans affairs.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the people of this country have learned over the years that some Namibians have been honoured and recognised already. There are those who have passed on and received State funerals whether here in Windhoek or elsewhere, whilst others got buried at Heroes Acre. Who was advising the President and on what basis was this done and under which Ministry was it done? Where do we put the issues of constitutionality and legality regarding these actions which were carried out in the absence of the law?

Many Members spoke on the issue of application and I concur with their sentiments, because you cannot apply to be declared a hero, it is just not

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credible. For this Bill to be useful, acceptable and beneficial to the people of Namibia, we need to have a written policy on the definition of a hero or heroine as well as true national reconciliation as a basis on which the honours will be recommended and conferred. There is a need to develop veritable criteria of identifying the potential heroes or heroines to minimise all possible political manipulations, especially by individuals with vested interest.

Not long ago we witnessed a situation in Windhoek where some elected and influential public figures were jostling and fighting with ordinary citizens over the naming or renaming of streets and other public infrastructures after themselves or their relatives. These incidents, therefore, call for tightening all the loose ends and closing all the loopholes. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: May I ask Honourable Naholo a question? Now that the Honourable Member is hammering on the issue that some people want streets named after them, did he consult the President of his own Party about those issues and does he know how many streets in this country have been named after the President of a Party?

HON NAHOLO: I think the Honourable Member misunderstood me, I am not against street-naming, I am against people fighting for streets to be named after them, even those who do not qualify. I am saying if we are not careful, we will end up honouring anything if we do not have the right procedures and criteria to be followed, because everyone here wants to be something, even those who do not qualify. I know of many people around here who were running away from all soldiers, be it Koevoet, be it PLAN fighters. When they saw the soldiers they ran away and they want streets to be named after them. (Intervention)

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I am sorry to disturb your speech, but you related that the President has been giving honours to people without authority. Can you kindly take your Constitution and read Article 32(h)? You took an Oath to uphold the Constitution of the Republic. Let me read it for you. “*Functions, Powers and Duties of the President. (h) to confer such honours as the President considers appropriate on citizens, residents and friends of Namibia in consultation with interested and relevant persons and institutions.*” That is a constitutional function of the President and I would like to advise you to read your Constitution before you make statements in Parliament because you have taken an Oath to uphold this Constitution.

HON NAHOLO: Thank you, my teacher, but if we have the Constitution, then why the Bill? If we do not have the correct criteria to identify who is an authentic hero, this country may end up honouring mythological heroes instead of honouring authentic heroes and heroines, or naming streets after people who do not deserve to be held in everlasting honour, celebrity and esteem.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:15 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

HON NAHOLO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, before the break I was trying to address the issue of setting up regional Heroes Acres and I really want to be honest that I am shocked to hear that on top of the already existing Heroes Acre here in Windhoek, we must again build many more Heroes Acres across the country. All of us know that Namibia is not an island and I want to know where else in the world one would find so many Heroes Acres in one country and shall our moral standards really permit us to do such a thing? It is unwise to embark on this idea. The right thing to do is to honour our people with tangible rewards which will bring joy and happiness in their lives and not to wait until they die in order to

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reward them with well-fenced graves and expensive coffins. Instead of building heroes acres, let us rather build houses for our heroes and heroines. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable Naholo a tiny question? Honourable Naholo, you are a good African like I am. Do you know they are saying in Africa that a person is never good until he is dead?

HON NAHOLO: I nod my head. I was saying, instead of building Heroes Acres, let us rather build houses for our heroes and heroines. On the other hand, we are Africans and it is un-African to dig a grave for somebody ... (Intervention)

HON MWANINGANGE: May I ask you a question? Can you tell me how many countries in Africa fought so many protracted battles for freedom and how many freedom fighters died and where did they die? In Namibia your own father died fighting and is buried somewhere else. Can you tell me, if we were to rebury all those heroes and heroines their remains should be brought to Windhoek? I am asking the question as you said it is not necessary to have Heroes Acres countrywide. Namibia is a unique country when it comes to the struggle for liberation and you know how many people died.

HON NAHOLO: It was not a question, it was information. I was just saying that we are Africans and it is un-African to dig a grave for a person who is not dead yet and when it comes to my own tradition, it is taboo to dig a grave and leave it open until the next day.

Namibia is a small country in terms of population. To build thirteen Heroes Acres for two million people is far-fetched. We must also stop the habit of lavishing praises and honours on people only after death. So far many of our heroes have been described to have died as paupers and this

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is very unfortunate. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Like whom?

HON NAHOLO: Like the Comrade we buried yesterday. I want you to tell me how many times did the late Comrade enjoy the comfort of being on a plane? We only wait for people to die and put them on a plane, but while they were alive they never enjoyed the comfort of being on a plane, it is only you. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: May I ask a question? Are you aware that they are only having national burials for the sake of political mobilisation and it is not from the heart?

HON NAHOLO: Yes, they use the opportunity to campaign through the death of a Comrade. That is when they come with their flags and sing praises while the person was suffering while alive. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: On a Point of Information. The Honourable Member is proud of being an African, but now he is talking about somebody who passed away recently, making all kinds of disparaging remarks about that person. How African are you?

Why is it that when SWAPO Members are no longer there it becomes the concern of the ex-SWAPO Members? Why?

HON NAHOLO: I have to say that the general impression out there is

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that the only Bills we pass here are ones that line our pockets and I am including myself, while the rest of the Nation have nothing to eat, no clean and safe water, no pieces of land, no shelter, no proper medication. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. I am sorry to disturb you, but as parliamentarians we should maintain a certain level of honesty. This Parliament just about three months ago passed the Appropriation Bill with a Development Budget worth N\$8 billion to provide goods and services to our people and N\$1 billion for social pensions of senior citizens. To say that we only pass Bills to benefit ourselves is not quite honourable. Not all of us are heroes, so we are not going to benefit from this Bill, therefore it is not my Bill, perhaps it is your Bill, I do not know. The point is that we do not pass Bills here only to benefit ourselves.

HON NAHOLO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Nation is watching. Already the people out there suspect that somebody is already lined up for the tender to build the thirteen Heroes Acres. (Interjections). That is the impression by the people out there that I am representing here. I did not come here to represent myself; I am representing the concerns and the opinions of the ordinary Namibian people. The Nation only wants service delivery – nothing less, nothing more. Therefore, this self-serving attitude of drafting Bills that benefit us must come to an end.

In conclusion, I want to appeal to this Honourable House that this Bill should be placed under the correct Ministry, not the Ministry of Veterans Affairs. I propose that it should be under the Ministry that deals with cultural affairs. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Maamberua.

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HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I can afford to be brief and from the onset I also need to state that I think this Bill is long overdue, because already in the past, particularly after Independence, many heroes and heroines have already gone unnoticed.

On Page 3 there is a distinction between the National Honours Advisory Committee and the Regional Honours Advisory Commission and I think we might face a problem in future, because that presupposes that we have national heroes and regional heroes and the line to determine whether the contribution of any particular individual is of national nature or only confined to a particular region is going to be very thin and that is very dangerous as we may not be able to defend the actions of a person who is only going to be recognised as a regional hero whereas the deeds could have established that person as a national hero. Similarly, the converse is also true that somebody who may not really have made a very significant contribution at the national level may be recognised as a national hero, yet the actions of that particular individual in the history may have been confined only to some regional activities. Perhaps the regulations are going to assist us to draw that distinction, but for now the Bill itself is not helpful enough in that particular respect.

On Page 4, Clause 5, Establishing of National Honours Advisory Committee: most the people who are going to serve on this body will come from the Ministries, recommended by the Ministers responsible for Veteran Affairs, Defence, etcetera. Given the fact that the majority of Ministers, if not all, come from one Political Party, it could not auger well for national unity if it is Ministers who are going to make those recommendations .

On Page 5, Paragraph (g), the Council of Churches is also going to be one of those to make recommendations and there might be some other denominations in Namibia which are not necessarily Christians and they may feel left out. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: 95% are Christians.

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HON MAAMBERUA: I do not know how you force people to be 95% Christians in a secular society. This is a secular State according to our Constitution.

Paragraph (h) on the same Page makes provision for one member appointed from nominations received from *an* association of Namibian veterans. I do not know which one this is going to be, because according to the Veterans Act only one association is to be recognised. Then this Bill should state "*the Association*", that particular association that is being recognised, because if it is an association, then it could be any.

Then, I do not see any people from Political Parties among those to serve on the Committee. It is only some of the Ministers, Council of Churches, the association and the President, but I think it is very important that Political Parties also be represented and serve on this National Advisory Committee. That is very important and they cannot be left out like that.

The last point, Honourable Deputy Speaker, is on page 8 where the Bill is detailing the application for and objections against the conferment of honours. However, I do not see anything in the Bill concerning appeal. If, on the advice of the Advisory Committee, the President rejects that recommendation, how does either the Advisory Committee or the people who have motivated that particular individual to be regarded as a hero appeal? There should be some appeal mechanisms as that is only fair and just. Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Nujoma.

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Thank you, Comrade Speaker Deputy Speaker. I rise to support the Bill and I only have some comments on Clause 3(b)(iii) where it is stated that, "*the President, in conferring honours, has to do so in consultation with the National*

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Honours Advisory Committee, Regional Honours Advisory Committees, other institutions and when applying his mind to such conferment, to take into consideration whether the person on whom such honour is to be conferred is a veteran and if so, whether such person has exhibited qualities and actions and achievements of heroism, leadership for the betterment of the Region or the Namibian Nation.”

Comrade Deputy Speaker I think the qualification of a hero in the Veterans Act of 2008 is very important and should be adhered to, even by these proposed bodies we would like to confer these powers, for example the National Honours Advisory Committee and the Regional Honours Advisory Committees. They should apply the criteria as stipulated in the Act which provides that a person must have been persistently and consistently involved in whether it is economic, social, scientific, academic, public administration, security or any field of human endeavour in Namibia. That should be the criteria and we should not deviate from that. We are now going further to say a person who has provided a noteworthy service to the betterment of a Region or the Namibian Nation, a Member of the National Assembly, the National Council or a leader of a Political Party. I think we are now going too far, because some of these Political Parties have been part of the South African Administration, they have been ruling together with the South Africans. Some of the Political Parties have been created out of anger and frustration and, therefore, if we resort to conferring national honours on Political Parties, what Political Party has exhibited acts of heroism and where, in the National Assembly or where?

I agree with the other Colleagues that these are attempts to bring in some of these people through the backdoor who have not been consistent and it is true, we will see that, I am telling you now. You will see that they will be nominated by some regions, they will be nominated by the Regional Honours Advisory Committees and we will see an erosion of this good, noble idea. For this to go to Political Parties, really, we are not serious. We will see a mass production of heroes, proliferation of heroes and I think, Comrade Minister, we need to revisit this issue. I agree with Honourable Kapia and Honourable Kaiyamo that the criteria should not be diluted in any sense; it has to be consistent and persistent. Thank you.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Next is Honourable Ulenga.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this Bill. I must say from the start that I am in favour in the principle of having such a Bill discussed and I hope eventually passed in this House. However, I must say from the start that I think I would like to warn against undue urgency and haste in passing this Bill as it needs a lot of serious reconsideration and eventually I would like to propose that it be referred to the Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committee before it is passed. I am saying this with great restraint because I understand that the Minister would like to have this dealt with as quickly as possible, but I think Cabinet Members must be generally warned against this thing of coming to the House and then insisting on a Bill to be dealt with as urgently as possible, because it is this House that needs to pass laws. Cabinet must not come here and say they want this Bill to be passed as it is urgent.

I remember at the time when we discussed the Defence Bill here and we were urged to pass it with haste and as soon as it was passed here, it went to the National Council, it stayed there for months and then it was rejected and had to come back here. I think this must not be the fashion and habit in the National Assembly.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I heard some reference to some stuff that was said in the House and unfortunately I was not here, therefore I may bore you with stuff that has been discussed already. First of all, on the definition of a hero, and we have already passed a law here that talks about veterans, but I think it is very important that the concept of hero is concisely and sharply and precisely defined, because we must not fool ourselves, Honourable Deputy Speaker, we are not all heroes. To have taken part in the liberation struggle does not make you a hero. Even to have died because of the liberation struggle does not make you a hero. A hero should be somebody who has distinguished himself or herself, who has set them apart from others. It is not just a question of showing notable achievements; it must be extraordinary and exceptional.

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Honourable Deputy Speaker, I definitely see an unacceptable generality in the approach presented here in this Bill and I think I will not be able to support it. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I want to ask the Honourable Member a question. I listened with interest to the intervention of the Honourable Member. The Honourable Member initially said we should not fool ourselves, we are not all heroes just because we participated in the struggle and that goes without saying. I think we will all agree with that, but then he proceeded to say that even those who died in the liberation struggle and I take it that he means those who died fighting, are not all heroes. There I will disagree. I do not think there is any greater act of heroism than to give someone's life. If you died in combat or in the process of liberation, while contributing to the struggle, you are most definitely a hero and nobody can be a greater hero than that one. That probably is not what you wanted to say, but that is how many of us understood you.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I tend to agree with the Honourable Member. The point that I want to make is that there is too much of "*everybody is a hero in this country.*"

Although I have a great deal of respect for those who have already been declared heroes, but you know, to sit in a certain Committee of a certain Political Party or to have been appointed as Chairperson or President or whatever of a Political Party, honestly cannot make you a hero. I wanted to say is that not all acts make us heroes. Wars are fought and, of course, people die in wars. That is all that war is about, to fight and die. I think we need to reconsider the definition of heroism.

Again, heroes are not born; they are created by acts, not just acts of bravery but of exceptional bravery. Generally men and women are brave but it is not generally that they are heroes.

Therefore, when we look at the issues put forward on page 3 of the Bill

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regarding the people who should be considered to be conferred these honours, a person who has exhibited certain qualities, just to show qualities; does that make you a hero? If a child or a young man shows some qualities of being this or that, I do not see how that makes him a hero. It should be actions, not qualities. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: I want to give information so that we are clear when we talk about a hero. It is not that all the people who have died during the war are heroes; otherwise everybody who died during the First and Second World War would have all been heroes while only a few became heroes who have shown exceptional bravery and gallantry. A hand grenade is thrown and you jump on it to protect the others, then you will become a hero. Not each and everyone who dies in war is a hero. It does not mean that. They only died for liberation, for the cause, but not as heroes. That is the information I want to give so that we understand when we discuss heroes.

HON ULENGA: The Honourable Member is taking us back and I will not respond to that because I already made a comment. I think we have the right to differ slightly on some of these issues. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: On a Point of Information. Honourable Ulenga, I am of the same view as Comrade Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, that in exceptional circumstances of fighting for Independence, for example in the classic example of our war, I consider everybody who has sacrificed his or her life as a hero. It is a war but it is not a classic war, it is a war imposed upon the people by exceptional circumstances and in that regard, we consider the people who have paid the ultimate price as heroes. Others can have different views, but from my own point of view I think that is the ultimate sacrifice. People have given their lives and I consider them as heroes.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are some topics that are so interesting that people want to give their points of view, but I just want to remind the Honourable Members that those people who have already taken the Floor are not going to be given the Floor. Maybe you can intervene with questions and information. You can intervene, Honourable Chief, by asking a question or giving information.

HON ULENGA: I think I have made my point clearly. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: I had Comrades who were in jail with me and who died here and they were not regarded as heroes. Nashivela and Shitilifa were buried just like everybody else. They were sitting next to me in the same cell and after that I missed Nashivela and I asked where he went. He died and nobody knows where he was buried. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Who is that one?

HON RIRUAKO: Nashivela and if you are not a veteran, ask your Colleagues. Shitilifa died on a farm, we did not hear anything about a hero. These people were sleeping next to me in the same jail, but unfortunately they were killed and the organisation they belonged to, buried them like anybody else, which I regret. I agree with you, Honourable Nujoma, when you say if you give your life for your country you must be regarded as such. I do not want to make a speech, but those who died in 1908 and 1959 were buried and have no names on the graves yet, no names on the stones. Every year we celebrate their deaths but there are no names. Those are the heroes who died in front of us and we have to rewrite the history and write their names on their tombs. You cannot be given credentials which are not yours; you have to suffer for

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that. They prepared to dump me in the Zambezi River and the other ones went to Robben Island. I went to the Zambezi River, they left me there and I was rescued by a Zambian fisherman. They wanted me to die, but God is there, you cannot decide the death of anybody else if He did not decide that way.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Those are the issues that will probably justify the application. I do not know how the Minister is going to respond.

HON ULENGA: I take my Chief's advice as being the last interruption, hopefully. We must be careful in the selection of these categories. For example, the participation in general political activities, being a member of a Political Party or a leader of a religious denomination or traditional community, there must be something that really sets that person apart, now just because they are members of a Political Party or leaders of a Political Party. I think this is too general and it must not be allowed to pass like this.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I will not sit down without having expressed myself on what I consider to be really a serious state of hypocrisy. I do not mean to say this is an intended hypocrisy, but it clearly looks like hypocrisy and this is the fact that we are really only honouring people who have died and not standing up to recognise their achievements during their own lifetime. We know that the struggle involved a lot of suffering and self-deprivation. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Ulenga, we have many people who are being honoured who are still alive, myself being one of them. I never applied, I never asked anybody to ask His Excellency to honour me, but I had my name called. Maybe what I did for this country is what distinguished me to be given that honour and I am not dead, I am still alive and there are

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many others. Therefore, saying that the Government only honours those who are dead is not true.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would not want to discuss Honourable Ilonga's status of heroism or not. Secondly, I know that some people were conferred medals and so forth, but there are also examples. I attended the late Comrade Tuhadeleni's memorial service and funeral and you know what happened that day in the church at Endola? Somebody stood there at the altar and called for all those who have been imprisoned together with him to come to the front. There was in the church Comrade Ya Toivo, Comrade Kapewasha and I think also Comrade Ekandjo and myself. These four of us were at that time employed by the Government. There were then others, Shawayanga and many others and there was a distinction between the two groups, the people who were just left alone, the rags that they had on. It was a shame. These are Comrades who sat in prison together, slept on the floor together, suffered together and all of a sudden the fact that you are working for the Government distinguishes you from these people like night from day. That was just not nice to see. I do not just mean for you to get a medal or whatever, it is for your life condition to be improved on. That is very important. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? On Friday those who were standing in front, how were they dressed, those who were in Robben Island? How were those dressed on Friday?

HON ULENGA: I do not want to prolong the discussion of this point, but if the Minister wants me to get into that, in the first place, the same thing applies. I spoke to those Comrades, even those who received houses, you must talk to them to hear the kind of conditions that they still live in and hear the kind of houses that they have been given by the Government. But of course, there is a distinction; at least it is something if a person now has a pillow to put his head on. There may be some

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distinctions here and there and mind you, this is not criticism of Government. Comrade Ilonga does not say Government has conferred what. No, this is done by the President and now, as proposed, by certain Committees. It is not Government; it is not like you are distinguished from us here. It is the President representing the State in this matter.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, another thing that I want to warn the House against is the possibility of a conflict of interest in discussing this matter. I see that in Clause 3(2)(b)(iii) where that person is a person who has provided a noteworthy service to the betterment of the Region or the Namibian Nation as a Member of the National Assembly or the National Council or as a leader of a Political Party. This is now us deciding that these are the kind of people who must be conferred. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Information. In 1959 the leader of a Political Party was chased away by the Police and the Magistrate. My own chief, the former president, Ngavirue, was chased away from the Magistrate because they asked permission from the Magistrate and I, one person, put the bayonet this way before the Charge Office and there was a hullabaloo there. I said, “*My family is here, I want to see them.*” The other bayonets were there behind me. I did not care a damn who is the person who is my family, I wanted to count how many of them are in that mortuary, but the policemen stopped me and I did not blame them for that, they could not do otherwise.

HON ULENGA: Thank you for the information, Chief. Comrade Deputy Speaker, I would like to refer the House to page 4, the last word in the first line, “*substitute*”. It looks like this word has been wrongly used; the sentence does not seem to be making good sense with the use of the word “*substitute*”, where it says that the President may substitute such an honour with a higher honour or a lower honour. Perhaps you should have said, “*The President may substitute a higher honour*” and not “*substitute such honour with a higher honour.*” Perhaps the Minister will have to ask them to look again at this one.

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What would a “*dishonourable act*” be? Would it not be better if there is a closer definition to this under Clause 3(4)?

A further comment I want to make is with regard to Clause 8(3) where it says: “*The National Honours Advisory Committee and the Regional Honours Advisory Committee must act on such decisions and orders of the President as he or she may make regarding the conferment.*” It is not very clear when you read this who is supposed to advise who now, because it sounds here as if the President can actually overturn whatever the Committees are advising him on, because it says they must take any decisions or orders from the President.

I have pointed out the conflict of interest under Clause 9(1)(a)(iii). I think this House should not decide to confer medals on itself or its Members.

The matter of Heroes’ Acres, of course it may make some sense to bury people separately, but I do not think with our current economic situation we can afford it. If one looks at the needs of this country and the way we need to prioritise what we need to build now and what we can build later, I do not think this is the time to build thirteen other Heroes’ Acres. If we consider certain people heroes and we want to confer them the privilege of being buried in a Heroes’ Acre, there is still enough space there, let us take them to that one Heroes’ Acre that has been created.

You will remember that there has been quite some clamouring when the current Heroes’ Acre was declared. It is a nice thing, it is true, but we must look at the other side as well. There is a lot of money involved in building these places and let us build what the Nation cannot do without now so that we can build the other things later.

HON RIRUAKO: May I ask a question? You say we do not need to have a Heroes’ Acre. Why? Those who have done well must be buried well; they must be given high respect for what they have done for the country.

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HON ULENGA: I do not have any argument with what the Chief is saying. If we decide to honour certain people by burying them in a Heroes' Acre, we have the Heroes Acre and we can bury them there. It was said by somebody and I think it is a very important point, if we can go out now and build... (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: You said somebody else said that. Who was that somebody else? Can you tell us who is he? He must have a name.

HON ULENGA: The second-last issue that I want to raise, which might cause confusion is again the concept of a regional hero. We already know that the current 13 Regions in Namibia are a bit dicey. When is a person a regional hero and a national hero? Can you imagine a person being a hero of Omusati Region and not a hero of anybody else? I feel this is another area we can look at and perhaps define better.

Lastly is just to propose that this Bill be referred to the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs. Otherwise the principle of having a law like this is agreeable to me. I thank you, Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Shixwameni.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. If I am allowed to just sail through, I will take less than fifteen minutes to allow other people to speak.

Much has been said about this Bill, but I think much that has been said has not really focused on the Bill itself. We have basically just picked out the issue of hero and heroine. I do not know whether, for all intents and

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purposes, all of us want to be heroes and heroines, because the way I read the Bill it says “*Conferment of National Honours Bill*”, it does not say “*conferment of national or regional heroes or heroines.*” Therefore, I want us to bring the Debate to the purpose of the Bill.

I should say from the onset that I fully agree with the principle of the Bill because it is better to have something that regulates and puts down the

criteria at hand than having none at all, because having none at all brings the whole confusion as to who gets recognised and who not. I feel that in this recognition, the hero or heroine is just one part of it, because as far as I know, there are many other awards that are given by the State, not only the hero or heroine status and I think we just need to refocus around those particular issues and see whether we can get each other.

I also support the proposal, given the disagreement that has come from the Executive side, that we might have the Ongulumbashe Gold and Bronze medals rush, but it would not help us, because passing a not so good Bill, that we have reservations about all around, we are not doing a good job as legislators, which we are supposed to do. I am sure Ongulumbashe is around the corner that is probably why we now want each Regional and the National Committee suddenly to be set up so that people can be proposed. The awards should at the end of the day also be limited; we should not create this syndrome that whenever a 26th of August is coming or whenever there is a 21st of March coming, that there must be awards or honours given. We must be very stingy with the awards because the awards must be given to people who really deserve it and the Nation should be at peace itself, there should be no seed of doubt that the award is being given appropriately and deservedly. That is one thing I would like to call and if the Minister can agree with everybody that has pointed out errors that we should refer this Bill to a Committee, there is no rush, we have been giving awards in the past without this Bill, so it can wait for two, three months so that it is properly scrutinised so that we can all agree, and then when we pass it, we know that we have passed the best Bill that will protect the best interest of the Nation, the heroes, heroines and whoever is going to be awarded whatever award.

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I would also like to say something on the Regional Heroes' Acres and the Regional awards. I feel very, very uncomfortable about the last point where Honourable Ulenga ended. We are already sitting with the problem of recognising every clan as a tribe or ethnic group. We already see the fights that are going on in the Regions. We might just be creating problems by giving each Region the power to honour what would be called their regional heroes, because we would next time be having what the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs referred to, the mushrooming of people who want to be recognised, the mushrooming of regional heroes. Once the floodgates have opened, we might not be able to stop it, just as we are currently unable to stop the floodgates of the recognition of so many chiefs without followers. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: The concern of the Honourable Member is that we are giving too much to Regions, but the war was fought here before anything happened and we already have those heroes who were buried. Are we going to dig all of them out? It is impossible; we cannot create that kind of commotion. We would rather prefer to respect them where they are, but not to say they have all the right to do what they want in their Regions. We have one Government and therefore, we have to incorporate what we have.

HON SHIXWAMENI: I was just saying that we have created this problem that Shixwameni wants to be recognised as the Chief of the Shixwameni clan. You have Kuugongelwa-Amadhila who wants her own clan to be recognised. It is not going to work because we are going to end up paying Chiefs without followers and this might just create those floods of regionalism that we want to stop. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: On a Point of Order. Honourable Shixwameni, you are complaining about clans as traditional leaders. What about clans as Political Party leaders?

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HON SHIXWAMENI: I am trying to alert you because mark my words, two months before the 21st of March you will have the floodgates opening in the Regions, sending in applications and every two months before the 26th of August you will have the floodgates opening for people applying for medals and honours. I completely agree with those who say that you do not apply to become a hero; I do not know where we get it. Even if it is a hundred people, they cannot apply to make somebody a hero. I do not know whether we can put a number on how many people must sign that application form in order to make you a hero. We are setting what I would call a very dangerous precedent. That thing should be revised because we shall open the floodgates. I can just sit down with my brother, we are two and we call our friend and we can submit an application because it is so easy. Who would be able to stop it? I would truly want us to reconsider this very seriously to see whether we are doing the right thing or not.

The last issue I want to talk about is the Advisory Committees. I do not have a problem with the Regional Committees. One issue is these Traditional Leaders that we keep on recognising in every Bill. I do not know why we as a Nation have fallen in love... (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: You are accommodating them, you created these Traditional Leaders. You had one for each tribe and now you have more than seventeen of them. You created them, whose fault is it? You created them and now you are crying.

HON SHIXWAMENI: I have a principle and philosophical objection against this trend that we are setting for our Nation. The issue is, if you look at most Traditional Leaders before Independence, many of them fought against Independence and now suddenly we are granting them the best honours that we can grant them. How are they going to recognise these heroes, to really be honest?

The other thing that I want to advise the Minister is to recognise young

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people like Dr Ankama there, my prison mate at Seeis. There is that category of people, the NANSO group, the Youth League group, who in themselves are being overlooked for certain things and apart from the Veterans Association that is going to be recognised, which is filled with a category of certain people. I think we need to give due recognition to these people. Who is going to represent the Trade Unions, who are going to know who in the Trade Union is worth what? I would like the Minister to look at those things, maybe they might be administrative, but to look at these categories of people who are not PLAN fighters, who are not veterans, but people who in their lives made a very big contribution to this country, so that one of their own represents them on the advisory bodies that are being established.

Lastly, we should not see, whether it is the National Heroes' Acre or the Regional Heroes' Acres to be established as Government graveyards. We would be making a very serious mistake, because not everybody, even those who studied around the world, should be able to be buried there, not at the National Heroes Acre, not at the Regional Heroes' Acres. We should really have people with distinction and there I agree with the Honourable General Namoloh that the award of honours, the award of hero status should be a precious thing that we as a Nation should appreciate. It should not be status that should be conferred that because this was my classmate, we feel that we can apply. With those few remarks, I support the Bill in principle.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Nyamu.

HON NYAMU: I am taking the Floor out of consideration of what I have observed during the process of this Debate. I have for the first time seen people of the Ruling Party expressing their true, real feelings on this Bill and this is unprecedented and I think as Members of Parliament we should act within the confines of our conscience, not so much all the time to follow what somebody else has said.

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Some good recommendations have been made from the Ruling Party, which I think need serious consideration. This Bill has many grey areas; all areas are not refined properly. For example, the word “*hero*” originally came from the military, it is a military concept and I think this Bill should make a distinction between awards afforded to military people and non-military people. Now it sounds as if they are all going to be classified as heroes and heroines. The military aspect should be clearly defined and separated from the rest; otherwise this will create a lot of confusion.

The other grey area I have noticed is membership of the advisory committees. This is a military outfit, clearly and simple. Who are representing the other areas of society and you know that in military terms you obey the orders. These people are not going to advise anybody, it is not real. The composition of the Advisory Committees should be seriously reconsidered if we want to have a balanced outcome. If the Committees consist of the military and security, they will only tell the President what he or she wants to hear. That is the culture of the military and frankly speaking, you do not tell your President something which you know he does not want to hear.

In short I am saying, because of these grey areas I appeal to the Minister concerned to allow this Bill to be deferred to the Committee for further discussions. If that is done we will come up with a much better draft than we have today. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr Kawana, you have the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Deputy Speaker, as the Minister is under pressure to respond today, I only want to respond to Honourable Naholo who said there was no legal basis in the past to honour those who have so far been honoured. In addition to what the Right Honourable Prime Minister said in terms of Article 32, we have the Police Act which

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also confers certain powers to certain authorities to confer those honours. In addition we have the Defence Act of 2002 which likewise has those provisions. Otherwise I support the Bill so that the Minister can respond. Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further discussion? The Minister now has the Floor to respond.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Honourable Deputy Speaker, thank you very much. Honourable Members, I have been here at the very beginning when we started this Debate and I have taken note of each and every one of you that spoke and made recommendations, proposed Amendments or simply wanted a certain emphasis to be made. Those who spoke silently, I thank you very much equally.

All in all 21 Honourable Members took the Floor, tomorrow we will have the Committee Stage and tomorrow you will have the honour to look at the Amendments that I have proposed and I want to promise you at the outset, not one of you have recommended something that needed to be improved upon that I have not improved upon in the Amendment where I felt I have to make that improvement. I would have loved that the Amendment, which has been ratified by the Attorney-General, be distributed today here so that Members can go home and look at it, so that tomorrow when we come here they have already digested the meat that I have provided for you to chew.

First I want us to take very serious note that this Bill is a guide for the work that is going to be done and I think Honourable Netumbo and Honourable Kazenambo made that emphasis. Anything else that is going to be provided, particularly the Regulations, will form part and parcel of this Bill. Many issues raised by Honourable Members have something to do with the Regulations and not to be provided for in the Bill. If you trust me, and I think you do, we can make the Regulations available to the Honourable Members when they are ready.

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I also want to make it clear that the urgency of the matter is not because of the 26th of August. You are not serious by saying so. By no miracle can the Bill be implemented without the Regulations being made available. Can they be ready by the 26th of next month? Therefore, please erase that from your minds. It is not really that it has to come into operation so that it meets the deadline of the 26th of August 2011.

Without going into the specifics of each and every Honourable Member that spoke, please be here tomorrow to see the Amendments and if they are distributed today, go with it, have a look, so that when we speak on the Amendments in the Committee Stage, we will take note of what we have been saying. I heard about Political Parties and things and you will not find those things in the Bill any longer as I have taken note of that and many other things.

Honourable Members, I want to thank you very sincerely for your participation in this Bill and I urge you to be present tomorrow to look at the Amendments that I have made *in tandem* with the views that you have expressed. I think tomorrow we could go to the Committee Stage as far as I am concerned, but that is my short response as far as the Second Reading is concerned. I have taken note of what you have said. Thank you.

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

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

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**REPORT ON OUTREACH TO ERONGO REGION
HON MAKGONE**

**CONSIDERATION: NATIONAL POLICY ON
CLIMATE CHANGE FOR NAMIBIA**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, the 22nd of June 2011, the Question before the Assembly was a Policy by the Honourable Minister of Environment and Tourism. Honourable Amathila adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

HON AMATHILA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I move that the Debate be adjourned until tomorrow.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Debate is adjourned until tomorrow. The Secretary will read the fourth Order of the Day.

**CONSIDERATION: REPORT ON DEPUTY SPEAKER'S
OUTREACH TO ERONGO REGION**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: This issue was adjourned until today for the response. I will give the Floor to Honourable Makgone who has motivated the Report.

HON MAKGONE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. Allow me to respond to the Debate on the Report of the Honourable Deputy Speaker's Outreach Programme to Erongo Region that took place from the 15th to the 25th of August 2010.

When I motivated this Report on the 8th of March 2011, the intention was to share the concerns and joys of people on the ground. As the outreach was conducted during August last year, some issues which were raised in

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HON MAKGONE**

the Report could have been overtaken by events. I want to thank the Honourable Members who supported and commented on the Report and I will start with the *Honourable Deputy Minister of Safety and Security*. I thank you for supporting the Report. I take note that the Report did not touch on all the challenges faced by the Namibian Police. It is true, the Commissioners who were there were very much humanitarian, they only thought about the issues which hinders them in service delivery and forgot to talk about themselves, but I hope that the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security will table their Report in due course which will contain all the challenges.

Honourable Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, I thank you for your support. We are looking forward to see the outcome on the issue of orphanages and Early Childhood Centres which is being tackled by your Ministry and the Ministry of Education as this was also an issue that was discussed during the National Conference on Education.

I thank *Honourable Tjihuiko* for supporting the Report. Your concern is also our concern on the mechanisms to monitor the implementation of Reports tabled in this House. We thought that from now on all the recommendations will be looked into.

Honourable Ueitele, and also the *Deputy Minister of Works and Transport* thank you for your support. You had a concern on the Parliamentary Access Centres that were proposed in 2006 and I think this issue was addressed by the Minister of information and Communication Technology in his Budget speech. He informed us that the concept of Parliamentary Access Centres was amended to Multi-Sectoral Community Centres and that Omaheke and Omusati Regions are identified for pilot projects.

Honourable Deputy Minister of information and Communication Technology, thank you for your support of the Report. You touched on the work permit issue and you shared your experiences when you were a member of the Immigration Selection Board. You also touched on violence against women and children and that the Courts should provide stiffer sentences. I think they have taken note of that concern.

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HON MAKGONE**

Honourable Minister of Mines and Energy, I thank you for supporting the Report. In your contribution you said: “*Honourable Speaker, if there has been a good Report brought to this House, it is this one.*” We thank you for the encouraging words and thank you for clarifying the misconception regarding NamPower wanting to construct a Coal Power Station in Walvis Bay. This information will be communicated to the Local Authority.

Honourable Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, you raised a concern on the lack of tarred roads in Omatjete and Okombahe areas. I am sure during the rainy season we saw all that you talked about and I think the relevant ministry will look into that.

Honourable Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture, thank you for your support. You touched on the rich natural resources in the Erongo Region and the plight of the vulnerable communities, especially the Topnaar traditional community, that they should be included in the Government programmes.

Honourable Chief Riruako, thank you very much and *Honourable Bezuidenhout*. *Right Honourable Prime Minister*, thank you for your support and you rightly said that some of the issues raised are the feelings and perceptions of the people. Therefore, these issues are not raised to condemn but to assist one another to improve the lives of our people.

Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, thank you for your contribution on the Report and the concerns raised are taken note of.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, it has been the tradition that a Parliamentary outreach team is accompanied by representatives of Line Ministries and this was also the case during this outreach programme. We want to urge all the other Ministries that they delegate representatives during these outreach programmes, because it helps to provide some factual information during the feedback sessions.

It is our sincere wish that this august House will accept and endorse the Report without further ado as the deliberations and contributions were

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already made. Once the Report is adopted, an effective follow-up mechanism should be introduced in consultation with the various line ministries mentioned in the Report. It is now my humble request, Honourable Deputy Speaker, that the House adopts this Report. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I now put the Question, that the Report be adopted. Any objection? Agreed to.

With that, the House is adjourned until tomorrow, 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2011.07.06 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
06 JULY 2011**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HON SPEAKER: I invite all Members to join me during tea-break in front of the Speaker's lounge where I will hand over a cheque of the contributions made by the Honourable Members of this august House towards the fund for people in the flood-stricken areas in the northern parts of our country.

Honourable Members, the National Planning Commission will conduct a 2011 Population and Housing Census on 28 August 2011. The census will provide data on demographic and socio-economic indicators essential for planning, policy-making, monitoring and evaluation at national, regional and constituency levels. The Director-General of the National Planning Commission is here with us today to give us more information on this important undertaking. I now give the floor to the Director-General of the National Planning Commission.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, allow me just to thank the Honourable Speaker for having availed me this opportunity to address the National Assembly on this chilly afternoon and this is on the upcoming Housing and Population Census. However, before I do that, allow me, Honourable Speaker, to also thank you and all the Honourable Members for your positive outlook with regard to the importance of statistics, which was demonstrated when you were discussing the recent Statistics Bill. The Bill was approved by

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MR T ALWEENDO

both the National Council and the National Assembly and is now awaiting certification by His Excellency the President. I thank you for that.

Statistics certainly play a vital role in every field of human activity. For example, statistics play an important role in determining the existing position of, per capita income, unemployment, population growth, housing, schooling and medical facilities in any country. Without accurate statistics it will be difficult for any Government to plan how to provide public service to its citizens and it will be equally difficult, I think, for businesses to plan for what products and services to offer to their clients.

Honourable Speaker, let me now return to the census exercise. The census is a detailed account of everybody who is in the country on the census reference night. For the 2011 census exercise, the census reference night has been determined by His Excellency to be the 28th of August. In other words, everybody who was in the country on the 28th of August is the people whom we will be counting.

On this night everybody's details will be entered into a census form. The census counts everybody so that we know how many people are in the country and we can analyse any changes that might have occurred since the previous population counts. The exercise enables us to track developments with considerable accuracy.

The United Nations, for example, recommends that population censuses be taken at least every ten years and then it will be recalled that our first census was taken in 1991 and again in 2001 and, therefore, this year's census will be the third exercise we are about to undertake.

Honourable Speaker, as you can imagine, the census is the largest statistical operation undertaken by the National Planning Commission. It is almost the most exacting since the field work must be completed over a relatively short period and a complete count of everybody in the country on the census reference night must be obtained. To demonstrate the enormity of the exercise, Honourable Members, we are going to employ, for example, over 81,000 field workers to conduct the enumeration

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exercise. Every effort is being made to employ the unemployed youth without compromising the data integrity of the exercise. In this respect, I think, 6,600 of the employed people will be from the unemployed youth.

We have also agreed with the Ministry of Education to use teachers as enumeration supervisors. To undertake any census is not a cheap exercise. You will, for example, recall that during the national Budget discussion Parliament was requested to appropriate N\$163 million to the census project and this, indeed, is a huge amount, but there is no doubt that the resources so allocated to the census exercise is a necessity and is a worthwhile cause. I would, therefore, like to thank all of you for having voted in favour of the requested census Budget.

You will agree with me that it is only through the census that we will be able to have a comprehensive picture of the social and living conditions of our people. Only a census can provide such complete details. A census is, therefore, not an end in itself but rather it is an indispensable tool for effective policy planning and also decision-making purposes. For example, at national level current population statistics are essential for planning the provision of services such as health care, education and employment and also given that the census result will also include statistics at regional level, regional figures will be critical for determining regional policy formulation and for the operation of Regional Authorities. The census will also provide detailed population figures at local level that can be used to identify likely demand for facilities such as schools and hospitals.

Honourable Members, another usage of a census result is that it can accurately measure the extent of migration, whether internal or external migration. This we can do by comparing the results of the successive censuses.

Although the exercise is called a population and housing census, the census is not only about establishing our population size. That is why the questionnaire that is used to collect data has a number of questions relating to households and individuals. For example, there are questions that relate to things such as how people get to work, what sort of

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accommodation we live in, what occupation people have and many other more questions. It is for this reason that I would like to assure the public that all the information that will be collected from the members of the public will be treated as strictly confidential and will be used only for statistical purposes. The confidentiality is guaranteed by law and it is stressed to all our staff and temporary field workers that will be hired to assist with the exercise. To ensure that the confidentiality is observed, there are penalties for any breaches by staff members.

Honourable Members, given the comprehensiveness of the census exercise, we have been busy with some of the necessary preparatory work since last year to ensure that the exercise will be a success and with regard to our preparedness, where we are today, we can confidently say that the census will take place as planned and that it should be a success. The exercise will take place over a two-week period, starting on the 28th of August to the 10th of September, as I said, with the 28th of August being the census reference night.

While preparedness on our part is crucial for the success of the conduct of this exercise, it is equally true that the success is more assured provided that we receive the necessary cooperation and support from all of us. It is our duty as national leaders to stress the importance of the census to those we are leading. As Traditional Leaders it is our responsibility to encourage members of our communities to make them available in order to be counted. As regional leaders it is our obligation to ensure that we are in a position to correctly inform our communities about the importance of the census.

I would, therefore, like to urge all of us who are in positions of influence, whether now in Government or private business or Non-Governmental Organisations to voluntarily assume the responsibility of informing others about the significance of the census exercise.

Honourable Members, the slogan for the 2011 census is, “*Be Sure to be Counted*” and let me, therefore, call upon all members of the public to ensure that they are counted during the two-week period starting on the 28th of August.

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Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we just felt it is important that we share this information with you so that, as I said, the success of this exercise is depending on all of us giving our cooperation to ensure that we are all counted. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: If the Members have pertinent, technical questions, I shall allow the Director-General to respond to them, but if the House is entirely clear on the information shared with the House, then I shall invite the Director-General to leave. Any questions or comments? Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. It is not a question because the law was made here and we are all familiar with it. We would only like to thank the Director-General that he came to address us and for the work well done. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much indeed. We will be vigilant and follow the guidelines you have shared with us.

The Honourable Members are informed that this Third Session of the Fifth Parliament is coming to an end next week Thursday, 14 July 2011. In terms of Rule 24(b) of the Standing Rules and Orders, all business not disposed of at the last sitting of the session will lapse, but can again be introduced at the next session by means of a substantive motion.

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

TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

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

- The National Assembly for the Financial Year ended March 31st, 2010; and
- Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration for the Financial Year ended March 31st, 2010.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Reports? Other Reports and Papers? Any Notices of Questions? Honourable Naholo.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 25:

HON NAHOLO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 14th of July 2011, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development the following:

Democracy and good governance call upon us as leaders to be accountable, transparent and to act in the best interest of the Namibian people. Early this year, around March, the Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development has been reported in the media that he visited Zimbabwe and it is said that the Honourable Jerry Ekandjo has signed a petition for removal of international sanctions against Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe.

1. Did the Honourable Member go to Zimbabwe as President Pohamba's envoy, being the Head of State and current Chairman of SADC?

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2. Did the Honourable Member go to Zimbabwe as a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or did he go there on his own accord?
3. Assuming that the Honourable Member was mandated by the Government of the Republic of Namibia to go to Zimbabwe to sign a petition, what is Namibia's official position on the targeted sanctions against Zimbabwe?

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Question? Any further Notices of Questions? Any Notices of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? Prime Minister.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would like, in advance, to thank the Members of Parliament for digging deep into their pockets to make a contribution to the flood victims and I want to give some information on the current flood situation.

In the Caprivi Region 95% of the relocated people have returned back to their respective villages. The remaining group will be finally repatriated to their villages on Friday, the 8th of July 2011. The Regional Council has requested that they be assisted with food until October this year when they will be harvesting their first harvest. A few tents will also be provided to some schools and community members for temporary accommodation for teachers while renovating their homes.

There are still four camps or relocation centres in the Kavango Region, one in Rundu Rural East Constituency, one in Rundu Urban Constituency and two in Mukwe Constituency. The affected people will stay in the camps until the end of July 2011. Food is being provided to them through the Office of the Prime Minister. This is to give them chance to renovate

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or reconstruct their houses on the high grounds. In due course the Honourable Councillors will engage their chiefs and headmen to avail land for permanent relocation to those who have not acquired land for the said purpose. The Council is also advising those who are not willing to relocate to do so at own risk should a similar flood or emergency or disaster strike in the future. A list of those relocated permanently and those not will be compiled by the Regional Council and a copy submitted to the Office of the Prime Minister, that is the Division: Disaster Risk Management. A list will also be prepared on the destroyed mahangu fields followed by a costed report on the above.

People in the Ohangwena Region who were relocated in camps have all gone back to their respective villages except for the Ongenga Constituency which is still difficult to travel by road due inaccessible roads. Even schools that were closed have all been reopened and the same applies to clinics. The Regional Council of Ohangwena is requesting for the services of a helicopter to assist those still surrounded by water and who cannot be reached by road. They are also requesting that quality sand be used for all affected and damaged roads during the renovations. Temporary accommodation in terms of tents has also been requested to assist people while reconstructing their homes. Families should be assisted with cement for constructing purposes and finally, food provision for those who have lost all their crops due to flooding is requested.

Most people have returned to their original places in the Oshikoto Region.

The majority of people in the Oshana Region have returned however there are still some people at the Oshoopala relocation camp. The remaining group of the Ekuku relocation camp has been moved to the Oshoopala relocation camp. According to information received from FENCO, there are still 26 areas that are still difficult to access. Those remaining in camps are receiving assistance in terms of food and non-food items from Government and also from private donors.

There is only one camp remaining in Omusati and that is at Etai. Food will continue to be provided to those still in the camp until such a time

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that they are prepared to go back to their respective villages or homesteads.

There is also one camp remaining in Ondangwa. Food will also be provided to those in the camp like in all other relocation camps.

In the Erongo Region, the situation in Kuiseb river course was responded to. Fodder for animals and food for the affected members of the community were provided. The Office of the Prime Minister will continue looking into this situation until it has come back to normality.

Additional information: The Office of the Prime Minister in collaboration with other stakeholders has conducted a countrywide vulnerability risk assessment on the impact of the floods on people's livelihoods. The team is currently at Keetmanshoop busy with data analysis, after which a comprehensive report will be presented to the Office of the Prime Minister for Cabinet's consideration.

A training workshop in logistics and warehouse management is being organised with the assistance of the World Food Programme to take place in Otjiwarongo between the 18th and 22nd of July this year. The target group will be officials from all seven flood-prone Regions, members of the NDF, Red Cross and staff of the Directorate of Disaster Risk Management of the Office of the Prime Minister. However, other Regions are also being considered to be part of the workshop. The following topics will be discussed at that workshop:

- Warehouse and commodity management;
- Food quality control and best management in warehouses;
- Commodity track system; and
- Practical training on warehouse management.

A visit to the Osire warehouse will be conducted during the training workshop by the participants in order to acquaint themselves with proper warehouse management at a World Food Programme run warehouse.

I believe this information will assure the Members that your donations

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will reach the targeted groups. I thank you for your attention.

HON SPEAKER: Minister Katali.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Honourable Speaker, recently a statement was made and that statement spread like wildfire that oil was discovered in Namibia. This raised hopes and expectations amongst the population. The normal man in the street and some Honourable Members here expected the next day after the announcement that the petrol price would decrease and many have asked me whether it is true and how much. I, therefore, would like to give some information regarding the statement about oil discovery and the petroleum exploration in our country.

After so many years of intensive data acquisition in Namibia, the oil and gas exploration operations have reached a stage where information available has enabled the location of drillable targets. This means that the Ministry of Mines and Energy has to prepare itself for rigorous drilling activities in the oil and gas exploration sector, starting November this year. The pace at which the exploration activities are taking place is really commendable.

Following below is a brief summary of the exploration activities that will be undertaken during the 2011/2012 Financial Year:

Enigma Oil and Gas, a company owned by Chariot Oil and Gas, has identified five prospects in its northern blocks 18, 11A and B after acquiring about 1,500 square kilometres of 3D seismic data last year. It has contracted Synergy GB Ltd., to design a first well to test one of these prospects in the Tapir area which lies in a 2,100 metre water depth.

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Target reservoirs range in depth from 3,900 metres to 4,800 metres and most likely reserves in the event of success are estimated to be nearly 500 million barrels. Enigma is currently actively seeking a deepwater rig to drill its well during the fourth quarter of this year. Enigma expects to find oil rather than gas and would develop a discovery through floating production storage and offloading vessel on a fast-track basis, with first production planned for 2015/2016.

Currently Enigma holds 100% equity in the blocks but it seeking industry partners to share the well cost risk in this venture.

In Southern Block 2 714A, Enigma has identified eleven prospects as a result of acquiring 3,000 square kilometres of 3D seismic data. The largest of these is in the Nimrod Prospects which lies in 350 metres water depth. Target reservoirs range in depth from 2,550 metres to 3,000 metres and most likely reserves in the event of success are estimated to be greater than 4 billion barrels of oil. Enigma expects to find oil rather than gas and would develop a discovery through a floating production, storage and offloading vessel on a fast-track basis with first production planned for 2015/2016. Currently Enigma holds 50% equity in the block with Petro Pas as its partner.

The Brazilian company, HRT Oil and Gas Limited has converted into one of the most fast-growing companies operating on the West Coast of Africa. HRT has managed to raise about US\$1,3 billion from the Brazilian Stock Market, of which US\$3 million are earmarked for oil and gas exploration in Namibia. Its commitment in Namibia is focused on discovering not only gas but also liquid hydro-carbons. To date, HRT Oil and Gas Limited has conducted step-by-step critical geological and geophysical studies, allowing them to demonstrate the existence of at least two active petroleum systems which can generate and favour the trapping of liquid hydro-carbons in commercial quantities. This find could turn offshore Namibia into a greater producer of oil and gas in a short period of time. Based on the existing 2D and 3D seismic information, the company certified in its blocks about 5.2 billion barrels of potential hydro-carbon resources in a great volume of leads and prospects which will be studied further with 3D seismic information during this year to make them

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drillable by at least 2012 and 2013.

The company also conducted a 3D petroleum system model, showing very encouraging results, ratifying in this way the great oil and gas potential in the acreage.

HRT Oil and Gas Limited, after merging with UNX Energy, will eventually be responsible for acquiring about 9,900 kilometres square of 3D seismic lines over the main prospective areas, which is the largest 3D seismic campaign ever before carried out in offshore Namibia and probably in West African continental margin by a single operator. After prospecting and interpretation of the new 3D seismic information, the company will drill a series of three to four wells in 2012 to 2013. That could lead to a new discovery in offshore Namibia.

Arcadia Explore Namibia (Pty) Ltd, (AEN) and Tower Resources PLC, through its affiliate, Neptune Petroleum Namibia Limited, are the joint venture interest holders of Licence 0010 Offshore Namibia. Arcadia, as an operator and holder of an 85% interest in the licence, is in the process of a farm-out campaign as the purchaser to undertake a drilling campaign as soon as possible. Licence 0010 incorporate the offshore Walvis ridge 200 kilometres from the Skeleton Coast, located between the Walvis and Namibe Basins.

The exploration focus is a large regional four-way closure, comprising four large anti-clinical structures and a number of associated stratigraphic plays. Following re-processing of existing seismic data, acquisition and interpretation of its proprietary 2D and 3D surveys, Arcadia, in consultation with Tower, has matured a drill-ready prospect in Delta, which is an anti-clinical structure of huge dimensions. Prospect Delta is prognosed to contain recoverable resources of up to 2 billion barrels of oil or oil equivalents with further significant upside possible.

Subject to a successful farm-out, Arcadia intends to contract a suitable unit to sink an exploration well on this prospect in 2012. This well will be drilled in approximately 1,100 metres water depth to a target depth of approximately 2,500 metres below mud line. The well's main intention is

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to also test the potential in up to four further stacked reservoirs in the same location. Subject to the results of this exploration well and as the structure is very large, it is planned to maintain an option to drill a second well on Delta to better understand the result of the initial well and/or to commence appraisal of a discovery, if appropriate.

It is not often that a single exploration well offers the chance to target a prospect of such magnitude and with so much added potential upsides as does a well on the Prospect Delta in Licence 0010. This is truly a world class frontier exploration opportunity.

Currently Namibia hosts a total of 9,140 square kilometres of 3D seismic data and before the end of the year 2011, an addition of 9,900 square kilometres of 3D seismic data will be added to this impressive volume of data. This means that more prospects of both structural and stratigraphic trapping mechanism will be identified. There is now a great chance of success, as the more data the country has the greater its chance of accurate drilling and consequently, the opportunity for discoveries are increased tremendously.

We also expect to see the return of international majors whom we will announce later, back to Namibia, which will further improve the image of the country as a new petroleum exploration destination.

In conclusion, we are expecting six to eight wells to be drilled in Namibia in the next eighteen months. This high number of wells is the biggest in the exploration history of Namibia over such a period of time, with the whole country currently only having a total of fourteen wells of which eight are all concentrated in the Kudu Gas Field. This clearly shows that Namibia has been under-explored. Once there are discoveries in these upcoming wells, the projects will proceed into appraisal phase in order to establish the extent and distribution of the discovered oil and gas resources. During this the exact volume of recoverable oil and gas reserves in place will be determined. Once the reserve volumetric has been quantified, then the project will proceed into a field development stage and, consequently, after the field development scenarios have been established, then the country will proceed into production phase.

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The timeframe from the discovery of the resource to the production stage takes at least a minimum of four years. So far, in a layman's language, there are indications that the data so available shows prospects of petroleum concentrates. However, drilling has to take place first before we know the quantity that is being estimated here. After the quantifying of the concentrates, it may take up to more than ten years before the actual petroleum is transformed and pumped into our cars and our machinery. Honourable Speaker that is the information about the discovery of petroleum in our country. I thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for that encouraging information.

HON KAURA: I just want to find out from the Honourable Minister, during the Budget Debate we were informed that strategic minerals exploration and exploitation would be the exclusive domain of the Namibian Government. Now based on the information the Minister provided to us, I do not see where the Namibian Government is playing a role in the exploration and exploitation of this strategic mineral. Can the Minister shed some light on that, please?

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Thank you very much for the question. Yes, it is true that the Government has announced strategic minerals, but for the Honourable Member's information, a lot still has to be done in terms of legislation before this can be effected and the other factor is that the policy is not retrospective. Those companies who had their mining and exploration licences before will continue to do so and will not be affected directly by the new policy. However, as has been indicated to them before, we are encouraging those companies to give shares and equities to the State companies including the individual Namibians. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

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HON SPEAKER: On that note the House will rise for refreshments.

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

HON SPEAKER: We resume the business of the House. Honourable Mutorwa.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:
Comrade Speaker thank you, for giving me the Floor to make a short ministerial statement.

Honourable Members of the National Assembly, the 37th Session of the Food and Agriculture Organisation's Conference of the United Nations convened in Rome, Italy from the 25th of June to the 2nd of July 2011. Namibia, as a member of FAO, was invited to and, indeed, participated in the conference deliberations. The theme for the general debate of the conference was, "*The Vital Role of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development.*" I am, therefore, rising in this Honourable House to give some information to the general public through this House on some important conference decisions, particularly on the election process for the new Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation.

The 25th of June and the 26th of June 2011 were exclusively devoted for the democratic elections of the Director-General of the FAO. The following countries' candidates participated in the elections. There were two rounds of elections and during the first round the following countries, Austria's candidate got ten votes, Brazil got seventy-seven votes,

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Indonesia got twelve votes, Iran got two votes, Iraq six and Spain got seventy-two votes. After the first round of voting, the following countries' candidates formally withdrew from further participation during the second ballot voting process, namely Austria, Indonesia, Iran and Iraq. Two countries remained in the race and that is Brazil and Spain.

Honourable Members, in the end, Mr Jose Graciano Da Silva of Brazil was democratically elected during the second ballot to the office of the Director-General of FAO for the period 1st of January 2012 to 31st July 2015. The four results finally were as follows: The total number of ballot papers deposited were 180. That also denotes the number of voting countries. Defective or spoiled ballots were zero, abstentions zero, votes cast 180. The majority vote for a candidate to get through is 91 and Mr José Graciano Da Silva got 92 and Mr Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé got 88. You can see how close the race was, it was well-contested elections.

The new FAO Director-General will officially assume his responsibilities in January 2012. Dr Jacques Diouf from Senegal, who has been FAO Director-General from January 1994 will officially relinquish his position at the end of December 2011.

Among the many decisions taken by the 37th Session of the FAO General Conference was also the adoption of the FAO Food and Agriculture 2010-2011 Women in Agriculture Closing the Gender Gap for Development Report. I have only copy and it was also officially adopted there.

For the purposes of this Ministerial Statement, at least some quotations from this Report are deemed appropriate in order:

Firstly: *“The agriculture sector is underperforming in many developing countries and one of the key reasons is that women do not have equal access to the resources and opportunities they need to be more productive.”*

Honourable Speaker this Report clearly confirmsthat the Millennium Development Goals on Gender Equality (MDG3) and Poverty and Food

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Security (MDG1) are mutually reinforcing.

Secondly: “The experiences of the food price and financial crisis have provided a sharp reminder of the vulnerability of world food security to shocks in the global food system and the world economy and have demonstrated how rapidly and already unacceptable level of food insecurity in the world can deteriorate in the face of such events. This has underscored the importance of appropriate safety nets and social programmes to protect the food insecure from the immediate impact of shocks like these as well as the critical and urgent need to boost the productive capacity of developing countries and to enhance their resilience to shocks.”

The last quote that I deemed fit to extract from the Report: *“Price volatility has always been a feature of agricultural markets. However, a number of trends appear to be accentuating this phenomenon. Climate change may be leading to more frequent and extreme weather events and to the consequent risk of shocks to agricultural markets.”*

It has just been demonstrated when we were hit by floods, therefore this issue of climate change that we are debating here is an issue. Honourable Speaker, thank you very much for giving me the floor to provide this information to the Honourable Members.

HON SPEAKER: We appreciate the information and this is the way to go. The information is very relevant for us as Parliamentarians. Indeed, both Spain and Brazil are longstanding friends of Namibia, but obviously we favour countries from the south to be more active in these organisations. Thank you very much indeed.

The first Notice of Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport. Does the Honourable Minister move the Motion? Any objections? The Minister has the Floor.

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HON NGHIMTINA

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I rise to request this august House to ratify the Memorandum of Understanding on the Development and Management of the Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi Corridor.

The Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi Development Corridor is formed by three countries, namely the Republic of Namibia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Zambia. The geographical areas include in the Republic of Namibia, the Caprivi, Kavango, Otjozondjupa and Erongo Regions, while in the Democratic Republic of Congo the Provinces of Katanga, East and West Kasai and others could be connected. In Zambia, Western Province, North-Western Province, South Province, Lusaka Province, Central Province and the Copper Belt Province are included in the Corridor.

The Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi Development Corridor is a geo-economic framework based on a moto-transportation infrastructure traversing the territory of three States, namely the DRC, Namibia and Zambia.

Honourable Speaker, the Ministers of Transport of the three countries, in their efforts to ensure the smooth and rapid movement of goods and people, originated from or designated to parties in transit through the territories of other contracting parties as well as the smooth and rapid movement of goods and persons between their respective territories, agreed that there was a need to have a legal framework that forms the basis of the operations of the three countries. They also recognised the need for the adequate and efficient trade routes for regional and international trade.

In establishing this corridor, the Ministers of Transport also took into account the principle formulated and the rules agreed upon in the Agreement establishing the World Trade Organisation in 1994, the Customs Convention on Containers, Geneva 1972, the Convention on the Simplification and Harmonisation of Customs Procedures, Kyoto 1973 and the SADC Recommendations about Accelerating the Transport and Transit Development Corridors.

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The Ministers also took note of the fact that neither Government, nor private enterprises can singularly assume all risks of investment, maintenance and operations of transport in any given country. Therefore, they realised the need for close cooperation between the Government and the Private Sector as key to the development of trade and transit facilitations.

It is also worth mentioning that the Ministers observed the great economic potential of the Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi Development Corridor given its rich agricultural, mineral, tourist and energy resources and existing transport system.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, based on the abovementioned factors, the Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi Development Corridor was formally established in line with the directive of the former Heads of State of the DRC, Namibia and Zambia in 1997 to focus on the following:

- Facilitate cross-border trade and transport cooperation among the three countries;
- Give land-locked countries of Zambia and the DRC free access through Namibia's territory to the Port of Walvis Bay; and
- Develop a spatial development initiative aimed at developing socio-economic areas along the Corridor.

As a result of the abovementioned mandates from the three former Heads of State, the Ministers of Transport initiated a Memorandum of Understanding on the 5th of March 2010 at Livingstone, Zambia. The objectives of this Memorandum of Understanding are:

- To facilitate safe, efficient trade, movement of persons and goods, regional and international transport;
- To stimulate economic and social development in the territories of the contracting parties and the participation between Public and Private Sector;

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- To transform the Corridor into a Development Corridor which in addition to offering safe, fast and competitive transport and transit services that secure regional trade while stimulating investment and encouraging sustainable development and poverty reduction;
- To implement strategies for accelerating economic and social growth along the Corridor while ensuring environmental sustainability;
- Providing landlocked countries of Zambia and partly the DRC unimpeded access through Namibia's territory to the Port of Walvis Bay; and
- To develop a spatial development initiative aimed at developing socio-economic areas; and
- To work towards regional integration to develop a strong transportation between the Private and Public Sector in the DRC, Namibia and Zambia in terms of the SADC Protocol on Transport, Communication and Meteorology.

Honourable Speaker, taking into account the abovementioned objectives, the contracting parties have agreed to collaborate in matters relating to trade facilitation and development along Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi Development Corridor on the basis of the following:

- Maritime port facilitations;
- Road facilitation;
- Custom and control operation, immigration, Police and other agencies;
- Documentation and procedures;
- Transport of goods by rail, transport of goods by road; multi model transport of goods, handling of dangerous goods, measures of facilitation for transport agencies, traders and employees; and
- Development of the Development Corridor.

In terms of the initial Memorandum of Understanding that I will be asking the august House to ratify today, the Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi

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Development Corridor shall have structures to support its operations in terms of this agreement. The structure shall be as follows:

The Committee of Ministers: The Committee of Ministers shall be the policy orientation and directive-making body of the Corridor Management Committee and its decision shall be binding on all contracting parties. Each contracting party can assume the presidency of the Committee of Ministers and the presidency of the Executive Committee for two years. This mandate shall be executed rotationally.

The Executive Committee is composed of the Permanent Secretary/Secretary-General or other equivalents that are responsible for transport matters and a private sector delegate in each of the contracting parties.

The Committee of the Ministers shall set up specialised technical Committees on the advice of the Executive Committee in addition to those that already exist, such as infrastructure development and management, custom, trade and transit facilitation committees. The Specialised Committee shall be composed of organisations and persons from Member States dealing with specialised areas of transport and transit, immigration and security and shall be responsible for implementation of aspects of transport operations in their specialised areas.

I must mention here that the details of the functions of these Committees are provided in the Memorandum of Understanding that was circulated to Honourable Members yesterday.

Honourable Speaker, taking into account that the above proposed structures, as provided for in the initialled Memorandum of Understanding, are not yet functional, the meeting of the Ministers of Transport held in Livingstone, Zambia on the 5th March 2010, agreed that the Walvis Bay Corridor Group, a Public-Private partnership to which the Ministry of Works and Transport in Namibia is a member, will assume secretarial work for the Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi Development Corridor until such a time as the structures are in place. It is important to emphasise that the Corridor will have enormous economic benefits to

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Namibia especially at the Port of Walvis Bay. The envisaged improvements of the Port of Walvis Bay by Namibian Port Authority would provide several competitive advantages to the DRC and Zambia. These benefits are:

- Transport times are significant reduced. For example, vessels departing from the Port of Walvis Bay have an advantage of seven days to reach the American and European markets in comparison to the other ports in the Region.
- Smooth and efficient transfer of goods across the Namibian border to other southern African countries;
- The regional approach to development of the Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi Development Corridor links would provide increased benefits for linking the various southern African countries, for example Botswana, Zambia and lately even Malawi which started exporting their goods via the Port of Walvis Bay with the adequate transport networks.

Furthermore, the Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi Memorandum of Understanding is committed to achieve the transport objective of NEPAD that includes implementing the integrated and seamless movements of goods and people. This approach is aimed at reducing transport costs and transit time as well as increasing the competitiveness of goods produced in the Southern African Development Community for distribution in regional and international markets.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, to conclude, I must indicate that this Memorandum of Understanding has already received the blessing of our Cabinet on the 6th of July 2010, with Cabinet Decision No. 7/06-07-01/009.

I therefore stand here in this august House today to request the Honourable Members to ratify the Memorandum of Understanding on the Development and Management of the Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi Development Corridor which has been circulated and I thank you.

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RT HON ANGULA

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for his motivation. Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Let me be the first, to thank, commend and congratulate the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport for tabling this very important Agreement on the Establishment of the Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi Development Corridor. This Agreement is, I believe, in line with the aspirations of Namibia, SADC and Africa.

On Namibia's part, Namibia aspires to be a service centre in the SADC Region, a service centre which will provide services to our neighbouring countries, especially the landlocked countries. It was for that reason that Namibia has offered dry docks to a number of our neighbours in order for them to use the Namibian infrastructure for import and export. This Agreement, therefore, is in line with that aspiration of Namibia. As you know, Namibia has invested a lot in the transport sector. We have the Trans-Kalahari, the Trans-Caprivi, the Oshikango-Walvis Bay railway line and this is for the sake of making Namibia a service centre in the subcontinent. Therefore, this Agreement is in line with that aspiration.

Secondly, the Agreement is also in line with the African strategy for infrastructure development. I recently attended the Summit of the African Union and the African Union has a strategy for infrastructure development in Africa in order to promote communication. One of the aspirations of the African Union in terms of infrastructure is what is called the Windhoek-Tripoli Highway, the highway to link Windhoek all the way to the Mediterranean. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Did they not say Walvis Bay to Tripoli?

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RT HON ANGULA

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: No, it is Windhoek; I am talking about the African Union. (Interjection). Well, Gaddafi is only one person in Libya, there are four million Libyans, but the point is to link Namibia, Zambia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Chad, West Central Africa, Niger and then Libya. That is the idea and I think that is a great idea. There are a few gaps, but some of the roads already exist and all we need to do is to close those gaps. We are now trying to close the gaps in the southern African Region by developing this corridor, the Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi.

As you know there is a bridge between Namibia and Zambia which connects Katima to Sesheke. That bridge is really facilitating road transport and I think the investment made in that bridge should be recouped by promoting the Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi Corridor. Therefore, we commend the initiative taken by our Ministers of Transport to make this corridor operational.

Given the population of Namibia, we can only grow our economy if we develop export lines. Our population is such that we cannot meaningfully develop our economy just depending upon the local market. We have to reach out to big markets in Zambia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and beyond. Therefore, this corridor is crucial. People up there in Congo want fish, for example, and when this corridor is operational, you just need a refrigerated truck to take fish to Lubumbashi. Then it can come back with tropical fruit, bananas and other stuff. In that way we are promoting inter-African trade which is very important for us.

We also have to promote in the process the inter-dependency within our own Region. Our fish is transported to Spain and we know that fellow Africans are also demanding the same fish, especially horse mackerel. Why not share with your fellow Africans before going to Europe?

Therefore, this Agreement is very important and I hope that we will ratify it today so that the Minister of Works and Transport can now go back to his colleagues and establish the institution to administer the corridor. I congratulate the Minister. Thank you.

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HON SCHLETTWEIN / HON KAAPANDA

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Schlettwein.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I do also concur that this is an important Memorandum of Understanding, but I would request the patience of this House to adjourn the Debate until tomorrow, the reason being that this is a legally binding instrument that we are ratifying and we just want to make sure that that is without any non-compliance with us being a member of the Customs Union where customs arrangements are obliged to be the same within the Union. Therefore, we just need one day for consultations.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Minister of Information and Communication Technology.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: I would also like to add my voice in supporting this important agreement between Namibia, Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo with a view to operationalise the Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi Corridor. This is a very important corridor, a unique corridor that will bring economic growth in these respective countries, which can generate a number of jobs as well as to enable the citizens of this country to earn income.

Because of this agreement Walvis Bay is going to be a hub in the Region, a hub for economic activities, ranging from import to export as well as for providing services, such as ship repair and servicing. In the same vein, we will see the development of both roads and railway systems connecting the Port of Walvis Bay to these countries which, of course, is in line with the SADC Protocol on Transport and Meteorology which advocates the integration of our road systems to facilitate the transportation of goods and services among SADC countries.

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HON DR KAWANA

Something which is very important emanating from the signing of this agreement is the harmonisation of standards for infrastructure, facilities and equipment among these countries, because to facilitate transportation services between and among these countries, we have to adopt similar standards for our infrastructure. This is indeed a positive development between and among our countries.

We will see a flare of investment coming to Namibia as well as to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zambia, especially in the Mining area. At the moment there is this reluctance by people to invest in those countries because of the distances involved in exporting commodities overseas. To import through the Port of Walvis Bay is going to be advantageous because of the distance and transportation services will be cheaper. I really wholeheartedly thank the Minister for concluding this agreement so that economic activities between Namibia and those countries will be promoted. With this, Honourable Speaker, I support this initiative. I thank you.

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

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I rise to join my Colleagues who have commended the Honourable Minister on this very important agreement and also to commend the vision of our leaders. Here we are reaping the fruits, contrary to those who condemned Namibia for its involvement in particularly DRC.

I was very impressed when I went through the statistics in terms of volume of trade, that this corridor and Trans Kalahari are the fastest growing in the Region, particularly this corridor called Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi. It is to the extent that almost every year it grows by more than a hundred percent and this is what we want to enhance trade between and among SADC countries, African countries and South-South cooperation as opposed to depending on goods and services which are

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HON KAZENAMBO

rendered by other countries. People say “*charity begins at home*” and I am happy that Walvis Bay, located within the jurisdiction of Namibia, is doing its part to assist our brothers and sisters in the landlocked countries of Zambia and, indeed, the Great Lakes, because I believe that those goods which go to Lubumbashi are not only for the DRC, but possibly for countries further afield. Therefore, in this spirit I once again commend our leadership who made sure that we bring stability in the DRC so that we reap these types of benefits and also to make sure that SADC comes together to promote trade, development and infrastructure. This is one of the fruits of our vision and our policy. With these few remarks, I support the Convention.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister. Honourable Kazenambo.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I rise to commend the Minister for tabling this important instrument, the Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi Development Corridor.

In Paragraph (b) of the definition of “Corridor” it reads that, “*in Namibia all Regions in the Caprivi, Kavango, Otjozondjupa and Erongo*” and in (c) it says that, “*in Zambia, the Western Province, the North-Western Province, Southern Province, Lusaka Province, Central Province and the Copper Belt Province.*” I believe “*in Namibia all Regions in the Caprivi*” needs to be corrected because it implies that we have Regions in the Caprivi, Kavango and Otjozondjupa. That is just an observation.

Furthermore, as I welcome and support the instrument, I would like to make a few observations. “Facilitation” is defined to mean “*procedures or measures put in place to see that transportation of transit vehicles, goods and persons through the Corridor.*” I want to comment on this one because today we have the Trans-Kalahari Highway which is the corridor from Walvis Bay to Johannesburg and today, for example, there are Transport Companies in Botswana with buses and mini-buses which are

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HON KAZENAMBO

commuting between Gaborone and Windhoek, carrying passengers. I do not know whether it is possible for our transport companies to transport passengers from Windhoek to Gaborone or Johannesburg. Do the laws allow our business people to do the same? In some countries you will find that as far as transport is concerned, you cannot enter their territory and do business, you can only offload your people at the border and not transport your passengers inside their country as that job is reserved for their people. Corridors like this one are good efforts for SADC and African integration, but how do they, on a practical basis, facilitate for me to run an operation between Windhoek and Ghanzi or Johannesburg?

When you go to the bus-stop there, you will see buses like the Zambia Express and I want to know whether a business person will be allowed to run a service between Walvis Bay and Lubumbashi and if not, I think we should start discussing that, because we may have good policy instruments but for one reason or the other people are not supported.

In the same vein I will appeal that incentives should be put in place for institutions such as banks to assist entrepreneurs with loans who want to run a service between the two countries to acquire a bus or lorry to serve this corridor or even a ship to operate a cargo service. These instruments should be in place so that we can encourage our entrepreneurs to benefit from these opportunities.

While I am on Page 4, “goods” is defined in this instrument that it means *“all personal shuttles and includes wares or livestock, merchandise, crops, currencies and other articles offered for transportation.”* “Currencies” I will leave to my learned brother and sister from the Ministry of Finance to digest it further and maybe address it tomorrow, but on the issue of livestock, how does it go with our veterinary laws and what procedures will I be subjected to? Does this now suggest that a farmer in the DRC or Zambia may transport his goods or I may transport my goods to DRC or Zambia? It needs to be clarified so that it can be clear. Although that is going to be encouraged, how it is going to be encouraged is very critical. The same goes for crops. Some of us are business-minded and if I have my bag of seeds, I should know what legalities are guiding this corridor.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, instruments of this nature are very critical from a trading point of view and they are very important for both job creation and business. Two weeks ago I visited Oshikango and I observed the vehicles standing there because our neighbours have come up with a law that you cannot drive a vehicle of a certain age in Angola. If your vehicle is a 2006 model, you cannot drive it on the Angolan roads. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable Kazenambo a question? This theory of second-hand cars not driving on highways and depriving poor people of means of transport, would you call that a Nyamu-theory?

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: It looks like it is part of the notes, but Honourable Speaker, when you are there in Oshikango and take into account that those vehicles were meant for the Angolan market, that business people risked their money and ordered those vehicles, it is really painful if you take into account the jobs lost. (Intervention)

HON SHIXWAMENI: May I ask the Honourable Minister a question on the vehicles piled up at Oshikango? What would you as Minister and part of the Executive advise should happen with those cars given the fact that it is not only trade opportunities lost, but that those cars are standing there for years in the sun while they are filled with fuel and any accident might cause the whole of Oshikango to explode. What would you recommend should Cabinet do?

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: This is not a question for me as a Minister or as part of the Executive. That is why this law is brought to the Namibian Parliament to ratify it. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. That policy started here, it was a policy of Honourable Nyamu when he was a Minister. For whatever purpose he decided Namibia should not buy second-hand cars and he brought it to Cabinet and from there second-hands were not allowed in Namibia, meaning a poor person must go to the bank and borrow money to buy a new car from Pupkewitz and become indebted. If you could get a second-hand car from Japan for five thousand you could be mobile. I think the Angolan brothers and sisters took it from there.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, I agree with what my senior leader has said. (Intervention)

HON ULENGA: May I ask the Honourable Member a question, please? I am very sorry to interrupt the Member as he was speaking, but seeing that there has apparently been a previous Cabinet conspiracy, according to the information from the Prime Minister, I would just like to find out from the Minister, being a Member of the Executive, how much the Honourable Nyamu paid the Cabinet so that they can support this kind of thing and even bring it here to us unsuspecting members to agree to stuff that you have agreed to in conspiracy type of way. Please explain and I would just like to ask the Prime Minister for this thing never to happen in future and not to start disclosing these matters only when somebody ceases to be a member of Cabinet.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Honourable Ben Ulenga, I am a newcomer. (Intervention)

HON DINGARA: May I ask a small question? Since that policy which prevented us to buy these nice Japanese cars were brought in by

Honourable Nyamu who is no more in the Cabinet, can it not now be withdrawn so that we can buy those vehicles?

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: I do not have any power to influence Cabinet, I am a newcomer. Anyway, I am appealing that when we have instruments such as this one, those who are negotiating them must build in security for an ordinary business person, so that in the event that some country in the corridor decides to phase out, there must be room for clearance of the goods, so that at least the ordinary business person is not left with what is happening in Oshikango. It is painful. With this appeal, I thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Nyamu.

HON NYAMU: Honourable Speaker, I am extremely happy that the rest of my Colleagues in this House do welcome the move by the Minister regarding this very important economic project. I only hope that it had come earlier. The initial agreement was signed in 1992, I was told, which is almost ten years ago. That goes to testify that we are moving too slowly in implementing important projects. If we are moving slowly the rest of the world is leaving us behind because it is moving much faster. What has prevented the implementation of this agreement much earlier?

However, this project is a bread-and-butter issue and we are all ready to lend maximum support to the Minister and the Government to implement this very important project. This is not a political slogan; it is something which is tangible and likely to improve the economic welfare of the Namibian people in the future.

The Prime Minister said something very exciting, that Namibia would serve as a service provider to SADC and Africa. Smaller countries,

including Singapore, became famous because of the service they were able to provide to the rest of the world. We can try to imitate those successes as a small country with a small population by providing special services that are indispensable, for example world trade, but to do so we must be friendly to foreigners, we must break the deadlock. Namibia has an anti-foreign syndrome which is manifested in some of our laws, particularly those with respect to immigration. We are behaving as if we live on our own planet. Sometimes we use the phrase that the world is a global village, but our actions tend to suggest something else, that this is our world, Namibia is our world. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

I am sorry to interrupt my Colleague, but may I ask him a question? Honourable Nyamu, you are saying Namibia should not be an island in a globalised world, if I heard you correctly. Do you then concur with our policy that whenever a neighbour's house is on fire, like what happened in the DRC, we have a duty to assist our brothers and sisters and, therefore, you concur with that policy which was opposed by Honourable Ben Ulenga, which was one of the justifications for breaking away from the SWAPO Party and establishing the CoD? Do you now agree with us or do you agree with Honourable Ben Ulenga?

HON NYAMU: Thank you very much for your question which is related to foreign relations. I believe strongly that if your neighbour's house is on fire you should help, I do not question that African dictum. What I may question are the procedures. If your neighbours are at war and you want to join the war, you have to follow proper procedures, which in my view were not properly conducted.

I was talking about our unfriendliness to foreigners, including neighbours, be they Angolans, Zambians, South Africans or Zimbabweans. We give them a rough deal. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. Is Honourable Nyamu aware that Namibia has a policy of allowing SADC citizens to visit Namibia without a visa for a certain period of time? Are you aware of that?

HON NYAMU: I am aware of that. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: On a Point of Order. Honourable Speaker, I think it now going from the sublime to the ridiculous. We are turning this Parliament into an executive Parliament where the dominance of the Executive is leaving no space for the ordinary Members of Parliament. Since the beginning of the debate on this Motion by the Honourable Minister, the Ministers are the ones speaking on it. It is coming from the Executive and the Executive is now the ones dominating the Debate on it without giving a chance to us to participate. Especially the Right Honourable Prime Minister who is the Leader of Government Business in this House must start listening instead of being the spokesperson.

HON SPEAKER: Can I explain something? The system is so well done that it has disempowered the Speaker the old-fashioned privilege that the Presiding Officer was looking around whom to favour to speak. If you press your button it registers. If you look around you would see flashing lights, but if you also make a mistake and press it again, then it removes you. Press once, stay put and if you jumped up to make a Point of Order, make sure that you do not tamper with it. I can see Honourable Iilonga should be the next to speak. All of you have red buttons but it automatically switches to the next speaker. We should also think about mastering the technology. They pressed ahead of you.

HON KAURA: They are the ones debating it instead of giving us a chance to debate. This is the point I am making.

HON SPEAKER: That is a good and valid point.

HON NYAMU: Honourable Speaker, I continue to believe that we could do better as far as being friendly not only to ourselves but to our neighbours and far distant foreigners as well, which we are not. We have been sending wrong messages to investors, people who come with their own money and want to invest in our country. The way we have been harassing them, refusing them proper documents is shameful and if I had my way, I would probably effect the firing of Ministers and Deputy Ministers in that respect. (Interjections). Let us not run away from the truth. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: On a Point of Information. Comrade Speaker, I can understand that had Honourable Nyamu a chance and the power to fire Ministers, I am sure he would fire all of us because he is an excommunicated former SWAPO Member.

HON NYAMU: Honourable Speaker, trade promotion, particularly in respect of this corridor we are discussing, will facilitate the fast movement of goods and people. You will find many Zambians moving around, many citizens of the DRC and we must prepare how to deal with him, especially with human beings. With goods clearance may be a technical and easy thing to do, but when you are dealing with the flow of people up and down, it is another matter. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: May I ask Honourable Nyamu a question? Honourable Nyamu is your Party only friendly to the DRC, Zambia and so on, but it is anti-Zimbabwe, because your Colleague just a few minutes ago was against Zimbabwe.

HON NYAMU: I think that should be ruled Out of Order, but in any case, can I give you information? I lived in Zimbabwe, I have relatives in Zimbabwe. My firstborn is a citizen of Zimbabwe. How could I hate Zimbabwe, for what reason?

What I am trying to say is that we must prepare ourselves to treat our neighbours in a friendly manner. I understand Osire is about to close and we are preparing ourselves how to kick out those people. Some of them are Angolans; some of them are from Rwandese. We are preparing to kick them out, yet some of us have been refugees in other countries for decades. Apparently we do not even remember that, we have forgotten completely.

Namibia must prepare itself for this movement, to treat our neighbours and foreigners in a friendly manner as we would like the same to be done to us. When you have a lot of things coming into your country, you will have good things and bad things coming. We must prepare our population, especially those along the corridors to be able to deal with this influx. We must prepare ourselves to avoid bad things being imported into our country, corruption for example. Some people will use this corridor to maximise their profits and they can do it through all kinds of means. We must also be careful about trafficking in human beings as this corridor can also be misused. We must also prepare our people to avoid being caught up in this type of trafficking. We need an educational process to familiarise our people with the known and unknown incidents as a result of this new corridor.

Otherwise, Honourable Speaker, I stand ready to give all support and my party will stand ready to provide support to this very important project.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Iilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I rise to give my support to the agreement between the three countries. My intervention is based on Article 5 on Page 6, movement and the rights of transit. This article also covers the concern by Honourable Nyamu, because under (b) it deals with no discrimination regarding any country of origin, either for the final destination of goods and also under (c) this agreement will allow free movement and transit of persons, vehicles, goods between the contracting parties.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Kazenambo has mentioned the issue of veterinary. We may find one of the contracting parties wanting to transport animals through this corridor and as a country we need to be sure that those animals are not contaminated by any contagious disease which might plunge your country into problems. Therefore, I want to find out whether this agreement also provides for quarantine of animals before crossing into Namibia.

On Page 8 under Article 7 it deals with the appointment of the Permanent Secretariat. The Agreement proposes that expatriates be treated with diplomatic immunity. I want to find whether this is already in force with people from SADC who are not diplomats. Are they accorded this diplomatic status?

On Page 9 under Article 10(a) it deals with resources and they mention that the Corridor Management Committee can derive resources from levies on cargo which passes through or is unloaded. It says they should contribute equally, but I do not see anything in this section that proposes that the Parliaments of the contracting parties will make budgetary provision for the corridor to be run. That was my contribution and I support the Agreement. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Ulenga.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, I also stand up to express myself on the item on the Floor of the House and also to make some comments that are emanating from some elements on the other side of the House. (Interjection)

HON SPEAKER: Nobody is an element.

HON ULENGA: Do you want it to be withdrawn? That was said in a light note, I want to say Honourable Members on the other side.

Honourable Speaker, there used to be a time in our continent of Africa when if you wanted to visit even one of your neighbouring countries, you had to go all the way to Europe and then find your way back to Africa. I am very glad that those days are finally gone and we in Africa now want to take the shortest cut possible and save a lot of money and time and also save a lot of face and look dignified as people should be, also as countries and as nations. Honourable Speaker, for that one reason I support this Motion that introduced this Agreement.

In 1974 I travelled from Namibia to the DRC, which was then called Congo Zaire. It took me more than a month to go from Oshikango to Dilolo which is on the border between Angola and the present DRC on the north-eastern side of Angola. I had to most of the time walk all two thousand kilometres. It was for a purpose and that purpose was to participate in and continue the war of liberation until our respective countries were free and independent and until Africa was at peace; not only in individual countries but also between countries. That war that we fought as a war of liberation, Mao Tse Tung would have called a just war. It was a war against oppression and it was a war that was actually forced upon us by those who oppressed us.

In contradiction to that, Honourable Speaker, even as we speak there are still some areas of conflict in Africa, many of them ignited and encouraged by those who always gain from fighting wars, people who sell

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HON ULENGA

their weapons and do not know where to test them, like we see now in Libya, Afghanistan and Iraq. These are wars being fought by foreigners and the reasons to fight these wars are obvious, I do not even need to go into them. However, it is unfortunate that Africans sometimes allow themselves to be used as proxies by these forces, so I will never be able to support those kinds of wars.

I know that in some of the areas that are mentioned today, in the past people have taken up arms against each other.

HON SPEAKER: You will be the first with the continuation of the consideration of this item. For now the House shall rise for the day under automatic adjournment.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2011.07.07 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
07 JULY 2011**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON SPEAKER: The Standing Committee on Rules and Orders and Internal Arrangements has, in terms of Rule 38(3) of the Standing Rules and Orders, agreed that the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security will as of now perform the duty of Parliamentary oversight as regards the Ministry of Veterans Affairs. I take it that the House concurs.

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notices of Questions? Notice 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 am rising to make a short Ministerial Statement in the form of providing some information with regard to the programme for the official renaming of the Uitkoms Agriculture Research Station to the late Honourable John Alfons Pandeni on the 30th of July 2011. I am doing this, Honourable Speaker, knowing that the National Assembly will go into recess next week and Tuesday and Wednesday both my Colleague, the Deputy Minister, and I will not be here due to other official

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON MUTORWA**

engagements outside the country.

The Uitkoms Research Station is the property of the Government of the Republic of Namibia under the custodianship and management of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. It is a livestock research facility, geographically located twenty kilometres south of the town of Grootfontein on the B8 national road.

The tragic motor vehicle accident that robbed Namibia of one of its national leaders, a former Member of this Honourable House, the Namibian National Assembly, a Member of the Cabinet, the late Comrade John Alfons Pandeni, took place in the vicinity of Uitkoms Research Station.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry made some recommendations to the Cabinet some time ago to rename Uitkoms Research Station in memory of the name and person of the late Comrade John Alfons Pandeni. Cabinet accepted and approved the Ministry's recommendations.

The purpose of this Ministerial Statement is to inform all the Honourable Members of the National Assembly that the official renaming of the Uitkoms Research Station to the late John Alfons Pandeni Research Station is scheduled to take place on Saturday, the 30th of July 2011, commencing at 09:00. All Honourable Members are invited to that occasion. Thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, we take note of the information. Minister Kaapanda.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON KAAPANDA**

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

TECHNOLOGY: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I rise to inform the Honourable Members that the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology is glad to announce that after much anticipation the Communication Act (Act 8 of 2009) was put into operation on the 18th of May 2011 by the Honourable Minister of Information and Communication Technology. The commencement was gazetted in Government Gazette No. 4714, Notice No. 64. However, the parts of the Communication Act that deals with interception communications, universal service and the establishment of the “.na” Domain Name Association is still to be finalised.

With the commencement of the Act came the establishment of the Communication Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) also on the 18th of May 2011. As a regulatory authority, CRAN thus replaces the former Namibian Communication Commission (NCC) because the NCC Act of 1992 has been repealed by the Communication Act. The Board appointed Mr Stanley Shanapinda as Acting Chief Executive Officer on the 10th of May 2011. The Board is supported by the Transformation Project Team with all its activities.

CRAN is still in its infancy, but has hit the ground running. It has to transform the information communication technology sector. The ICT sector has to be regulated in terms of the Communication Act and existing licences have to be converted to ensure compliance. On the 18th of May 2011 the Board made the following five regulations which were gazetted in Government Gazette No. 4714, Notices No. 124 and 128. They are:

- Regulations regarding transitional procedures for telecommunications and broadcasting service licences and spectrum use licences;
- Regulations regarding licensing procedures for telecommunications and broadcasting services licences and spectrum use licences;
- Regulations regarding submission of interconnection agreements and tariffs;

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON KAAPANDA**

- Regulations regarding consumer compliance; and
- Regulations setting out broadcasting and telecommunication service and licence categories.

The Board also published a document stating the reasons on which the regulations are based. The Board also published the various applications and information forms that licence and applications must complete and submit to CRAN. The above regulations are made in terms of an open and transparent rule-making procedure already gazetted and made by the Board on the 10th of December 2010.

The Industry was allowed to comment on the draft regulations and their views were incorporated. CRAN is thus currently tasked with setting itself up operationally and administratively as well as cooperating with industry to transform the sector, while it is regulating the Industry at the same time and dealing with issues inherited from NCC.

On the 6th of June 2011, the Board had a stakeholder's engagement with the Industry. The Industry was briefed on ongoing process and updated on the various next steps. The Industry has been cooperating positively with CRAN. CRAN is also hard at work in preparing draft regulations regarding the frequency band plan and the new licence fees and the universal service fees. It will also join the digital terrestrial TV migration forum. Activities are also undertaken to address Namibia's universal service policy and the necessary regulations to comply with that.

From the Ministerial side we have to address the policy issues as when the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation will be regulated similar to other broadcasters. We have to start preparations for the establishment of ".na" Domain Name Association, to act as the registrar for website addresses. We also have to set the policy necessary in advancing the Sector, supporting innovation, bridging the digital divide, encouraging entrepreneurship and local Namibian participation and ownership.

In executing its full legal mandate as bestowed upon it by this august House, CRAN is facing a few challenges. The Board and the Ministry are

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in discussion to transfer assets and finances and other assets and liabilities to CRAN. CRAN must attract and retain competent and suitably qualified employees at market-related remuneration packages to establish itself as a highly effective regulator.

In conclusion, despite a few challenges, the establishment of CRAN is a move in the right direction. It ushers in a new era of transforming ICT as an emblem of economic growth. We trust that CRAN will execute its mandate with vigour and confidence and with the necessary support. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. We take note of the information. Today being Thursday, the House has three Questions. Question 20 is one by Honourable Moongo. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

QUESTION 20:

HON MOONGO: I put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in response to Honourable Member Moongo's Question 20 my answer will be as follows:

The Honourable Member asked why the victims of the Oshakati bank bomb blast are not being taken care of by the Veterans Fund. The Fund in the Ministry of Veterans Affairs is assisting the registered veterans for the war of national liberation. Any Namibians or a friend of Namibia who is registered as a veteran has the right to benefit from the Veterans Fund provided such person is residing within the borders of Namibia.

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HON NAMBAHU**

Therefore, if there are those victims of the Oshakati bomb blast registered with the Ministry of Veterans Affairs, they are eligible to benefit from the Veterans Fund, but if they are not accorded the status of veterans, they will not benefit.

Secondly, the Honourable Member is asking why no provision is made for assistance to those victims by either the bank or the South African Government. I am not a liaison Minister between the victims of the Oshakati bomb blast and the First National Bank or the South African Government. It is not part of my brief as a Minister.

Thirdly, the Honourable Member wants to find out whether I know that the health conditions of the victims of the Oshakati bomb blast are deteriorating and he wants to know when they are going to be registered. Let me explain a little bit that any registered veteran who is suffering from wounds or bullets in their bodies that are related to the national war of liberation, the Ministry of Veterans Affairs, through the Veterans Fund, would be responsible for the health bill of that veteran, be it at a State hospital or private hospital, provided that in the case of a private hospital it will be an ailment that is beyond the operations and capacity of the State hospitals. I hope I made myself clear on that question.

HON MOONGO: I would like to thank the Minister for the answer.

QUESTION 21:

HON NAHOLO: I put the Question.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker thank you very much for affording me the opportunity to provide answers to the question put by Honourable Naholo of the Rally for Democracy and Progress.

Let me thank the Honourable Member for posing the question and for the interest shown in the work that we are doing with regard to the issues

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HON NAMBAHU**

raised in this question. Our response thereto is as follows:

It is true that Namibia is a State party to various international instruments and in terms of Article 32(1)(e) of the Namibian Constitution, the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister of Foreign Affairs have the powers to sign international agreements and treaties on behalf of the State. In other words, the power to negotiate, delegate and sign international agreements is vested in the President and Cabinet, as provided in Chapters 5 and 6 of the Constitution.

Namibia has a reporting obligation on seven major international human rights instruments. The instruments are as follows:

- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- International Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
- African Charter on Human and People's Rights;
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women;
- The Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Our Ministry, the Ministry of Justice, is responsible to report on six of them, which are:

- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

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- International Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
- African Charter on Human and People's Rights;
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

including Universal Period Review, (UPR).

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare is responsible to report on the other two Conventions, namely:

- Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; and
- The Convention on the Rights of the Child.

On the question which was asked by the Honourable Member that there are no adequate and competent staff members to draft and submit these reports: This is not correct and I want to inform the Honourable Member that it is not the staff members who are incompetent, but rather the delay in submitting these reports on time. That is due to insufficient human and material resources and an appropriate internal organisational framework for multi-sectoral coordination of human rights issues. The Ministry has already instituted measures to improve upon this situation. Our responsibility is to compile what is coming from other Offices, Ministries and Agencies and it is acknowledged that we have a problem in Government as far as coordination is concerned and we are seized with that situation to see how best we can address it.

I want to inform the Honourable Member that Namibia has submitted reports on the following treaties:

- Universal Periodic Review (UPR): Periodic Reports should be submitted every four years in this connection. The last report was submitted in 2011, the next periodic report is due in 2015.
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination: Periodic reports regarding this Convention should be

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submitted every two years. The last periodic report which was combined was submitted in 2007 and the next periodic report is due this year and the next report will be due in 2013.

- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: Periodic reports should be submitted every four years. The last periodic report was submitted in 2006, the next periodic report was due last year in 2010. This report will be finalised and submitted to the relevant treaty body by the end of June 2011. The next report will be due in 2015.
- International Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: Periodic reports should be submitted every four years. The initial report was submitted in 1997, the combined report will be submitted in 2011. The next periodic report will be due in 2015.
- The African Charter on Human and People's Rights: Periodic reports should be submitted every two years. The last periodic report was submitted in 2010, the next periodic report is due in 2012.
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: Periodic reports should be submitted every five years. The initial report should have been submitted in 1998 but no report has ever been submitted. The initial first and second report will be submitted to the relevant Treaty body by the end of July 2011. The next report will be due in 2015.

On the question of Namibia's final response to the UPR recommendations which came out during the initial review on the 31st of January 2011 during the Interactive Dialogue Session, I want to inform the Honourable Member and the public that a total of 120 recommendations were made during the Interactive Dialogue by the Member States. The Namibian delegation, which was led by the Honourable Minister of Justice, Comrade Pendukeni Ithana, accepted 90 of the recommendations which the delegation considered that they are already implemented or in the process

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HON NAMBAHU**

of being implemented and we should also point out that we have to be advised by our own national reality and interest and as Africans we do not necessarily have to adopt conventions because it is trendy to do so, because examples all over are showing that we must be more cautious in acceding to these kinds of conventions.

A total of three recommendations did not enjoy the support of the delegation, therefore they were rejected. The delegation decided to reserve their response to the twenty-seven recommendations and decided that they would provide a response at a later stage as they wanted to examine them in detail and consult with the other relevant authorities at home. A Cabinet Memo which contained Namibia's response to the recommendations, including the responses to those recommendations which were reserved, was prepared for Cabinet approval.

On the question of reporting process and consultations, the UPR Report was prepared and compiled by the Ministry of Justice based on the information received from all relevant Government Ministries, Offices and Agencies, research information and reports from relevant Non-Governmental Organisations. A consultative meeting was held with the representatives of civil society and NGOs to discuss the first draft of the report. The consultation meeting took place at Safari Hotel and it was attended by the Legal Assistance Centre, the Media Institute of Southern Africa and Namrights, to mention but a few. Some of the information contained in the report was provided by the NGOs themselves. I thank you for your attention.

HON NAHOLO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I am satisfied, he did his homework very well for the first time in his life.

ORAL QUESTION

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**ORAL QUESTION BY HON MOONGO
RT HON ANGULA**

HON MOONGO: I appeal to the Speaker to give me time to put an urgent Oral Question. I would like to ask the Prime Minister an Oral Question, whether he is aware that there is serious unrest in the Ministry of Health and Social Services concerning salaries and remuneration. They made attempts to meet and iron out the problems with the Minister and I want to know whether the Minister is intentionally avoiding meeting them. Is this the policy of the Government not to iron out problems? Could the Prime Minister apply Article 41 and 32(3)(g) and discipline the Minister if he does not coordinate and if not, when will the Prime Minister discipline the Minister if he does not negotiate with the workers?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you for the ambushed question. I thought that when oral questions are put the respondent is informed in time, but for the sake of this important question, let me reply as follows:

Honourable Moongo, Namibia is ruled by laws. These laws also include agreements. Currently the Government of the Republic of Namibia has a recognition agreement with two Unions, NAPWU and NATU. These are the unions which represent Public Servants as bargaining units and the Government has just concluded an agreement with these two unions for the benefit of the Public Servants.

With regard to the nurses and pharmacists, they are also included in the new agreement; however they seem to believe that they are entitled to something additional. Of course, the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia allows people to belong to associations, that I cannot prevent, and as a Government we are ready to listen to any complaint of any employee, but not to negotiate, to listen to them because we already have a bargaining unit for the public servants.

I did receive a letter from the nurses that they want to bring a petition to my office and they are free to do so because Namibia is a country ruled by law and I hope that they will abide to that understanding. There is no intention by the Government to deny anybody an audience who is employed by the Government. You can always bring your complaint and

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**ORAL QUESTION BY HON MOONGO
HON DR N IYAMBO**

if it can be attended to, it will be attended to. If not possible, then we have to explain why. That is the situation. Thank you.

HON MOONGO: I would like to thank the Prime Minister for a good answer, but I have a small Oral Question to the Minister of Veteran Affairs which is also very urgent.

Does the Minister acknowledge the delay in paying the veterans, especially those who are becoming very old? Is it intentional or is there a technical problem to fast-track the payment of those who are very old and may die without benefiting?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I want to thank the Honourable Member for putting this urgent Oral Question.

The programmes that have been set up for the veterans to apply to be registered spans from 2009 until 2014. That is when 99 percent of the veterans would be seen to have registered. We have revisited the application and registration programmes and we thought we could speed it up. We are now working on a time-table of registering everybody who would apply by the end of this year, roughly October, November. You can imagine that the programme has now become congested and in the process it may seem as if the Ministry is delaying, because people were registered since 2008 and up to now we have not completed the process. However, I want to mention that the programme was supposed to end 2014, but in spite of that it will end this year. Please advise those who feel we are delaying to bear with us, we will do the best we can to get everyone on board. I am aware that people are passing on and that was actually the main reason why I decided that we have to speed up the programme. That is the short answer I can give.

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**CONFERMENT OF NATIONAL HONOURS BILL
COMMITTEE STAGE**

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

**COMMITTEE STAGE: CONFERMENT OF
NATIONAL HONOURS BILL**

HON SPEAKER: Does the Minister move that the House now goes into Committee?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, I want to ask the indulgence of the House to postpone the Committee Stage until the 12th of July 2011.

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

**RATIFICATION: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING:
WALVIS BAY-NDOLA-LUBUMBASHI DEVELOPMENT
CORRIDOR**

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned yesterday, 6 July 2011, the Question before the Assembly was Motion by the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport. Honourable Ulenga had the Floor and he is not present. Any further discussion?

HON SHIXWAMENI: I move that the Debate be adjourned until Tuesday, next week.

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ADJOURNMENT

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? Agreed to. The consideration of this Motion stands adjourned until Tuesday, next week. The Secretary will read the Third Order of the Day.

**CONSIDERATION: WHITE PAPER ON LOCAL AND
REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

HON SPEAKER: With that the House stands adjourned for refreshments.

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:30**

HON SPEAKER: We do not have a quorum and we cannot proceed with the business of the House. Present were 34 voting Members excluding the Speaker, and 4 non-voting Members. The House is adjourned.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:34 UNTIL 2011.07.12 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
12 JULY 2011**

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 Schlettwein.

TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

- Office of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year that ended 31 March 2010;
- National Planning Commission for the Financial Year that ended 31 March 2010;
- The National Heritage Council for the Financial Year that ended 31 March 2010.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Deputy Minister please table the Reports? Any further Reports and Papers? Notices of Questions? Notices of Motions? Ministerial Statements? Honourable Prime Minister.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
RT HON N ANGULA / HON KAZENAMBO**

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I asked the Floor to bring to this august House fraternal greetings from the people of Southern Sudan, the newest State on our continent. I had an opportunity, on behalf of His Excellency President Pohamba, to attend and witness the birth of this new Nation. It is a very vibrant Nation, a Nation of more than eight million people with a land surface of more than 600,000 square kilometres.

Judging from the speech of the new President, the people of Southern Sudan are set to rebuild their Nation and for that Nation to become one of the great nations of Africa. I believe Namibia should continue to support them and given them moral support. Greetings from Southern Sudan. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, we appreciate that you were able to witness that history-making event. Thank you, indeed. Honourable Kazenambo.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. As announced by the Deputy Speaker last week, I would like to give the Honourable Members an update about the planned soccer match between the Members of Parliament and the members of the Diplomatic community. The envisaged soccer match is in celebration of the 125th Anniversary of Coca-Cola. The whole idea of the soccer match is to raise funds towards the Government's flood relief efforts. For every goal scored by the members, Coca-Cola will award an amount of N\$1,250 and Coca-Cola will add an additional amount on top of every goal scored. Therefore, Members are urged to score more goals because the more goals we score, the more money will be generated towards the flood relief efforts, thereby helping our Government to fully address the need of our people affected by this natural disaster. The soccer match is scheduled for

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON KAZENAMBO**

Saturday, 16 July 2011 at 15:00 at the Dr Sam Nujoma Stadium in Katutura. The coach of the team will be around during tea-break today, so all interested Honourable Members are invited to meet with the coach during tea-break in the Parliament Restaurant to work out further modalities and a training programme. The Front Office will also circulate a form on which all interested Honourable Members are requested to indicate their availability as well as the position they want to play during the game. I invite all Honourable Members to be part of this noble effort and I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**COMMITTEE STAGE: CONFERMENT OF
NATIONAL HONOURS BILL**

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Veteran Affairs Move that the Assembly now goes into Committee?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Speaker, I was mandated by my senior Minister to beg the indulgence of the House to adjourn the Debate on this item to Thursday. I so Move, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: The further consideration of this item stands adjourned until Thursday. The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

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HON SHIXWAMENI

**RATIFICATION OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING:
WALVIS BAY-NDOLA-LUBUMBASHI DEVELOPMENT
CORRIDOR**

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Thursday, 7 July 2011, the Question before the Assembly was Motion by the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport. Honourable Shixwameni adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I rise in support of the Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi Memorandum of Understanding. I do not have any principle objections to this Memorandum of Understanding but have a few issues to raise.

First and foremost, regarding the greetings from the people of Southern Sudan, I would like to make use of this opportunity to congratulate our brothers and sisters of Southern Sudan on the attainment of their national Independence and wish them peace, unity and continued stability as the youngest Nation on our continent. Having studied with quite so many of them, I appreciate the fact that the Northern Sudanese Government of President al-Bashir, has been benevolent in the attempt to acknowledge that the Southern Sudanese deserve their freedom. I am sure everybody in this House shares in that feeling that we congratulate our brothers from Southern Sudan for their Independence.

Coming back to the Memorandum of Understanding, it is said that Namibia is good at signing and initialising agreements. The Memorandum of Understanding is a good thing, it definitely promotes economic development, it promotes the South-South cooperation that we need, but we sign so many international agreements but at the end of the day we lack domesticating these international agreements into law. We take such a long time as a country to put these agreements into practice.

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HON SHIXWAMENI

I would like to urge our Executive component of the State that we should be able to domesticate this agreement as soon as possible. I welcome the Executive bringing the Memorandum of Understanding here, but the question is, why has it taken such a long time? I have been hearing about the Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi Corridor since the days of our Founding President, Dr Sam Nujoma. He has been talking about this agreement and one wonders why it has taken such a long time. Please bring the agreements that are signed to this House for ratification, do not let them gather dust on the shelves of Ministries. Where is the Charter on African Good Governance and Democracy? When is it going to come here? Where are the many charters that were signed, such as the Domestication of the Rome Statute? When is it going to come here? We are made to believe that we have signed something and suddenly we have reservations. Bring the international instruments so that this House can ratify those instruments.

Honourable Minister of Presidential Affairs and Attorney-General, I am sure you would be able to speed up the process that starts at the Ministry of Justice, that starts at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, that as part of the International community, that we not only need to ratify but to accede to these agreements that normally sign and then leave on the shelves of the various ministries.

The other issue I want to address is the situation with our neighbours. I understand from the Minister of Trade and Industry that the issue of cement exports to Angola will be addressed by December. Sovereign as nations may be, I still strongly believe that as neighbours you need to address this situation. How can a friend like Angola, a friend that has stood by us for years and suffered for this country's Nation, suddenly decide to go south of the border? The cement is one case in point, but also the second-hand cars which the Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture addressed. We should not operate in this way and I am sure Honourable Tweya will agree with me that we need to ease the situation around our borders as neighbours. We should be able to notify each other in time if there are economic problems around the border.

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HON SHIXWAMENI

The situation at Oshikango is indeed a serious one. I was part of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security Committee that visited Oshikango and saw the situation of the cars which was addressed by the Minister. Why would Angola do such a thing? Why can we not speak to our Angolan brothers to please take these left-hand drive vehicles across the border so that they can be stored there. The situation of the cars there is a very serious security situation. Those cars are parked there; some are filled with petrol and diesel. Should an explosion take place in a car at Oshikango, we would have a very serious disaster at that place. Right Honourable Prime Minister, why can we not speak to our brothers in Angola and resolve the situation of Oshikango amicably once and for all? Surely the owners of those cars have paid for them and they should be able to gain value for the money that they have paid. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Order. I know that Honourable Kaura wants to enforce the ban from speaking on me, but for the same of clarity, may I ask my Comrade there a question? We are talking about second-hand cars parked at Oshikango. Those cars were imported, thinking that there is a market in Angola. When they imported them they did not ask the Government of Angola to import those cars, they only assumed there is a market in Angola. Why do you now talk to the owners to find alternative markets if there is no market in Angola? If there is no market in Namibia either, why do you want Angola to accept what you do not accept yourself in Namibia?

HON SHIXWAMENI: The Right Honourable Prime Minister knows that it is import companies that brought these cars in. They are left-hand drive vehicles, they cannot be bought, neither be driven on Namibian roads. The best solution is for us to talk to the Angolan authorities to dispose of the dangerous situation there. In addition while answering the Right Honourable Prime Minister, I should say, because it was raised the other time that it was the Nyamu policy, the Right Honourable Prime Minister chose to dispose of Cabinet's collective responsibility of making

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policies. I would like to insist that the Right Honourable Prime Minister, being the right point of contact in Cabinet, introduces a policy to rescind the policy that bans cars that are more than ten years old to be imported, so that our poor people who can afford cars of N\$20,000 or N\$15,000 would be able to benefit from very good cars that are imported from the Japanese market. I would like to urge Cabinet to rescind what has now been termed as the Nyamu policy so that we would have a Namibian policy that rescinds that policy.

Coming back to the Memorandum of Understanding, I would like to commend the Minister for bringing the Memorandum. They say better late than never. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: On a Point of Information. Honourable Shixwameni, you are talking about Cabinet, but this is the lawmaking House. When we are talking about these things, even the National Assembly must look into this serious issue. My brother, we are only referring to cars, the reality is that everybody comes to this beautiful country to do business and there are people who buy goods in South Africa and try to sell them in Angola, but they go through hell. Sometimes they have to trade through a third party. However, if you go to Oshikango, you will see people carrying goods on their heads, going about their business, but when our people go to Botswana, Zambia or Angola to try to sell, they go through hell. Let us be realistic and face this situation and talk to our counterparts that we know we are the youngest, we benefited from you, but let us have fair trade because not all of us are Ministers, and they are walking with their feet to try to put bread on the table. It is not only about cars.

HON SHIXWAMENI: I fully agree with the Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture, as SADC and Africa we need to ease trade among ourselves and I am sure that is what the Memorandum of Understanding is trying to do, not only that it will provide jobs and

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HON SHIXWAMENI

services to Namibia, but that it would make trading between Namibia, Zambia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo much easier. This needs to be discussed at the SADC Heads of State level; we need to insist at the Council of Ministers' meeting that we need to ease trade between and among ourselves. It is easier to trade with Europe than to trade with your next-door neighbour. As Africans we need to rise to the challenge of making trade easier instead of making it more complicated.

This thing of paying N\$100 for every ten kilometres that you drive in another country cannot work. It makes us as Africans jointly and commonly poorer and we need to work on that. Why do we complicate it ourselves when we are supposed to be brothers? I am supposed to be able to speak Silozi on the other side of the Caprivi border to make trade much easier. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question, please? Honourable Shixwameni, the officials in the ministries and departments are implementing policies and programmes as agreed upon by Government, by the Ruling Party through their congresses, by Cabinet and it comes down to actual implementation by the staff. If one is saying that the Ministry of Trade and Industry has implemented the Nyamu policy, then the Ministry of Trade and Industry has implemented what Cabinet has approved to be implemented. That is exactly what we have implemented successfully.

HON SHIXWAMENI: I do not want to dwell on the Nyamu notes; all that I am saying is that the African Union and SADC need to work much more on the practical implementation of the agreements of the Heads of State Summit, because it seems the Heads of State Summit and the Ministers Council Meeting are basically wasting resources. I have gone on the Internet to look at the ratification process in various countries and you see that most countries are keen to initial the agreements, but when they go back to their own countries, these things gather dust on the shelves of Ministries or Parliaments.

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HON DR AMWEELO

When our President took over the Chairmanship of SADC he committed himself together with the Minister of Trade and Industry to push for the implementation of this agreement. Otherwise, why do we have these summits where we agree and then agree not to implement these agreements? I am urging the Executive to take their job in all earnest and seriousness and ensure that agreements that are ratified are brought sooner and not later to Parliament for ratification and accession and that they should not gather dust on the shelves of Ministries. Otherwise, I support the Memorandum of Understanding.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Dr Amweelo.

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I only want to touch on a few issues. On Page 9, Article 11 deals with the Port of Walvis Bay and other facilities. As we know, the Port of Walvis Bay is more or less overcrowded as a result of the bridge at Caprivi which has been opened and so many export and import activities through Walvis Bay. Many types of vessels come to the port, such as general cargo vessels, liquid vessels and dry cargo vessels, container vessels and also passenger vessels. These occupy different docks and berths and these things make Walvis Bay Port overcrowded. Therefore, my contribution will focus on alternative facilities.

If possible, Honourable Minister of Works and Transport, you could consider an inland dry dock as this will alleviate the situation at Walvis Bay. An inland dry dock can handle container and other cargo.

We also need to consider security in the handling of containers as the containers sometimes contain other items and it is difficult to offload containers all the times. However, one could consider equipping the weighbridge with X-ray to detect what is hidden in containers and this should keep the port secure.

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HON TJIHUIKO

Article 36 deals with environmental protection and I think if we are not careful, the biodiversity, landscape and ecosystem may be disturbed, therefore we need to put mechanisms in place to control pollution. Those working on the corridors might in the long-run disturb the environment and maybe you need to have a link to the Ministry of Environment or an organisation which will take care of environmental protection. Otherwise, I support the Agreement hundred percent and I thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Indeed, we are requested to ratify this Agreement which I think is something that is really long overdue. We need to improve the working relationship between our neighbours in the spirit of SADC and the African Union. It is critically important for us as Africans to start putting the necessary infrastructure in place so that we can, firstly strengthen the relationship between African countries before we start looking beyond our borders. Therefore, it is of crucial importance for us to carefully consider the agreements we are presented with so that we know what we are ratifying. I am saying this because I understand that according to our Constitution and laws, once we have ratified an agreement, it is automatically domesticated, it has become part of our laws. If we do not look at this critically, we may find ourselves in a situation where a citizen of one of these countries can easily take us to court based on the law that we have ratified that we are not aware of. Therefore, it should not be a question that we ratify it once it comes here.

Honourable Minister, I am not sure what we are saying in Article 2(b). Once we have ratified this, it means that the contracting parties shall include such additional protocols as may be necessary. Does it mean that once we have ratified this Agreement, the protocol that will follow is automatically ratified or what does that really mean? I am not a lawyer by profession, I am just a good politician and I want you to explain whether

that means the contracting parties will go on with protocols without us as Parliament knowing that a new protocol has been signed?

In Article 3(a) it says, “*To facilitate safe, efficient trade, and movement of persons and goods.*” Minister, does this mean that once we have ratified the Agreement there will be a free movement of persons between the contracting parties. Does that mean somebody from Zambia does not need a visa or passport? This needs to be clarified so that all of us can be on the same page, as Honourable Kaiyamo always says. If that is the case, then obviously we could easily find ourselves in serious trouble.

Article 3(d) reads: “*To implement strategic strategy for accelerating economic and social growth along the corridor while ensuring environmental sustainability.*” I would also love to know whether the existing Trans-Kalahari and Trans-Caprivi corridors have really created business opportunities and jobs for our people. If not, what actually happened? Maybe it is our fault because we did not make use of those opportunities. Therefore, it should not be something on a piece of paper; it should be something that can actually be implemented to benefit our people. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: On a Point of Information. Honourable Tjiuiko is saying that we have not utilised business opportunities on the Trans-Kalahari and Trans-Caprivi Highways, which may be the case, but do not lose focus, call a spade a spade, laws should mean business for us. The reality of the situation is that these laws must have a meaning to business people. Governments by and large do not do business; they do not trade with each other. The practical reality is the ordinary person who does business and what type of business is the Trans-Kalahari supposed to facilitate? It is trade and among others, trade in livestock, but when I sell my weaner to Johannesburg, you come up with another law that bans a weaner from being sold. Now you want to say it is Cabinet, but these laws should be ratified here collectively to see in what economic sector we are going to do business. It is a question of goods being manufacture in country A and what does country B manufacture produce. This is an

economic principle, I read Economics as well.

HON TJIHUIKO: Yes, indeed, I met one of my elders in the village and he started asking me questions about development, so I was smartly saying that, “*you are talking to the wrong person, I am from the Opposition and you are supposed to ask the Ministers.*” Then he said, “*No, I am always seeing you there, you are one of them and all of you are the same.*” You are right that for now pointing a finger at Cabinet may be a good thing, but in the wrong run the people will say that, “*I saw you and the Prime Minister sitting there in the same Chamber.*” I think all of us should collectively do something about the laws that we have passed in this House and this is a challenge for the various Standing Committees to do our oversight function. Make sure that decisions that have been taken have been implemented. If not, bring it back to this House and say Honourable Kazenambo was supposed to have done this in the Ministry of Youth but he has not done here and find out right here why he did not do that. I think we should move into that stage.

I have a bit of a problem with Article 44(b), Honourable Speaker. Under “*Decision of the Arbitrators*” it says that when it comes to this agreement between the partners....

HON SPEAKER: The House shall rise for refreshments.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:18 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I was just about to touch on Article 44 on page 15, but before that I just wanted to emphasise the point that the objective of these corridors is to facilitate trade between nations

and in our case you will see that we create the opportunities, then before our people benefit from that, we will come up with an obstacle to that process.

For instance, the Trans-Kalahari Highway could have been beneficial to the Namibians, especially the rural communities to make use of that road to export cattle to South Africa, which is the only available market right now. Now we spend money on the Trans-Kalahari and at the same time we import a 15 percent levy on the export of cattle on-the-hoof to South Africa and we impose levies on the export of small stock. What is it we want to achieve by doing this? Once we have developed opportunities we must make use of those opportunities for the benefit of our people.

Let me come to Article 44(b). Here we are talking about a Court of Justice or SADC Tribunal or a COMESA Court of Justice. I need to be advised whether, once we ratify this Agreement, the SADC Tribunal will still be applicable. We have suspended the SADC Tribunal and the reason why we have suspended it is because they have to some extent not ruled in favour of what we wanted to see and the situation in Zimbabwe has not changed. If we have to ratify this Agreement within the 24 months that we have given to ourselves, the situation in Zimbabwe may not have been resolved and even if it has not been resolved, it will not help because this will also be applicable. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: On a Point of Information. To say that the situation in Zimbabwe has not been resolved is not true. It is not only you who observes Zimbabwe; we also have our friends in Zimbabwe. You paint a picture as if Zimbabwe is in the doldrums, which is not true and there are efforts made at SADC, the colleagues in Zimbabwe are on the move and the economy of Zimbabwe is picking up. Therefore, you are wrong.

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HON TJIHUIKO

HON RIRUAKO: I want to know whether this tribunal still exists or not. If not, why mention it?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, the SADC Tribunal was based in Windhoek.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Speaker, my apologies, but I rise to give information for the benefit of the Honourable Member, my good friend. The reason why the SADC Tribunal was suspended was to enable Member States of SADC to follow the correct procedure. You may recall, Honourable Members, that the SADC Tribunal Statute was never ratified by this Parliament. Notwithstanding the fact that the Namibian Constitution is the Supreme Law of our land, an individual who does not like a judgment in our Supreme Court, would go to the Tribunal and the Tribunal would contradict the judgment of our Supreme Court or any other decision that is taken either by the Executive or the Legislature. What we are trying to do now is to reverse that process and first to allow Member States to ratify and those who have reservations may enter reservations and then to determine the jurisdiction of that Tribunal, so much so that every Tom, Dick and Harry must go there. We have to restrict the issues which are to be taken to the Tribunal, either disputes among Member States or specific areas of the economic sector, unlike now where that Tribunal can even overrule our Constitution. I thought I wanted to give that information.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Attorney-General. What you have now informed this House and the public out there is that SADC Member States have never ratified this agreement. (Intervention)

HON SHIXWAMENI: May I ask a question? Honourable Tjihuiko,

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HON TJIHUIKO

would you concur with the Minister of Presidential Affairs and Attorney-General that all these years we have been hosting an illegal institution?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Shixwameni, it is not that I agree, in fact it is exactly what the Honourable Attorney-General was saying, that this institution that we have been hosting here, that has not only ruled over a famous case, but that has been advising on other cases was actually illegal. That is what the Honourable Minister is telling us.

Having accommodated this illegal structure in our country and sustaining this Tribunal with taxpayers' money is not very far from... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Tjihuiiko, are you currently legally or illegally in this House since there is a pending case? Are you illegally here or not?

HON SPEAKER: Which case is that, Minister?

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: He knows which case. What are doing in this House? You do not have the right to ask questions.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I wish I could answer the Minister but I do not know which case he is talking about. Let us come back to the issue at hand. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I rise on a Point of Information. I think what the Honourable Attorney-General has said is correct; the process that unfolded with regard to the Protocol on the Tribunal was that it was first proposed as a Protocol that needed ratification. Not enough Member States ratified, therefore it did not come into force. What then happened is that the whole Protocol was incorporated into the Treaty and that legalised the Tribunal and that process did not attract ratification. What the Honourable Attorney-General said is that the original process where Member States had the opportunity to ratify was not followed and therefore, it is now in need of review, but it is not correct to say that an illegal institution was housed, it was very proper and legally instituted. I thought it is important that the public is informed correctly.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, with due respect, I do not want us to get into this. Now we have two statements, one from the principal Government advisor, namely the Attorney-General, telling us one thing and the Permanent Secretary by then telling us that no, this institution which I assume the Attorney-General has advised the Government that this is an illegal institution, was actually not illegal, that is why from the Ministry of Finance we keep on paying for this. That is another Debate and I think we need a different Floor to look at that. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: May I ask a question to the Honourable Member? As a Government have decided to host other African States in our country and that Tribunal is one of them. It is not that it belongs to the people of this country; it is not an individual group. You must come and talk as your Government and we do not have two Governments here. This is the Government of this country; it is not a Government of an individual group or Party. I asked the question, I wanted to know how this Tribunal was regarded here and the Minister said it was done this way; he did not hide the truth. The Deputy Minister of Finance came up with the answer to the problem saying that this Tribunal was not really a contradiction. It is true what you say, but I thank you that you are ready to know that this Tribunal

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HON TJIHUIKO

has become a problem and we have to ratify it. Therefore, I do not have any way to go because you discovered yourselves that it is wrong. We did not ask you this question, but at least it was answered.

HON TJIHUIKO: I am trying to come to a conclusion. Honourable Speaker, my question on page 15, Article 44 is simply that as the situation is now, can we from a legal point of view ratify this Agreement while it includes some of these illegal structures, an institution that we cannot go to in the case of disagreement between the nations because it is illegal?

Honourable Minister of Works and Transport, I hope you will help us in this respect because this is critical. It happened during the presidency of Namibia, suspending a SADC institution in Namibia which we at the time thought was illegal. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. The information is that the President of the Republic of Namibia did not suspend the Tribunal. The Tribunal was suspended by the SADC Heads of State. The President just happened to be the Chair, but he did not as the President of the Republic of Namibia suspend it.

HON TJIHUIKO: If I have said the President, I apologise for that. I did not mean to refer to His Excellency President Pohamba as the person who suspended it. What I am saying is that the Tribunal is in Namibia, the Chairmanship of SADC was and is still in Namibia and this did not happen when the Chairmanship was with someone else. For me it was an interesting case to look at.

I also need to be guided on Article 45, Honourable Minister. (Intervention)

HON SHIXWAMENI: Since you are a learned Economist, is it allowed for this Chamber to appropriate money to be spent on an illegal institution hosted illegally in this country?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Shixwameni, I am as much concerned as you are and I hope this issue will be taken up, because as Members of Parliament under Oath, budgeting money for any illegal institutions, we have all erred and we were misled to believe that this institutions was legal.

Coming to Article 45, “*the cost of arbitration shall be borne in equal parts by the parties concerned. However, the Court of Justice of SADC Tribunal Arbitrator or the COMESA Court of Justice Arbitrator or any other arbitrator may decide that one of the parties pay higher portion of the total cost or arbitration.*” Honourable Minister, are we saying that if one of the parties takes Namibia to Court, Namibia has to cover the cost of our lawyers to defend our case and on an equal share cover the cost of the other party or what does this article say? If we are saying borne in equal parts by the parties concerned, it means between Namibia and the party that has taken us to Court. Who will pay our own lawyer? Will we share the cost between Namibia that has been taken to Court and paying a lawyer of the party that has taken us to Court? Have we now become the Big Brother of SADC, spending money left, right and centre or what are we trying to say here? (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: I cannot discuss dead wood, that law is dead, it is finished and if it were in existence, yes, but I cannot go for something that has been dismissed.

HON KAURA: May I ask Honourable Tjihuiko a question?

HON SPEAKER: Things are running into one another, I do not know who is asking. I do not know the status of the remarks of Honourable Riruako *vis-à-vis* the Honourable Member who has the Floor at the present time and on top of that you are asking a question. Honourable Tjihuiko, you have the Floor.

HON KAURA: May I ask Honourable Tjihuiko a question? Honourable Tjihuiko, based what you are quoting from Article 45, in view of the fact that a legal instrument does not exist to which you can take your case for arbitration, does that not mean that we cannot ratify this Agreement until that instrument is in place?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Kaura that is exactly the point that I am trying to come to and that is the point that my boss is missing. We are not talking about the Tribunal as it is today, we are saying it is incorporated into an agreement that needs to be ratified and we are saying, in the event of dispute, where are we going to go to? We need to have a legal instrument being incorporated into this Agreement, so that in the event of disagreement we can then go to this body. Maybe we can put in ICC or any other body.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, I am very worried about this and I hope that when the Honourable Minister responds he will enlighten us. I strongly believe that this Agreement as it is now needs to be revisited seriously. We need to look at this Agreement in a serious light and there is no point in us trying to push it through now. It will have serious legal implications if we push it through now. Let us discuss it but shelve it so that we can revisit what we have raised and bring it back again. Pushing it through will not do justice. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. This Agreement contains many contradicting points and it will not serve its purpose. There are many loopholes with regard to security and if we open up this corridor, the people are already mining illegally in the DRC and there is nothing in this Agreement to solve that problem. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: It is for ourselves to defend the corridors if anything happens. That law you are referring to is dead and I do not have to go to its funeral.

HON MOONGO: There are many loopholes and security must be tightened. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: On a Point of Information. The DTA youth are utilising this SADC Tribunal for justice and fairness.

HON MOONGO: Let us leave that for the DTA to solve, but let us tighten the security so that the drug dealers and herbal doctors from SADC will not be allowed to come and trade here for the dismembering of human bodies. Therefore, I would appeal to the Honourable Minister to tighten the security to control drug dealers and not only that, people are already mining in the DRC and we want those issues to be addressed seriously. Therefore, the Agreement should not be ratified. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Bezuidenhout.

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HON BEZUIDENHOUDT / HON RIRUAKO

HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would want to go to Page 8 and draw the Minister's attention to Paragraph (d), *Permanent Secretariat* and then the appointment and physical location. Paragraph (vi) does not exist and the number must be looked at.

Obviously, the Agreement will be supported by the Government Ministries, including Safety and Security, therefore Article 40, to prevent cross-border crime, would be taken care of through our existing Ministries. Equally the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration must play a supportive role when it comes to the requirements of visas and immigration control.

Another technical point is on Page 15, which is either a typing error or it does not make sense to me: Article 43(a) quotes Article 54 and if one goes to Article 54, it refers to the depository that shall be kept and if it refers to Article 44, then we have already discussed the arbitration situation.

I also had a question on the SADC Tribunal, but that was taken care of in terms of our discussion and just as a general Point of Information to the Members, the way I read this is that if there is a dispute, Member States will agree on an arbitration and then try and settle the dispute. Failing to appoint an arbitrator they would proceed to the next level, which is either the Court of Justice of COMESA or the Court of SADC. With these few words, I would say we need to look at all those technical points that I raised. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Speaker, as far as I am concerned, I am not here to ask for any ratification, we are not going to ratify this Bill. As the Attorney-General has put it, we have start afresh and come up with our own proposals that suit ourselves and our conditions. Therefore, there is

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HON RIRUAKO

no need for further discussion of this matter as far as I am concerned as nothing exists. We are not going to support this present one, we have to create a new one where we will feel safe and as a Government say that this is what we have decided. This Tribunal is no longer in existence as far as I am concerned and this is the way we have to understand the matter and, therefore, we must refer to something new in order to start afresh. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: I move that the Debate be adjourned until Thursday.

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? The consideration of this item stands adjourned until Thursday. The Secretary will read the third Order of the Day.

**CONSIDERATION: WHITE PAPER AND LOCAL
AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned y on Wednesday, the 15th of June 2011, the Question before the Assembly was a White Paper by the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development. The Honourable Minister of Lands and Resettlement adjourned the Debate.

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I adjourned the Debate on behalf of my Colleague that I was acting for at that point in time and he is now back.

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**WHITE PAPER ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
HON EKANDJO**

HON SPEAKER: Minister, you have the Floor now.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, first of all I would like to thank you sincerely for supporting the White Paper. All your contributions will be taken care of and I humbly ask this august House to kindly approve the White Paper so that all stakeholders can embrace it. I so move, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I now put the Question, that the White Paper be adopted. Any objection? Agreed to. The Secretary will read the Fourth Order of the Day.

**CONSIDERATION: NATIONAL POLICY ON
CLIMATE CHANGE FOR NAMIBIA**

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, the 22nd of June 2011, the Question before the Assembly was a Policy by the Honourable Minister of Environment and Tourism. Honourable Amathila adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

HON AMATHILA: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the House, I am taking the Floor to support the Policy document, the National Policy on Climate Change for Namibia, 2011.

I have gone through the document and I find it to be a very good instrument for us to start working towards all the advices that we are getting from not only the document but also what is happening around us. This document is coming at a time when Namibia is preparing to participate in the Climate Change Conference in Durban, South Africa towards the end of the year and this document should have come a bit

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**NATIONAL POLICY ON CLIMATE CHANGE
HON AMATHILA**

earlier so that Namibia's input, as contained in the Policy document, could have been incorporated in the SADC and African position for the discussions at Durban. Nonetheless, a great part of this document addresses our own situation and we need to prepare ourselves to deal with those challenges.

Not all of us are scientists, but some of the observations made in this document reminds one of what some of us have read in the various books of especially the Old Testament, that a certain gentleman by the name of Noah was instructed to collect all living animals from all over the world and to build an Ark to save them from destruction and the people thought the old man was crazy until the floods came and then they regretted that they did not heed the warning of Noah.

It is very difficult to perceive some of the things mentioned in this document happening, but it would be wise of us to heed the warnings that indeed we have to prepare ourselves, because the climate is changing. It is only those quick buckers who want to gain more money as quickly as possible who would like to play down the threats affecting our planet. They would like us to believe that nothing will happen despite the fact that we live in Namibia and we have seen the unpredictable floods and the devastation they caused in those afflicted areas. We have gone through droughts and it is our inability to predict the occurrence of these things that makes us very vulnerable when they happen.

On Page 3 of this document the second last paragraph reads that by the year 2020 we may encounter a situation where Namibia is going to suffer complete water scarcity. What that means is that there would be no water for all the activities that keep us alive and also the activities that keep us going. This is a portion which is obviously not taken care of in our Vision 2030 when we are planning to reach a stage of development of industrialisation. If it is true that by 2030 we are going to have a scarcity of water then the question of industrialisation certainly falls away, we are not going to be there. That is one of the main challenges that we have to face and we have to start working towards that goal of trying to maximise the little that we have in order to be safe with our water system.

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I have often said in this House that rivers will dry up, the rain patterns will change, but the sea will take millions of years to dry up. I have been trying to say that we need to focus our energies and resources on the sea in order to derive our water from the sea. If we start working towards then we would be able to mitigate this prediction of 2030 when Namibia is going to be afflicted by scarcity of water, which would mean that we have to immigrate. We do not have the technology and the money to immigrate to the moon; therefore we would have to be nice to others in order to be accommodated in other countries.

The very same document says that the climate will change in such a radical way that by the year 2050 the subtropical conditions in the northern parts of our country will also change and those are the areas that we are trying to develop in order to produce our food in the north-eastern and north-central parts of our country. Should that happen, the future of our children and generations to come will be at stake. We should be able to do something through mitigation.

On Page 8, Objective 2 states: *“To develop actions and strategies for climate change mitigation. This will be achieved through the development and implementation of renewable energies and energy-use efficiency.”* We are being told by those who know better than ourselves that Namibia is endowed with potential for renewable energy and the reason why we are not tapping that, leaves a big question mark. I think it is high time that we motivate and convince ourselves that all these lines of transmission which have been providing us with electricity over the past number of years are not helping us to be efficient in the generation and transportation of electricity.

Somebody told me the other day that given the vastness of our country, we lose almost 15 percent of the energy transmitted, which means we are losing a lot of money. Ruacana is giving us part of our electricity, but that is only limited to a certain period of time when the rains have been very good. We have energy from the sun, we have energy from the wind and we can generate energy from the sea.

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I mentioned here several times that if Ruacana only generates energy at full capacity over a period of three months, why do we not build a receiving dam on the drop-side of Ruacana, put up solar panels to pump the water back into the river so that we recycle this water over and over again, so that at least Ruacana can provide us with energy up to nine months instead of buying energy from South Africa?

Walvis Bay and Lüderitz are endowed with wind. Why do we not tap that wind to provide energy and not to rely on coal-fired stations which are the cause of some of these problems mentioned in this document?

It is time that we shift our minds from relying on these long lines for the supply of energy and start thinking of those small towns, be it Usakos, Tsumeb, Mariental, Keetmanshoop, where the sun is so plenty, to put up solar energy so that those towns have their own electricity. The main grid can supply the big companies. (Intervention)

HON VAN DER WALT: On a Point of Information. A normal household in Windhoek uses 10 kilowatts and these days the technology is so far advanced that on my farm I have put up a solar electricity plant of 60 kilowatts. Therefore, I agree hundred percent that we need to make more use of solar energy.

HON AMATHILA: I have solar panels on my farm and I am running three refrigerators and three television sets on them. Therefore, it can be done.

We are talking about unemployment increasing in our country. During the last budget we were talking about 51% unemployment. Why can we not look at our Local Authority laws and NamPower laws to make it possible for all the residents of Windhoek to generate their own electricity with solar panels? They can use the electricity and sell their surplus to the Municipality. It can be done. Instead of them paying the Municipality, they will get money from the Municipality on a monthly basis for the

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power they are generating. This will be clean power, it will not affect our environment and most of the unemployed who are residents in these small towns and Windhoek can become producers of electricity. In order to do that, we obviously need to look at the Local Authority laws. The municipality depends so heavily on the power they are selling to us. The Government has to find a way of substituting the losses by the municipality in order for this to happen, but by that act alone, in my view, most people will be able to create jobs for themselves overnight. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: May I ask a question? I would like to know how you calculated how much energy you need to run three television sets.

HON AMATHILA: I am not so sure I got the full question. When you acquire these solar panels, they are calculated on the basis of your needs. You go to the shop and tell them you want to power your refrigerators, your television, you want to use so much power in your garage and they give you the number of panels which are sufficient. I have three televisions, one for my workers, one for my bedroom and the other one for my sitting room. The point I am trying to make is that this is not Utopia, this is something which is working and I am not the only farmer who is using that. It is being used widely and it is just for us as the policy-makers to decide that if we want to create jobs; that is the way to go. Make each and everyone in the town to generate power and sell to the municipality, but substitute the income of the municipality. (Intervention)

HON VAN DER WALT: Honourable Speaker, I am very sorry for interrupting again, but I believe this is a very serious point for the future. I also did research in terms of the cost involved in solar power and normal electricity. I calculated that over a period of fifteen years it is going to cost me N\$1,023 per month to have electricity on my farm and I can install the same system at my house in Windhoek and the same will

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happen. My electricity bill in Windhoek is N\$4,000 to N\$5,000 per month. I spoke to one of my friends who is farmer, his electricity bill is N\$6,000 per month. Therefore, after fifteen years you can buy a new system and it will still be much cheaper than the electricity bills we receive every month.

HON AMATHILA: All I am trying to say is that if we want to create jobs by making our people producers of electricity, then we have to look at the Local Authority laws and find a substitute for their income so that they can pay the people working for them. Let us look at the policy documents that empower NamPower, for instance, to be so strict in the purchase agreement that is needed for each and everyone to generate power so that they become producers of electricity. The more electricity we produce, the less diesel and coal will be needed and we will cut on all the expenditures we are using to produce electricity. This is only one aspect and I am saying the future is for our generations to come. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: May I ask a question? I just want to find out Honourable Member, what is the cost of that system that runs your deep-freezers and televisions on your farm?

HON AMATHILA: The initial cost is a bit high, but with time you find that the price of the rays of the sun does not change, whereas with NamPower there is always escalation of costs. It is expensive at the beginning, but during the Budget the Ministry of Trade and Industry informed us that they are going to have a bank, specifically designed to make affordable money available to our unemployed for the creation of jobs. If they can get a very decent Budget to make it possible for each and everyone to source cheap money, we could possibly even move in the direction of producing our own solar panels here in the country and that dream can become a reality.

Climate change is a reality and at one point I said in this House that the

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biggest conflict in the world in years to come will be about water. The water pattern is changing at the rivers forming our borders. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: On a Point of Information. I have used solar energy for quite a long time until I connected to the national grid, but I must say that solar has been very cheap. The batteries that you buy will last four to five years, but the panels will remain. One very interesting thing with the solar panels is that you can upgrade to suit your needs. Therefore, what Honourable Amathila is mentioning is something we should all think about. We can create a city or a town only operating on solar as we have abundant sun. There is no reason for complacency and I think Honourable Amathila's point should seriously be taken into consideration.

HON AMATHILA: Namibia is so ideally suited to tap renewable resources, but we do not want to do that because we are convinced by those who want to make us dependent on them. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member one small question? You mentioned job creation but you did not elaborate on that. Can you just help me to understand how solar power will help to create jobs?

HON AMATHILA: It starts with the source of the solar panels, that they may get an opportunity to produce the solar panels here. The jobs involved in such a factory will be enormous. Then you will need quite a number of technicians. If we take the situation we have with taxi drivers, somebody buys a car and very soon there are two or three people who provide services and become mechanics and welders. There will be a lot

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of people who will start specialising in installing these solar panels and people will be able to come and fix them when they are out of order.

However, the point I was going to make is not so much job creation as such but income for all those people who will sell their energy. That income to me is just as good as people who are self-employed.

The only shortcoming I can foresee is that in Namibia we do not make money available for research. We need a fund for those people with ideas to start researching and producing some of the things that will alleviate unemployment in our country. For instance, you see people living in Okuryangava walking to town every morning, which is about fifteen kilometres. If you can design a dynamo which you can strap to the back of a person to charge a battery, by walking that distance he will charge that battery and be able to sell that battery to somebody in town who needs that electricity and walking back he generates electricity for himself. The ideas are there, but we do not make money available for research. Our taxis can be modified for your battery to be charged and when you get out your battery is loaded and you sell your electricity in town to whoever needs it and then take that electricity back to your house for your own use. All these ideas will mitigate the climate conditions. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: On a Point of Information on research. Five or six years ago there was good research done by MRC of the University of Namibia where they were testing special batteries. It is like having a gas bottle which, when empty, you collect another one. There were such batteries charged by solar which could be used for two weeks or a month and once it is done, you get another one. At the same time there was also a factory in Oshakati with machines bought with money from the then Namibia Development Fund. The guy who was using the factory probably did not pay back the money but the machines were still there two years ago, young Namibians were trained and they were producing these solar modules. Why can we not revive these initiatives and make them workable?

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HON AMATHILA**

HON AMATHILA: Thank you very much, Comrade Ankama. The problem with us in Namibia is that we, to a large extent, develop beautiful ideas but we are not forceful enough to carry these ideas forward, partly because of lack of money and partly because we want others to do these things.

Comrade Speaker, let me just conclude by saying that this document is going to carry us through to various conferences. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: On a Point of Information. I would like to inform the Honourable Speaker that we have the presence of a Traditional Leader who has been inaugurated three days ago and we want to congratulate him, in the name of His Excellency Honourable Peya Mushelenga.

HON AMATHILA: Honourable Speaker, once we approve this Policy, we certainly will have to use it as Namibians, be it from the Executive or from the backbenchers, to market Namibia's ideas on what we want to contribute to the climate change debate. The only thing that needs to be clarified and I am pretty sure the Honourable Minister will at the end do that, is that we are emitting very little of all those gases that people are talking about, yet we are not compensated for good conduct. In future that is a selling point for Namibia and we can only do this through SADC, and the participation of our team at the SADC forums, to make our contribution to the African position when we will meet in meetings like the COP 18 in Durban. All patriotic Namibians should make our point forcefully clear to the other groups so that we can be known and we have to demonstrate that we really have the potential to create our own electricity and work against the destruction of our atmosphere and climate.

It is the generations to come whose earth we are occupying. Most of us will possibly make it to the next thirty years.

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HON NEHOVA**

HON SPEAKER: Speak for yourself.

HON AMATHILA: We have to involve young people and my suggestion to the Minister and also to the Speaker is that the Speaker has the power, in concurrence with the House, to call for the opening of our Parliament in various areas of our country. We have young people who come here and occupy our seats as young Parliamentarians. Have the opening of Parliament in Rundu or Katima where they can see the greenness and the waters there, to bring the message that if we are not diligent, all this water will disappear one day, all this greenness will disappear. Take them to the desert, maybe Swakopmund or Walvis Bay, and let them see the desert to make a comparison, that indeed we have to sensitise our people for this climate change debate. It is after all their country, it is their future, all we have to do is to facilitate their participation. I support the document. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you for the good ideas. It is just to translate them into policy, Minister. Any further discussions?

HON NEHOVA: Honourable Speaker, I move that the Debate be adjourned until Thursday.

HON SPEAKER: The further consideration of this item stands adjourned until Thursday. The Secretary will read the Fifth Order of the Day.

**CREATION OF NATIONAL RESERVE FUND
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS**

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**RESERVE FUND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS
HON RIRUAKO**

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, 14 June 2011, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Shixwameni. Honourable Moongo adjourned the Debate on behalf of Honourable Shixwameni.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Speaker, I want to give the example of Botswana which has 12 billion in reserve to cater for times of need. If we do not have one of 30 billion, we are the kind of people who do not know when they are going to die, because how can we change out Government in the right direction without a reserve? Some money must be put aside as a reserve. We do not have to depend on the Budget of every month, that is the idea of the reserve or if you have a shortage of money, you can bring some funds on board. If you do not have a reserve, how are you going to survive? We do not have a reserve and I have been asking this question many times. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: May I ask Honourable Chief Riruako a question? I suppose you are aware of the current Debate in the United States of America on the debt ceiling of America which stands at 14 trillion dollars and that they are on the verge of defaulting unless they raise their debt ceiling. If America is on the verge of total bankruptcy, where would a country like ours get the reserves from while we are trying to build the country through TIPEEG and all these kinds of things?

HON RIRUAKO: Everybody started with nothing and got to the point where they can say, "*I am well-off now and in time of need I am going to use my reserves.*" We have enough money to put some in reserve, not the way we are doing now. Things must be changed and we have to change at the same tempo as the world and, therefore, this reserve is needed, no matter how.

HON KAURA: Spain is bankrupt.

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**RESERVE FUND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS
HON RIRUAKO**

HON RIRUAKO: Do not tell me Spain is bankrupt, they do not have the same natural resources that we have. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Greece is bankrupt.

HON RIRUAKO: Greece does not have natural resources. They have their quality of education which they sell, bargaining for something in return. We have something to be put into use and to keep some in reserve. No matter how poor we are, some money must be put aside to rescue ourselves in years to come and I think the former Permanent Secretary of Finance agrees with me that we cannot survive without reserves. Why can Botswana afford it? They did not develop their country like ours. We have something that we can be proud of; our infrastructure cannot be compared with that of others. We are young and we have infrastructure that we can be proud of and we can reverse the tempo of development of certain infrastructure in order to have that reserve on the side. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Thank you.

HON RIRUAKO: I did not ask you for help and if you cannot cope with what I am saying, please listen very carefully to accumulate it in your mind. If you do not have this idea in your mind, do not come and ask the Government to assist. How many employees do you have and how many people do you feed? If you do not have, why do you participate in this? (Interjection). I take care of my children and my wife, I am taking care of individuals who are suffering from hunger and you cannot do so.

I rest my case because I am talking to deaf people.

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**RESERVE FUND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS
HON MOONGO**

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: I move on behalf of Honourable Shixwameni that the Debate be adjourned until Thursday.

HON SPEAKER: The further consideration of this item stands adjourned until Thursday. The Secretary will read the Sixth order of the Day.

**MOTION ON STRUGGLE FOR NAMIBIA'S
LIBERATION**

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, the 15th of June 2011, the Question before the Assembly was Motion by Honourable Moongo. Any further discussion? Honourable Kazenambo.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: In the Preamble of the Namibian Constitution it says *Namibia will strive to achieve national reconciliation and to foster peace, unity and a common loyalty as a single State.* Honourable Moongo, unity and reconciliation are emphasised here and as a Nation we should guard against things that can tear us apart. We should not take each other for granted. This country went to war, we have gone through a horrific war, but we must stop scratching the wounds. We know each other; we should not keep on calling each other terrorists or accusing each other for what happened in the past, such as bombing the bank in Oshakati. We should develop a language for holding this Nation together. Otherwise we will undermine this Constitution either through tribalism, racism or political

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**STRUGGLE FOR NAMIBIA'S INDEPENDENCE
HON KAZENAMBO**

hatred. We must not take each other for granted.

We must stop nagging and nagging through Motions like this one. Let us develop a country which will take us forward. Those countries which are burning do not think that they wanted their countries to be destroyed. No, they were destroyed because they were nagging and nagging. Let us develop a language that will keep us together.

The men and women who founded this Nation are still here and amongst them the Speaker. If we keep on provoking each other and taking each other for granted, we will burn this House and all of us will be affected. Let us stop that and develop a language that will keep us together.

HON SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned under automatic adjournment until tomorrow at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2011.07.13 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
13 JULY 2011**

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 Witbooi.

**TABLING: REPORT CPA NAMIBIA BRANCH:
42ND CPA AFRICA REGION CONFERENCE**

HON WITBOOI: I lay upon the Table, the Report of the CPA Namibia Branch Committee on the 42nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Africa Region Conference held in Kigali, Rwanda, from the 14th to the 18th of June 2011 for note-taking.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Report? Other Reports and Papers? Honourable Deputy Minister of Finance.

TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON NGATJIZEKO**

- The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2010;
- Ministry of Veterans Affairs for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2010.

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

**TABLING: REPORT OF EMPLOYMENT EQUITY
COMMISSION**

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Comrade Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Report of the Employment Equity Commission concerning Understudy Training Guidelines under the Affirmative Action Act (Act 29 of 1998).

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Report? Other Reports and Papers? Notices of Questions? Notices of Motions? Ministerial Statements? Minister of Health and Social Services.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Sir. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I have the honour to present a Report of the 2011 UN General

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR KAMWI**

Assembly on HIV/AIDS High Level Meeting.

In line with the 2001 and 2006 UN General Assembly Declarations on HIV/AIDS, the UN Secretary-General Ban-ki-Moon arranged a high level meeting of the General Assembly from the 8th to the 10th of June 2011 in New York, USA. The timing of the UN High Level Meeting marked the commemoration of thirty years since the HIV infection was isolated and 25 years for Namibia having identified or isolated HIV and documenting AIDS cases and ten years since the UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS.

The purpose of this Special Session was to review the progress made to date in the global fight against HIV/AIDS and to build consensus on a new global compact aimed at reaching universal access in order to achieve zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths. I am pleased to report that His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba appointed me to lead the Namibian delegation.

The delegation reflected the multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary nature of Namibia's fight against AIDS and the various important stakeholder groups. The travel and accommodation arrangements of the majority of the Namibian delegation were sponsored by various UN organisations in this country. The delegation attended a broad range of parallel events, including the General Assembly Plenary, the UN Security Council, the Ministerial Round Table Meetings, thematic Panel Discussions on topics, including prevention, innovation and new technologies, women, girls and HIV, integrating the AIDS response and enhancing sustainability as well as a multitude of side-events arranged by, amongst others, UNAIDS, United States Government PEPFAR, Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria, UNICEF, UNFPA, EU, Sweden, you name it.

The main basis for discussions during the High Level Meeting was the Report by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly. The Report states that overall very good progress has been made in the global fight against HIV/AIDS during the past ten years. The Report also makes it clear that while a large number of proven interventions to prevent and treat AIDS are now available, global funding levels are flattening or even

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decreasing. The Report expresses confidence and based on most recent technology, the HIV/AIDS epidemic can be very successfully fought. The Report, therefore, encourages countries from both the global north and south to considerably increase finance and other resources, while efficiencies and economies must at the same time be further enhanced. In a nutshell, there is a need for member states to take ownership of their HIV/AIDS programmes.

In this regard, I am pleased to report that Namibia, Botswana and Rwanda are amongst those countries cited in this Report as having reached universal access to HIV/AIDS treatment, care and support. Indeed, I am equally grateful to report that according to Michelle Sidibe, UNAIDS Executive Secretary, the Namibian Government is one of the few countries that has put significant resources in the fight against HIV/AIDS. In fact, he has put it that we are the only country which has reached 50 percent of the budget in response to HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria while being complemented by the Global Fund and PEPFAR.

The other important observation cited in the Secretary General's report in terms of the legislation was the lifting of travel restrictions to people living with HIV/AIDS by the Namibian, China and US Governments. We commend the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration for being proactive in this regard.

I am also happy to report that, following the concerns raised by the development partners, including the Global Fund and PEPFAR, regarding the ownership, Cabinet made a milestone for having made a considerable move for Namibia to become one of the Member States who made a contribution to the Global Fund as a donor. However, I remain concerned that the recent classification by the World Bank for Namibia to be an upper middle income country, whilst having the highest gini-coefficient of 0.743 in the world, is a matter for concern. The high GNP conceals the fact that a large proportion of the population, which stands at 37.7%, lives under the poverty threshold, while experiencing unemployment, especially among the youth.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Namibian delegation

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presented a Country Report to a large number of eminent participants of the High Level Meeting. The Report, which was compiled in collaboration with the UNAIDS, highlights the excellent achievements of Namibia towards reaching universal access. Namibia has come a long way during the past ten years. Excellent cooperation between all stakeholders and significant donor support have carried us to this end.

I remain extremely grateful to report that quality leadership demonstrated by His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba was cited in the Secretary-General's Report and the Country Report. For example, during the launch of the National Strategic Framework for HIV/AIDS, 2010/2011 to 2015/2016, His Excellency President Pohamba is on record as saying: *"We need to work together, coordinate our efforts and create synergies between the efforts of different sectors of society. We need to be focused and dogmatic in our pursuit of the result defined in this National HIV Strategic Framework."*

I am also grateful to report that His Excellency the President is being complemented by his dear wife in this just cause. Following the challenges that we are faced with in maternal health, we approached her office and she agreed to be appointed as the patron for maternal health. As a result, she brought on board her husband by launching a national campaign for male involvement in the prevention of mother-to-child transmission in March 2011. According to the survey carried out by the Ministry of Health and Social Services, it revealed that the male participation in antenatal care and prevention of mother-to-child transmission stands to only 3%. This is quite worrisome. In this regard, the First Lady has assisted us in addressing the traditional and church leaders to join the efforts of Government for men to join their spouses especially when they go for antenatal care and voluntary counselling and testing.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the main outcomes of the Report was the following: I was privileged to present Namibia's National Statement to the General Assembly Plenary. In a nutshell, Namibia has made tremendous progress, as mentioned above, in scaling up services across the country, with the antiretroviral therapy now being offered in

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181 decentralised sites that include 44 antiretroviral therapy sites, 111 outreach services and 30 IMAI sites and reaching more than 75,000 people on Anti-Retro-Viral treatment. Coverage of people in need has increased from 2% in 2003 to 90% in March 2010. Adults stand at 88%, children more than 95%. That means this exceeds by far the Namibian 2010 Universal Access Targets, which should have been adults standing at 70% and children at 90% in line with the CD4 200 Antiretroviral Therapy Guidelines. This time we are, as we informed you, working on CD4 350, which is early enough to save the Namibian people.

We are providing a document entitled, *“No Namibian should die from AIDS – Universal Access in Namibia. Scale up challenges and the way forward.”* I urge Honourable Members to read this document, it will soon be circulated.

I also presented a statement on behalf of SADC Member States to the UN General Assembly Plenary. Again, just like the Namibian picture, the percentage of adults living with HIV/AIDS has fallen to 25% in nine most affected countries of SADC Member States. Most of our countries now have the prevention of mother-to-child coverage rates of greater than 70% and three have managed to reach 90%. That includes Botswana, Namibia and Mauritius.

Subsequent to the SADC statement, I had the honour to present the Namibian statement. In a nutshell, much progress was made in our national fight against HIV/AIDS, especially with regard to the lifesaving treatment for both adults and children living with HIV. We benefited over the past decade from significant donors, especially the Global Fund, PEPFAR and technical support from the United Nations towards our HIV response. A copy of four reports for all this will soon be circulated.

The 2011 United Nations General Assembly Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS was unanimously adopted. The Report will as well be circulated.

The UN Security Council, under the Chairmanship of Gabon, first time ever passed a resolution on HIV/AIDS and global security, which was

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adopted unanimously. This resolution is available for your information.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I also wish to inform Parliament that Cabinet, at its meeting on the 5th of July 2011, noted the Reports and provided full endorsement of the 2011 UN General Assembly Political Declaration and its implementation in Namibia.

What then is the way forward? Namibia's National Strategic Framework on HIV/AIDS for the period 2011-2016 was approved first by Cabinet for us to present it here and it was done. This Honourable Parliament indeed approved it and the launch by His Excellency President Pohamba on World AIDS Day, the 1st of December 2010, was done and it provides our comprehensive roadmap for next steps to be implemented by all sectors and regions.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services appeals to all Line Ministries, sector Steering Committees and relevant stakeholders to make provision for the relevant Budgets for the forthcoming implementation year of the National Strategic Framework. The list of stakeholders includes the Office of the Prime Minister, the coordinating Ministry, that is of Health and Social Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Ministry of Mines and Energy, Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Works and Transport and Ministry of Defence.

Finally, Honourable Speaker, Sir, Honourable Members, as patron of the campaign on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission, the First Lady of the Republic, Meme Pohamba, brought her leadership and strong advocacy and convening power to keep the PMTCT high on the political agenda, bringing in male involvement as a key issue, inviting the attention of senior policy and national leaders towards male involvement and child health, created awareness through extensive mass media coverage and high profile launch of the campaign, strengthened strategic partnership among the Government, Civil society, Private Sector and donors around the theme of the campaign and challenged societal gender norms. She

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finally launched KAMAR.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, against this background, it is no surprise that during the recent AU Summit in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, the Namibian First Lady, Madam Pohamba, was elected as President of the Organisation of First Ladies Against HIV/AIDS (OFLA). On behalf of the members of the National AIDS Committee, the Ministry of Health and Social Services and, indeed, on my own behalf, I do hereby heartily congratulate Madam Pohamba for this milestone. She made the Nation proud. Thank you for your kind attention.

HON SPEAKER: We continue to be grateful to the United Nations. Brother Sidibè is a Comrade, a trusted UN official who is always up to doing good things for humanity and we are beneficiaries of that generosity. His track record goes back many years in respect of Namibia. We are glad that he could be of service to us. Thank you very much indeed. Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Honourable Speaker, Sir, Honourable Members, allow me to address this august House by way of information on the issue of business registration in the country.

Our primary national goal is to create jobs and ensure that decent living for all our people is achieved. It is, therefore, common knowledge that the prime source of employment in an economy is the Private Sector investment and business establishments. In this connection, the process of business registration and licensing is crucial. An effective business registration system and processes are of particular importance in this

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regard and will facilitate and increase the rate of business establishment. The more businesses are incorporated and become operational, the more business activities and employment opportunities can be expected.

In this regard, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Trade and Industry has introduced an automated business registration system with the aim of speeding up the registration and consequent establishment of businesses in the country. The system is being implemented in phases, starting with the migration of existing data which date back many years. The ultimate long-term goal is to decentralise the business registration system to the Regions in order to enable people in the Regions to register their businesses online at the Ministry's regional offices or from wherever they are where they have access to computers and the Internet.

Specific computer ports and workstations are being set up at all the regional offices in the Ministry in all 13 Regions for this purpose and other reference use.

During our Open Day Public Consultation during 2009 and 2010, it came to the attention of the Honourable Minister and me that members of the public were subjected to having to go to private stationery shops, accountants and lawyers as the sole suppliers in order to buy registration forms instead of getting such forms directly from the Ministry. In addition, it is also required that revenue stamps that are obtainable from post offices are affixed to the forms before they are submitted to the Ministry. As we may be aware, the process of registering a business starts from the acquisition of these registration forms and it is also a known fact that the blame for perceived long delays in the process of registering a business is often entirely put on the Ministry of Trade and Industry although the process involves outside private role-players. The involvement of these other parties increases the cost and lengthens the time of registering a business.

In response to the above undesirable state of affairs, we took a decision and directed that the Ministry should produce and make available business registration forms to the public at no cost. This measure, we believe, will

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help reduce the cost as well as the time involved in acquiring the registration forms and to get the business started. This is particularly true for and aimed at assisting Small and Medium Enterprises and people living in areas where the private stationery suppliers did not and do not exist.

In this regard, I am therefore delighted to inform this august House and the general public that people who wish to register businesses can now obtain business registration forms free of charge at any of our regional offices, Regional Governors, Regional and Local Councillors and at all the Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry branches countrywide.

Orientation training workshops have already been organised and conducted for the officials and representatives of these offices in Regions in order to ensure that they are fully in the know and able to effectively perform the role assigned to them in this regard.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we are however aware that the measures that we have introduced are not sufficient at delivering their full intended impact yet. We remain committed at gearing up our efforts in order to perfect the system and to address any other remaining problematic areas.

As you may be aware, besides the role of the private stationery supplies, we have also noted that the registration process involved, the purchase of stamp duties which have to be affixed to the forms from post offices as well as enlisting of services of auditors, accountants and lawyers, the cost charged by most of these private service providers are very high and often beyond the reach of most aspiring and starting-up entrepreneurs. We are informed that the cost ranges from N\$400 for a close corporation to N\$4 000, depending on the category of the business being registered. In light of the above, we are, in addition to making available the registration forms, also looking at other ways to further simplify and lessen the process of business registration. We seek and count on the cooperation and partnership of other parties in Government and the Private Sector that play a role in this particular process. I thank you for your attention.

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HON SPEAKER: I thank the Deputy Minister for the information he has shared with us. Any further Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**MOTION ON RECENT REVOLUTIONARY
UPRISINGS IN THE ARAB MAGHREB AND MIDDLE EAST**

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, the 21st of June 2011, the Question before the Assembly was Motion by the Honourable Hamutenya. Honourable Maamberua adjourned the Debate.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Allow me to start by congratulating the people of Southern Sudan for attaining their Independence, though belatedly.

Having gone through more or less the same difficulties and struggle to obtain our own Independence and having been assisted by several countries during our time in exile and also having been assisted by so many different countries immediately upon attaining our own Independence, I would urge our Government to extend a hand of not only friendship to the people of Southern Sudan, but also to demonstrate in practical terms in extending some of the little facilities we have so that they can come and take advantage of those. Here I have in mind that we can share some of the good experiences that we have here in Namibia in terms of road construction, public administration in general. Why can our Government not actually offer some scholarships to Sudanese students at our tertiary institutions? I think that will be a good gesture as a country which appreciates what others have done for us in the past.

We should also not forget that Sudan has a region called Darfur. As we

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all know, Darfur is that Region of Sudan where genocide has taken place only a few years ago and, therefore, inasmuch as we celebrate the Independence of Southern Sudan, we should also know that the situation in Darfur remains desperate and we should not relent in our efforts to try to assist the people of Darfur to get the decent living and life that we all desire. I am not sure whether I have heard correctly or not, that Namibia has taken a position that it is not going to arrest that person who is responsible for that genocide in Darfur. I think that is pathetic. (Interjections). We are a sovereign country and we can have our own position. There are so many AU resolutions and positions that we do not necessarily have to go with all the time. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable Maamberua the President of the oldest Political Party a short question,? Honourable Maamberua, are you convinced in your mind that Southern Sudan could have achieved its Independence without the participation of the person you are referring to?

HON MAAMBERUA: I was referring to genocide committed by that person that we are both referring to. Having had our own genocide, the aftermath of which is still evident right now in Namibia in terms of the devastation that we have suffered, I am not comfortable with the position taken by Namibia that any person responsible for genocide cannot be held accountable or be arrested. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I understand that Honourable Maamberua was in Germany and he met the grandson or granddaughter of General Von Trotha and the Bible teaches us that the sins of the fathers will be exacted from their children. Why did you not follow the biblical teaching in which faith you were baptised in with regard to the grandchild of Von Trotha?

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HON MAAMBERUA: I am not sure where I met that Von Trotha grandchild you are talking about. I do not recall having met any Von Trotha grandchild. Nevertheless, we are talking about an official position taken by this Government. (Intervention)

HON NYAMU: May I ask my Colleague a question? Do you believe that in providing asylum and protection for the perpetrators of genocide in both Libya and Sudan, that the Namibian Government is representing the views of its population?

HON MAAMBERUA: I was actually busy answering the question of Christianity and the Bible. I think we need to get to know each other here. Some of us are Africans – full-stop. As an African I will only associate myself to certain portions of the Bible and other books and I will remain an African. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: May I ask my Colleague a question? Do you as an African you believe in the Holy Sacred Fire or not?

HON MAAMBERUA: There was a question before that and obviously, I do not think it is appropriate for any Government, not only that of Namibia, to accommodate any person who has committed genocide.

On the Holy Fire, I said I am an African, a true African and I think I shall continue.

I am at an advantageous position taking the Floor at this juncture after so many others have actually taken a position on this issue of revolutionary uprisings in the Arab Maghreb and the Middle East. Obviously, these so-called uprisings have been subscribed to two reasons.

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HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I am rising on a Point of Information. I think the Honourable Maamberua, President of SWANU, is confusing two issues. It is not the position of Namibia or the African Union that those who committed genocide must get away scot free. The best example is Charles Taylor of Liberia who is facing justice. The position of the African Union is that the ICC has been turned into a political Court which is only targeting Africans, which is unacceptable. There is nothing which will prevent the African Union to establish a mechanism whereby those who commit genocide and other crimes against humanity can be tried in Africa. That is the position that you must understand. It is not just to take whoever to that political Court, which is insulting Africans. That is really the difference.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you very much for that clarification and I am also aware of that. I am not saying the Namibian Government is not interested in bringing to book those who committed other crimes; I am only talking about genocide and Darfur. Genocide is different from other war crimes; genocide is genocide.

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

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I ended up saying that many speakers have ascribed the revolutionary uprisings to basically two main factors. One is that of humiliation of the Palestinian people over many years and the Arabs in general and another factor that was mentioned was the lack of accountability. We need to draw parallels; we need to learn lessons from those two factors.

I do agree that the Palestinians and the Arabs in general have been

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humiliated for many years, but there are military humiliations, there are material conditions that can also humiliate and degrade the standing of people, as has happened in the Arab world.

If we are to draw parallels, in Namibia our people have been humiliated as well, first through the very first genocide that took place in this country where many people lost their lives, properties and dignity. They were displaced, dispossessed, exiled, etcetera. Then came the apartheid era which also humiliated our people for many years. We had the contract labour system which was another very humiliating experience in our country. Material conditions that are affecting our people, we have high levels of unemployment, high levels of poverty. The Minister of Health this afternoon mentioned the level of gini-coefficient which stands at 0.743, probably the highest in the world. Those are all humiliating experiences and conditions. We still have people who fled this country some hundred years ago who are still living in South Africa and Botswana and these are very difficult experiences of a humiliating nature.

The other aspect that was mentioned was accountability and it was discussed in this House under this topic. Depending how one wants to define accountability, we have political accountability, economic accountability, financial accountability, etcetera. Perhaps many of those accountabilities have been lacking in the Arab world, however in Namibia the political accountability may not be lacking as such, but in our instance the Budget process was cited as an important aspect in terms of accountability where this House has lacks the necessary control during the Budget preparation and approval and that again could give a wrong picture to the people out there, that the Legislature may not actually be in charge. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable Maamberua a question? What do you understand by the word “*oversight?*”

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HON MAAMBERUA: Oversight is a process, it is not an event and oversight should begin during implementation and monitoring. Then you have comprehensive oversight. To have oversight only after the Budget has been developed by the Executive and approved in this House without serious input from the House leaves a lot to be desired in terms of adequate oversight and that is what we are grappling with at the moment. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I would like to put a small question to the Honourable Member. Honourable Member, are you convinced that you are actually right to say that this House lacks the control to exercise oversight when it comes to the Budget? Are you convinced that you are right or do we have a case here of an ineffective Opposition because they are unable to mobilise sufficient numbers in order to outvote the SWAPO Members of Parliament? Is think that is the situation, the Budget is a policy proposal by the Cabinet and it is in line with the Government policy which is based on the political platform on which SWAPO Party was elected to Parliament. It does not really matter how you look at it, as long as the Ruling Party has the majority and the Budget is streamlined with the policies of the Government and the SWAPO Party, you can never manage to have a situation where you have a stalemate in Parliament. Do you not think that the only thing for you to do, Colleagues, is to convince the public that you are a viable alternative, which you have so far failed to do and then you can successfully oppose the proposals that the SWAPO Party Government tables in this House?

HON MAAMBERUA: Even if the Ruling Party, whichever that Party is, SWANU or any other Party, had a hundred percent members in this House and the majority of them are Cabinet members, the oversight function will be diluted. That is the bottom-line.

I said it is material conditions that create revolutions, not necessarily leaders. I have to say this because many speakers have mentioned that the

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revolutionary uprisings or the Arab Spring are unique in the sense that from Tunisia and Egypt there do not seem to have been leaders leading these revolutions. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, you have listed the humiliating conditions, such as unemployment, the German genocide, apartheid, etcetera. I wrote you a letter on the amendment of the electoral law and I got an answer. Is it not humiliating to deny women to be involved in decision-making? Was your response to my letter not humiliating to women in your Party?

HON MAAMBERUA: One cannot manage all situations at all times through legislation. That is why we need to bring society through education and exposure to a stage where you can then (Intervention)

HON KAURA: May I ask a question? Honourable Maamberua, is it not humiliating that women representation in the Ruling Party is below 30% here in the National Assembly?

HON MAAMBERUA: The letter the Minister is referring to was to try to legislate for representation on gender basis to be fifty-fifty, but it has not been demonstrated on a voluntary and politically mature basis on that side of the House. (Intervention)

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HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Talking about this humiliation of women, do you not think that it is so humiliating for a male councillor to beat up a powerless woman? (Interjections). They are not giving me a chance because they know what I am talking about. Let me put it this way, do you not think it is humiliating and inhuman for a masculine male Councillor of the Ruling Party to beat up a poor woman and when this woman went to the Police Station to report the case, to be told that she cannot open a case against a Councillor of the Ruling Party?

HON MAAMBERUA: The point has been made about humiliation, about accountability and we need to remind ourselves that it is lack of these material conditions that can actually create revolutions. As I said, revolutions do not necessarily get started by leaders, people can start revolutions. Ceausescu was chased out of office in 1989. In Cote d'Ivoire General Gay rigged elections. You will recall there was no leader who unleashed the people onto the streets and he had to flee from Abidjan to his village and deserted power. These things do happen and you have to look at the material conditions of the people and try to improve the lot of the people. Do not look around for leaders who may lead a revolution because the people themselves can turn the tables around. Those are some of the lessons we are learning from the Arab uprisings.

The AU position on this situation has been very much disappointing. The position has been very indecisive and divisive. We have not witnessed humanitarian aid being provided from many of our countries, including Namibia, to assist the victims in those countries, yet some leaders of the AU countries have already started siding with the so-called rebels in Libya while others are on the side of the Government of Colonel Gaddafi. If all the members of the AU have been united, perhaps the situation in Libya would have been different.

Another lesson that we have to learn is from resources and in this case I am referring to a specific resource called oil. It appears as if there is no

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country in Africa with that precious resource called oil which is not at war with itself or where corruption is not rampant. Perhaps oil is not a blessing in Africa; so far it has actually been a curse. In Namibia we are inundated with information regarding the discovery of oil and oil wells that are going to be drilled and maybe in the next four, five years we shall be one of those lucky ones to be either blessed or we shall be one of those unfortunate countries which are cursed because of the presence of oil. However, all is not lost; we have another four years as one Namibia, one Nation to prepare ourselves for standing against those forces that have divided other countries. If we are prepared for that very critical resource, perhaps we may take a different direction. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I just want to ask a small question. You are mentioning a very important issue of oil and conflict; do you not think that those who are paying for your Court case are doing that in anticipation of some kind of return on their investment?

HON MAAMBERUA: Am I supposed to appear in a Court somewhere? (Interjection). Oh, the electoral Court case. On a very serious note, if we are not prepared and have our refineries in place within the four, five years, if we are not united, if we have not put in place all our accountability institutions, from police, to the Anti-Corruption Commission, all the committees of the National Assembly, Bank of Namibia and all the supervisory institutions, if we have not reduced crime in this country, if we are still a Namibia which is actually not united, the oil in this country is going to be a curse because foreigners will come and divide us and we shall be as greedy as we are now, which is going to be very, very dangerous. That is the lesson that we have to learn from our colleagues in the Arab world and if we do not heed their experiences, we may be doomed, which I do not hope will be the case. I rest my case, Honourable Speaker.

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HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Deputy Minister Namwandi.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. The topic is almost exhausted, in my view, but I felt it is important for me still to say something.

The mover wanted two things from this House: lessons learnt and the formulation of a policy towards the uprising. I believe citizens of any country should be given the right to differ, as it emerged in Libya, Yemen, Syria and other African countries. Honourable Speaker, I personally believe that the development of any given country, the development in the world has been brought about by conflicts and contradictions and as long as contradictions are not antagonistic contradictions, they should be welcomed.

Honourable Speaker, I have a problem with the manner in which the situation in Libya was handled by the international community. Clearly the Libyan people have their internal problems and ought to have been allowed to resolve these problems amicably among themselves, just the way some other countries in the world were allowed by the international community to resolve their problems.

One now asks the question: What is so unique about Libya that the international community, led by the United Nations, passed Resolution 1973 which has paved the way for the US and France, using NATO, to destroy the properties and lives of innocent Libyans? As far as I am concerned, killing is just killing. Whether it is done by the USA or by France, it remains killing. I often say and I want to repeat it, nobody, but nobody, should claim the monopoly of intelligence, including any Member of this Honourable House, we can read between the lines and believe you me the truth is an abstract phenomenon which travels without visas. It travels slowly and slowly but surely it will get there.

I am not very comfortable with the current status quo in Libya and I felt much of the blame should be apportioned to Africans, we, as it was

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mentioned by other speakers. Why? Due to lack of unity despite the African Union, an organisation which was formed to keep Africans together. I do not know whether we should say it is very unfortunate that the United Nations, of which we are members, was used by the gold diggers with missions to destroy the world and to kill innocent Libyans. (Intervention)

HON MWANINGANGE: May I ask a question to Honourable Namwandi? Do you know that the terminology “*revolutionary forces*” was used for the other uprisings in the Arab world, but when it came to Libya it was baptised to be a revolution?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: As I said and I want to repeat it, nobody, but nobody, should ever think that he or she has the monopoly of intelligence.

Let us look at the definition of “*revolution*”. As far as I am concerned, a revolution is a spontaneous process. It cannot be imported, nor be exported. Maybe one could say it is a local product which could also be for local consumption.

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Information. I do not think that the revolutions in the Arab countries, including Libya, were local products. It is an international product by the big powers, wanting to take over the oil. While the revolution is taking place, they pump the oil from Libya to Europe. Now, what are you talking about changing the word from this to that? This is the time we have to tell the truth.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: The Honourable Chief has said it all. Africa is free and should be free forever. What did the

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fifty-three, now fifty-four countries do to defend their brothers and sisters in Libya? What happened to the slogan of Nkrumah when he said: *The liberation of the whole of our continent and the restoration of our brothers who are still under the yoke of colonialism remains our important and immediate task. We cannot disengage until the wishes and aspirations of our brothers and sisters who are still under colonialism have not been met.* What happened?

The Preamble of the United Nations, first and foremost, is to avert war by all means, but today the United Nations is allowing a non-UN member, NATO, to destroy the properties in the name of human rights. What a selective morality!

Tel Aviv has been killing our brothers and sisters in Palestine. No no-fly zone was imposed on Israel. For more than a century this Nation has been suffering, having been destroyed and killed by the racist South African regime. No action was taken. In some countries, Syria, Saudi Arabia, masses are butchered under the very nose of the international community and nothing happens. Why Libya? As brothers and sisters we have to ask these types of questions. It is about time we stand together and fight injustice.

I call upon progressive African nations to table a Motion in the United Nations General Assembly aimed at abrogating the current distorted UN Resolution 1973 on Libya without further delay and in future, no no-fly zone should be imposed on any country. Africa does not need aggressors such as NATO, because Africa is able to solve its own problems.

The Independence which we are enjoying today was brought by a national revolution. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: May I ask Honourable Namwandi a question? Honourable Namwandi, where was Africa during the Rwanda genocide?

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: I am coming to your question. The revolution was waged and today we are enjoying the fruits of revolution. What does the Mover of the Motion actually expect from this august House? What does the Mover expect us to learn from an imposed revolution? As far as we are concerned, that is not a revolution, it is an imposed revolution, which is not a revolution – nothing to be learned from an imposed something other than naked hypocrisy. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Deputy Minister two small questions? The Deputy Minister was giving us the definition of a revolution and the way I understood is that it is something that comes from the people themselves. I believe what has taken place in that part of Africa before the intervention of the outside world, started from the people themselves. We should be realistic. If that is the case, then the revolution in that area was perhaps hijacked, but it started with the people especially in Egypt.

Secondly, Honourable Deputy Minister, you mentioned the killing of our brothers in Palestine and that Africa should do something. It is expected from any African country to take the lead. My question is do we have any diplomatic relationship with Israel? If we do, why can we not take the lead, cut any diplomatic relations with Israel so that the others can follow?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Resolution 1973 which brought about the no-fly zone actually helps France and others to destroy and export the so-called revolution to Libya, to topple a legitimate Government and nothing less, nothing more.

The mover boldly, bravely requested this House to formulate a policy for Namibia with respect to the uprising. Why a policy? (Intervention)

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information to Honourable Tjihuiko. I ask Honourable Tjihuiko to take his Constitution and read Article 93(3) which says: “*The State shall endeavour to ensure that in its international relations it encourages the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means.*” Cutting diplomatic relationships is not the solution if you want to settle the issue by peaceful means.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you very much. Or does the Mover mean to have a stand and if we have to have a stand, I think it was said repeatedly that we condemn the current situation in Libya.

I am not too sure whether the Motion was aimed to agitate the people of Namibia or to create a commotion. If that was the case, I think the Motion has defeated itself because the Namibian people are intelligent enough to read between the lines. They are intelligent enough, both those in Parliament and those out there.

My last words: It is about time that as Africans we must stand together and defend our hard-won Independence. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Mushelenga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I also rise to participate in the Motion before the House, that is to debate the recent revolutionary uprisings in the Arab Maghreb and Middle East and to formulate a policy thereon.

In order to help the Mover of the Motion to debate his Motion, it is important to put this issue of the uprisings in its full context. Where did

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these uprisings start, how did they develop from one place to another and where are we now with these uprisings? It is important for us to take stock of the sequence of events.

It started in Tunisia. People were demonstrating because they want democracy. Eventually the Head of State of Tunisia had to leave and flee the country. Then it moved on to Egypt. It took a bit longer than Tunisia, many things happened in-between, clashes between the demonstrators and institutions of the State in Egypt, but eventually the President had to resign. (Interjection). Honourable Members are saying they know the story, they do know the story but they did not contextualise it. It is one thing to read the Bible; it is another thing to believe it. It is one thing to read the story, but it is another thing to comprehend the dynamics of this whole revolution and the current state where we find ourselves today.

Then it moved to Libya. Coming to Libya, there were protests, people calling for democracy, end of rule by their leader. There were clashes just like in Egypt and before they even reached those magnitudes there were talks around the world of intervening in Libya. What may have started as a revolution then; should not continue to bear that revolutionary character, knowing what happened in the final days.

First, these protestors became armed. The question is who armed them? Where do you find weapons? Is that the only way that one can protest? (Intervention)

HON KAURA: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Mushelenga, are you aware of the statements that were made by President Gaddafi when the uprising started, when he instructed his soldiers to kill the rats and cockroaches and if you are aware of it, do you support it?

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, I continue from where I was interrupted and I will come to Honourable Kaura. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable Mushelenga a small question? Honourable Mushelenga, is it a new thing for people who find themselves in conflict to make threats? I remember in 1981 in Geneva similar utterances were made when we were trying to negotiate peace.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, as I was saying, when it now came to Libya and the situation changed, these people became armed. The question is: where do you draw a line between an uprising calling for democracy and a mutiny? There were some soldiers who left and joined the protest. That is where we should draw the difference between an uprising calling for democracy and a mutiny. Where do we draw a line between these? Then we must ask ourselves: The response by the international community: is this how the international community is supposed to respond in a situation like the one in Libya today? (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs a question, please? I am trying to get at this word “*rebels*” and being the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, I think you will be in a position to answer. I remember that a couple of years ago, round about 22 years ago, there was a Political Party in this country that was fighting for Independence through an armed struggle and this Party was called terrorists. The very same international community intervened, supported the armed struggle. There were those who were saying that the international community who was supporting the liberation

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struggle was supporting terrorists. Here we are saying those who are engaged with those called rebels, how do you look at the very same international community and us having been called terrorists, now calling others names? Is that justifiable? It is not our case, it is an international community case, here we have now sided and call people certain names and we did not like it in our case. How do you justify this, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, I am afraid Honourable Tjihuiko's comparison of the people fighting against illegal foreign occupation, as stated in the documents of the United Nations, with the people that are fighting against the Government, supported by external forces to overthrow a legitimate Government, will make him the laughing stock of the students of Political Science. I know he is an Economist, but I am afraid he will become the laughing stock of students of Political Science because the two are quite different things. My appeal to the journalists is not to publish what Honourable Tjihuiko said because I am afraid when people read it; it will be very embarrassing for the Honourable Member. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: On a Point of Information. The Honourable Deputy Minister is referring to a situation where the liberation movement was supported by United Nations resolutions. The situation in Libya has been authorised by the Security Council of the United Nations where African Governments were members and supported the action that is being taken in Libya. Therefore, if a student of history is looking at this from a positive point of view, they will see that there is no justification for us to call others names without being in that situation, because you can only feel the heat when you are in the kitchen.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, if Honourable Tjihuike were to exercise some patience and listen to how I am going to explain the issue of the United Nations resolution 1973, it would help him more than interrupting. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? Honourable Deputy Minister, from a historical vantage point, when you look at the French Revolution led by Robespierre, Dante, Lafayette and so forth against Louis XIV, was it a colonial war or was it an uprising against an oppressive regime? When you look at the Bolshevik revolution in the Soviet Union against Tsar Alexander, was it a colonial war or was it an uprising against an oppressive regime? If you compare this with the uprising in Libya, is it not the same?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Kaura appears not to have understood or heard what I have said, because I was saying Honourable Tjihuike cannot compare the Arab people having uprisings in their countries with the revolution here in Namibia whereby people were fighting against foreign forces.

Coming to the Resolution 1973 to impose a no-fly zone ostensibly to protect the civilians in Libya, the question is, if that was the intention of that resolution, is that what is happening? If the intention is to protect the Libyan civilians, is that what is happening? From what we are seeing, the bombings by NATO forces in Libya are killing civilians too. It appears the message they are sending across the world is: Let not Gaddafi clash with the civilians and kill them in the process, allow us as best killers to come and kill the people of Libya. That is what is happening, that is what we are seeing what the NATO forces are doing. Does it mean the intention of the resolution was to assassinate the Head of State, because that is what we are seeing? No-fly zone, does it mean bombing the palace of a Head of State in an attempt to assassinate him? Is that in line with the

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principles of the UN Charter adopted in 1945 to strive for international peace and security? Is that what it means? These are the questions we must ponder about, because it appears, as far as we are concerned, that NATO thought it was going to be a walkover in one night, just to come

and eliminate Gaddafi in one night. Now it is a question of people finding themselves in this situation and they are ashamed of getting out, but in reality their activities are not in the spirit of the United Nations Security Council. It appears their main target is to eliminate Gaddafi and as soon as they have eliminated him, the mission is accomplished.

However, I can assure you that it appears that everyone has lost sight of the initial main objective of restoring democracy. I can assure you that these people by now do not have a plan of what to do. Even if today their leader leaves Libya or is killed in the process, that is when they will now sit down and start charting the course. Of course, other people are coming to patronise the process and chart it for them. Will that still be a revolution? Is that how we as Africans should try to fight for our rights and our democracy?

Coming to some fellow Africans and political hypocrisy, as an African you go to the United Nations, vote the way you vote and then cry crocodile tears – “*no, this resolution is not what we intended.*” What hypocrisy! (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Order. Is it allowed in this House for a new Chief to defend the regime of Gaddafi while the Honourable Member was not even born that time?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, to respond to the Honourable Member who is not only politically but also traditionally in competition with the one having the Floor, I am

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defending the principle of sovereignty. You may hate a person, you may not like what a person is doing, but you cannot sell the sovereignty of a country on the altar of hypocrisy at an international platform.
(Interjection)

HON KAURA: Who are the hypocrites? Name the hypocrites.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: They know themselves, those who voted for a no-fly zone and they are unable to ensure the implementation of that resolution according to the letter and spirit.

HON KAURA: Does that include our neighbour?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Those who voted must account that this resolution should be implemented as originally planned. Do not formulate something and when it is not implemented, you are not fighting for implementation. That is why as lawmakers here we formulate laws and we fight for the implementation of these laws. Now it is time for the members of the Security Council to go back and ask: *“Is this what we decided as the Security Council? If this is not what we decided as Security Council, can we then pass a resolution calling for those....”* (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: I just want to be clear on the statement of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Honourable Member has made reference to hypocrites. I do not want to get the wrong picture. Can you just come back to that and tell us exactly, did you refer to the African countries that

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have voted for this resolution at the Security Council as being hypocrites? Are you referring to those heads of state who were there as hypocrites? I do not want the message to go out there and be misunderstood. Is that what you said?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, if Honourable Tjihuiko wants to call those he is referring to hypocrites, he must do so independently and not hide behind the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

It is now for the members of the Security Council to go back and say: *“Is this what we resolved? If this is not what we resolved, we must call to order those that are violating the letter and spirit of this resolution by killing civilians whom they purport to be protecting.”* Is that not hypocrisy? You purport to protect civilians but you are killing the same civilians. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Did you refer to South Africa?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Are the South Africans killing people in Libya?

HON MEMBER: They voted for the resolution.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: The honourable Mover of the Motion is asking for this House to formulate a policy with regard to the uprisings and the lessons learned.

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Firstly, we have a foreign policy that is anchored in our Constitution. I do not know whether Honourable Members read the Constitution, they are asking where the foreign policy is. It is anchored in Article 96 of our Constitution.

HON MOONGO: We know that.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Honourable Moongo is saying he knows it, but can he name even two principles of that article? Article 96 says we must strive for international peace and security. That is our policy. The question is: Do you strive for international peace and security by aggravating war? (Interjection)

HON KAURA: Yes, we did that in the DRC.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Settlement of international disputes by peaceful means. What is currently happening in Libya? Is that how we settle international disputes? Definitely not. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask a question to Honourable Mushelenga. Since Headman Mushelenga and Headman Moongo are disturbing the House, do you not think it would be logical for them to go to the House of Traditional Chiefs?

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: The third principle is the respect for international law and treaty obligations. A resolution of the United Nations Security Council is an international law. When it calls for a no-fly zone, it does not call for people to go and bomb and attempt assassinations on Heads of State. The question is, if this is our policy, is this what is happening?

With regard to policy; we have the policy and it is clear, but what is lacking is for some members of the international community to respect the international policies, because our national policies are largely derived from the international policies.

It appears that there are those in the world who think that they can act in whatever way they want because no one will do anything to them. Here is the AU, sitting time and again to address the situation in Libya, then you have those who think *might makes right*, they can use their power, they can use their force in order to effect change in Libya the way they want. No respect not only for the sovereignty of the country, but no respect to the African continent, no respect to the AU. In my language we say *Odhino* – despising Africans. That is what is happening. There is no respect for the Africans.

You cannot ignore efforts of a whole large continent and just decide to enter that continent and do whatever you want to do. What would prevent those who are doing this to behave as such with any other African country in the future? These are the lessons learned. If there are lessons to be learned from this, it is that what will prevent those outsiders to do the same to any other African country? If we allow them to continue to do what they are doing in Libya... (Intervention)

HON KAURA: May I ask Honourable Mushelenga another question? We have the African Union. War has been raging in Somalia, but what is the AU doing about the situation in Somalia? For how long is this AU impotence going to continue and allow foreigners to come and dictate

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solutions on the African continent?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: If we allow the NATO to continue bombing Libya without being condemned, the outsiders will always think they can come and intervene in Africa to change the settings of any African country to what they want to do.

The question is *charity begins at home*. How are the houses of those that are now bombing Libya? How are their continents? There was a time when a diplomat from one of these countries involved in the bombing of Libya was told by an African Minister that he wants to come and observe elections his country. He asked, “*Are you serious?*” They think they are always right, it is odd for an African to go and observe elections in the West, but it is right for them to come and observe elections here. It appears it must be unusual for the Africans to start questioning what is wrong in the countries of the West. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable Mushelenga a question? Honourable distinguished Headman, are you aware that the very countries which maintain the death penalty are the ones who are talking about human rights and I thought the right to life is the first right a person should have?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: The Prime Minister is quite correct, the right to life is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human rights, but some of these countries still maintain the death penalty. They are not questioned for taking away the very essence of human rights and what they are killing innocent civilians with their bombings. (Intervention)

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ADJOURNMENT

HON MOONGO: I want to ask a tiny question. I am happy with what the Honourable Deputy Minister is saying, but I want to know what the position of Namibia was when South Sudan was fighting for their Independence? It was regarded as a civil war, but when it got its Independence yesterday, they were the first to go there. Is that not a mockery?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, the problem with my Colleague on the other side is that if he has followed the history not only of Pre-independence SWAPO foreign policy and also Post-independence Namibian foreign policy, he would not have asked that question. I sympathise with the Honourable Member because I understand that since 1976 he no longer followed that SWAPO foreign policy to know that we have been supporting the people of South Sudan. That time he left he did not even know that there were people fighting in South Sudan.

Honourable Speaker, we as a country have already formulated a policy in our Constitution and we must keep that stand as our President explained it on Independence Day. With these words, I put my case to rest. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: And on that note the House stands adjourned until tomorrow, 14 July 2011 at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2011.07.14 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
14 JULY 2011**

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? Notices of Questions? Motions? Ministerial Statements? Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members. I rise to tell the Honourable Members and the Nation out there, regarding the eviction we have recently seen in Katutura.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, Erf 856, Hakahana, was sold to the Huidare Group by the City of Windhoek. This group was formed voluntarily and the whole erf was sold to them as a group. The group is guided by their constitution which allows them to sell and acquire property by a monthly saving scheme to be administered by the Executive Committee of Huidare Group. It also authorises the Executive Committee to collect outstanding debts from its members and to pay such to the city.

The recent eviction of the members by the Executive Committee of Huidare Group has created an outcry by these evicted members to negate such evictions. It is within the right of the Executive Committee of Huidare Group to evict non-paying members and they have legally doing

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so by obtaining an independent Court action against the non-paying members. It means that the City of Windhoek is not involved. It is the Group themselves; they collect money among themselves and some of them went to court because others do not pay. It is an internal matter; the City of Windhoek is not involved, nor is the Government.

It is also an internal matter that does not necessitate any action from the City as the City only facilitates the formation of these independent groups. The necessary debt recovery from within the Huidare Group also stems from the fact that the City also commenced with cancellation procedures due to huge outstanding rates and taxes accounts. The current outstanding rates and taxes accounts amount to N\$189 026.39, just to give an indication of what is at stake. The eviction was carried out by the Deputy Sheriff of the High Court following a Judgment in favour of the Huidare Group. The City of Windhoek had no involvement in the matter and it was solely at the discretion of the Executive Committee as well as within their mandate to embark on such an action.

I have mentioned this because out there some people are asking why the City of Windhoek are evicting people during this time that it is cold. Thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Question 17 is by Honourable Maamberua. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

QUESTION 17:

HON MAAMBERUA: I put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you very much. Firstly, let me say that the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture does not preside on the issue of migration, visas, etcetera. This falls within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration, therefore our Ministry will not be in a position to give an answer on the issue of youth migration and how they are treated in the countries of final destination. Therefore, this question was misdirected.

On the question of economic situation and greener pastures, the issue of unemployment and poverty is a global issue. Again I am not in a position to talk about issues that prompt some of these people to seek greener pastures and the issue of poverty and greener pastures. We normally say that we live in a global village and a global village allows citizens of the globe to move from one destination to another for a number of reasons, amongst others economic migration. I am sure Honourable Maamberua as a citizen of the globe has firsthand experience of that because he used to work for the Africa Development Bank, which is testimony of global migration. As to what prompted this youth, there is nothing that can stop them from searching for greener pastures across the globe, provided that they are doing that within the parameters of the law, be it from the country of origin or the countries were they are migrating. Migration is a global trend and it should be done within the spirit of international and global instruments.

Again, our Ministry is not responsible for that issue of migration. We are doing everything within our power to curb unemployment and to contribute to economic development, but still we cannot stop these youth from migrating wherever they want to migrate to.

The Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture does not in any way encourage unemployment, be it at home or anywhere else. Therefore, we are not responsible for encouraging unemployment as was purported. With this I have attempted to answer Honourable Maamberua's questions.

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HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I think when we pose questions in Parliament we would have looked at the situation on the ground, taking the concerns of our communities very seriously.

Therefore, I also expect that when the Executive answer questions they have to take our questions very seriously. They have to answer our questions as we have posed them so that we can demonstrate our seriousness in addressing the plight of our people.

In the first question I did not talk about Home Affairs issues, the question is clear: Is the Minister aware of the recent exodus of Namibian youth to other countries, yes or no?

The next question which was not answered satisfactorily is whether the Minister is aware of the hopeless situation in which the Namibian youth find themselves. As we all know, the unemployment rate is about 52% and about 75% of that is youth. It is as serious as that and now the Minister informs us it is a global issue. It is not a global issue, it is a Namibian issue and I am not saying we have to stop the youth from going to other countries for whatever purposes, we are just asking what are the causes for the youth having to leave the country en masse as they are doing. What are the underlying circumstances? It is in the sphere and the responsibility of the Ministry to have the necessary information as far as the welfare and the well-being of the youth are concerned in this country.

The last question was: *“Would your Ministry consider introducing a basic income grant for unemployed youth as a matter of priority, given the abovementioned circumstances?”* That question was not answered at all. That is the seriousness with which I would want to face these problems facing our youth and I just hope that next time around the Executive will take our questions seriously and preferably prepare them in writing so that we also have them documented and can use that as reference.

**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT
AND CULTURE:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I have answered the

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questions as they appear on the Question Paper; it is only that I do not have that document here. However, that is no defence, I apologise for not having it here, but if I said yes, I am aware that the people are migrating or I am not aware, it would also not be helpful to the youth out there.

Migration is a global trend and I am aware that they are migrating, if the Honourable Member wants me to say yes or no, but I am aware of the global trend.

On the issue of the Basic Income Grant for the youth, the Honourable Member should introduce a Motion here so that the merits and demerits can be debated, but as of now the Ministry of Youth is attending to the plight of the youth in many ways. Amongst them we have the Youth Credit Scheme which is funding applications for loans by the youth. This is encouraging and helping the youth to address the plight of unemployment. Instead of having the Basic Income Grant where we will be dishing out money, we have the loan scheme and we also administer some loans for the youth through the National Youth Council.

However, as for the general overloaded 52%, which is questionable, of unemployment, that is a national issue that is being addressed. There is the TIPEEG programme which is addressing youth unemployment through programmes such as de-bushing and many others. On the issue of the basic income grant the answer is that we are not considering it. If there is somebody out there considering it, the idea should be brought here as we are open for all ideas, but we have other programmes which are addressing youth unemployment. We have not yet considered it because we do not think that is the only panacea or mechanism to address youth unemployment. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Question 19 is by Honourable Tjihuiiko. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS - HON TJIHUIKO
HON TWEYA**

QUESTION 19:

HON TJIHUIKO: I put the Question.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank the Honourable Member for posing these questions and for his patience. Let me underscore the importance of information-sharing by saying the following: *Information withheld is knowledge denied, intentionally or unintentionally so.* We at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, therefore, remain at liberty and are pleased to share with this august House and the Nation the status of the negotiations regarding international agreements, such as EPAS, Doha Round of Negotiations and the implementation of AGOA. Honourable Speaker, it is, therefore, my pleasure to respond to Honourable Tjihuiko's specific questions.

The SADC-EPA negotiations are ongoing. Efforts are at an advanced stage to consolidate and harmonise market access arrangements for SACU into the EU market since South Africa has not been offered the same duty-free quota as the other SACU members. At stake here is also an interest by the EU to improve their terms of trade with South Africa, which could directly or indirectly affect us since we are part of a Customs Union with South Africa. The EC has also made new proposals on trade related areas which were not considered to us to have been within the scope of the negotiations. One of these includes the commitments on geographical indications demanded by the EU, which we are still consulting on and will engage on when the process resumes. In other words, the negotiations are still ongoing despite these new issues being brought into the negotiations by EU.

The Doha Round of Negotiations in the World Trade Organisation: There is a widespread view that the window of opportunity to finalise the Doha Round of Negotiations in 2011 has been closed. The process at present consists of review of the results of negotiations thus far across the full spectrum of negotiations. Efforts are also underway to construct a

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package for least developed countries on duty free, quota free market access alongside simplified rules of origin. In addition, the package will include a waiver in services commitments and aim to address cotton subsidies. Those are the areas where anomalies currently exist in the WTO and where developing countries are unfairly expected to make proportionally greater concessions in reducing import tariffs than other trading blocs.

Honourable Speaker, on the question of how many Namibian businesses have benefited from AGOA to date and if not, why not, allow me to point out the following:

Since the coming into force of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which is a USA Congressional Act, only one Namibian company, namely Ramatex, benefited by exporting to the US market. Ramatex has since closed shop, as all Honourable Members of this House would know. I do not wish to dwell on the history of Ramatex, which is a painful history indeed. No other Namibian company has made use of the AGOA except the recent ongoing efforts by the Omba Arts Trust, which is a mud hut trading to export handicrafts, have started yielding some positive results.

Honourable Members, the AGOA is, therefore, expected to come to its end in 2013. The US Trade Representative, in partnership with sub-Saharan-African Ministers of Trade are therefore working towards measures to extend AGOA beyond its current lifespan. This extension would include an important instrument in the Textile Industry, the Third Country Fabric Concession, which is a very critical factor for African countries to develop and sustain a meaningful Textile Industry that could export textile, apparels and garments to the US market under AGOA. The extension of AGOA and the Third Country Fabric Concession hold promise for the revival of a textile industry in Namibia. We need to embark upon an aggressive investment promotion strategy to land investments for garments and apparel production, using the existing unemployed with skills in the Industry once the AGOA is extended, hopefully until 2025, with the support of the US Congress. The Ministry is constructing a huge building in the Northern Industrial Area for the

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Textile Industry in the hope that AGOA is extended.

The Ministry, in joint efforts with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, has been working on a market penetration strategy into the US market for Namibian beef bone-in, mutton and lamb as well as table grapes and a lot of progress has been made to date. We are anticipating a breakthrough hopefully in the next six months to a year to enter that market with our mentioned products.

The extension of AGOA may also present numerous other opportunities for various Namibian products into the US market. However, this would require an appropriate strategy of export promotions and market access negotiations to remove the non-tariff barriers and technical barriers to trade in order to secure the entry of Namibian products into that market.

In the event Namibia may lose the EU market access, allow me to share the following with the Honourable Members: It is not our intention to lose market access in the EU but, to the contrary, to secure it. It is, nevertheless, of importance for any country to diversify markets, even concerning the EU market due to the threat of preference erosion. The Honourable Members will know I hope, that this refers to the threat of our exports losing their competitiveness in the EU market if better terms of trade are offered to other competitors. Despite high tariffs, South American beef is already dominant in the EU market, thus we need to be aware that we are trying to maintain a niche position at best.

We have secure access, like the SACU market, still our largest market by volume if not by value for the three specific products mentioned by the Honourable Member. EFTA, which a European Free Trade Area comprising of Norway, Switzerland, Iceland and Lichtenstein for Namibian beef into Norway, in particular.

Preferential Free Trade Agreements are being negotiated; in fact they have already been concluded with MERCOSUR, which comprises of Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and India. I am not saying, however, that all our products would necessarily immediately be competitive or in high demand in these specific markets due to competition and other factors.

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Nonetheless, we consider that the greatest potential in the short term for our products is:

- Within Africa, namely through SADC Free Trade Area and the Tripartite COMESA EAC SADC Free Trade Area negotiations which have just recently been launched in Pretoria, South Africa. We should not forget about our own continent.
- China where the Government of China has signalled its readiness to conclude a key agreement on sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures which would facilitate export of agricultural products to China, which is good news.

Both these markets are large and expanding and reflect the current global economic dynamics.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is our fervent hope that the information we have just shared with you empowers us even further. We are and remain at your service at all times and I thank you for your attention.

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

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, allow me to thank the Deputy Minister for a very comprehensive answer, not only that he has answered the questions, but that he has provided very useful information and he answered the question in such professional manner without any politics. That is commendable. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Question 22 is by Honourable Shixwameni. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

QUESTION 22:

HON SHIXWAMENI: I put the Question.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker and for starters, let me thank Honourable Shixwameni for having raised these questions and we will take full advantage of the opportunity provided to us to provide information, not only to this Honourable Assembly but also, through this Assembly, to the general population.

Before I tackle the questions that were posed by Honourable Shixwameni one-by-one, all me, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, to place in proper context the NBC's FM/TV transmitter network expansion programme.

The question raised by Honourable Shixwameni pertains mainly to the capital development projects of the NBC, therefore my response will try and focus on the nationwide radio and television transmission and reception roll-out. My response will, therefore, deal with the national context of radio and television broadcast networks of the NBC. I must also stress from the very onset that all NBC capital development projects are by nature ongoing since Independence, almost in all areas of the country, but I need to emphasise, within the constraints that are posed by the perennially limited budgets.

The NBC's journey in terms of broadcast technology advances is one that is anchored in our pre-independence limitations and challenges of the early 1970's when successive colonial administrations restricted the evolution of indigenous language broadcasting services to apartheid Bantustans. Honourable Members can guess that the only services that were widely available were those that were meant to serve the settler populations that spoke certain languages.

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With the advent of Independence 21 years ago, the Namibian, Government, through the National Planning Commission and as part of the National Development Plan began to expand all major services nationwide. In addition to Afrikaans, German and the national services, in particular English, Damara-Nama, Oshiwambo, Tirelo ya Setswana, Rukavango and Silozi services have been expanded beyond the former Bantustans. The NBC has also added a service to cater for the marginalised San community known as the !#A Radio Service, which operates in the Tsumkwe area at present.

Going forward over the next 24 to 36 months together with the rest of the world, Namibia will witness the sweeping impact of the Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) revolution. At this juncture I wish to inform Honourable Members and the Namibian population that the NBC is at a very advanced stage of completing commercial negotiations on Namibia's blueprint for the DTT migration. This blueprint will give us the roadmap for migration. It will also provide us with detailed costing and timelines for implementation of the project by the NBC for and on behalf of all Namibians.

Honourable Speaker, this revolution would mean that on the television broadcasting side the NBC will be able to offer up to five different television channels on the present frequency plan. These could include a Parliamentary channel – and I hope the Honourable Speaker will take note of this – an education channel – I am sure Dr Namwandi will take note with interest – a history and culture channel, Honourable Kazenambo, and a general sports and entertainment channel. This will enable us to truly move away from the pre-colonial constraints of the Bantustans and take our country, in terms of providing the different services, to greater heights. In critical terms this would mean that a service, such as the !#A Radio Service, would be available to all San communities wherever they might be found across the length and breadth of our Republic, however, conscious of the challenges that will be posed by the different dialects of the San language.

For Namibia to fully benefit from these advances, however, Government will be expected to invest not less than N\$350 million into the national

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digital migration exercise which will be spearheaded by the NBC. Migration to DTT is both a national, continental and international imperative that will ensure that Namibia remains relevant among the nations of the world after June 2015, which is the deadline set by the International Telecommunications Union as well as December 2012, which is the deadline set by SADC to switch off all analogue transmissions.

Having said that, let me then come to the questions that were raised by Honourable Shixwameni.

Question (a) enquires whether there are any technical challenges hindering the nationwide broadcasting of the NBC Rukavango Service. I am not one who is fond of speculating, but I have determined, maybe unfairly so I will be very quick to admit, that perhaps in posing this question, my dear friend and colleague is perhaps trying to get political mileage out of it, but if that is not the case, then I advance my sincere apologies. However, my reply to this question will have a national meaning.

For the different language services, save for the National Radio which is available all over the country, the situation, although the list that I will be providing is not exhaustive, looks as follows and I will deliberately start with the Rukavango Service:

At the moment the Rukavango Service is available in most parts of the Kavango Region, in most parts of the Caprivi Region, in the Otjozondjupa Region in Tsumkwe only, in Oshana in all areas within a sixty kilometres radius from Oshakati where the tower is located, in the Omusati Region only areas within sixty kilometres radius in that Region. In the Ohangwena Region the signal is very, very weak, in Oshikoto the same applies. In the Khomas Region it is available in Windhoek within a fifty kilometres radius. In the Omaheke Region - Gobabis within a hundred kilometres radius, in the Hardap, Karas, Erongo Regions it is not available, but take note, it is not the only service which is not available in those Regions.

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Silozi Service, obviously most parts of the Caprivi Region, most part of the Kavango Regions, in Omaheke - Gobabis, in Khomas within a fifty kilometres radius from Windhoek, in Oshana, Ohangwena, Oshikoto the same as for the Rukavango Service. In Hardap, Erongo, Karas and Kunene none.

German Service: Most part of Khomas, Hardap, Erongo and Karas Region, Otjozondjupa, Okakarara, Otjiwarongo and Otavi. Omaheke - Gobabis, Kunene - Outjo, Oshana - areas within sixty radius from Oshakati, Oshikoto - Tsumeb, Ohangwena and Omusati weak signal, Caprivi and Kavango none.

Oshiwambo Service: Most parts of the Khomas, Kavango, Erongo, Oshana, Omusati, Oshikoto and Ohangwena Regions. In the Ohangwena Region weak signal in a good number of areas. In the Omaheke Region - Gobabis, Rietfontein and Gam. In the Karas Region - Bethanië, Lüderitz, Rosh Pinah, Oranjemund, Keetmanshoop and Karasburg. In the Hardap Region - Mariental. In the Kunene Region - Opuwo, Outjo and Sesfontein. In the Caprivi Region - Katima Mulilo, Kongola and Omega 3. In the Otjozondjupa Region - Otjiwarongo, Grootfontein, Tsumkwe and Gam.

Otjiherero Service: Most parts of Khomas, Omaheke, Erongo Regions. Otjozondjupa – Grootfontein, Gam, Otjiwarongo, Otavi and Okakarara. Kunene – Opuwo, Sesfontein, Kamanjab, Khorixas and Outjo. Oshana – within sixty kilometre radius from Oshakati. Omusati – only those areas within the sixty kilometres radius from Oshakati. Oshikoto – Tsumeb and Omuthiya. Ohangwena – weak signal. Karas – Lüderitz, Keetmanshoop and Karasburg. Hardap – Mariental.

Damara-Nama: Most parts of Khomas, Oshikoto, Kavango, Hardap, Karas and Erongo. In the Kunene Region – Kamanjab, Outjo, Khorixas and Sesfontein. In the Otjozondjupa Region – Otjiwarongo, Grootfontein and Tsumkwe. In the Caprivi Region – Katima Mulilo. Oshana – Oshakati. Omusati – areas within 60 kilometres radius from Oshakati. Oshikoto – readily available in most parts. In the Ohangwena Region – weak signal.

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The last one and this is probably where the question should have been asked because on this one we concede we have a long way to go, the !#A Service. Yesterday, Honourable Maamberua was saying he is an original African and I am sure these are the original Africans. Here it is only in the Otjozondjupa Region and Tsumkwe only within an eighty kilometres radius.

Afrikaans: I did not dwell on that and I hope my Honourable Colleagues will not pose follow-up questions on that.

Question (b): *“What are the exact technical challenges and estimated cost to meet these challenges?”*

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Deputy Minister, you have the Floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker. When we went for tea, I was in process of tackling question (b). I believe when I provided the context of the NBC, in the process I did touch on quite a number of technical challenges. I also indicated the exact cost, not only when it comes to the Rukavango Services, but all the services included in the DTT migration and once the frequencies are allocated and the financial resources that I have alluded to earlier are provided, the Rukavango Service as well as all other services, including the weak signal in Ohangwena where we have a very big challenge, would be a thing of the past.

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Question (c): “*If there are none, when shall Government and the NBC in particular make the Rukavango Service available countrywide like all other major language services of the NBC, such as Damara-Nama, Oshivambo, Afrikaans, Otjiherero and the National Service which are heard countrywide?*”

Once again, I do not want to run the risk of repeating myself, but all that can say is that as indicated earlier, our timelines will be dictated by the SADC and the ITU deadlines for digital migration from analogue transmission broadcasting. At the SADC level we are expected to have completed the national roll-out by December 2012 and in terms of the ITU, by June 2015.

In concert with those timelines, most radio services of the NBC will be available to all Namibians within the next 36 months, but once again I must emphasise, subject to the required financial resources being provided.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I feel that perhaps I have justice to the questions that were posed and I am taking leave to sit. Thank you very much.

HON SHIXWAMENI: I would like to thank the Deputy Minister and the Ministry at large for providing such useful information to us and I hope that we will meet the deadlines as set by SADC and the ITU, that all language services shall be available countrywide. Once again, I would like to thank the Deputy Minister for such a professional and broad response.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question 23 is by Honourable Naholo, but I would think this matter is *sub judice* as the High Court still has to pronounce itself on this matter. Honourable Naholo, do you still want to put the Question?

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QUESTION 23:

HON NAHOLO: I put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I am sure the Honourable Member does know, as all others in this House and outside this House do, that this case is currently before the Court and I do not know how the Honourable Member could expect that I should answer this question. I am not in a position to answer this question now. This is not to say that I am afraid to answer the Honourable Member or any other person, I am known to expressly give explanations whenever sought from me and I will provide this explanation at the appropriate time.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question 24 is by Honourable Naholo to the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development.

QUESTION 24:

HON NAHOLO: I put the Question.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker. The Honourable Member wanted to know why did I sign the petition and let me now give the reason why I signed the petition in Zimbabwe.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, given the nature and the far-reaching adverse effects of sanctions against Zimbabwe, the SADC matter can never repeated long enough for as long as the sanctions remain in place. The manner in which some sections of the world community want to swing global opinion against Zimbabwe does not reflect even an

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iota of concern for the welfare and wellbeing of the general population of Zimbabwe. This reality became apparent when one analysis the true nature of these sanctions and the intended effects on the economy and the generality of the Zimbabwean people.

Far from the claim that sanctions in Zimbabwe are ring-fenced and targeted on a few individuals, the reality on the ground is that the tight grip of the declared and undeclared sanctions is being felt throughout the entire economy. This is to be found in legal statutes, such as the Zimbabwe Democratic and Economic Recovery Bill enacted by the United States Government. When one reflects on the vision and purpose on which multilateral financial institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, were conceived back in 1945, it becomes clearly apparent that these institutions are deviating from their founding mandates. Multilateral financial institutions were created to essentially ensure international financial stability through provision of bridging finances to countries experiencing temporary balance of payment pressures. Under the weight of political persuasion and the tide of global supremacy, it is now evidently clear that the institutions have strayed from their core mandate.

Before the watershed land reforms in Zimbabwe, the world was literally silent about the unsustainable imbalances that existed in the ownership and distribution of national wealth. Instead, the status quo was passively preserved and in the process breeding what could have degenerated to a tumultuous state of affairs in the country's socio-economic and political landscape.

Having realised their potential danger and acting in good faith on the basis of promises given to Zimbabwe at the Lancaster House Conference in 1979, the country initiated a land reform programme which triggered the destructive seeds of hatred and demonising by the West in the form of declared and undeclared sanctions. In order to fully appreciate the true nature of the sanctions against Zimbabwe and how attempts are being made to mislead the world, it is important that one appreciates the various forms of economic warfare that have been visited upon Zimbabwe and its people. Sanctions against Zimbabwe and, indeed, any other country are a

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declaration of war on a sovereign State, which puts the economy under siege with debilitating downstream effects on the vulnerable groups and civilians at large. The economic warfare against defence countries manifests itself through the cancellation of lifeline projects, humanitarian assistance and humanitarian infrastructure development support, which further exacerbates the plight of the impoverished.

Regrettably, the aggravating impact of the weapon of economic sanctions has resulted in deteriorating standard of living, with per capita incomes in poor nations being reduced to a mockery compared to levels obtaining in those countries perpetrating sanctions. Sanctions, declared or undeclared, have regrettably claimed the lives of innocent children, the disabled and physically handicapped through denial of medical equipment, drugs and food.

Nature of sanctions: Sanctions have traditionally been applied against certain countries to achieve desired political and economic outcomes. These encompass the imposition of embargoes, trade and financial restrictions and diplomatic isolation. In recent years, the coverage of sanctions has widened to include other elements that are not directly linked to trade and commerce, such as culture and sports.

Economic sanctions and their proxies are by far the most important of all sanctions imposed on a Nation. In the main they consist of the withdrawal or threat of withdrawal of trade and financial relations, including technical cooperation. In an effort to refine the effectiveness of sanctions through disguised means, there has been a shift towards the so-called targeted sanctions which impose travel bans and freezing of foreign bank accounts of targeted individuals or entities.

Trade sanctions limit the country's exports or restrict its imports. Trade barriers, such as embargoes and qualitative restrictions, are thus imposed on the country.

Countries such as apartheid South Africa, Iraq and Rhodesia that time had trade sanctions imposed against them as the international community wanted to influence political changes. In Zimbabwe today trade sanctions

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have taken the form of denied access to foreign lines of credit which ordinarily finance external trade. The market for the country's export is also shrinking as export competitiveness crumbles under adverse perceptions.

Financial sanctions impede financial flows, such as aid, short and long-term loans, thus reducing foreign exchange flows to Zimbabwe. Financial sanctions also interrupt commercial and trade finances through reduction of both Government and Private Sector access to foreign loans. In additions, sanctions attract high risk premium on offshore lines of credit and eventually scares away alternative creditors, as they anticipate a credit squeeze in the future. Thus, without the imposition of explicit trade sanctions, financial sanctions, especially involving trade finances, interrupt trade and ultimately constrain the economy's foreign currency generating capacity as well as economic activities in general.

Undeclared sanctions are not explicitly announced but are implied from the actions of the perpetrating nations. For example, some Non-Governmental Organisations have moved their operations out of Zimbabwe since the enactment of the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act of 2001. This criminal act outlines the scope of targeted sanctions on Zimbabwe by the USA.

Arrears Triggered penalties: Due to Zimbabwe's failure to honour its financial obligations to the IMF and the World Bank since 1999, the Bretton Woods institution suspended balance of payment support and technical assistance to the country. Such actions by multilateral financial institutions are notwithstanding the fact that such balance of payment assistance would have unlocked the country's exporting potential and create capacity for amortising outstanding loans.

Effects of sanctions on Zimbabwe: Since the imposition of declared and undeclared sanctions against Zimbabwe, the effect of these sanctions has been widespread and continuing.

Non-Governmental Organisations: The majority of NGOs receive funding from Western Governments. Accordingly, some have realigned their

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policies in consultation with their donors. As a result, some donors have either responded by withdrawing their programmes or frozen further development assistance programmes in the country. Other donors, through various NGOs, have continued to work in Zimbabwe but have changed their areas of focus and the modus operandi. Concentration of donor funding has now been limited to humanitarian aid and social issues, particularly HIV/AIDS, social protection and human rights. Humanitarian assistance is, however, short-term and does not directly contribute to long-term economic development and poverty reduction. The NGO community in Zimbabwe is now faced with dwindling resources as donor funds have either been severely curtailed or redirected to other countries. Initially official development assistance was paid through the Government. Following imposition of sanctions, the majority of NGOs now source ODA directly from donor organisations. The National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations, NANGO, confirmed that aid meant for Zimbabwe has also been diverted to other developing countries. NANGO highlighted that over the past few years there has also been a major withdrawal of donor funding agencies. These pull-outs have resulted in closure and suspension of projects funded by NGOs.

The imposition of targeted sanctions has precipitated negative perceptions about Zimbabwe by the world at large. These negative perceptions make it difficult for the private and public enterprises to secure funding as donor funding agencies are no longer willing to support projects in Zimbabwe. In addition, most funding agencies source their money from taxpayers. Taxpayers in donor countries thus retain the prerogative of directing funding of projects. Due to the negative publicity, foreign individuals have been unwilling to support Zimbabwe due to the bad publicity that the country has received. Notably, Denmark taxpayers redirected funding to Zimbabwe from development projects towards humanitarian support.

In the aftermath of the socio-economic environment created by sanctions, several NGOs and donor agencies have or are relocating their offices from Zimbabwe to neighbouring countries. For instance, DANITA and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) pulled out of Zimbabwe in 2001 and 2003, respectively, terminating all projects in progress and retrenching their employees.

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International Relations: For the period 1980 to 1999, Zimbabwe enjoyed balance of payment support from the multilateral financial institutions, such as the IMF, World Bank and African Development Bank as shown in Table 1 below. The IMF stopped supporting Zimbabwe by way of balance of payment support in 1999. World Bank stopped supporting Zimbabwe by way of balance of payment support in 2001. The African Development Bank stopped supporting Zimbabwe by way of balance of payment support in 1998.

Following the country's land reform programme in 2000, which triggered declared and undeclared sanctions against Zimbabwe, multilateral financial institutions imposed sanctions on Zimbabwe in the following manner: Suspension of balance of payment support; suspension of technical assistance; suspension of voting and related rights by the IMF and declared ineligibility to access fund resources.

From 2000 to date Zimbabwe has not received any balance of payment support from the multilateral financial institutions and the country has been depending on domestic resources.

International Monetary Fund: After reviewing Zimbabwe's overdue obligations on 25th September 2001, the Fund's Executive Board declared Zimbabwe ineligible to access the general resources of the IMF. Zimbabwe was subsequently declared ineligible to borrow the Fund resources. As a result, Zimbabwe has not been receiving any disbursement from IMF, as shown in Figure 1.

On 14 June 2001, the IMF suspended technical assistance to Zimbabwe and adopted a declaration of non-cooperation. On 6 June 2003, IMF suspended Zimbabwe's voting and related rights after determining that Zimbabwe had not sufficiently strengthened its cooperation with the IMF in areas of policy implementation and payment. The Fund also initiated the procedure on the compulsory withdrawal of Zimbabwe from the IMF in December 2003. The initiation of compulsory withdrawal from the Fund is the last and most severe in a series of escalating measures the Fund applies to members that fail to meet obligations. The IMF recognises the severity of the decision at hand and increased payment

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from Zimbabwe since the last review in July 2004.

Improvement in economic policy implementation: On the 16th of February 2005, the IMF decided to postpone a recommendation with respect to compulsory withdrawal, providing Zimbabwe with a chance to continue improving economic policies and payments. Regrettably, despite the clearance of the critical general resource account in February 2006, the IMF Board upheld sanctions on Zimbabwe.

World Bank: The World Bank has helped Zimbabwe to fight poverty and improve living standards. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, is there a possibility of selecting the most important, just to justify the relevant questions.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Honourable Members, sanctions are an attack on all Zimbabweans. They are wholesale, they are not personalised or targeted. Sanctions are an attack on the economy, jobs and search for total empowerment on Zimbabweans. They are an attack on business, on workers, on consumers. Sanctions are an attack on the health and education of the children of Zimbabwe, on the social services and their infrastructure. They are an attack on the entire fabric of the Zimbabwean society. Sanctions are an attack especially on the vulnerable in the Zimbabwean society, AIDS orphans, the disabled, the aged, the youth, women and children. Sanctions are an attack on the land rights of the Zimbabwean people, they are aimed to create conditions for the reversal of land reform. They amount to an attack on the new farmers, every Zimbabwean. Sanctions are illegal, undeserved and spiteful. They were unilaterally imposed outside the United Nations mandate by the British-led Western Coalition, defending minority rights in Zimbabwe.

Sanctions are a challenge to the national sovereignty. They are an illegal

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measure by foreigners working on challenging a sovereign people. They are an outsider's law and/or policy set against an independent country and the people with its own Legislature. Sanctions are a racist attack on an African people. Sanctions are a tool for regime change. Sanctions are a gross human rights violation, indeed a violation of African people and also SADC has taken a resolution against sanctions and they have also taken a resolution for the Chair of SADC to go to Europe to talk about sanctions and then a delegation was sent there. I went there as a SWAPO Member, it was sponsored by the ZANU-PF and the RDP should not come and ask on matters related to SWAPO. You have no right to question me as a SWAPO Member if I go and talk to the ZANU-PF on behalf of SWAPO, on behalf of the Namibian people, because SWAPO is the people and the people are SWAPO. Therefore, you have no right and let it be the last time for you to come and meddle in the business of SWAPO. You will never come between SWAPO and the ZANU-PF. Let it be your last time. Do not ever do it again. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any follow-up questions or comments?

HON NAHOLO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I am terribly shocked, I have never conceived it possible that the Honourable Member could behave in the way he did. Saying to me "*never ever*" is a terrible attitude. According to reports Honourable Jerry Ekandjo went to Zimbabwe in his capacity as the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development and he spoke there on behalf of Namibia, not on behalf of SWAPO.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Which report are you talking about?

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HON NAHOLO: What he was doing in Zimbabwe. When he signed the petition, he signed on behalf of Namibia, not on behalf of SWAPO. Things must be made clear, the reports are there, go to Internet. The Honourable Minister was there in his capacity as a minister from Namibia, not as a member of SWAPO.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: It would have been better if you mentioned that report in your questions. To avoid new elements, you are supposed to complete your research before you ask the question and say, “*according to this report, you represented Namibia*”, so that he is clear when he answers the question. You could probably rephrase the question at another stage.

HON NAHOLO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, we need to do justice to the matter on the Table. If Honourable Jerry Ekandjo went to Zimbabwe to represent SWAPO, why did he attempt to answer the question which was asked to him in his capacity as a Minister and not as a representative of SWAPO? Why did he attempt to do that?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Why did you ask these questions? Can you read the questions you have asked him? What do you want from him now?

HON NAHOLO: I want him to tell this Nation, because he went to Zimbabwe. Who sent him to Zimbabwe? Did he go there as an envoy of President Pohamba, being the President of Namibia and also Chairperson of SADC? That was the first question and I want him to respond to that.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** I went to Zimbabwe on

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the invitation of the ZANU-PF Secretary of Information. It was ZANU-PF inviting SWAPO Secretary for Information and Mobilisation. That was between the two Parties. Even if I just walked around, the newspapers would say it was the Minister. Even if Chief Garoëb or Chief Riruako does something as a Chief, they will still say it was as Members Parliament. I think it is high time for induction courses for some Members of Parliament or all of us in fact.

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

**CONSIDERATION: NATIONAL POLICY ON
CLIMATE CHANGE**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on 12th of July 2011, the Question before the Assembly was a Policy by the Honourable Deputy Minister of Environment and Tourism. Honourable Nehova adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

HON NEHOVA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, thank you for the opportunity to give my contribution to this very important issue on the Table.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, various speakers who took the Floor before me has been unanimous on the fact that human beings are indeed responsible, collectively or individually, for the serious damage being inflicted on our planet. I fully concur with them and that is, that our planet is indeed bleeding. Our beautiful earth is in peril. We urgently need to act swiftly and diligently in order to save our planet.

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Our scientists at home and abroad at various international fora have consistently warned that human activity is certainly responsible for the present climate change.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, weather changes all the time. The average pattern of weather, called climate, usually stays much the same for a considerable period of time if it is left to itself. However, human activity is not leaving the earth alone. Humans are taking actions that change the earth and its climate in a significant way. For instance, the single human activity that has great impact on climate change is the burning of fossil fuels, such as coal, oil and gas, which emit carbon dioxide and this was repeated by many speakers. The emission of these gases obviously has a detrimental effect to what we refer as climate and this is an environmental issue. However, the categorisation of climate change as solely an environment issue is not conclusive. Climate change is also a development issue, it has a relationship with poverty reduction, food security, economic development, health, human rights, governance and equality among people and nations. It is, therefore, a Millennium Development Goal issue.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, everybody is in agreement that for us to sustain ourselves on this earth, we need to advance our socio-economic development in order to ensure the production of material goods. The production of foodstuffs, medicines, the provision of housing, the provision of machinery is equally an activity that has the potential to impact on climate change if it does not take into account the possible negative effects on the environment. Therefore, climate change and poverty eradication are key global challenges of our time. Both are serious concerns to the future health and prosperity of the people on our planet. They must be taken care of simultaneously. We cannot take care of one without addressing the other. Any effective fight against poverty and the ill effects of climate change requires taking comprehensive action that encompasses both issues. We cannot fight climate change without considering the socio-economic needs of the poor people and countries, nor can we effectively address global poverty without taking into account the impact of climate change on agriculture, disease patterns and environment weather conditions, all of which particularly impact on the

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poorest countries.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, whilst we genuinely need industries to produce goods that are essential for our sustenance on this planet, some highly industrialised countries have been preoccupied with the production of weapons of mass destruction or the production of great quantities of goods which are merely for the extraction of super profits – typical of capitalist development theories. In the process such selfish practices do contribute immensely to the emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, thus negatively affecting the environment.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, while the industrialised countries are the most responsible for climate change, it is poor countries, such as Namibia, that are paying the price as a consequence of climate change in forms of floods, veldt fires, tornadoes, hurricanes and devastating droughts, just to mention but a few.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, some knowledgeable Members of this august House, well-informed on issues of climate change in general and issues of life, in particular, assured us that, notwithstanding the problems of climate change caused by global warming, our planet will not perish. Dr Amweelo, Dr Iyambo and Honourable Kaura assured us of that. Yes, indeed, the earth will continue to revolve and rotate around itself and around the sun for a considerable time as a natural phenomenon, but life on it may perish as a result of our destructive socio-economic activities. You can have the earth rotating without any life on it, just like Jupiter and other planets. Life will perish if we are not careful.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, although the planet may not perish, as alluded to by some speakers I have mentioned, I am of the opinion that if we do not adopt the right policies of adaptation to climate change, life on our planet will perish. It is, therefore, essential and urgent that world leaders, Namibian leaders included, should sign and/or ratify and enforce the agreements and the protocols, particularly those arrived at, at international conferences, for instance at Kyoto in Japan, Cancun in Mexico and Copenhagen in Denmark.

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Honourable Deputy Speaker, Paragraph 3 on the introduction of the National Policy on Climate Change for Namibia, 2011, is something to go by, which reads: *“According to the Fourth Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report for 2007, between 75 and 250 million people in Africa are projected to experience water stress by the year 2020 and the yields from rain-fed agriculture could be reduced by up to 50 percent in some African countries, plunging them into food insecurity and malnutrition.”*

Honourable Deputy Speaker, bearing that in mind we should not allow the Conference of Parties No. 17 scheduled to take place in Durban, South Africa, this year to be just another talk show on climate change, it should rather revitalise the agreed Protocols on Climate Change. In addition, trillions of cubic litres of water are being wasted every year by way of allowing them to flow into oceans or seas, which could be harvested for productive use. In many countries of the world perennial rivers have been diverted from discharging their useful waters into seas and oceans, but skilfully made to disgorge into the mainland water catchments for productive use. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, have you forgotten that you are not allowed to drink water?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ignore the question.

HON NEHOVA: Yes, I also think so. Honourable Deputy Speaker, the biggest and longest rivers are in Africa. The Congo River is the biggest river in the world in terms of volume of water. The Nile River is the longest in the world. The Zambezi, the Niger, the Orange, including the Kunene River which used to discharge its water from time immemorial

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into the former Etosha Lake. Why are we unable to productively use this plentiful water in Africa to mitigate droughts and produce food? Technology does exist for this to be done. What is seemingly lacking is the political will, the effective and efficient management of these and other natural resources by our Governments. Honourable Deputy Speaker, I thank you for your attention.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Maamberua.

HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am going to be very brief. There are many problems with this policy but let me quickly just refer you to Page 27. I would have preferred that this policy be polished further, but I am just going to point out three issues that need some clarification.

On Page 27, Section 7, institutional arrangements for policy implementation. *“The Cabinet of Namibia is the Government agency responsible for approving the National Climate Change Policy.”* Should that not be “State agency?”

In the same Paragraph: *“The Parliament Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration shall advise Cabinet...”* The question is, what mechanism is in place that a Parliamentary Committee can advise Cabinet? How are we going to do that?

On Page 31, and this is very serious: As it was already pointed out that climate change encompasses political dimensions, economic dimensions diplomatic dimensions, etcetera, I think we need to be careful when formulating these types of policies. After all, we are not the initiators of this horrible so-called climate change emissions and other things. In Section 8, resource mobilisation for policy and implementation: 8.2 reads: *“Climate Change is a developmental issue that threatens the achievement*

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of national development goals, including Vision 2030. Therefore, to ensure sustainable development, the Government will...” I think that is too strong a statement that forces Government to make budgetary provision. Maybe Government should make budgetary provisions if and when Government has the resources to make such budgetary provisions, but if we put it in a binding policy that Government will make budgetary provisions, I think we are putting undue pressure that we may not be able to afford.

In Section 8.3: “*Government to secure and mobilise resources*” and then it reads, “*The Government will mobilise adequate human and material resources.*” What are adequate human resources that Government will mobilise? Again, in a policy it is very difficult to include such strong instructions and then in the very same paragraph: “*Government shall consider and explore available multilateral funding avenues.*” Again I think it is too strong and too obligatory on our Government considering its other priorities and its meagre resources. Then in the middle of the paragraph: “*The country will implore access to financing...*” I am just concerned with this “will and shall:” in a policy instead of “should, could, may” because we are sovereign and we have to be guided by our own priorities and we cannot bind ourselves with this language.

At Page 32: “*Government to facilitate public-private partnership*”, saying that “*Government shall explore and facilitate the establishment of public-private partnerships.*” We could, we should, we may, we have a choice. We cannot say Government shall explore and facilitate the establishment of public-private partnerships. As I said, there are many others, but I just wanted to indicate that perhaps we need to review the language and some other inconsistencies in this policy. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Does the Honourable Minister wish to reply?

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HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, thank you, Honourable Members, for having found time to go through the Policy and acquaint yourself with it and all your comments are appreciated. I believe the Parliament is now informed as to the main objectives of the Policy which was presented in this House.

I want to admit that I did not find time to listen to all the Honourable Members who have contributed, however I have to thank the Parliament Secretariat who have made available to me the speeches of all those who have contributed, which I managed to scrutinise and I must say they were all very useful and will enable us to move forward. I really appreciate that.

For example, *Deputy Minister of Finance*, I fully agree with you when you made it very clear in your contribution that Namibia is not an emitter and Namibia is at the receiving end. It is true and that is why under 4.4 in the Policy we have made it very clear that Namibia contributes less to the greenhouse gas emission and for that reason, those who are emitting must contribute to building our capacity in order to adapt to the impact of climate change.

You also raised the issue of financial needs, more specifically that we have to understand we have other equally important sectors that need to be funded and that is exactly the message that one is getting in this Policy, because climate change issues being cross-cutting, there is no specific demand on one specific item to be funded, but rather to look at all the sectors. That is why the Policy is making it possible that each and every sector has to understand to what extent climate change is impacting on its activities and try to find ways of adapting so that such sectors are not negatively affected by climate change, thus allowing us to move forward.

Of course, like any other policy, there is no policy or programme that will not have financial implications. Nevertheless, as I said earlier, the Policy on Climate Change covers all sectors and that is why the institutional mechanism is comprehensive and each and everyone has to look at how they can implement those programmes in their specific areas. I thank you

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for your support and we will continue to work together in this area.

Honourable Riruako, thank you for your contribution. The Policy on the Floor of this House is a clear testimony that as a Nation we have realised that we need to work together in order to find a way to prepare ourselves to cope with the impact of climate change, which is real, as you have rightly said in your contribution and thank you for your support.

Honourable Kazenambo, thank you for supporting the Policy and I agree with you that we cannot look at issues so blindly. That is why our Policy is paying special attention to the issues of adaptation. Of course, mitigation is equally important, however, looking at the level of our development, there is very little we can do in terms of mitigation, because we are asking the developed countries to reduce their emissions so that they do not take up the remaining space that we need for development, because even if we talk about clean development mechanisms, we know that requires different technology, but at the same time we need to develop in order to alleviate poverty so that our people can live as comfortably as their counterparts in developed countries. Therefore, when we are to invest in mitigation, those who have taken up more space are the ones who should make the funds available and that is exactly why we say we cannot just look at these issues so blindly.

Honourable Mutorwa made a very good analysis of the Policy and elaborated on its intention. It is also true that he went into the details to inform us how climate change is impacting on food security and this is a clear testimony to all of us that climate change is real. He also informed us that environmental degradation is not only a health and economic threat, but it is also a threat to peace and security. We have already experienced this here in Namibia. Residents of the Ohangwena, Oshikoto and Kavango Regions are fighting over grazing land because the grazing is not what it used to be as a result of climate change and that is a threat to peace and security should such incidents continue and not be attended to.

Honourable Kamwi, thank you for your support and also thank you for clarifying the impact of climate change on the health sector and how it is reversing the gains recorded since Namibia gained Independence. This

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explains to us why it is important for us to have a policy that would direct us.

The contribution by *Honourable Dr Abraham Iyambo* was also very useful as it has raised many questions which in a way were aimed at explaining the dilemma we face with climate change. I fully agree with him and against that background we as a Nation, as envisaged in this Policy, continue to monitor the situation and adopt mechanisms to enable us to go through what the world is experiencing today. For example, in the area of food production we may have our traditional crops, but because of climate change they may not be sustainable and hence, we will be required to change our diet and also look at crops that can stand the current weather. The Minister also elaborated on how the scientists work and that is appreciated.

It was a big relief for me as Minister of Environment and Tourism when I listened to the Minister of Education saying: *“There is a need for us to continue looking at the introduction of an environmental subject in our curriculum.”* I also agreed with the Minister when he said: *“Scientists are telling us that as human beings we are abusing our nature and nature is now defending itself. Against that background, there is a need for us to coordinate our research activities so that we can find a way of how to handle the situation”* and I am happy that the Minister of Education is now going to take the lead in bringing this cooperation in our research activities in the country.

Honourable Bezuidenhoudt, thank you for your support and I could not agree more with you when you called on the whole Namibian Nation to play a decisive role in the execution of the National Policy on Climate Change. I also understand the Honourable Member’s fear in relation to the nuclear energy, particularly when we consider what happened in Japan. Fully aware of all those issues, the Policy is calling for collaboration and research in looking into all possible ways of generating energy.

On the issue that the polluters must pay, that is the demand of all the developing countries, including Namibia, under the principle of common

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but different responsibility, as stipulated in the Rio Declaration of 1992 and the Bali Roadmap and this is explained under 2.2 in the Policy before us.

Honourable Moongo, your concern that the Policy should look at the immediate problems facing the people, such as floods and water, is addressed. Should we integrate landscape ecology into land-use planning and strategy for harvesting and capturing water during rainy seasons, we will go a long way to mitigate some of those challenges and those are the issues addressed in the Policy under 4.4 and 4.2.

Right Honourable Prime Minister, thank you very much for your contribution. The first concern is the international politics of climate change and I fully agree that climate change is a political issue as well as an economic and financial matter. That is why the newly established Transitional Committee to design the Green Climate Fund is co-chaired by the Minister of Finance of Mexico, Vice-Minister of Finance and Honourable Manuel, Minister and the President of South Africa.

It is also recognising that the climate change international politics is well placed in the Policy, because we cannot isolate ourselves when it comes to this politics of climate change and that is why in the Policy we are saying the following: *“The Government will continue playing a proactive role in ensuring the protection of the regional and global environment and cooperate with the international community in promoting adaptation and mitigation strategies; align and enforce existing international climate change legislation and regulatory framework; align with the Bali Roadmap, Nairobi Declaration and Bonn Agreements. All those mentioned international frameworks are in line with the SADC and African position which Namibia is party to.”*

In the area of technology, Honourable Members, we are living in a dynamic world and the technology of today cannot be the technology of tomorrow. Therefore, it will be very difficult for us to be specific on the type of technology we would use in the Policy and that is why under 4.6 we refer to adapting appropriate technology. In the same vein, technology is a subsector under both mitigation and adaptation measures. To that end,

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the adaptation and mitigation options will determine the type of technology Namibia will need. Subsequently, the elaboration of specific technology could be possible in the strategy and the action plan which is envisaged under 4.9 and 4.16 of the Policy.

At the international level and in line with the Cancun Agreement which Namibia is party to, a Committee will be established to conduct a technology needs assessment for the developing countries. In relation to funding, it is also a fact of life that in any programme funding must be made available. Of course, Namibia is a non-Annex one country under the principle of common, but different responsibility, and for that reason we are not legally obliged under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to reduce our emission. However, if we want we can do it voluntarily, but I do not think at this stage we can do that as, as I always continue to say, we still need to develop in order to get our people out of poverty and if we are to use clean technology, which is so expensive, those who have emitted must make money available. That is why under 14.15 and 14.16 of that Policy we are referring to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, as Namibia participates in the international negotiations on climate change, this Policy will remain a guide, in particular, paragraph 2.2, 14.15, 14.16, 6.1 and 6.3.

Honourable Amweelo, thank you very much for your support and thank you for sharing valuable information on matters related to climate change and how it is impacting on many countries. You have also shared with us what other countries, like Ghana, are doing. Your proposal for the establishment of a group of technicians and experts to develop mechanisms for water harvesting is a welcome idea and we believe within the institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Policy, all possible ways will be found to bring about efficient work in implementing the Policy. I agree with you that we need awareness programmes, hence point 4.12 in the Policy.

Honourable Mushelenga, thank you for your support and your emphasis on infrastructure development is welcomed. That is why point 4.8

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elaborates on that issue.

Honourable Ben Amathila, thank you for your support and for providing additional information on the impact of climate change. On the issue of water, I stand here to be corrected by you. For the past twenty years or even before Namibia's Independence I have known Comrade Ben to be persistent on the issue of desalination of seawater and I believe at this stage your dream is being realised. Already there is one plant in the country and they are talks of more to come.

Linking power generation to job creation is also a welcome fact, more especially now that as a Nation we have set ourselves to create over 100,000 jobs over a period of three years. The issue of research is addressed under 14.11 of the Policy.

Your concern on the young people is also appreciated and that is why for the past two years from 2009, whenever we were mobilising the communities around environmental days, we have been changing from one school to another, conducting workshops and conducting seminars and competitions around environmental issues and we will continue to do so.

May I also inform this Honourable House that from the 29th to the 30th of July 2011, we will have a Climate Change Adaptation Youth Conference, which again is one of those forums we are creating for our young people.

Honourable Nehova, thank you for your contribution. As we are preparing for COPE 18, no one wants it to become one of the talk shows. The world is trying, especially the developing countries, to find a solution to the issues of climate change. However, as you rightly said, this is an economic issue as much as a political issue and it is very difficult for non-equals to discuss political and economic issues. The dilemma we have now is for the developing countries to move and I think their persistence of not wanting to commit to the reduction of emissions is what makes people wonder whether what the signs are telling us is true or not true, because if they are the ones who are the custodians of the signs that are giving us all these threats, but they are not moving to show that they are

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very concerned, then they are making other people to wonder. For example, as we are going to Durban, there are three main issues that have to be resolved. One, the Legal Form of Climate Change Agreement has to come out very clearly. What will be next after the Kyoto Protocol comes to an end in 2012? And thirdly, financial resources for adaptation and mitigation. Unless there are those commitments, definitely nothing will come from Durban. There is a line-up of meetings which are still going on, but it is really the political will which will make everything work.

Honourable Maamberua, thank you very much for your comments on the Policy. You are more concerned about the word used, namely “*will*” and “*shall*”. In other words, you do not want the Nation to commit itself to addressing the issues of climate change. When we talk about resources mobilisation, we really want to make it a must at the international level that our Governments should insist that those who have created climate change must pay for it. We do not want to make it a choice, we want to emphasise that they have to do that.

As I said earlier, we have to understand what climate change is. The impact of climate change is felt everywhere and we cannot say the Government has a choice to invest in food security. We cannot say the Government has a choice to look for funds to invest in energy, it has to be done. That was really the understanding, but if we feel we can go without those things, then we can make it a choice. However, we know we cannot go without food and water, we cannot go without energy. We are not talking about the amount of money to be mobilised, but at any time there should be resources available locally or internationally, otherwise we will not be able to move.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I thank you and I submit this Policy to the National Assembly for their information and to say thank you on behalf of the Government and the Cabinet which is going to be the driving force in implementing the Policy.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I now put the Question, that the Policy be adopted. Any objection? Agreed to.

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ADJOURNMENT

Honourable Members, we have come to the end of the current session. I will now give the Floor to the Right Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I believe this was a productive session which generated a lot of debate and that is how the House is supposed to operate, to be the ear and eye of the public. We have adopted some Policies, laws and Motions and for that I congratulate all the Members, even though we did not agree on everything. Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. In addition, I wish all of you a blessed recess and that all of you will come back on the 13th of September at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:50 UNTIL 2011.09.13 AT 14:30