

**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	<i>(Defence)</i>
Mr B Esau	<i>(Fisheries and Marine Resources)</i>
Mr I Katali	<i>(Mines and Energy)</i>
Mr K Kazenambo	<i>(Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture)</i>

DEPUTY MINISTERS

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

Ms P Haingura	<i>(Health and Social Services)</i>
Ms A Muharukua	<i>(Gender Equality and Child Welfare)</i>
Mr A Muheua	<i>(Labour and Social Welfare)</i>
Ms L Lucas	<i>(Defence)</i>
Mr P Iilonga	<i>(Agriculture, Water & Forestry)</i>
Mr E Utoni	<i>(Safety and Security)</i>
Mr T Nambahu	<i>(Justice)</i>
Mr T Tweya	<i>(Trade and Industry)</i>
Dr S C Ankama (Mr)	<i>(Works and Transport)</i>
Mr P Mushelenga	<i>(Foreign Affairs)</i>
Mr P Shifeta	<i>(Youth, National Service, Sport & Culture)</i>
Mr W Isaacks	<i>(Mines and Energy)</i>
Mr S Simataa	<i>(Information and Communication Technology)</i>
Mr E Kaiyamo	<i>(Home Affairs and Immigration)</i>
Ms P Beukes	<i>(Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development)</i>
Mr U Herunga	<i>(Environment and Tourism)</i>
Mr C Schlettwein	<i>(Finance)</i>
Dr. D Namwandi (Mr)	<i>(Education)</i>

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 Uutoni	<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
05 JUNE 2012**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I welcome you all back. I am happy to see that all the seats are taken.

Malawi has registered the first Lady President for the SADC Region. It is history and we wish her well. Knowing her as we do, she will make it, but she would also need our prayers and support to succeed in that big task. Harold Pupkewitz, doyen of Namibia's business entrepreneurship, has departed forever during our recess. The former Egyptian President, Hosni Mubarak, will have plenty of time to himself forever in jail for introspection. My soul brother and fellow multilateralist, Kofi Annan, is working hard on the Syrian front, trying to plug the further haemorrhaging of the process of peace, regional stability and human security in that troubled region of the world. At the south Sudan must survive and succeed as a newly independent African State. Namibia, and the SWAPO Party in particular, must not betray the memory of John Garang. Elections and the continuing democratisation calendar layout is reverberating in Luanda, Windhoek and Tswane in the next months ahead. Elective conferencing will take place in the weeks and the months ahead. It simply means SADC Region is the home for democracy. The Prime Minister and the Acting President of Namibia has called reshuffling of Permanent Secretaries. At the Cabinet higher level we need some more time for rumour-mongering, we should not be rushed. We need more time to consult.

By the way, what about WikiLeaks proponents and their nemesis, the market forces and the news reporters, Members of Parliament cannot survive without the subject matter of the presidency. I talked about elections earlier, so we will continue speculating about who is next after

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON HAUSIKU**

President Dos Santos in Angola, who is next after President Zuma in South Africa and who is next after etcetera, etcetera.

In the year 1953, Queen Elizabeth II was coroneted. It was the year the last King, David Goreseb, of the Damara people was installed in Okombahe (#A !Homes). I was there and it was on that occasion that I met Reverend Michael Scott, talking politics with my mother.

Before I get to congratulating those who have been promoted to other positions, those of you who are friends tell the Secretary General of CoD to leave the Honourable Members of Parliament and Cabinet Members alone, we are doing our very level best and we will succeed.

Then I conclude with extending on your behalf and on my own our best wishes to our two Colleagues, Honourable Deputy Speaker Loide Kasingo, on her election to the office as the Third Vice-President of PAP and Honourable Professor Peter Katjavivi, our Chief Whip, for his election as Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Rules and Privileges of the Pan-African Parliament, respectively. Congratulations.

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

TABLING OF REPORTS

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: I lay upon the Table the SADC Conference on African Ministers for public Civil Servants Report.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Deputy Prime Minister please table the Report? Any further Reports and Papers? Deputy Minister of Finance.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON SCHLETTWEIN / HON SIMATAA**

TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

1. Municipality of Swakopmund for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2011.
 2. Municipality of Okahandja for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2011;
and
 3. Village Council of Gochas for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2011.
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HON SPEAKER: Any further Reports and Papers? Honourable Simaata.

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT: NAMIBIA POST
2011**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY:** I lay upon the Table, the Annual Report of Namibia Post for the year 2011.

HON SPEAKER: Please table the Report.

BILLS CONFIRMED BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

HON SPEAKER: I have been informed by the Chairman of the National Council that the Council, in terms of Article 75(2) of the Constitution considered and confirmed the following Bills without Amendments:

- *Appropriation Bill*
- *Public Service Amendment Bill;*
- *Electoral Amendment Bill;*
- *Property Valuers Profession Bill.*

I shall now, in terms of Article 75(3) refer these Bills to the President to deal with them under Articles 56 and 64 of the Constitution.

I have further been informed by the Chairman of the National Council that the Council, in terms of Article 75(2) of the Constitution, considered and confirmed the following Bills with Amendments:

- *Conferment of National Honours Bill;* and
- *Disaster Risk Management Bill.*

These Bills will be placed on the Order Paper for reconsideration by this Honourable House as soon as possible.

HON SPEAKER: Notice of Questions? Honourable Maamberua.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MAAMBERUA**

QUESTION 11:

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, 7th of June 2012, I shall ask the Minister of Works and Transport the following questions:

- (a) On 16 May of this year a local daily reported that according to a Joint Report compiled by *Deloitte & Touche* and the TransNamib Internal Audit Department and released on the 17th February of this year, TransNamib was unable to account for about N\$447 million. Is the Minister aware of such report and on what date did the Minister become aware of it?
- (b) A local daily reported that about N\$95 million budgeted under the Contingency Fund was transferred to a TransNamib account during the midnight of Saturday, 31 March 2012. In terms of Question 1 above, is the Ministry of Works and Transport aware of the lack of controls of the Financial System at TransNamib? How could the Ministry entrust such huge amounts into a TransNamib account? Could the Minister provide the balance of the money in that TransNamib account as on Thursday morning, 7 June 2012?
- (c) In terms of the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Act of 2006, Section 17(1), the Portfolio Minister, in this case the Minister of Works and Transport, must within a month of being constituted and with due regard to any directives laid down by the Council under Section 4, enter into a written Governance Agreement with the Board of State-Owned Enterprises in relation to the following:
 - The State's expectations in respect of the State-Owned Enterprise's scope of business, efficiency and financial performance and achievements of objectives;
 - The principles to be followed by the State-Owned Enterprises for business planning;

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MAAMBERUA**

- The measures which are necessary to protect the financial soundness of the State-Owned Enterprises;
- Key performance indicators in terms of which the State-Owned Enterprises' performance will be evaluated;
- The structure of the business and financial plan;
- The principles to be followed at the end of each financial year in respect of any surplus in the accounts of the State-Owned Enterprises;
- Any other matter relating to the performance of the State-Owned Enterprises' functions under any law; and
- A copy of the Governance Agreement must be open to inspection by the public at the head office of the State-Owned Enterprise during business hours.

In respect of the abovementioned, can the Minister of Works and Transport demonstrate to this House how all these abovementioned provisions of the law, specific to the contents of the Performance Agreement with TransNamib, have been complied with or otherwise and if not, why not in each specific case? Would the Minister provide a copy of the Performance Agreement between your Ministry and TransNamib?

QUESTION 12:

HON MAAMBERUA: I give Notice that on Thursday, 7 June 2012, I shall ask the Minister of Finance the following question:

At the time of tabling the Budget of 2012/2013, the Minister provided us with a leaflet titled, "*Appropriation for Contingency Provision, 2011-2012 and Expenditure thereof*". On the line for the Ministry of Transport the Minister indicated that on the 22nd of December 2011, an amount of N\$95,109,775 was committed and that by the time of tabling the Budget,

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MAAMBERUA**

nothing from this amount was drawn. Strange enough, by the end of the Financial Year that is by the 31st of March 2012, nothing of this so-called committed contingency amount was drawn for the purpose it was committed for, but the whole amount was transferred by the Ministry of Works and Transport to a TransNamib account. The question, therefore:

1. Honourable Minister, would you agree with me that the Ministry of Works and Transport had ample time to have included this amount in their normal Budget for 2012/2013, because they did not meet that money in 2011/2012?
2. Would you as a responsible and accountable Minister of Finance also agree with me that hoarding of funds by a Ministry, just to transfer it at the last very odd hours of 31 March, is an indication of poor planning and worse still, abuse of contingency provision?
3. Would you kindly provide this august House with rules and guidelines that govern the contingency provision over and above the provisions in the State Finance Act, if any?
4. Would you also agree with me that the attitude displayed by the Ministry of Works and Transport that they had to transfer the N\$95 million to a TransNamib account was to avoid money being returned to Treasury? Much as it may not be illegal, it is contravening the spirit of prudent and responsible management of public finance.

QUESTION 13:

HON MAAMBERUA: I give Notice that on Thursday, 7 June 2012 I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following questions:

In terms of the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Act of 2006, the functions of the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Council, of which the Prime Minister is the chairperson, entail amongst others the following:

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MAAMBERUA**

- (a) To establish generally accepted common principles of corporate governance and good practice governing State-Owned Enterprises;
- (b) To develop common policy frameworks for the operations of State-Owned Enterprises, including policy on issues relating to human resources, assets and finance;
- (c) to determine criteria for the performance measuring and evaluation of State-Owned Enterprises and develop appropriate means for monitoring their performance;
- (d) to lay down directives in relation to the following:
 - (i) governance agreements to be entered into by a portfolio Minister with the board of a State-Owned Enterprise;
 - (ii) performance agreements to be entered into between a portfolio Minister and individual members of a Board of a State-Owned Enterprise and between such a Board and chief executive officer and other senior management staff;
 - (iii) The remuneration levels of board members, chief executive officers and other senior management staff of State-Owned Enterprises;; and
 - (iv) Benefits for employees of State-Owned Enterprises generally.

Can the Right Honourable Prime Minister demonstrate to this House whether all the abovementioned provisions of the law have been complied with or otherwise? If not, could it be that this is the reason why TransNamib and other State-Owned Enterprises are in these precarious situations in which they find themselves?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MOONGO**

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for his questions.
Honourable Moongo.

QUESTION 14:

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, 7 June 2012, I shall ask the Minister of Trade and Industry:

Has a Government reached the high degree of autocracy of making their own laws and that force was used to close down small and medium businesses in the northern region during Sundays and the 4th May, respectively, against the Constitution which encourages a free-market system and against the Labour Act which allows businesses to open at 10:00 during Sundays and public holidays?

QUESTION 15:

HON MOONGO: I give Notice that on Thursday, 7 June 2012, I shall ask the Ministry of Works and Transport:

What prompted the SWAPO Government and what is their hidden agenda to vacate officials who occupied and rented houses by contract in Oshakati-West and Oshakati-East before and after Independence? Is this nonsensical action only applied in Oshakati or does it also apply to other towns in Namibia?

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member please table the Questions? Honourable Kaura.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON KAURA / HON ULENGA**

QUESTION 16:

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on the 14th of June 2012, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development the following:

When is the Opuwo Regional Council Constituency Office going to be completed? I asked this question during the Budget Debate.

QUESTION 17:

HON KAURA: I give Notice that on the 14th of June 2012, I shall ask the Honourable Prime Minister the following:

In *The Namibian* of Thursday, May 31 2012, the following was reported: “*Lights out at Keetmanshoop Government Office Block. The Government office block at Keetmanshoop has been without electricity since last week because of the unpaid electricity bill of N\$20,000. Because of the power cut, no phones or computers are working.*”

Is this not a sign of total incompetence of your Government and thus needs urgent replacement?

HON SPEAKER: Will Honourable Kaura please table the Questions? Any further Notice of Questions? Honourable Ulenga.

QUESTION 18:

HON ULENGA: Mr Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 14 June 2012, I shall ask the Minister of Works and Transport, the following questions:

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON MOONGO**

1. Which immovable property currently being used by the Namibian Government is the property of any foreign Government, for example, the Government of the Republic of South Africa?
2. Do the old State House and Suiderhof Military Base fall under this category?
3. What are the Government's plans with regard to these properties?

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

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON MOONGO: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that tomorrow, 6 June 2012, I shall Move –

That this Assembly –

Discusses and amends the Proclamation AG 21 of 1985, Section 2(1)(d), to allow shack dwellers to remain in their shacks until the Government constructs affordable houses for poor people.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member please table the Motion? Ministerial Statements? Minister of Environment and Tourism.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I cherish the opportunity to deliver some remarks in this august House as we celebrate the World Environmental Day, 5th of June.

The World Environmental Day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972 at the Stockholm Conference on Human Environment to create, educate and raise awareness on environmental conservation.

In Namibia the first week of June is celebrated as a National Environmental Week with all citizens mobilised to implement integrated intervention to protect our environment.

This year's celebration is observed under the international theme, "*Green Economy – Does it Include You?*" In line with this theme, among other activities, the national celebration will take place at the Hilton Hotel today where we will highlight the work done by our country in sustainable renewable energy and overall path towards a green economy for Namibia. This event will be in the form of a fundraising dinner.

At the global level, the World Environmental Day 2012 will be celebrated in Brazil, a country with one of the fastest growing economies in the world. Brazil previously hosted World Environmental Day in 1992 on the eve of the first Earth Summit when leaders across the globe met to refocus and deliver on the Road Map towards Sustainable Development.

In Namibia, as I have already mentioned, the organisation to celebrate the World Environmental Day is led by the Environmental Investment Fund in conjunction with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. The corporate gala dinner I mentioned above is a celebration whereby we will bring together corporate business communities and provide them with a platform to support Namibia's political commitment and path towards a

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

green economy.

The statement of the Head of State, His Excellency Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba, to be delivered at this national commemoration, will also highlight the forthcoming Rio-Plus 20 World Summit on Sustainable Development, Namibia's position on the green economy and the public-private sector investment in the sustainable renewable energy. Across the country several events are planned, including Coastal Biodiversity Week, which started from the 3rd to the 9th June at the coast. Multiple activities are being implemented by various stakeholders under the coordination of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism through the Namibia Coastal Biodiversity Conservation Management Project (NACOMA). The overall aim of the Coastal Biodiversity Week is to enhance further awareness, understanding, appreciation of marine and coastal biodiversity issues under the theme, "*Green Economy – Does it Include You?*"

The main event today is the Exhibition on Marine Biodiversity at Swakopmund Municipality Information Centre in commemoration of this important day.

At Ondangwa today an event is being held at Extension 7 behind Oyetu Shopping Complex in commemoration of this day. This event is jointly hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, particularly the Northern Namibia Forest Community and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and other stakeholders, the Governor of the Oshana Region, Honourable Clemens Kashuupulwa, will be the guest speaker. The event is aimed to sensitise the communities and to raise awareness on the subject of green economy.

Honourable Speaker, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio-Plus 20, will take place in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil from 20 to 22 June this year. Rio-Plus 20 is the name suggested having been exactly 20 years after the first Earth Summit in 1992 in the same city. The conference will be attended at the highest possible level and Namibia's delegation will be led by our President, His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba.

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HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

The Commemoration of the World Environmental Day Globally takes place exactly two weeks before the Rio Plus 20 Summit. This is pertinent as both events will focus on the theme, “*Green Economy and its Relevance to Sustainable Development.*” The celebration for the World Environmental Day today both in Brazil and elsewhere will amplify global awareness and understanding of the Green Economy Agenda and will ensure that a collective position and commitment to sustainable development is reached at Rio Plus 20.

The theme for today, “*Green Economy – Does it Include You?*” is befitting as it relates to the understanding of the subject of green economy and, secondly, to the human development aspect of the green economy debate. Those are issues that we intend to discuss with the corporate community tonight so that we have a national consensus on the green economy path for Namibia. Those are some of the issues highlighted in the African Consensus Report for Rio Plus 20, which states that although Africa countries welcome a transition towards greener economies, there is a need for further dialogue and clarity on how green economy can enhance African economies and improve the well-being of its people.

Honourable Speaker, Namibia’s commitment to sustainable development is a constitutional requirement, as highlighted in Article 95 of our Constitution and I quote: “*The State shall actively promote and maintain the welfare of the people by adopting, inter alia, policies aimed at maintenance of ecosystem, essential ecological process and biological diversity of Namibia and the utilisation of living natural resources on a sustainable base for the benefit of all Namibians, both present and future. In particular, the Government shall provide measures against the dumping or recycling of foreign nuclear and toxic waste on the Namibian territory.*”

In line with the constitutional provision, the Government of the Republic of Namibia, through the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, has put in place various policies and legal frameworks for environmental management, biodiversity conservation for sustainable development. Worth noting is Namibia’s Environmental Management Act of 2007 which sets forth a guiding principle and institutional framework for

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

managing Namibia's fragile environment. The Environmental Management Act calls for the establishment of a Sustainable Development Advisory Council, a body to be appointed by the Minister to promote the coordination and cooperation on environmental issues among Government institutions, NGOs, community-based organisations, the private sector and funding agencies. The names of the private sector stakeholders nominated to serve in this body have already been received and very soon the body will start its operations.

The appointment of the Environmental Commission, as required by the Environmental Act, has been completed. The Environmental Commissioner will perform a critical role of enforcing the Environmental Management Act with the power to search, seize and issue compliance orders when someone is violating the law.

Honourable Speaker, this year's celebrations in Namibia comes after the Namibian Parliament allocated over N\$30 million to capitalise the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia, a Fund set out under Namibia's legal framework to raise funds for investment in environment. This financial instrument presents a critical resource mechanism for us to achieve a low carbon, resource sufficiency and job creation through green economy for Namibia.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to inform this Honourable House about Namibia's bid to host the United Nations Green Climate Fund Secretariat under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Namibia is among the six countries bidding to host this Fund.

The other countries are Germany, Mexico, Poland, South Korea and Switzerland.

Climate change is a global problem as we all know. It requires a global response from all of us, both developed and developing countries. Its effects continue to negatively impact on our lives and Namibia is one of those countries which are vulnerable to the impact of climate change. We therefore attach great importance to the platform where those issues are

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

discussed and that is why over the years we have been active on the activities of the UNFCCC negotiation process.

Honourable Speaker, the Green Climate Fund was established by the Cancun Decision reached in Mexico at its 16th Conference of Parties that took place in December 2010. The Fund will be kept alive by the money which has to be available by the developed countries in order to support developing countries to cope with the impact of climate change and it is decided that by the 2020, US\$ 100 billion should be made available to the Fund.

At COP 17 parties agreed to operationalise the Fund and member States were invited to indicate their interest to host the Fund and it is based on that, that Namibia has expressed her interest. As a Nation we are ready to host the Fund here in Windhoek if opportunity is given and this is a decision of the Namibian Cabinet. Our country has a conducive legal environment which will facilitate the protection of the Fund and interests and the ability for it to exercise its functions and fully fulfil its objectives.

Furthermore, Namibia offers a well-working environment for the officials of the Fund. The core objective of the Fund is to mobilise financial resources, as I mentioned earlier, from the developed countries to support programmes of developing countries related to climate change. We thus feel that since the Fund will cater for the needs of developing countries, that Fund must be located in Africa where the majority of the climate change victims are found. Also, if the Green Climate Fund is to be based in Africa in general and Namibia in particular, it would help to balance the location of the United Nations environmental representation which is currently predominantly based outside the African continent. It is, therefore, necessary that Namibians, in particular Members of Parliament, be part of the lobby group for Namibia to host the Green Climate Fund Secretariat.

Finally, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the world today is fighting mounting crises and in recent years we have experienced a combination of global financial crises, food insecurity, volatile oil prices, escalating ecosystem degradation and ever-increasing climate related

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

calamities such as floods and drought. Those multiple and inter-related crises caution to question the ability of the world's population to live in harmony with nature and demand an amplified commitment towards sustainable development, driven through green economy as a tool for sustainable development and poverty alleviation.

Therefore, the Rio Plus 20 Summit for Sustainable Development comes at the right time for us to discuss, recommit and at the same time secure highest political commitment and action. Yes, I know not all of us will be present at the Summit, but all Namibians have a perfect position to influence Namibia's delegation that will attend. I am inviting all Namibians, wherever they are, to find their way to join the celebration of the World Environmental Day.

Comrade Speaker, I would want to end with your first and your last sentences in this Chamber this afternoon by congratulating Joyce Banda for having taken that important position in Malawi as the first female Head of State in our region and also to congratulate our Deputy Speaker and our Chief Whip for their election when they attended the last Pan-African Parliament. I thank you for your attention.

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

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:23

**RESUMPTION MOTION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF BASIC
POOR HOUSEHOLD INCOME GRANT**

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**BASIC POOR HOUSEHOLD INCOME GRANT
HON SHIXWAMENI**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on implementation of Basic Poor Household Income Grant.

HON SPEAKER: When this Assembly adjourned on Tuesday, 24 April 2012, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Shixwameni, that the Motion be adopted. Honourable Shixwameni adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would like to join you, Honourable Speaker, in congratulating our Deputy Speaker and Prof Peter Katjavivi for having been elected into responsible positions at PAP, which is good for our country. Keep it up. In the same vein I would like to say that just as we debate at the Pan-African Parliament, that is what Parliament is all about, to debate and talk about issues that affect our people and to see how to resolve it. That is why I Move Motions and ask questions because we need to debate and engage. I believe that the people who are governing need to be in regular touch with their communities.

I would like to thank the Honourable Members who participated in the Debate, namely *Honourable Tjihuiko, Honourable Kazenambo* and others and also those who supported the Motion silently because I know that there are people in this House that support the Basic Income Grant.

For me it is a special honour to mention *Dr Hage Geingob*, the Minister of Trade and Industry, because he has been contributing his own personal income to the Omitara-Otjivero Basic Income Grant. It is not necessary that we need to know everybody's position, but it is still good to know that across the isle there are people who basically support me. Maybe this is not yet the ideal time, but I still believe that in the future this will be an idea that needs to be embraced, because when reading today's newspaper I was shocked to read that we are being graded the sixth unequal income country in the world. That to me is tantamount to the sixth miserable

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country to live in in the world, this Namibia, beaten only by Zimbabwe. Therefore, the issues that we are discussing on the Floor are issues that are real, are issues that exist and issues that we all need to take very seriously.

I still think it is a missed historical opportunity that we had, that as parliamentarians who are supposed to debate an issue, we have freaked out and decided somewhere in a corner that we are not going to debate this important issue for the Nation, but decided to close the Debate. However, for the time being, let us leave it at that, the issue has been ignored, but the Fifth Parliament will be known for one thing and I would like to leave it to history, the biggest judge of all judges, that history will judge this Parliament that when an important issue like the Basic Income Grant was put on the Table, we as national leaders freaked out. I hope we would be able to live with our consciences.

The issue of poverty needs many responses by Government. TIPEEG is not going to solve the problem, I can guarantee you that not in our lifetime will TIPEEG alone solve our problem. It needs a multi-pronged approach to poverty eradication in this country. I am still convinced that as a resource-rich country, poverty can be eradicated during our lifetime in this country, it is only for us to apply our minds and for us to see what other measures should we take to make sure that poverty in this resource-rich country with its many poor people is eradicated at the end of the day. To me that is the biggest concern in this country. We can bail out so many companies, Air Namibia, TransNamib and throw millions to them, but as long as we do not throw those millions to the poor people in order to lift them out of poverty, we are not doing the best that we could do.

We can therefore not be here as a Parliament and as a Government only for the rich and for the institutions that are able to sustain themselves whilst our parents and families are living in squatter camps. It is time for Government to put its act together to make sure that we address poverty. But I give the Prime Minister the benefit of the doubt, because he appealed to me that Government is busy working on something to address this particular issue and as a revolutionary gentleman I would like to give the other side of the House the benefit of the doubt that we would really be working on addressing poverty and unemployment in a very serious

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manner.

With these few remarks, Honourable Speaker, I hope that we would still be united in finding solutions to the questions of poverty and unemployment in our land and I now Move that the Motion be withdrawn as per the request of many other Colleagues who have asked me that we should not be divided. Therefore, let us be united in our march towards the elimination of poverty and unemployment in our land. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: With the understanding of the Mover of the Motion and the Government side, I ask the House to agree that the Motion be withdrawn. Agreed to? The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

MOTION ON ALCOHOL ABUSE

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on the Abuse of Alcohol in Namibia.

HON SPEAKER: When the Assembly adjourned on Tuesday, 24 April 2012 in terms of Rule 90(a) of the Standing Rules and Orders, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Ulenga, that the Motion be adopted. Any further discussion? Honourable Ankama.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I would like to welcome everybody back to the Chamber.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to participate in this well-talked about Motion on alcohol. Basically alcohol is a man-made substance and can be dangerous if abused and carelessly dispensed. However, historically alcoholic beverages have served as sources of needed nutrients and have been widely used for their medicinal, antiseptic and analogistic properties. The role of such beverages to quench thirst is obvious and they play an important role in enhancing the enjoyment and quality of life. They can be a social lubricant, can facilitate relaxation, can provide pharmacological pleasure and it can increase the pleasure of eating. That is why you like wine with meals. (Laughter)

Thus, while alcohol has always been misused by a minority of drinkers, it has proven to be beneficial to most. Just as those who spoke before me have alluded to, alcoholic beverages, as literature reveals, are almost as old as humankind and civilisation. For example, David J. Hanson, Ph.D., quotes Lucia “*who writes that wine clearly appeared as a finished product in Egyptian pictographs around 4,000 before Christ and in other nations around the world earlier than that*”. It is stated that production of alcoholic beverages is common in many cultures and often reflects their cultural and religious peculiarities as much as their geographical and sociological conditions. This we know very well. This clearly tells us that alcoholic beverages have evolved around us for many, many years.

The only distinction we can make here is that each group of people brew their own different types of alcoholic beverages, influenced by their products, use, climatic conditions and scientific knowledge, etcetera. *Katcazu, tombo, ombike, Okandjembo, Mundevere* and many others.

The history of alcoholic beverages reveals that during the early modern period, 1500 to 1800 B.C., Protestant leaders such as Martin Luther, John Calvin, the leaders of the Anglican Church and even the Puritans did not differ substantially from the teachings of the Catholic Church on alcohol. They all viewed alcohol as a gift from God. (Intervention)

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HON KAURA: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? I want to find out whether the Honourable Member goes for Holy Communion and whether when he goes for Holy Communion he takes wine in church.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you very much, Honourable Kaura, I am Catholic and Catholics do not take wine during the Holy Communion.

All these leaders, including the Catholic Church, all viewed alcohol as a gift of God. (Intervention)

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, on a serious Point of Order. Although I am the Mover of the Motion, I would like you to allow a quick correction of those figures that the Honourable Member mentioned, so that it is not written into the record that Martin Luther lived 1500 B.C. Martin Luther was a Christian, he lived after Christ.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Basically what they say here is that alcohol has been in existence before those years, not them being there. Alcohol was enjoyed around the world during that time.

The leaders of the church all view alcohol as a gift from God and created to be used in moderation for pleasure, enjoyment and health. However, drunkenness was regarded as a sin.

Honourable Members, giving a history of alcoholic beverages in the Western world, a certain Professor Bert L. Valle writes: “*Today ethol alcohol is a multifaceted entity, it may be a social lubricant, sophisticated dining companion, cardiovascular health benefactor or agent of destruction, just as we use it.*” The amount of alcohol that we use will

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definitely lead to something else. *“Throughout most of Western world or civilisation’s history, however alcohol had a far different role. For most of the past 10 millenia, alcoholic beverages may have been the most popular and common daily drink, an indispensable source of fluids and calories. In a world of contaminated and dangerous water supplies, alcohol truly earned the life granted in it during the Middle Ages as aqua vitae or the water of life.”* Many people have different names for alcoholic beverages, particularly when they socialise *“Water of mortality”*.

In Namibia, without going into the chronology of how with the Western origin alcoholic beverages entered the country, many of us are aware of the types of alcoholic brews culturally our ancestors as well as the present generation produce. In fact, it is some of us who propel the demand for more brewers to produce. When you drink more, the brewer will do more.

The situation is worsened by the Western alcoholic beverages that are brewed in large quantities, accompanied by inductive adverts, deceiving flavours and enticing money-winning competitions, thereby tempting both young and old people into uncontrolled, in most cases, illegal and greedy consumption. The more they drink, the more the brewers produce and they even go to the extent of having competitions so that you can win. To win you have to buy and drink. As this happens, alcohol enslaves many as they become addicted and Professor Bert L. Vallee tells the research findings of two graduates of the Edinburgh College of Medicine, Thomas Trotter and Benjamin Rush, who published a thesis on drunkenness in the early 1800’s.

Understandably they saw alcoholism as a chronic, life-threatening disease and recognised that habitual and prolonged consumption of hard liquor causes liver diseases, accompanied by jaundice, wasting and mental dysfunction, evident even when the patient was sober. That tells you how dangerous alcohol can be.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, factual abuse and effects of alcoholic beverages in Namibia are evident. *“Swakopmund Council Acts Against Drunken Workers”*, the *Namibian* reports on the 13th of May

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2005, that employees and contract workers of the Swakopmund Municipality would be subject to random alcohol testing from June 1. The Town Council approved guidelines at its monthly meeting at the end of April, meaning that they realised that alcohol consumption is on the increase. This means employees will be subjected to random testing at 08:00 and 14:00 every day. The Council approved an alcohol and drug abuse prevention policy in April 2000 when the problem of staff members reporting to work while under the influence of alcohol became more serious. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: May I ask a question? Honourable Member, do you support the prohibition which was implemented by the colonial South African Government, prohibiting black people from drinking whisky, brandy, wine and beer, totally prohibiting black people from drinking those liquors? Do you support that?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Comrade Speaker, the question is not directed to me, that should be directed to himself and to other drinkers. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Ankama, it is a legitimate question. Just find a way to respond to it. I know the implication is hefty, but the question is valid.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: It is a legitimate question, I agree, but whether I as a person agree or do not agree, that would not have any meaning. It was prohibited by law. Who made the law? I would probably say that whether to drink or not to drink is an individual issue.

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New Era of 15 March 2005 also said that: “*Alcohol abuse is said to be one of the most serious problems at the University of Namibia main campus in Windhoek.*” That tells you there are individuals who are using alcohol excessively and ***Namibia a nation of boozers.*** The *Namibian* reported in 2002 that more than half of all Namibian adults consume an average of ten litres of alcohol per week, while two in five are smokers. Whether there was research on this I cannot tell. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: Is it possible that the Deputy Minister could provide us with an alternative to limit the use of alcohol? That would be better than mere talking.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Honourable Speaker, the *Namibian* daily also quotes a study published in August 2009 which states that: “*One of the two factors that are likely drivers in the HIV pandemic in Namibia is alcohol consumption.*” Now alcohol is linked to HIV contraction. This is closely linked to prevalence of people having sexual relationships with more than one partner at the same time. The findings clearly show that people who drink are more likely to have casual sexual relationships and not use condoms. The paper says: “*Research has further shown that the concept of drinking in moderation is uncommon in Namibia.*” Whether this is true or not, I cannot tell. It seems that we drink more than expected. “*Most informants who drink alcohol do so to get drunk, while several informants describe drinking to get happy.*” (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: If you are not in favour of alcohol, when are you going to close your shebeen?

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:

Honourable Moongo, you have Uukumwe and you sell a lot of alcohol. It is individuals who should decide to drink. If they are drinking in moderation, that is fine. That is why the breweries are there, otherwise the breweries would not be there.

It is no secret that many of us talk about excessive use of alcohol in Namibia and there are laws and policies regulating the dispensing and the use of alcoholic substances. The questions are: Are the enforcement agencies weak to do the job or are there loopholes realised, but not brought to this august House for panel-beating? The law is there, but does it mean that we should drink beyond our limits and does it mean that we should be open beyond the normal hours? Are we perhaps culprits in enacting binding laws that can help regulate the acquisition and abuse of alcoholic beverages? In essence I mean, do we see the danger of alcohol and if so, how do we go about regulating these laws to make sure that people use alcohol moderately? With some breweries in the country, have we done enough to task them to take a visible and practical responsibility? (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? There is a warning on the bottle, “*Not for sale to people under the age of 18*”. Would you support that advert to be changed to “*Not for sale to people already under the influence of alcohol?*”

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:

Honourable Nambahu, that is a very good question and I think if we were equipped with breathalyser at the outlets to test them, but just by looking at a person, you would not be able to do that.

I am saying, with some breweries in the country, have we done enough to task them to take a visible and practical responsibility on the causes of

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their products on our people and the disposal of the containers of their products to avoid polluting the environment?

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, we have a great challenge to direct this august House on the above subject and it is my feeling that laws that do not work be strengthened to effect full control and protection of our people from alcohol abuse. As a Nation we must drink responsibly. In actual fact, if you look at what is happening on our roads, many of the accidents that are taking place are caused by drivers who are under the influence of alcohol. Therefore, it is a challenge and the collective responsibility and we all have the duty to see how we can clamp down on this evil. I submit.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I cannot agree more with the statistics on the use of alcohol in our society. Alcohol and drug abuse are identical. Once a person starts abusing alcohol, he will eventually start testing drugs, such as tobacco, marijuana and other dangerous ones.

Alcohol and drug abuse has reached very serious proportions amongst our youth and as lawmakers who want to save the future of this Nation we have to do something. We have laws, but to enforce those laws sometimes become problematic for the law enforcement agencies because as a Nation we do not support the Police.

When the Honourable Member was making his statement here, I was just thinking that the issue here is not how much the breweries and distillers are producing, but it is a question of self-control, a question of changing our social mode of life.

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I remember in the past one would seldom see a young person with alcohol in the hand and drinking. It used to be an embarrassment, a shame, but today it has become fashion even for a young girl to be dancing or walking in the street with a bottle of alcohol in her hand. It seems to be the fashion, but in the end it destroys our social cohesion.

When one opens any newspaper today, you would find several cases as a result of alcohol and drug abuse. Suspects on trial always cite alcohol and drugs as the cause for their actions. In this newspaper there are five cases as a result of alcohol and drug abuse – murder cases, drunken driving and many other things. These are problems for which we seriously need to find a remedy to.

Alcohol can definitely not be ruled out as one of the factors contributing to the spread of HIV/AIDS. It can be a major contributing factor and I want to substantiate that. When a person is under the influence of alcohol, he can no longer appreciate his actions and feels that he is stronger than anybody on this planet. Some even think that they are stronger than God and can even jump in a river to wrestle with a crocodile, because their condition causes them not to appreciate the danger. Therefore, alcohol and drug abuse is the biggest contributing factor to all the illicit things happening in our society. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: Honourable Speaker, I want to inform the Honourable Member that he is the Deputy Minister of Youth and if the youth are not given jobs, they would have no alternative than to drink. Please do not blame others, blame yourself as the Deputy Minister responsible for youth and to provide work for the youth in order to be responsible youth and not to drink.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE,
SPORT AND CULTURE:** I take note of your attack, Honourable Member, and I want to remind the Honourable Member that when we

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have a Debate like this one, we must be serious. You cannot tell that a person drinks as a result of unemployment. It is like a person who raped somebody and says he raped because he does not have employment. We must be serious when we debate issues like these. It has to do with the future of this Nation and we have to remedy the situation. What is the connection between alcohol abuse and unemployment?

When a person continues abusing alcohol, his body depreciates and he will not be able to get employment. You yourself would not employ a drunkard at Uukumwe. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Speaker, may I ask a question? Honourable Shifeta, are you aware that in history the most people who died as a result of the abuse of alcohol and drugs are multi-millionaires who did not need employment?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Yes, as was said, it is a personal choice, a person chooses to become a drunkard. I have never attended the funeral of a person who died because he could not drink alcohol, but I attended many funerals of people who abused alcohol to the extent that alcohol abuse caused their deaths. Most of these people were employed and some of them were rich. Therefore I do not see the connection between unemployment and alcohol abuse. Let us not mislead our people, let us tell our people the reality.

Honourable Ankama gave some statistics and it is very important to understand that by allowing the use of alcohol, it does not mean that people should destroy themselves. That is why there are laws. We have a law prohibiting the consumption of alcohol by under-aged persons (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Just a question and a recommendation. Comrade Deputy Minister, as the custodian of culture and the Honourable Member there as the custodian of tradition, do you not think it is time that you come together and work out a strategy to curb the abuse of alcohol which is a common enemy, destroying your traditional values and undermining your cultural values? Do you not think it would be good that you meet outside and work out some strategy?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: That is a very good suggestion. Why we can nowadays not enforce the laws is because even Traditional Leaders have Cuca Shops and shebeens where they sell alcohol. In the Bible Jesus turned water into wine, but Jesus never said drink and get drunk. No, it is for people to enjoy and control themselves. There is nothing wrong with taking alcohol, but the problem is that we are not assisting the law enforcement agencies to enforce our laws and we as lawmakers are probably not helping the situation so that we are in control.

I remember one time when the Police Officers were closing shebeens, some of the shebeen owners were camping in front of Parliament, slaughtering oxen here just because the Police limited the operating hours of their shebeens as per the law. We want to have a society where people are drinking for 24 hours and we feel that is in order, but we are betraying the generation to come. We are making money at the moment, but forgetting the future generation.

We have been talking to the Traditional Leaders about shebeens and alcohol outlets allowing school kids to buy alcohol. Those benefiting from the sale of alcohol have blinded us to the extent that we do not look at the future of our children. People do not sit at the Holy Fire like in the past anymore, because the parents come home in the middle of the night and the children come home anytime they want to or they do not even study at home because there are no parents at home supervising. These are the realities of the day. Any day after work you would find shebeens full of Civil Servants and workers drinking. It is no more a question of

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Friday to Sunday, it is now from Monday to Monday. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: May I ask a question? Are you aware that the reason why the members of the DTA Youth want change in the DTA leadership is because the Vice-President is never at the Head Office, he is always at the shebeen selling alcohol?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: That I cannot really confirm. What I can confirm is that the Honourable Member have bars and shebeens, but I cannot confirm that he is always there, but he must be there occasionally.

HON SPEAKER: Can the Minister then rephrase that he attends to his business at the venue? Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: I think you are misinformed. When the youth come there, the Uukumwe shebeen can support them with finance and help them to make a good living and enjoy.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: We blame the youth when they commit crime, they do not perform at school, but you are happy, saying they are enjoying themselves. (Intervention)

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HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Honourable Moongo, is a very difficult person to understand. He stands up in this House and he speaks of good behaviour that is expected of citizens, especially to respect Traditional Leaders because of the good manners that Traditional Leaders want to instil in the population, but when the shebeen owners come here again he asks Honourable Members of this House why the Honourable Members cannot let people go ahead with their shebeens, how do you expect your good citizen in your village to behave if you at the same time support them to be drunkards? It is a contradiction. (Interjection)

HON MOONGO: You will never see anybody drunk there. If you do not lose the historical respect for your Traditional Leaders, you will never find anybody drunk.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE,
SPORT AND CULTURE:** I want to end my speech now. (Intervention)

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL
WELFARE:** May I ask a question? You made reference to the future generations and the effects of alcohol, are you aware that it was medically and scientifically proven that children born of parents who abuse alcohol are born with mental deficiencies and are you aware of the ghastly complications of a future generation of halfwits.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE,
SPORT AND CULTURE:** Yes, I have come across such information and I also want to further state that not only that, alcohol and drug abuse are contributing factors to the disintegration of families. Most of the children making a living on the streets today are as a result of family disintegration.

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Some parents either got fired or just left their jobs because of alcohol and now you see children living on the streets. Some of them will tell you that the father or the mother is just drinking and there is no food at home.

These are the serious consequences and as lawmakers we really have to start supporting the law enforcement agencies. The laws are there and we need to start taking drastic steps and as politicians from different Political Parties we must impress upon our members to refrain from excessive drinking. Together with the Traditional Leaders we must start discussing the future of our children, because if we allow what is happening now to continue, it will be worse after ten years and we will not have anybody performing at school academically. (Intervention)

HON KAPIA: On a Point of Information. Honourable Speaker, this afternoon Honourable Moongo made a statement here in relation to what we are discussing, trying to accuse the Government of the Republic of Namibia. When the Police are trying to enforce the law that on public holidays the shebeens must be closed, Honourable Moongo is against that and he said the Government is becoming autocratic. What do you expect from a Traditional Leader, a Member of Parliament, a vice-president of an Opposition Party? We are making laws here, but the same Members of Parliament oppose the implementation of those laws. What is this? When Honourable Shifeta said we must be serious when discussing this issue, these are some of the things we have to discuss with sensitivity. This issue of alcohol abuse is very serious and if we make jokes to score political points by saying the Government is bad because it is closing the shebeens on public holidays, we are making a serious mistake. Therefore, we must refrain from some of these statements and be serious with the discussion on the Table so that we find a solution to help the future of our citizens.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE,
SPORT AND CULTURE:** Thank you, Comrade Kapia, that was well

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said, self-explanatory. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: I think the Colleague does not know the law, that is why he does not understand what the Liquor Act states. The Act says they can be open until 24:00 and now you are saying it should be closed completely. The law was passed here.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Honourable Member, if you want to say something, just request the Floor. I am saying that our actions may compromise the future generations to come unless we start becoming serious. If some Honourable Members are the ones who are now advocating 24 hours of drinking, that people should drink 24 hours. The statistics are clear, if people consume so many litres of alcohol, we will definitely have a problem with productivity. That would have a serious impact on our social fabric and our economy, because people will not be productive. If they start drinking after 17:00, do you think they will be productive tomorrow at work? Honourable Speaker, I rest my case. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nyamu.

HON NYAMU: Honourable Speaker, first and foremost, I would like to thank the Colleague who introduced this very important Motion in time and in space. I want to join those Colleagues who are serious when they discuss this matter and not the jokers, who are turning this very important subject into partisan petty politics. This matter is very serious and it affects everybody regardless of social standing or political association. It is a national calamity we are facing and this is the time for us to act as Members of Parliament and come out with practical proposals, measures

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to be taken how to combat this very serious issue we are facing.

Honourable Speaker, the issue does not require studies. It is not an issue which requires professors, researchers, we see it and we know what is happening in our country. We see it daily in our villages, our towns, our settlements. We see that the country is sinking slowly, sinking into the ocean of alcohol abuse. We may be on top of the list in Africa in terms of alcohol abuse. We may be number one or number two.

Other countries in the world, Russia included and our neighbour, Botswana, have realised the dangers of alcoholism in their countries and they have decided to take practical measures to address the problem. This is not an issue of shouting, you can shout as loud as you can, but if you do not take practical measures, alcohol abuse will continue. Alcoholism, if you will, is a disease and each disease needs treatment. You cannot just shout at an alcoholic, "*stop drinking*" because the person is sick and needs medical care.

The effect of alcoholism is obvious. Some Colleagues referred to the effects on labour. Sure, labour output is affected by alcoholism. Our educational performance is affected by alcoholism, because sometimes teachers as well as students go to classes drunk. The poverty we are speaking about is exacerbated by alcoholism. Families are indebted because they borrow money to drink while they do not have food to eat in the first instance. This is a very serious matter.

I have criss-crossed this country and found that the entire country is affected, some places more than others, but by and large the whole society is affected by this serious disease.

As I mentioned earlier, it is not an issue of finding more statistics, the issue is what we do now from here. I think we should propose that the Government sets up a very high council on alcoholism, consisting of a cross-section of society, including faith-based institutions which are present in every village in this country, to help with education against alcoholism, but mainly rehabilitation. The Government will be a partner because it can provide resources. We must save lives, we must save the

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future of our children and our grandchildren and as I said, we need to put up some kind of a council. There may already be other people trying to combat this calamity, but we need to have a coordinated effort, something very high profile, maybe in the Office of the Prime Minister or even the Office of the President.

Political Parties in this country also have a responsibility to fight alcoholism, but you know what? At every shebeen you see a Party flag, mainly SWAPO Party flags. What does that mean? (Interjections) No, I am talking the truth, you either listen or you shut up. This suggests... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: On a Point of Order. Is it allowed for somebody to say we must not politicise this issue, we must not be partisan, but then doing exactly that? Honourable Nyamu, why do you not just continue with the good start you have made? Do not be allergic to SWAPO Party colours, leave it out, that would never make one to drink.

HON NYAMU: I am speaking the truth and when it comes to that, nobody can shut me up. There are Party flags on every shebeen or the majority of shebeens and we know which Party flags these are, which suggests one or two things: Either that most of the shebeens are owned by supporters or leaders of that Party or... (Intervention)

HON DINGARA: I am trying to understand the Honourable Member, because he said at the beginning that a person speaking on this topic will be seen not being serious, as making jokes if he is partisan and he now ventures into the same. Does it mean that he is also not serious?

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HON NYAMU**

HON NYAMU: For the sake of my Colleagues I will not mention the Party by name, but I will talk about the abuse of Party flags at places like shebeens, which suggests that we are using the shebeens as centres of mobilisation. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:
Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question?

Does the Member on the Floor feel threatened by the SWAPO Party colours? If you feel threatened, why should you look at the flags which are threatening you?

HON NYAMU: Do I feel threatened? No. After all, I carried those colours longer than you have ever carried them, so they are not a threat to me, but I just want to warn leaders that you do not have to use shebeens to mobilise people. It is wrong. The majority of the shebeens have the flag and I think it is probably mutual understanding that if I host the flag, you will give me a tender. It seems like part of corruption. Otherwise what do they benefit by hoisting your flag? And it is not only your flag, any flag. Anybody who hoists these flags on shebeens is enhancing what we want combat here, namely the spread of alcoholism. I know my Colleagues who are very intelligent and sensible in the main Party will start instructing their people to stop hoisting Party flags at shebeens.

Honourable Speaker, I am still asking the Colleagues to ensure that before this Debate is closed, we come out with a resolution which will enable the Government and the rest of us to come up with the machinery on how to combat this disease.

Honourable Speaker, I have concluded my submission.

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HON MOONGO: I just wanted to state that the reason they talk about Uukumwe all the time in this House is because there is no flag of SWAPO hoisted at Uukumwe. If there were SWAPO flags at Uukumwe, they would have supported it, but now they are against it. I support my Colleague when he says we should avoid hoisting flags at shebeens.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable Bezuidenhoudt.

HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: Honourable Speaker, my contribution will be very brief. When it comes to this issue of alcohol abuse, we may sit with a dilemma as a country. On the one side you have these powerful lobby groups that have invested heavily in the production of alcohol and using the proceeds to further enhance and glorify its use, to the extent of the abuse of alcohol. On the other hand, we have the State that generates tax income lawfully from the sale of alcohol and as a society we are caught in the middle and we as legislators must come up with regulations to get an even balance between the lobby groups and the abuse of alcohol.

When it comes to the cost of alcohol abuse, not the cost of alcohol use, the cost of alcohol abuse can be measured in the productivity of the country, it can be measured in the cost to our health system and our law-enforcement agencies.

HON SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned until tomorrow afternoon, 14:30

HOUSE ADJOURNS AG 17:40 UNTIL 2012.06.06 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
06 JUNE 2012**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

**TABLING: REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEE
ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS ON REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-
GENERAL**

HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table for discussion the following two Reports:

1. Report on the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts on the Review of the Auditor-General's Reports of the State-Owned Enterprises for the Financial Years ended 31 March 2006, 2007 and 2008, respectively; and
2. Report on the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts on the Review of the Auditor-General's Reports of the Central Government for the Financial Years ended 31 March 2007 and 2008, respectively.

This particular Report was already tabled in October 2011, but because it was not discussed, it lapsed and it is being re-tabled.

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**NOTICE OF MOTION
HON VON WIETERSHEIM**

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Reports? Any further Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Honourable Von Wietersheim.

NOTICE OF MOTION

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 7 June, I shall Move –

That this Assembly –

Debates the steady deterioration of health services in Namibia, in general, and the alarming increase in maternal mortalities and baby deaths, in particular, and makes appropriate recommendations to the President to call the responsible Minister to account and have a turnaround strategy implemented in order to improve the general effectiveness of health services and to prevent the continuation of the maternal death spiral and baby deaths experienced during the last couple of years.

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

ADDRESS BY DEPUTY SPEAKER

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not a Minister, I do not belong to the

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**ADDRESS BY DEPUTY SPEAKER
HON KASINGO**

Executive component, but I would like to make a parliamentary statement.

I stand to express a word of thanks and appreciation for being elected as the third Vice-President of the Pan-African Parliament.

First of all I have to start with my team who vigorously campaigned for me day and night. My team consists of Professor Katjavivi who is a diplomat, who with his diplomacy and character advised me. It also goes to Honourable Sibalatani from the National Council, who is quiet but focused and also drew other members to vote for me. It goes to Honourable Tjihuike whom we all know belongs to NUDO and mentioned to some of us that there is no way he would leave NUDO to join SWAPO, but who is a person who showed patriotism, not only at PAP but also when I led a delegation to the Dominican Republic. When it comes to the interest of the State, he is there. He is a strategist, a tactician and the one who has gone through my statement and advised me what to say and what not. Lastly is the youngest among us who has the capacity to draw people from the caucus up to the national level. Honourable !Nawases-Taeyele went abroad and accumulated support within the whole continent of Africa. She is the one who said, *“I know you do not drink wine, but this is the time to drink wine.”* I have to thank you.

I also thank Parliament for their support and the whole of the SWAPO Caucus. My election could not have happened without the Party who elected me to this Parliament - SWAPO. Above all, I have to thank the State and the State is not a geographical entity, there are people within the State, from the Head of State to the Prime Minister to everybody who is here, because those colleagues who were involved in putting the name of Namibia on the map have done a good job. I also thank the whole Namibian Nation because it is different to fight for the liberation a country and it is also different to of keep the peace in a country. Namibia has a good democracy and I have to thank all of you. Thank you so much and I am looking forward to your support in my new portfolio and I have no doubt that you will support me.

I want to thank all the Colleagues from whom I have received messages of congratulations and such position is not for a person, it is very good for

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HON BEZUIDENHOUDT**

the country and I am looking forward to your assistance.

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

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE:
MOTION ON ALCOHOL ABUSE**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Alcohol Abuse in Namibia.

HON SPEAKER: When the Assembly adjourned on Tuesday, 1 June 2012, in terms of Rule 90, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Ulenga, that the Motion be adopted. Honourable Bezuidenhoudt had the Floor and he may now continue.

HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Just to recap shortly, yesterday I started off by saying that in this situation we seek solutions for the challenge we sit with where we have quite a forceful, strong lobby group who would go as far as to glorify the consumption of alcohol through advertisements. I touched on the cost of not having a strategy, just allowing it to continue as is, the cost to our health system, the cost to our society, road accidents, etcetera.

Just to conclude, I would suggest that we look at a couple of remedies, the first one being education, education and education and particularly to have a campaign to educate the youth to see what is in alcohol so that it can be used responsibly. That can also be through sensitisation and be funded by the liquor industry itself.

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When it comes to the Assembly, the relevant Ministry responsible for the Liquor Act could consider some Amendments or suggestions, that when a person is responsible for an accident and the evidence reveals that there was a strong presence of alcohol and if any citizen died in the accident, it should not be culpable homicide or reckless driving, but actually murder until proven otherwise, so that we have a strong deterrent in the law for drunken driving.

The last one is to invest in rehabilitation centres for both alcohol and drugs and again these can be funded through a levy or contributions by the liquor industry itself. With these few remarks, I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Von Wietersheim.

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Allow me to commend the Mover, Honourable Ulenga, for tabling this Motion.

Many of the ills of our country are caused or aggravated by excessive alcohol consumption. Much of the social fabric of Namibia has been disrupted or destroyed completely by alcohol abuse, causing, amongst others, irresponsible sexual behaviour, resulting in increased spreading of HIV/AIDS, in unintended pregnancies, collapse of family structures, violence mainly affecting women and children and general neglect of children, serious injuries or loss of lives due to fighting after drinking and in car accidents due to driving under the influence of alcohol.

Direct consequence, besides the social disruption, are an overwhelming number of emergency and trauma cases in our hospitals, especially over weekends, and the substantial loss of productivity so dearly required for our economic advancement.

What is to be done was the question. Unfortunately we have role models

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of high standing in our society who are creating a wrong impression of alcohol consumption “*being cool*” or even worse, over-indulging in alcohol themselves, such as a Deputy Prosecutor General being arrested on suspicion of drunken driving or a Permanent Secretary who was arrested in March 2008 also on suspicion of drunken driving and refused a breathalyser test, then refused to submit a blood sample at the hospital and subsequently failed to appear for his hearings in Swakopmund repeatedly for nearly four years. Eventually he decided to attend court in February this year and pleaded guilty to negligent driving only, which he was sentenced for, while the prosecution withdrew all other charges, including drunken driving, refusing a breathalyser test and failing to submit a blood sample.

Why am I citing these cases besides demonstrating how some role models in our society are behaving or rather misbehaving and getting away with it? Because this also demonstrates the most significant overall failure in our country’s administration, namely the lack of accountability and, in this particular instance, the lack of enforcement of laws, rules and regulations.

However back to the issue of finding a solution to the problem of alcohol misuse. Clearly a total prohibition of alcohol will not achieve the required results, as has been proven historically in cases where it was attempted. The effect will be the creation of illegal avenues for trafficking and marketing of alcoholic products, a major loss of tax revenue and legal employment and an increase in crime in its most ominous form, being organised crime. We should investigate ways to monitor and regulate consumption and should include members of society and enforcement agencies in this process. In this we have the distinct advantage of being able to fall back on research and findings by a number of state and civil society initiatives, such as the Coalition on Responsible Drinking, spearheaded by the Ministry of Health and Social Services, Nawa Life Trust and the most recent national initiative, Stand Up Against Alcohol Misuse Campaign.

Contributing factors to alcohol misuse include the shebeen-related problems of large numbers of illegal shebeens in addition to licensed ones, easy accessibility to alcohol even to under-aged persons, density of

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shebeens, opening hours of shebeens, relatively cheap liquor prices, non-compliance with the Liquor Act and lack of social responsibility and accountability by shebeen owners.

Throughout the communities poverty and unemployment were cited as one of the key reasons for alcohol misuse. Relative to food, alcohol was found in several communities to be cheaper and several participants found that alcohol, especially homebrews, were more filling than food.

Recommendations from communities contain three major headings, namely, increasing community support and action, such as increased vigilance to the presence of shebeens in your community; community policing and increasing human resources to advocate against alcohol misuse. Secondly education on the effects of alcohol misuse as well as the principle of responsible drinking and on the rights and responsibilities of individuals and communities with regard to the Liquor Act. Thirdly, implementation of law enforcement, including besides stricter enforcement, heftier fines for non-compliance with the rules and regulations of the Liquor Act and also heftier fines for alcohol related crimes.

Other recommendations include decreasing the availability of alcohol in general, requiring everyone to produce an ID when buying or consuming alcohol in alcohol outlets or bars, involve traders in prevention programmes, strictly demarcate special areas in communities where alcohol may be consumed and at a more strategic level, increase alcohol-free recreational activities, increase employment opportunities especially for the youth and stop advertising of alcoholic beverages.

A strategy which has been adopted by the *Stand-Up Initiative* is a campaign aiming at altering the drinking context by focusing on the social acceptability and tolerance of alcohol misuse. This primarily entails the establishment of an organised, informed and Government-led social movement that shifts the focus from the excessive drinker to those affected by the excessive drinking of others. The Stand-Up Campaign was designed to tackle alcohol misuse through social and behavioural change, specifically aimed at:

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- Raising awareness on the many negative effects of alcohol misuse on society;
- Giving Namibians who are concerned about alcohol misuse a public voice;
- Health and general tolerance of alcohol misuse and drunken behaviour;
- Advocate for and reinforce personal, community and policy action against alcohol misuse.

In conclusion I would like to point out that, as in many other instances, legislation is there, even if it could be improved in compliance with the wishes of the citizenry and that much can already be achieved by strict enforcement of the existing laws, in this instance mainly the Liquor Act with its rules and regulations, during the time it may take to create additional strategies towards a general improvement of this national calamity.

The Stand-Up Campaign has produced a leaflet which tries to inform and educate the public about their rights. It tells them what the law contains to protect them and how to mobilise their community, increasing a sample petition which can be used if a shebeen is, for example, situated in an area near a school or in a living area where people are disturbed by the presence of such a shebeen.

Further, I would like to call upon all Colleagues to support and propagate these initiatives working in the field and suggest to the Mover of the Motion, Honourable Ulenga, to consider proposing a Parliamentary Committee to address this issue in its totality, involving the initiatives referred to above as well as various community representatives and the respective law-enforcement agencies. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

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

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HON DR KAWANA**

**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND
ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

I rise to join my Colleagues who have contributed to this very important Motion. First let me take this opportunity to thank Honourable Ulenga, for tabling this Motion. Indeed, it is one of those Motions where the whole Nation will be united across the political spectrum, because this issue affects all the communities regardless of political affiliation.

It is remarkable how alcohol can destroy even personalities who are most respected in society. I can recall at one point one very prominent member of society who was told that one of his family members has passed on. Unfortunately that day he was very, very drunk. When he came to the place of mourning, he joined the women, crying uncontrollably, but he was an old man with white beards and he did not even know which of the family members has died. So, he was saying, “*my grandmother was very kind, now I have no grandmother*”, he was crying loud and then he was told, “*no, it is not your grandmother, it is your aunty who died.*” Now he cried even louder. The following day at the burial he was so embarrassed that he even became sick.

What I am trying to say is that alcohol can destroy any member of society regardless of status. Therefore, it is for all of us to address this very unfortunate situation in our country. Indeed, I can confirm, like every Member who has taken the Floor, that alcohol is being abused in our Republic.

I also recall when there were demonstrations by some members who belong to the Shebeen Owners Association and we engaged them, they formed a committee, came to State House, the Government also formed a committee and at State House I was assigned to liaise with them. They were advised that the shebeen business is not the only business in Namibia, the Government must assist some of these people to diversify and this should really be one of the recommendations. What they did, they formed a group, they were looking for premises where to conduct business and for this I want to thank my Colleague, the Honourable Minister of Health, Dr Kamwi. We identified an old building which used to be referred to as the old TB building. They were relocated there, they

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were given assistance and as I am speaking to you today, Honourable Members, they are even exporting some of their products to outside Namibia and thereby generating foreign exchange for our country. They are very happy. I think that programme must be replicated so that the people can see that the shebeen business is not the only means of survival. For this I would like to highly recommend that they be assisted by various entities.

I know that the youth have a number of projects where they can source financing to carry out business activities and, indeed, the Ministry of Trade and Industry does assist. These are some of the programmes that we can embark upon to make sure that we reduce alcohol consumption in our society.

Once again, may I thank Honourable Ulenga for tabling this very important Motion. I wholeheartedly support the Motion and I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister. Honourable Iilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I rise to make my contribution on this Motion on alcohol abuse in Namibia and I thank the Mover of the Motion.

Comrade Speaker, alcohol is evil. From my birth up to today I have never tasted alcohol, I only know the bad smell. It is a reality that at the age of 65 I have never tasted alcohol and, therefore, I still look 25 years old.

This is a national Motion and what we need to do is to implement the law, that no child under the age of 18 years may enter a bar or be sent to collect beer or wine for the elders. Those who are in the business really need to implement this so that we prevent our children from entering bars. It is also high time that we amend the Act so that that clause which allows

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alcohol to be sold in supermarkets be abolished so that liquor is only found in bottle stores, which would make it easier to be controlled. We know what people do in supermarkets, they drink and come with the empty bottle at the counter. Let us seriously think about these Amendments. I do not know what the intention of alcohol to be sold in supermarkets was. This was not the case before, but it was introduced after Independence.

I recall that three years ago I went to Keetmanshoop and I asked our black youth to imitate their fellow white youth. You will rarely find our fellow white youth in a bar. Why do they not do the same? It means the parents there still have control over their children so that they do not behave like others, because we still have this thing of “us” and “them”. We have to prevent our youth being exposed to alcohol.

Then there is the issue of advertisements. People say advertisements bring in money, but we stopped the advertisement of tobacco and the smokers are still smoking, they never stopped smoking because of advertisement. However, it no longer has that effect of attracting somebody to go and buy tobacco because it is advertised. If we stop advertising alcohol it will minimise the abuse. There is this advertisement of gin and when it starts, you do not think it is alcohol, you think it is something good.

Therefore, my first recommendation is that we consider Amendment of the clause in the Liquor Act which allows alcohol to be sold in supermarkets and secondly the issue of advertisement.

My last recommendation is on the issue of fines. We have to take the example of Britain where one person will decide to be the driver for the day and he or she will not drink anything. The others can drink but he carries those lives, because the punishment there is very high. You can lose your driver’s licence for even ten years. That is my contribution on this very important Motion. Alcohol abuse is really a problem and the universities also need to exercise control. Our children do not have proper guidance. Many of the Colleagues here attended universities and there was control, but not here at our university and nurses homes. We were not even allowed to enter the rooms of those nurses, but today it is different

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and worse at the university. I support the Motion.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Kaiyamo.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, thank you very much. I would also like to commend Honourable Ulenga for bringing this patriotic Motion to Parliament which serves the interest of all Namibian people. By bringing this kind of Motion to Parliament we are also educating our young people who may not know what we are talking about because it was never explained to them.

Some of us in the SWAPO Party took very good examples from those typical determined role models that led us through to the struggle to be focused. I have in mind Comrade Sam Nujoma who never used alcohol during his lifetime. We saw him as a leader who led us. The other persons who are also in this same class is Honourable Ben Amathila, Honourable Nicky Iyambo, Honourable Nashandi, Honourable Iilonga as well as my father, because in our house where I grew up alcohol was banned.

My speech addresses some of these issues you might come across once you reach the legal drinking age. Many people drink when they are somewhere out and having a good time. Even if you do not feel like drinking, you might find yourself under pressure from those around you and you may eventually drink if you are not principled. *“Oh well, who cares?”* that is the attitude of our young people.

Most social occasions involve some kind of alcohol. The bourgeois culture is when you believe that you have to have wine while eating food. If you go to motor racing, rugby or soccer, the people would drink there.

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Weddings and birthdays are celebrated with alcohol. The setting of the sun is toasted with alcohol.

Which are the phrases you hear in our society? “*Come for a drink, one for the road.*” Drinking alcohol is not necessarily bad for the world as a whole, but it is difficult for many of us as individuals, particularly some of us who are youth. The young people this speech is intended to help you cope with the family members who abuse alcohol. It means to help you deal with understanding the drinking culture. There are organised dedicated institutions that can help you to cope with such situations. Alcohol definitely is a tradition in helping society’s social events along and adults use it that way the world over. The word here is “*adults*” (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: I just want to ask my Colleague a small question. Comrade Kaiyamo, you spoke about people who never touched a drop of alcohol. Do you realise that there are those who even if they just touch alcohol, they start dancing even if there is no music? Have you realised that there are such people who should definitely not touch a drop of alcohol at all?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: I agree, there are some people who should not touch alcohol, especially the youth. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Where were the holier-than-thou about alcohol, where were you when the Shebeen Owners were having a braai here?

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40

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HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:30

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:

The Prime Minister asked where I was when the people who want others to drink were here. I was here, Right Honourable Prime Minister. I was part of the foot soldiers of the Speaker to make sure the parliamentarians were safe.

What if I do not like drinking? If you do not want to drink alcohol, there is a solution, do not drink it. Take soft drinks, fruit juice or water. If it is important from a social perspective to be seen to be drinking something, it does not have to be alcoholic, it could be Fanta or juice. If you struggle to explain your reason for not drinking to a friend, one way out is to get yourself into a fitness programme at the gym. It is here where we need honesty. Tell your friend you do not drink and full-stop. That way you can be true to yourself.

I am addressing the youth: What if they force you? My friend, you are an individual, coming from a particular house and if somebody tries to force you, it is not much of a friend. If the crowd is drinking and they notice you are not, it is usually best to stick to your guns, do not give in. It is your body and mind that are going to be destroyed. It is your decision that, "*guys, I do not drink, leave me alone.*" These days our children's friends are more important to them than their parents and if you do not drink, the chances are you will not have friends. This could be quite frustrating if you do not drink and your friends are drinking - ask me.

How to react when you are forced to drink depends on your personality. You can either avoid going out with the crowd or you can be on your own and enjoy your books or music at home. There are other groups who among themselves choose a friend to be the guardian of the group. When they start drinking, he or she takes the keys of their cars, organise taxis for them so that they are safe after the party. The decision is always yours.

What about drinking and driving, which is a serious issue? A high

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percentage of our kids have died in alcohol-related accidents. If a driver is drunk, do not get into that car. Even if it is your parents, call the Police. Do not argue with them, just tell them, "*I am not getting into this car if you behave this way.*" If you are with your friends and you happened to take some alcohol, call your parents to take you home. It is better for the parents to take care of you in this manner instead of visiting you in hospital.

Alcohol in the family: If you drink, you do not only affect your relationship alone, you are affecting the whole family and in our culture as Namibians, it can be an extended family. Everybody in your village is your family and if you continue drinking, you are affecting the whole family. If you have to drive, please wear a seatbelt and I repeat, if the driver is drunk, do not get into that car.

The drinking culture means that you would drink more than is maybe a good idea and it will create more problems for you. While you may be popular at the drinking place among your friends, you may also create a lifestyle and habit to go and drink. Now you receive your salary at the end of the month and half the time you will go and drink at the bar. Your water at home is not paid, your children's school is not paid and even your own car you are driving has not been paid. I have found this culture around Windhoek, which is very bad and the youth must not fall into this bad culture. If you must drink, do so at home or make sure you get transport to go home.

If you are a teenager and drinking, for goodness' sake, stop drinking! Alcohol kills brain cells, it affects your studies and your health.

Drinking in general: There are a few bad things resulting from drinking alcohol. You want your friends to perceive you to be cool. Cool for what? I would prefer the young people to be cool in their studies and to get good marks in the exams. Then they are cool. I want our young people to have this culture of being cool at school, not by drinking alcohol.

Alcohol brings a range of problems and effects: Firstly, it can

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temporarily fool you into thinking that your problems are gone. If you drink, you think your water has been paid or your farm has been paid. A person who drinks undergoes a personality change and becomes unable to do his or her duty. You are sent by your Party on a certain duty and then you just go to the bar and drink, you do not do your Party work and there are no votes. By losing control over yourself, you make yourself vulnerable to all kinds of things. Driving seems to be one skill that a drunk person thinks he will always have. Drunk people will always insist that they can drive, but after a few minutes you see an accident and then you have caused a lot of problems for the society. You expose yourself to the risk of being robbed. You cannot think, you cannot walk, you cannot protect yourself. Abuse of alcohol literally kills your brain, reduces your thinking skills. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: May I ask a question? Comrade Kaiyamo was saying that some members, when assigned by their Party to go to the Regions to work, go and drink and then they lose votes. Is this not material evidence that needs to be submitted to the Court that the new Party, whose members did not have any experience, concentrate on the bar and lost the elections, therefore not having any case in court?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: When Comrade Kasingo addressed the Parliament, she talked about the promotion of democracy in our Republic and in the world. I think the Colleagues on the other side need to improve on this.

When you sober up after drinking, you always feel awful and you will probably have a headache. That is why you find our children sleeping until 13:00 or 14:00 over the weekends.

In conclusion, we as parents must be role models to our children. If the family is alcohol-free, then the Nation will also be alcohol-free and then

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we will have a stable Nation and promote democracy from the family to the Nation. I thank you.

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

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Let me start by thanking Honourable Ben Ulenga for bringing in this very important Motion. It is very important because for perhaps the second or third time we are now talking as leaders, trying to find solutions to address this problem.

Honourable Speaker, my concern about this issue is basically based on two issues, the first being that we as leaders have been passing laws in this Chamber to try and address this issue, but from the look of things those laws have not been implemented to the letter. Being in a democratic society, we seem to be afraid to do the right thing at the right time as that could be interpreted that you are suppressing the people and they will not vote for you. Therefore, we are very reluctant to carry out the decisions taken in this Chamber. That is one problem.

Secondly, we may recall that when we were trying to pass a law on the misuse of roads, it became an issue of taxis and some of us in this Chamber were the ones who were saying that the penalties were too harsh. We were the first ones to say no, let them break the law, we should not come up with such a harsh law. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I have a small question if you would permit me. Honourable Tjihuiko, do you not think that this Motion is supposed to be titled "*Honourable Philemon Moongo's Motion?*"

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HON TJIHUIKO: I think these are some of the practical realities that we are saying that we agree upon, we express our concerns on issues, but when it comes to taking action, we fear that we may not get votes or it may affect us personally as individuals.

We have been talking about bringing in laws to compel especially shebeens to close at a certain time, which I think is 22:00. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I would like to share some information with the House. I quite agree with Honourable Tjihuiko on the cautionary statement he has just made, however I failed to hear his voice when the Herero Mall issue was almost coming to boiling point. It is good to speak from this place of comfort and protection, but it is another thing to do on the ground when the situation requires our resolve and guidance. Where was Honourable Tjihuiko?

HON TJIHUIKO: I think it is a very good question. Honourable Minister of Justice, I have made my position very clear on the issue of the Herero Mall and I will repeat what I have said. I said the Herero Mall is in Katutura Central, it is not the only place where alcohol is being sold, there are so many places. Five hundred metres away from the Herero Mall there is the old Single Quarters which is three times bigger than the Herero Mall. Why should we target the Herero Mall and leave out the others while they are doing exactly the same thing? I was pleading to the Honourable Councillor of Katutura Central, I was saying we should not have selective morality, otherwise we will be accused of targeting a certain section of the community, which is wrong. It cannot be justified to say only the Herero Mall in Windhoek should be closed at 18:00, but the neighbours are being allowed to continue 24 hours a day. That is wrong, it cannot be justified.

I want to appeal that if we decide to do something in Katutura Central, it should not be targeting a certain area because it is called Herero Mall and

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not the others. That is wrong and cannot be justified, Honourable Minister. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: On a Point of Information. Honourable Tjihuiko needs to distinguish between the two. The circumstances of the Single Quarters and the Herero Mall are totally different, because in the Single Quarters no person will prevent other people who are not speaking the languages around there to operate. The situation here did not concern the shebeens, it was because people attacked others who did not speak their language. That was the difference. You speak of selective morality, if the people at Single Quarters were doing the same, you would have been right to say it is selective morality, but at the Herero Mall they pinpointed people who were not speaking the local language spoken around the Herero Mall.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, this is new information. I would agree hundred percent with what the Deputy Minister said, because it is the SWAPO Party which decides to direct their Councillors what to do. The Councillor of Katutura Central has never at any stage raised the issue of certain people not being allowed to trade from the Herero Mall and that is why he closed the Herero Mall and if that was the case, why should the other side be allowed to operate after 18:00? That very point the Deputy Minister is raising is now putting flesh to the bones. The real issue why the Herero Mall was closed is because of what you are saying, not because of anything else. That was based on a tribal consideration because the place is called Herero Mall. That is the only issue. You have said it and thank you very much for bringing that information. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: I rise to give some information so that the Honourable Member could leave that tribal issue. Even the people who were talking there are not from the language group you are thinking. They are Namibians who were there. If

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you recall what was in the newspaper, they are not Herero-speaking, as you want to put it. Do not turn this into a tribal issue and speak the truth.

HON SPEAKER: I am really getting lost. I do not know what the Minister's point is. What is the point you are making, Minister?

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Comrade Speaker, he wanted to tell the House and the Nation that the Herero Mall was closed because of the people who are there. He means the people who are speaking one language, but I reminded him that the people who were interviewed there were not from one tribe, there were many Namibians who are also selling there. I even know some of the people who have spoken.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I think these needs to be answered. You have heard this on the radio, but I am on the ground, I know the people operating there. The issue of people being prevented because they do not speak a specific language did not come from me, that is the information provided to us by the Deputy Minister. It is not me who said that. That is why I am saying that is new information the Deputy Minister is putting on the Table. Then it paints a different picture of the reason given by the Councillor; that the reason was because the place has become notorious to the extent that it needs to be brought to order. Based on that I never had any problem with that, but the information the Deputy Minister gave now gives a new dimension to the issue. That is why I am saying that being a leader in a Party, he knows better than me. That is not my point, he has informed the House of the reason and thank you very much for that and I have never brought the issue of the Herero Mall in my speech, for that matter.

Those who have problems, suffering psychologically from tribalistic problems... (Intervention)

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HON SPEAKER: The point is getting lost. Up until now the House appeared to be on the same track, accepting that there is a big challenge for this Parliament and Cabinet, that alcoholism in Namibia is serious. That is the consensus that I got. Almost everybody that has spoken has said this is a crisis. Now we are drifting towards either politics or tribalism and we are missing the point. We are drifting away from what it was up until now.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Tjihuiko, the official information I got from the Police is as follows: The area called Herero Mall does not have proper sanitation. Secondly, there is too much violence. These are the two things I read from the Police report. That is why the Police decided to bring this place to order, so that violence stops and proper sanitations can be provided for public health. That is the story I know and nothing else.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you, Right Honourable Prime Minister and that is exactly the type of information I possess and based on that, what else could I have said if somebody is asking me why did I not say anything about the Herero Mall? I agree with that because I am not hearing from somebody, I am on the ground. If somebody is telling me that I did not say anything and another one is telling us the reason is different, it is not what the Police saying, but what the Deputy Minister knows, tough luck! Let me come back to my point, Honourable Speaker. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. On a Point of Information on the issue of alcoholism in relation to the place called Herero Mall in Katutura. I am providing this information in my capacity as a former Deputy Minister of Regional and Local Government and Housing. Tribalism is a disease and we have to accept that many of us in this country are affected by this disease. Whether we want it or not, we

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are affected by this disease and we see tribalism behind every bush and we tend to see tribalism being practised by others while we are operating from a psychology of tribalism.

The issue of the Herero Mall has nothing to do with tribalism, zero, far from it. The reasons the Prime Minister has provided are material facts. Instead of addressing the issue of the Herero Mall, comparative studies are made with the Single Quarters. We close here at Parliament at 18:00, let us as leaders go to the Single Quarters after 18:00. The place at the Single Quarters where they sell meat closes around 18:00 and 19:00. If you go toward the end of Clemens Kapuu Road, there are places that have been rezoned for business along that area and the point is, for the Herero Mall to operate, whether it is Herero Hall, Owambo Mall or whatever you name it is immaterial, for them to operate beyond 18:00 or 19:00, the place has to be rezoned, just like Evelyn Street and any other place. For us to say that Evelyn Street and the other section of the Single Quarters have been rezoned because those places are not occupied by tribe A versus tribe B is far from the truth. At the place called Herero Mall there are procedures that so far the Municipality of Windhoek has been requiring and it has nothing to do with the vendors, whether they are blue, yellow, or green. The issue of violence is now linked to the place, but there were municipal requirements of rezoning the place.

If we have to be partisan, part of the ownership of that place has been donated to the Herero Traditional Authority. Some of the DTA ones have been kicked out of that place. The material fact is that there are municipal procedures that were not met that need to be followed and the restrictions are based on that, but the whole matter has been politicised on the grounds of tribalism by those who are tribally obsessed.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, let me for the first time agree with the Honourable Minister of Youth and let me move on. (Intervention)

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HON NYAMU: I seek more clarification on the statement made by the Honourable Member when he stated in his opening statement that we make laws here, but then when the laws are made, obviously there is a need to enforce them and we know precisely who is responsible for the enforcement of laws in this country. My Colleague was a bit too diplomatic for me, to the extent that I would like him to come out and state which body is failing to enforce laws, particularly in respect of shebeens, because of elections. Which is this body? I think for the sake of the public we should state clearly what we want to say.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I was saying that we make laws, the laws ought to be implemented by, for instance, the Police Officers and we are the first ones to undermine the authority of the law-enforcement agencies by not supporting the efforts by our Police Officers. Police Officers are part of that, they will not succeed by acting alone, they need our support and that is the kind of support that we are not giving to our law-enforcement officers.

Coming back to what I wanted to say in short, I wanted to say that as far as I am concerned, I believe that this Motion needs to be interrogated further. We need to either send it to a committee to consult widely with the public, the Police officers, the churches, the shebeen owners, traditional authorities so that we can have an informed decision at the end of the day, because I believe that to bring order into the misuse of alcohol and drug abuse cannot be done by only the Police officers, all of us have to be part of that effort. We need to develop a structure that would be supportive of one another, so that at the end of the day we act as a unit in addressing that specific issue. The way we are pointing fingers at one another will not get us anywhere.

Secondly, I am a bit concerned about the issue of drinking and driving. We have five people in a car, four of them are drinking, one is not drinking because he is the driver, but he is a drinker, they are always drinking together. Practically speaking it will not work. It is a question of trying to get through the roadblock and after the roadblock obviously he

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will say, “*I will not take too much, but just give me a little bit*” or the colleagues would say, “*a beer will not do any harm.*” Is it really necessary for somebody travelling from Windhoek to Okahandja to drink on the way? If you are moving from one point to another, can you not drink at the end point? Action should be taken against those who are drinking in a moving vehicle, like using a cell phone in a car. Maybe that should also bring a sense to those who expect me to drive and they enjoy whisky behind me and it smells good. I do not think it will really work, it will be so tempting and we need to look at that as well.

I have been thinking, some of us are Christians, some are not, but the moral fabric of our society needs to be looked at. Are we really being guided by a certain morality? (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Is Christianity in Namibia a religion or a culture?

HON TJIHUIKO: It is a religion. I remember when I was young in the Old Location at our school there, we had teachers, among others the late Nganyone, late Ya Otto, late Mitiri Ithana and I remember that every Sunday they used to encourage us to go to Sunday School and at that church-cum-school we were taught to behave in society based on the biblical verses and I believe that those who have gone through that system, the leaders of today, have brought their discipline from that foundation.

Maybe the question of doing what you want, behaving like an American, could be the problem which has brought us to where we are today. Maybe we need to look at the good things. In Afrikaans we said, “*neem wat goed en edel is en bou daarop in die toekoms.*” Whatever happened in the past, there are certain good things that happened during the colonial time. Let us look at some of these things and see whether they cannot be of relevance in our situation today. (Intervention)

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HON MOONGO: I listened to the Colleague, but I failed to understand. Do the vendors at the Herero Mall have licences? If they have licences, are they not treated equally to the other people who also have licences countrywide? Was the law wrongly enforced by preventing them to operate? I want to be clear because I do not know the Herero Mall situation.

HON TJIHUIKO: I believe the question raised by the Honourable Member was partly answered by Honourable Kazenambo and I do not want to go back to that.

Let me conclude by saying that I agree with some of the Colleagues who raised concerns about the availability of alcohol. You can go to a service station or supermarket and buy beer. It has been made so easy for anybody to access alcohol. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: On a Point of Information. Honourable Speaker, he was quoting something here and when he quotes he must also tell us the source. What you were quoting was not correct. "*Leer uit die verlede alles wat goed en edel is en bou daarop die toekoms,*" as said by Paul Kruger in 1889.

HON TJIHUIKO: Let me conclude by saying that I agree with some of the Colleagues who said that alcohol is available at each and every corner. I know that the moment you say that people tend to think that if you close down drinking places in the townships, people will go to town and drink anyway, but the question is, let us look at our people. In town you go to Kalahari Sands or any hotel, you will not see young people walking down the street with beer in their hands. Those are our people and whatever we are trying to do to address the issue of alcohol abuse, we should not compare ourselves to others, we should look at the condition that affects the majority of our people and try to address it. Thank you very much and

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I support the Motion.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Amweelo.

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Alcohol has a significant negative impact on people and we are all aware of that. Honourable Kaiyamo mentioned road accidents caused by alcohol. There were so many studies and observations inside and outside our country which indicate that 95% of accidents are caused by human error and alcohol contributed 60% to that human error. That is the empirical evidence. Therefore, we as the leaders have to address this problem of alcohol very seriously.

We do not only have road accidents but also accidents at the workplace.
(Intervention)

HON MWANINGANGE: Alcoholic beverages have different alcohol contents and perhaps there is a need for education, for a drinker to read what the container indicates. Whisky contains 40% of alcohol content and can you imagine somebody drinking straight from the bottle? Perhaps there is a need for mass education in this regard. The alcohol content is always indicated on the container.

HON DR AMWEELO: I agree hundred percent with you. There are strategies to reduce the harm caused by alcohol and I want to focus on one issue. Alcohol contains a substance called ethanol. Ethanol is found in beer, wine and spirits and is similar to the active Tetrahydrocannabinol that is found in the plant marijuana. That is the danger I want to talk about. When drinking cold beer, wine or even the most expensive whisky or vodka, it impacts negatively on the psychology of the drinker and that is what I want to touch on as this is really a problem.

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Since we have this problem, we have to think about what measures we can introduce so that we can actually reduce the use of alcohol in our community. I want to propose that alcohol should not be advertised.

We should come up with a law or policy which prohibits alcohol being advertised through ICT as this could be one of the measures to reduce it to an acceptable level.

We can also think about amending the existing Act to reduce the problem of alcohol. Awareness is very important, starting from the educational sector, primary and secondary education. We are all aware that everybody on this earth has potential and if the Nation starts drinking alcohol, we might fail to discover our potential. Therefore, we really need awareness, starting from Members of Parliament. Whenever you address your constituency, make sure that you have a paragraph addressing this problem. The church leaders must ensure that they say something regarding this problem. Headman Moongo, make sure you mention something with regard to this in your meetings. This is everybody's problem, young people, adults, not one man's problem.

Therefore, Colleagues, we have to ensure that we take this transformation to our Constituencies and address this problem of alcohol. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Swartz.

HON SWARTZ: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I also want to make a contribution towards this very important topic.

Alcohol abuse contributes to crime, violence, poverty and many social ills. Teenagers become victims of alcohol abuse, which could escalate school dropouts. In our Region guidelines are in place for issuing shebeen licences. In each Region we do have representatives in the communities

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to attend meetings to inform the communities if there is an application for a new licence. A new shebeen licence has to be issued with acknowledgement of the concerned community members.

Some irresponsible parents contribute to the abovementioned problem.

For example, parents send children to buy alcohol at shebeens and this child may assume that drinking alcohol is good, because their parents consume alcohol and it is not only one bottle, it is twelve bottles. That child will run up and down the whole day. The same goes for parents who stay at shebeens and when that poor child comes from school, he or she will meet the parents at the shebeen.

I, therefore, ask all the parents and elders to set a good example for our children and to warn children against bad influence and making wrong decision.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, some people blame others for their abuse of alcohol. We should stop pointing fingers and start working as a team, because it means together everyone achieves more.

My question is, what is the way forward for the Namibian nation? Were licences approved without any study or investigation to know how many shebeens are in one area? We know that we face a high rate of unemployment in our country, and we have to do something to rescue the Namibian nation from this alcohol abuse and as a previous speaker said yesterday, shebeen hours are 24 hours. We have to do something drastic to save our Nation and make serious recommendations for the way forward.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, alcohol will ruin your life if you are not careful. I want to warn our youth that alcohol abuse is dangerous and can lead to irresponsible behaviour, such as unsafe sex and getting infected with STI's or even HIV/AIDS.

To conclude: Parents, take full responsibility for your children. Let us all fight the abuse of alcohol and make this beautiful country a better place to

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live in. Together we can make a difference. I support the Motion and I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nambahu.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Let me also join others in thanking the Mover of the Motion. Some of the points have already been taken, but I have a few things to add.

Yesterday it was stated that we need to discuss this Motion in a technocratic-like manner without being partisan, without pointing fingers and I think that is the best approach, but every since I remember, alcohol has been a social menace that has been condemned and cursed and messages have been going out ever since I was child. However, I think it is time that we ask ourselves; why is it that that message has not made the necessary impact that it ought to have made? I think the time has come for us to assess and re-evaluate why that message does not make the necessary impact and prevent us from being where we want to be as a society.

The other issue is actually the passing of the buck syndrome.
(Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask a question? You said that alcohol has been condemned since time immemorial. Can you tell me the word "*alcohol*" in your language? What does it mean? (Interjections)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: *Ikolitha, uukolwe*, drunkenness or something. Others are saying *uukolwe*, others are saying to get drunk. I think the Colleagues will come in and explain the meaning.

However, the point I am trying to get to is really the passing of the buck. In this society we have this syndrome of passing the buck. It is Government, it is the church, it is the social worker and it is never my responsibility and that is where we should come together and question that. For the most part we are told the laws should be stiffer, passing the buck to the law, but where does that person grow up? He grows up in the community, he is a member of a Political Party, he is a member of a certain congregation and I think it is time that we prescribe that these organisations come up with programmes and strategies to also fight alcoholism themselves rather than passing the buck to others. That person has grown up there, he is a tree that is fully grown and when he is brought to the law, the law is expected to perform a miracle and cure all his ills that he has been brought up with.

Honourable Nyamu yesterday started off very well and he even pointed to Political Parties. What is your political programme for alcoholism? What is it that you prescribe to your members of your society? Is there something in your manifesto about the fight against alcoholism?

Alcoholism is a threat to tradition and cultural values. What are our programmes as Traditional Leaders, the custodians of culture, against this that actually undermines our culture? Is it there or do we fight these things by instinct or do we have a strategy in place? There needs to be a home which looks into these things on a permanent basis not on instinct. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: I would like to ask a question. Since the Government has an Omagongo festival every year, are they promoting alcoholism or are they against it?

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Is the Honourable Member talking about the traditional Government or the national Government? Where I come from it is usually done by the traditional Government. Let me not be distracted from my point.

All of us should come up with a strategy to address this problem and not to pass the buck and that is the point that we should have in the recommendation and there to be a permanent body looking into this, not only when Honourable Ulena or someone tables a Motion and now we are all up in arms fighting against alcoholism while all along there has been inertia. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: I like the way my comrade is presenting his presentation on alcoholism, but I have a question. Honourable Nambahu, knowing very well that alcohol does not fall like rain, it is made by individuals, why do you think people make alcoholic beverages of different kinds? Why do you think they make alcohol, for that matter?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Yes, yesterday you made an evolutionary analysis of how far back dates the production of alcohol. It seems that it has really come a long way and in pursuit of happiness and pleasure and the nature of homo sapiens being what it is, we always look for something. I will answer that question properly when I come to the issue of research.

I would want to have something permanently looking into this and then we do not have to address it only when a Motion is introduced.

With regard to research and the law, time and again we say it is the law, but this is a social problem and we have to summon the knowledge of social scientists. I would like to hear the opinion of psychiatrists and sociologists on this issue and actually recommend scientifically and assist

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us as to what should be done.

Somebody said yesterday research may not be necessary. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Do you not think that the problem is alcohol abuse, not alcohol as such?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Yes, I agree, alcohol is even used for industrial purposes and it is scientifically proven that your body to a certain extent needs a certain percentage of alcohol. We should actually use the word “*abuse*” and that is why yesterday I jokingly said it should not be sold to people who are already under the influence of alcohol. It is only that it will be a problem to determine whether the person is already under the influence and, therefore, I should not sell.

The issue of research is very necessary. I was addressing a rally and the headman of the area was requesting us to see if there is no possibility of prohibiting a certain type of sugar which is apparently reddish or brownish. It has a name and I am informed those people are against the sale of that sugar. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. The problem with the sugar the Honourable Member is talking about is that a drink made out of that sugar gives too much energy to a person.

HON SPEAKER: Which sugar is that?

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: When you are so energetic, you think you do not need food. It is *tombo*. You think you do not need food, so you stay without eating and now this *tombo* is working on you. That is the problem.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I cannot recall the name of that sugar but it has a certain name and those regulating trade should look into this, because even those drinking *tombo* at the shebeens are saying that type of sugar is the problem and Government should do something about it.

Let me try to make my point. Honourable Mwaningange was saying that one has to read the chemical composition on the container.

HON SPEAKER: Can I ask Honourable Iyambo whether it is red sugar.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: No, that red sugar is just part of the beginning of the sugar that we take. As Dr Amweelo was explaining, it is the ethanol which is the content of the alcohol. That reddish sugar is the beginning of it, meaning it is more concentrated. When it is refined, it becomes brown sugar and when again refined, it becomes white sugar. It is more potent in terms of the ethanol contents.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: It is not the sugar which is dangerous, it is the way they make the *tombo* and other brews. It is what they add. You now have the ethanol and it is the ethanol which is problematic, which makes a person to drink every day, because when you taste alcohol you will not stop.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: The research I am trying to talk about and the alcohol content in your bottle is something that does not exist as far as *tombo* is concerned. Who here can actually tell us the percentage of alcohol in *tombo* and who of us know the ingredients that go into this? How can we scientifically tell what this *tombo* is actually doing to our people? At least one can say this cognac has too much alcohol content, but not with *tombo* and other traditional brews. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: I understand the people are unhappy with the speech of the Honourable Deputy Minister, but talking about red sugar, I see that when we drink tea here every day, you do not use white sugar, you use red sugar. It is good for you. You use that half red sugar in the tearoom there. Why are you doing that?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Do not mislead the Nation, there are different types of sugar and even their colours vary. The original one is a problem and it has a name. The ingredients of *tombo* vary from person to person, village to village, shebeen to shebeen and the other things are just catalysts to make it more attractive and that is the problem.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nambahu, you will continue tomorrow. The House stands adjourned until tomorrow.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2012.06.07 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
07 JUNE 2012**

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? Notice of Questions.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 19:

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 14 June 2012, I shall ask the Minister of Education the following:

In the New Era of June 7, 2012, on Page 1 we read the following: “Sewer blocked for 22 years. Opuwo residents near Alpha Combined School on the outskirts of Opuwo are angry because of the blocked sewer system at the school that has become a shocking eyesore and health hazard. Despite being reported to the authorities at the town, the sewer remains unrepaired after 22 years.”

Honourable Minister, when do you intend to take steps to rectify this situation?

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

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**NOTICE OF MOTION
HON KAURA**

NOTICE OF MOTION

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on June 13, 2012, I shall Move –

That this Assembly –

Discusses the avalanche of murders perpetrated by youngsters against their parents as well as students against fellow students with the view to take a critical look at the Namibian Constitution and to find a way of bringing back the death penalty.

RULING

HON SPEAKER: The Constitution is the Supreme Law and we are advised that unless we want to amend that law, we should not debate it. Perhaps one way is to identify the relevant Standing Committee of the House dealing with legal matters or alternatively, to consult the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice to seek a way out of the situation. You are not alone in wanting to go back to those dark days of killing people legally, but this is the law and unless we intend to amend it, we cannot discuss it here.

HON SPEAKER: Ministerial Statements? Minister of Environment and Tourism.

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. In a few weeks' time world leaders will meet in Rio De Janeiro on the World Summit on Sustainable Development. As background, the historical Rio Earth Summit of 1992 set into motion a global framework for countries to achieve sustainable development. The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development Agenda 21 and the Rio Convention on Biodiversity, Climate Change and Desertification and United Nations Framework for Forestry were all the instruments which emerged directly from the Rio Earth Summits.

Namibia has embraced each of those instruments and has recognised sustainable development as a cornerstone for the country's desire to become a prosperous and industrious Nation by 2030.

Twenty years on from the Rio Summit of 1992, the world is again to be gathered in Rio De Janeiro for the Rio-Plus 20 Conference, an initiative of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development. The high level conference will take place from the 20th to the 22nd June 2012. It is seeking to secure renewable political commitment for sustainable development, assess progress and implementation gaps in meeting previous agreed commitments and address new and emerging challenges. The Summit will focus on the following themes:

- The Green Economy in the context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication; and
- The Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development.

It is expected that more than 120 Heads of State and Governments will attend the Rio-Plus 20 Summit as well as some fifty thousand people, including business executives, mayors, representatives of Non-

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Governmental Organisations, youth and other stakeholders.

There are twelve main key issues up for discussion during the Rio Summit. All of them are highly relevant for the future development of the world and, of course, for Namibia in particular. These include:

- 1) Trade and Green Economy;
- 2) Options for Strengthening the International Framework for Sustainable Development;
- 3) Issues related to Inter-Governmental Bodies on Sustainable Development;
- 4) Oceans;
- 5) Sustainability and Cities;
- 6) Current issues on Sustainable Development and Goals and Indicators;
- 7) Green Jobs and Social Inclusion;
- 8) Reducing Disaster Risk and Building Resilience;
- 9) Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture;
- 10) Regional, National and Local Level Governance for Sustainable Development;
- 11) Water; and
- 12) Science and Technology for Sustainable Development.

Honourable Speaker, Namibia has been closely involved in the negotiation process at the regional and international level. At the African level Namibia contributed to the preparatory meeting which culminated in the African Consensus Statement which was presented at the Summit of

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Heads of State in January 2012 where it was then adopted. Namibia has also been closely involved in the development of the position of the Group of 77 and China, which is expressed in the Submission Document, expressing its concerns and key messages for the outcome from the Rio-Plus 20 Conference.

What are Namibia's expectations from the Summit? We in Namibia expect a strong renewed political commitment to sustainable development, especially when it comes to eradication of poverty. We expect a renewed commitment by the world leaders to the means of implementation, meaning developed countries need to commit themselves to supporting developing countries in our implementation of programmes related to sustainable development. Above all, we expect an agreed outcome, clearly stating the future that we need. From this Summit we would like to see the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely economy, social and environment as key pillars integrated in the process to develop the goals and priority areas of our own agendas.

Honourable Members, you will all recall that the Millennium Development Goals were formulated when our own Dr Theo-Ben Gurirab, Speaker of the National Assembly now in the Chair, was the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations. Namibia would like to underscore that the Millennium Development Goals are still a useful tool in focusing achievements of specific Millennium Development Goals as part of the broader development vision and framework for development activities within the United Nations framework and should be seen as one of the areas that we want to be underlined, more particularly that they set it as a priority to mobilise stakeholders to make funds available for these goals to be achieved.

We, therefore, remain firmly committed to their full and timely achievement. Thus we expect the world leaders to reaffirm their commitments to make every effort to accelerate the achievements of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, by 2015. Namibia will support those sustainable development goals that are based on Agenda 21, Johannesburg

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Programme of Implementation and Full Respect Rio Principles, in particular common, but differentiated responsibilities built upon commitments already made, respecting international law and contribute to the full implementation of the outcome of all major summits in economic, social and environmental fields. This needs to take into account that those goals should ensure a holistic coherence with the goals set in Agenda 21. Those goals should be incorporated in the United Nations Development Agenda Beyond 2015 that is contributing to the achievements of sustainable development and serving as a driving force for implementation and mainstreaming of sustainable development in the United Nations system as a whole.

What are we taking to Rio as a country? At national level the Ministry of Environment and Tourism has coordinated a national report for the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, outlining our achievements, challenges and future prospects in terms of sustainable development. The Ministry has also prepared various awareness materials for dissemination at the conference, including brochures and a documentary film on sustainable development programmes in Namibia and a site event on managing natural resources and a green economy and sustainable development context in Namibia will also be held during the Summit on the 21st of June at 13:00.

What should we do after the Summit? We plan to pursue our sustainable development implementation in conformity with our National Vision 2030, which we are pursuing through five-year development plans. We intend to mobilise resources both locally and internationally to further implement sustainable development. We further expect to implement our National Roadmap for the Implementation of the Green Economy as a tool to implement our sustainable development programmes and we call the whole Nation, including Members of Parliament, to be part of the process. I thank you for your attention, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister for the important statement. Minister Kamwi.

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HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you very much indeed, Comrade Speaker, for giving me the Floor. Comrade Speaker, on Tuesday this week you had put me on the spot by asking me to say something in the form of a ministerial statement, especially in view of the on-going immunisation exercise and I said to you I will respond. At the time I was working on a paper, which I will share with the whole Nation at large.

Immunisation is going on very well. The nurses on the ground are overwhelmed, there are long queues, thus some challenges are now matters related to the staff and transport, but we are managing. As a result of this forthcoming response, we have decided to extend the dates. The dates should have been from the 5th to the 7th of June, but for Khomas Region and elsewhere in the country, should they work until late this evening, we will extend to go into tomorrow and where possible, even Saturday.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I have decided to make a Ministerial Statement, giving information in regard to the state of health of the Nation. Indeed, I stand here to address this august House on the state of health in Namibia and thereby hope and trust that I would have answered the concerns as raised through the print and electronic media, including the Motion that was tabled yesterday by Honourable Von Wietersheim. I will start with human resources.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Health and Social Services is faced with a shortage of professional health workers, particularly doctors, pharmacists and nurses. By and large we rely on expatriates on a two-year contractual renewal basis.

WHAT ACTIONS ARE WE TAKING IN ORDER TO ADDRESS THIS CHALLENGE?

We have increased the number of nurse intake at our training institution. This year alone a total of 163 registered nurses and a total of 230 enrolled nurses midwives graduated. We have decided to, in future consult with our colleagues at the Ministry of Education to consider extending

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classrooms to the Polytechnic of Namibia and to the University of International Management and Honourable Dr Namwandi can bear witness to that.

As an interim measure we signed a memorandum of understanding to recruit health professionals and they are in the country as we speak. They are doing a wonderful job. Since 2005 we have been re-employing retired nurses who are physically and mentally fit and willing to do so. They are there in our public health institutions. We are also negotiating to train more at other institutions internationally.

Over the past ten years a total of 173 medical officers, doctors, and 42 pharmacists qualified. In collaboration with the Ministry of Education there is now bonding and community services will follow suit. We have opened a School of Medicine and a School of Pharmacy to improve the availability of professional health workers in the country. Currently we are busy with structuring, looking at the workload at all health institutions from clinics to Windhoek Central Hospital so that we can staff our facilities scientifically, of course at a cost to the taxpayer.

Honourable Speaker, Sir, with regard to patient care the Ministry's mandate is to prevent diseases, promote health, cure the illness and rehabilitate into society those who were physically or mentally affected. The majority of our professional health workers are doing that, caring for the patients, but that does not mean it is hundred percent. I want to say there are some registered nurses, enrolled nurses out there who are doing their professional work with *cum laude*, but I have to admit that you will find one or two nurses who may not be giving their best.

IMMUNISATION DISEASES:

The number of polio cases since 2006 were only six. Under one-year coverage for immunisation for all antigens is more than 70%.

OTHER DISEASES OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE:

Tuberculosis: The incidence is declining in Namibia. The cure rate is

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now more than 85%. We have managed to reduce XDR-TB cases from 20 in 2008 to only three during 2011.

Malaria: Namibia is among the top four countries in southern Africa in the fight against malaria. Therefore, as a result of this, Namibia has even been accorded the chairmanship for the second consecutive term, meaning we are doing well in terms of eliminating malaria.

During 2011 there were only 34 deaths from malaria compared to 1-681 in 2001. Between 2001 to 2011, Namibia reduced the number of malaria cases by 97% and the number of deaths by 98%. To quote the WHO Director General, Dr Margaret Chan, who represents the UN Secretary General on Health Matters globally: *“I visited Namibia in April 2012, that country’s Minister of Health, an expert in vector control, is leading a group of eight neighbouring African countries in a joint effort to eliminate malaria within the next two years, who has produced a complete set of technical manuals for testing, treating and tracking to guide them on the way.”*

Honourable Speaker, Namibia is setting pace, we are doing our best.

On HIV/AIDS:

I want us to reflect and look back at ten years ago. Where do we stand today? More than 90% of the people who qualify for ARV medicines are on treatment. Only Botswana, Namibia and Rwanda are at that level on the African continent. Deaths from AIDS declined from 12,000 during 2005/2006 to 4,500 during 2010/2011. That is statistically quite a significant decline.

We have eradicated plague in this country since Independence. Plague used to be a menace in northern Namibia, especially in the then former Owamboland, Katumba. *Otwekadengela pedu!*, it is no more. We have also eliminated the following: Whooping cough, neo-natal tetanus and poliomyelitis and certified by, not by the Ministry of Health and Social Services, but by the World Health Organisation. We have also significantly reduced the following: measles, meningococcal meningitis,

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swine flu, malaria. By the way, we did not even seek international support in the case of swine flu, we have done it as a Ministry.

In 2013 we are going to carry out the Namibia Demographic Health Survey and we will include the following: body mass index, blood pressure, blood cholesterol, blood glucose. When we have national and regional figures, we will then advise the Nation properly with facts as to how to prevent and control non-communicable diseases. I see as I walk and travel around this country that some of our countrymen and women are abusing food. Therefore there is a need that we give advice.

The event, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, of the 3rd and 9th May 2012 at Katutura State Hospital, was most unfortunate and, indeed, unacceptable. It was due to the few bad elements in the Ministry, as we have bad elements in the whole society. It does not just happen in the Ministry of Health and Social Services. It is something that I detested with the strongest terms. What did we do as a Ministry? On the 30th of May 2012 I invited all senior and mid-level managers from the 13 Regions to Windhoek at the Ministry's headquarters. The aim was two-fold: One, we discussed how to reduce maternal and neonatal deaths in this country. Secondly, how to restore public confidence in our health institutions, especially to the women who are of child-bearing age?

Among other issues discussed was poor attitude of some health workers, which must improve. Secondly, improvement in supervision. Thirdly, improvement in communication. Fourthly, need to have management protocols of common conditions in departments and that is the wards, and fifthly the hygiene and sanitation. Lastly, we also decided that there is a need that a national conference on health be carried out in order to discuss and find an amicable solution and what we want to achieve as a Nation and together through primary health care approach.

Furthermore, we have put in place a plan of action. We have further arranged trips to Regions to further consolidate issues discussed at the meeting of 30 May 2011. This will take place during the course of this month. Secondly, a four to five member team to visit three to four private hospitals in this country to look at best practice, which we will consider

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I must point out that on the 3rd of May 2012 when a mother and baby were lost in Katutura Intermediate Hospital, a total number of 156 mothers delivered in Namibia. That represented, percentage-wise, 99.4% who were discharged home in satisfactory condition. Only one was lost.

On the 8th of May 2012, a total of 174 mothers delivered and a total representing 99.4% of mothers and babies were discharged home. Of course, we wanted a hundred percent discharge, but as I mentioned earlier to illustrate the unfortunate event, which we also regret, must not overshadow the good work done by other men and women in our health facilities. Those responsible are being investigated and if found guilty, will be brought to book.

May I also share with the Honourable Members and the Nation at large on maternal and neonatal deaths in health facilities over the past three years.

During 2009 maternal deaths were 61. How many delivered safe and sound? They were 52,875. Neonatal deaths were 640, perinatal mortality rate, that is under 5, stood at 12.1 per one thousand.

In 2010 maternal deaths were 80. That represents 131 per 100,000 live births. Live births who delivered satisfactorily were 61,072. Neonatal deaths were 722. That represents, percentage-wise, 11.9 per 1,000.

During 2011 maternal deaths were 62, maternal mortality ratio was 111 per 100,000. You can see a decline. Live births were 55,704, neonatal deaths were 631, perinatal mortality rate, 11.3 per 1,000. Again I want to say there is indeed progress being made.

May I also share with the Honourable Members the recent report from Commissioner, Her Excellency Advocate Dr Bience Gawanas, which was recently tabled during the World Health Assembly, "*2012 Status Report on Maternal, New-born and Child Health for the Whole African Union.*" This Report will be tabled in Malawi during the forthcoming Summit of Heads of State and Government, prepared by the Ministers of Health of the African Union and in paragraph 20 it reads as follows: "*Mauritius has the lowest maternal mortality rate in SADC Region, which stands at 36*

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deaths per 100,000 live births as well as in Africa. None of the countries in SADC Region is considered on track to achieving MDGs.” The report says Mauritius is clearly making very good progress. It continues: *“It is followed by Namibia with a maternal death rate of 180 per 100,000 live births and Botswana with a rate of 109 per 100,000 live deaths.”* Yet people are talking out there as if nothing is happening. On the African continent, Namibia is second in response to maternal health.

These are commendable figures and among the top ten in Afro Region of WHO. It is regrettable that some mothers die while bringing life, particularly those who arrive early enough to be assisted. According to CARMA the slogan is, *“Africa Cares – No African woman should die while giving birth.”* In the Namibian context I keep on saying *“no Namibian should die while giving life.”* We are serious with that, but as always there will be some of those unfortunate incidences, but it should not all be brought in one basket.

We are addressing the shortcomings and we are determined to present better results come 2015. We are improving on supervision, equipment, supplies and providing refresher courses to maternity ward health workers. This coming Monday a total of forty-five midwives will be coming to Windhoek to undergo a course on gynaecology.

On infrastructure, for the past ten years the following has been done: Most hospitals underwent upgrading or the work is in progress. There is major work being carried out at Oshakati, Rundu and Katima Mulilo Hospitals which will now become referral hospitals. About forty new health centres and clinics have been built and staff accommodation provided as of recent. Mortuaries have also been provided at some remote health centres and clinics. Almost all health centres and clinics are connected to their base hospitals by telephone countrywide. Once we have reduced the current backlog, we will review our criteria for providing a clinic, particularly distance and population.

In terms of transport, over the past two to three years, we have received a significant amount of money to buy vehicles and thanks to the Honourable Minister of Finance . However, reckless driving is yearly reducing the

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number of ambulances we supplied to hospitals.

To improve speedy referral of emergencies from clinics, we have also decided to provide the 62 health centres and clinics, which are more than a hundred kilometres from their base hospitals, with vehicles. After this we will attend to the 39 health centres and clinics which are between 75 and 100 kilometres from their base hospitals. These vehicles will also serve neighbouring clinics. Transport is very important to health, particularly in this country with vast distances. We need better roads to health facilities to serve our patients better and for our vehicles to last longer. We do appreciate some of the gravel roads constructed, though some are not passable during the rainy season. We remain grateful to the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport.

The road between Katutura Intermediate Hospital and Windhoek Central Hospital will soon be tarred, he informed me and he has already given directives to his staff.

THE CHALLENGES:

Honourable Speaker, Sir, yes, the health sector is faced with challenges. I do not want to deny that fact. I already said there are shortages in some categories of professions; bad attitudes of some health workers; poor supervision; poor communication remains. I have mentioned what we are doing to address this.

Medical equipment: We sometimes receive inferior or poor quality equipment or supplies from suppliers who do not properly maintain our equipment. Those in charge of facilities or medical equipment are informed to be aware of this and to prevent them.

On pharmaceutical supplies, some companies fail to supply on time or not at all. This causes apparent shortages of medicines, though in most cases there are alternatives in stock. Then the public starts saying there are no medicines in health facilities. That is not the case.

Material supplies sometimes come erratic or are of poor quality. Once

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detected, suppliers are punished, but there are delays in getting alternatives and buying out is quite expensive.

Construction of health facilities: Honourable Speaker, Sir, when clinics are not built on time, as was the case in Oshakati, *Kamwi must respond*. We currently have about 45 health centres and clinics identified and approved to be built.

It is the intention of the Ministry of Health and Social Services to give information to the Nation that that it is true the state of health services and the required infrastructure and resources are not the way we would have wanted them to be. The state of affairs cannot be attributed to individuals in the Ministry, health practitioners in the country and the SWAPO Party-led Government, this is rather a national issue. When talking about health, one has to consider the health workers in the public health services, the providers in the private sector, such as construction contractors, suppliers of health technology and specialised medical services to the public health sector. It is for that reason that the Ministry feels that this matter should be approached from the integrated national strategy rather than sectoral.

In conclusion, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, the two events at Katutura Hospital have raised emotions, even among some SWAPO Members of Parliament. The suggestion of employing retired nurses, this is already in place since 2005. This shows how ignorant some of us are. We are advised to bring traditional birth attendants on board. Where have you heard this? This is a blind person who wants to advise the professionals. As leaders we must not scare mothers from delivering in hospitals. Neonatal tetanus will re-emerge if we do that. We must and particularly the public must remain calm, we are hard at work. We are doing our level best to reduce maternal and neonatal deaths. I must remind this House that even in developed countries there are maternal deaths at about 10 to 15 per 100,000.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is entirely up to this august House to decide in regard to the motions that are being brought before us on the way forward, but we remain seized with our slogan that no woman should die while giving life. Thank you.

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON MOONGO
HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

HON SPEAKER: There is a Motion to this effect on the Order Paper, but you have the overall prerogative as the Minister of Health and Social Services to inform the nation in possible respects about the state of health in the country, but the ruling being that a speaker should not prejudge the discussion of a Motion on the floor. However, given the nature of your portfolio, I allowed you to complete your speech.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:20

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Today is Thursday and we will start with Questions. Question 1 was put by Honourable Moongo to the Minister of Environment and Tourism. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1:

HON MOONGO: I put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. Let me thank Honourable Moongo for posing this question to me. Of course, Honourable Moongo is reminding us of the oath we have taken to uphold and defend the Constitution and the

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laws of the Republic of Namibia and Ministers and all Members of Parliament definitely should uphold and defend the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of Namibia, as mentioned.

The Honourable Member is alleging, *“that the State failed dismally to implement Article 6 on the protection of life.”* Honourable Deputy Speaker, Article 6 of the Constitution reads: *“The right to life shall be respected and protected. No law must prescribe death as a competent sentence. No court or tribunal shall have the power to impose a sentence of death upon any person. No execution shall take place in Namibia.”*

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, it is unfortunate that the Honourable Member has failed to understand this particular Article of the Constitution. Since the SWAPO Government took over when Namibia gained her Independence, we have not put any law on our books that prescribes death. No Court in Namibia has been given any power to impose the death sentence on any person and no execution has taken place in this country. In all fairness, how can you say the Government has failed, I believe it is the Honourable Member who has failed to interpret and understand the Constitution, besides the fact that he has been in this House for the last 22 years. Why does Honourable Kaura allow him to continue serving in this Honourable House if he is not even ready to understand the Constitution?

The Honourable Member in question continues: *“The lives of Namibians must be respected and protected.”* Article 115 deals with the internal security of Namibia and to maintain law and order and it reads: *“There shall be established by Act of Parliament a Namibian Police Force with prescribed powers, duties and procedures in order to secure the internal security of Namibia and to maintain law and order.”* We do have the Police Force in this country and they are maintaining law and order. Honourable Moongo, do not misrepresent the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia.

Then the Honourable Member asks: *“Can the Minister explain what prompted or hindered the Ministry not to introduce a law which will protect the lives of the people who are killed by protected animals, such as*

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HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

crocodiles, hippos, elephants, snakes and lions by assessing and providing funds for treatment and funerals?”

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Moongo is a Member of this House and I recall very well that he was in the Chamber when I introduced the Human-Wildlife Conflict Policy. That policy, amongst others, does assist families whenever their family members become victims of wildlife and it was debated here. I brought it here for the information of Members. At the same time the policy has also prescribed a self-insurance scheme and that scheme has started in the conservancies. Those outside the conservancies have been given that relief by the Government through the Game Trust Fund. Honourable Members, you cannot expect the Police to be where the snakes are and to arrest them when they come close to people. You cannot have the Police arresting wild animals. In any case, animals are part of the eco-system and understanding that the responsibility of the Government is to put in place mechanisms to manage human wildlife conflict.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I should not even have answered this question because from the way this question has been formulated I can tell the Honourable Member is not serious. However, we are very serious in assisting members of our communities who have become victims of wild animals. At the same time we are saying wildlife is national asset, as part of our biodiversity and we need to see how best we can manage human-wildlife conflict. This is not an easy matter and we cannot make a joke of it, we just need to think seriously how to manage it and that is what we are doing in a Ministry. I thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON MOONGO: The Ministry and the Police fail to assist those people who are attacked by hippos and crocodiles every now and then.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: May I ask a question? How can the Police prevent a snake biting a human being?

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HON !NARUSEB**

HON MOONGO: I respect the Chair, but how can they protect the people if the Minister herself has failed completely? I have the solution, but I am not a Minister. I am saying they failed dismally.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:

Honourable Deputy Speaker, that is exactly what I am saying, that the Honourable Member is not serious. If you have a solution and you do not want to speak to the Minister why? His Excellency the President has an open-door policy and every year he meets with the members of Opposition Parties. I cannot see why you as the Vice-President of your Party cannot share that information with the President on how to arrest snakes, lions, elephants, etc.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question 5 was put by Honourable Kaura to the Minister of Lands and Resettlement. Does the Member put the Question?

QUESTION 5:

HON KAURA: I put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. When I initially looked at the question, I thought I am not reading it properly, but if the question is alluding what I read, my response is very simple, that in terms of the legal framework under which we function when it comes to land reform in our country, the expectation is that individuals apply once farms are advertised in the newspapers and upon having applied and lapse of a certain time, the process of adjudication starts and land is allocated to successful

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HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

applicants. I would just advise the very distinguished residents of Gam and Eiseb Block to keep an eye on the applications appearing in the press and get application forms from offices of the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement to make use of the same opportunities.. Thank you.

HON KAURA: The reason why I asked that question is that they have been complaining that they did apply, but they are not being considered.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question 8 is put by Honourable Shixwameni to the Honourable Minister of Finance.

QUESTION 8:

HON SHIXWAMENI: I put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. I thought the Honourable Member was going to withdraw the question as it was adequately answered in the response of the Minister of Finance to the Budget Debate. I answered questions with regard to the implementation rate, I gave an answer on whether the Government is satisfied and I think that answer is now well-known to everybody as everybody has expressed concerns about the rate of implementation and what the perceived reasons were for the sub-optimal outturn. We explained how many jobs were created and the Director General has distributed a list of projects of TIPEEG and their costing. However, if the Honourable Member insists that I should repeat those answers, then I would like to seek the indulgence of the House to go and retrieve that information and present that again to Parliament next Thursday.

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**MOTION ON ALCOHOL ABUSE
HON NAMBAHU**

These questions are asking for the status of implementation as at a specific date. For example, question 4 reads, “*how many jobs in total have been created up to January 2012*” and that question was answered in March. If the Honourable Member wants that question to be answered again, I will do so, unless he wants to update the questions and put them again.

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

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE:
MOTION ON ALCOHOL ABUSE**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Alcohol Abuse in Namibia.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the Assembly adjourned yesterday, 6 June 2012 in terms of Rule 90(a) of the Standing Rules and Orders, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Ulenga, that the Motion be adopted. The Honourable Deputy Minister of Justice had the Floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Deputy Speaker, yesterday when I was concluding I was dealing with the issue of research and talking about the need to come up with a recipe on the content of the homebrews called *tombo* so that it does not vary from one shebeen to the other and at least the client knows that these are the ingredients used. (Intervention)

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**MOTION ON ALCOHOL ABUSE
HON NAMBAHU**

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: On a Point of Information. Before the Honourable Deputy Minister concludes on the question of research needed, yesterday a question was asked by the Honourable Speaker to explain the difference between brown and white sugar, but Honourable Moongo after the explanation still insisted to ask why people prefer brown sugar over white sugar. I tried to explain by saying there is actually no difference between brown and white sugar apart from the refining process and the only difference is that if you add what is called treacle syrup to the brown sugar, then you would get a concoction of a sugar type which is used for *tombo*. Unfortunately it becomes very, very strong. You probably know that syrup is normally sweeter than sugar. Otherwise the percentage of saccharose in white and brown sugar is the same. It is a question of attitude. It is like people saying they prefer coffee to tea, but in actual fact the amount of caffeine in both coffee and tea is really the same. It is a question of preference.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you very much for the addition, but the point I am trying to make and I am really serious, is that I sympathise with the view that this is a source of income for our people and people hasten to point out that they went to school and studied with the proceeds from *tombo*, but at the same time we are the people who are actually responsible for the health of our people. We have to strike a balance there. It is only fair if someone amongst our scientists and chemists takes an interest and examine the chemical composition of *tombo* in a laboratory, because I do not think we want to know what goes in there. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: May I ask a question? When we were students and you wanted to study until late, it was recommended that you should drink coffee. If the caffeine in both coffee and tea is similar, why were we not drinking tea instead of coffee? If you have high blood pressure, for example, the doctors recommend that you rather use brown sugar in your

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tea instead of white sugar. If they are both equal, why is brown sugar more recommended compared to white sugar?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: My argument will definitely take detour from the topic at hand, but the point is that I think the concentration sometimes plays a role. I remember those days when we studied and we were given coffee in a very small cup, we were objecting that, “*what does this white man think, as big as I am he is giving me this small cup?*” But it took you almost thirty minutes to finish that concentrated coffee that you drink in some other parts of the world. I have heard the argument about caffeine in coffee before, but this is information we have to take up at another level to educate our people.

However, on the issue of sugar, I asked around whether it is a perception and the customers themselves think that that is some Sangrita kind of sugar. The point is that scientific research needs to be carried out for people to have proper information of what they are consuming and probably for these people to belong to a certain association and *tombo* only to contain certain ingredients. If you add cooked tyres and all the other things that we hear people are using, that becomes something else. As much as you want to be diplomatic about it, it is the health of our people that is at risk and that is why I am calling for serious research on this.

Another argument has also been mentioned and that is the shebeens in the vicinity of schools. I am imploring the Members to approach this issue in a technocratic manner. These people are not there illegally, someone gave them permission to be there and if you were to chase them away, they would probably hasten to produce a licence and show that they were allocated the land to be where they are. In all instances you are likely to find a Government stamp on that. If you would bring them before me at court, I would actually tell you that this person is holding a licence issued by Government or a Traditional Leader. (Intervention)

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HON VON WIETERSHEIM: As I understood the argument, Honourable Member, are those not exactly the mistakes that were done, to give licences in instances where shebeens are erected near schools or churches or in residential areas where people feel offended by the shebeens and that the argument actually is that the society should now go and see whether they can change something about it?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Yes, that is why I am saying we must approach it in that probing manner to actually ask what is going wrong. What I find to be a problem in the rural areas is the problem of zoning. There is no zone for grazing, no zone for schooling, no zone for industries, no zone for anything and if the people are not educated in that manner, they will not be able to distinguish where the shebeens belong. We will have to compensate people, because as a lawyer I would be quick to say you have a licence to be here. That zoning has to be adhered to strictly, but I am speaking of rural areas where the Traditional Authorities are involved in allocating land on behalf of central Government. (Intervention)

HON DR AMWEELO: May I ask a question to the lawyer and medical doctor and engineer? There is a licence and the lawyer says the licence was issued by the authority concerned, the doctors say no we have a problem with noise pollution as more than 95 decibels are a hazard and the engineer says no, the location of the shebeen is not correct. Where are we going to draw the line?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: In modern management science there is what you call an integrated approach. Those people have to come together, they have to consult each other and then they have to consider the issue in an integrated manner, because even the land use and all other things have to be considered when that decision is being made.

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The person who takes that decision must be equipped with the necessary awareness of what that decision entails. If he only looks at it from a narrow perspective without considering all the others, then he would definitely allocate as they do because they are not aware of the sectoral implications. I would advocate for an integrated, comprehensive and well-rounded decision-making which is equipped with state-of-the-art information on the subject.

Coming to the issue of Vision 2030, I carried out a small tour yesterday to the Single Quarters. I spoke to one workshop owner about the problems he is experiencing in his business and he was quick to say alcohol. He says at the end of the month the Single Quarters become deserted, people do not come to work after having received their pay.

When I visited Windhoek before I went into exile, I had relatives working in the Single Quarters, the old compound and they were saying if you want work, do not go around looking for work, come at the site at the end of the month and you will be taken in as a casual worker because most of the people will not come at the end of the month. That was due to alcohol.

Honourable Kaura was asking the other day whether they protested against the decision of the apartheid regime to prohibit them from drinking whisky. I think these people were much more concerned about you as a labour force rather than anything else. It was certainly not for health but whether you were going to be able to productive after indulging in alcohol. I did not do proper research, but I think the underpinning reason might have been that, because in other areas that has been the reason. You were only interested in keeping the slaves alive by giving them a ration, not because you wanted them to eat, but for them to survive so that they can be productive tomorrow. That was the *modus operandi* of the slavery society.

When capitalism replaced feudalism that was what they were doing. The owners of the means of production needed a workforce and paid them a living wage. However, what I wanted to say is that alcohol is a threat to Vision 2030. Alcohol is a threat to health and we need to carry out research. I have some recommendations here and because of the time

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constraint I will just run through them quickly, because you do not go to Court with your story without coming up with prayers. Unless you have some prayers, you will not be able to do much.

We have to establish a body under the Ministry of Health and Social Services to look into the health-related issues and research on this matter. *Tombo* must be researched and at least a recipe of ingredients of the brew must be made known to the customer and the health inspector.

Bring on board all the key role-players, namely Government, churches and Traditional Leaders who must come with a strategy or a solution. You cannot go around accusing and passing the buck, you must come up with a strategy to say how you are going to combat alcohol abuse. When Honourable Moongo becomes president of this country, he must have it in his Party manifesto. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I want to ask a small question. Honourable Deputy Speaker, when you say we need to do research, I take it you mean scientific research to find out what is the content of *tombo*, but I think the concoction that we are talking about that is put in the *tombo* is not made formally. Therefore, the consumer of *tombo* will never actually know what is the content of that *tombo*, because the one who does it, does it illegally. It is not as if it is something formal that you buy from the shop and have the content written there. All kinds of things are added illegally and that is what makes *tombo* to be harmful while the real *tombo* is supposed to be harmless if people drink it moderately. That is the difference and it will be difficult.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I do not claim to possess the necessary knowledge as to how the chemists would go about testing, but obviously there could be a standard *tombo*. Then if you add all these other things, then it is no more *tombo*. If you take samples at random, you could definitely say this is not *tombo* because there are other dangerous

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ingredients. I would not want to call that *tombo* when you have added all those other things. Then it should be known that Mr Nangolo serves something which is not *tombo*.

Establish and support the Alcoholics Anonymous in the Regions. If there is an organisation that is doing some good work somewhere, why is it not present in all the other areas where there are potential beneficiaries? Could we see how best that could be decentralised and supported to render the service nationwide rather than being restricted to certain areas.

This message that has been going out condemning *tombo* and alcohol in general has not had the necessary impact and that message needs to be re-evaluated and updated. Those that are spreading it must actually have the knowledge that Honourable Iyambo was talking about so that they are able to make an impact, simply than to say do not drink and have no alternatives. You do not educate the people that you gentlemen who are buying your pregnant girlfriends alcohol, this is what is going to be passed on to the genes of your child. That information is not known to the men at the grassroots and you must be able to corroborate your preaching.

Do you only condemn the weakest, why not the wholesalers and the retailers? It is business, it is like gambling. We must not only go for the weak in the chain, we must go for all of them. They are the people who are advertising and they should be forced to contribute to the setting up of rehabilitation centres for their victims. They must be levied and it is not for Government to rehabilitate these people that they are luring into drinking.

These are some of my recommendations and I support the Motion. Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: . Thank you. Honourable Minister of Lands and Resettlement.

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HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. I have followed with keen interest the Debate generated by the Motion on the state, level and extent of alcohol abuse in Namibia and the various recommendations being made to control and curtail the accessibility to alcohol in our country, moved by Honourable Ben Ulenga, in this august House and in which several Honourable Members have contributed constructively.

While I do not want to repeat what was already said by other Honourable Members on the issue, I rise to contribute to the on-going Debate and from the onset agree with the general sentiments expressed by the House on the negative social impact that alcohol and its abuse has on our community.

Honourable Members, any day of any week both the print media, radio and television bring to light the continued and new culture of drinking in our communities and the evidence is plain to us all as it manifests in alcohol-fuelled violence and crime. Newspaper headlines with stories on semi-conscious young men found lying under a bridge, alcohol induced car accidents and others reflecting the every-day reality of alcohol abuse in Namibia and the result of our drinking culture confront us daily every morning.

The question surrounding the many reasons why people abuse alcohol is never truly addressed. As far back as 1986 the Secretary General of the Namibian Women's Voice, a certain Ms Elago, when discussing the living conditions in Katutura observed that: "*Life in Katutura is one dragging hell, children die of malnutrition and adults die of alcoholism.*" That was in 1986. This observation points to the availability of alcohol and the considerable consumption of alcohol in our black townships prior to Independence. This signifies the prevalence of social and economic problems that our people were already experiencing as a result of alcohol abuse. A look at the past is important as earlier policies and societal ethics will inform us on how best to deal with issues of alcohol abuse.

As far back as 1964 – the Odendaal Commission took an interesting initiative to alcohol policy. In order to reduce large scale illicit alcohol trading among the African population, the Commission recommended the

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kampong sale of alcohol. Looking at it retrospectively, even though as we were told by the very articulate Comrade Nambahu that they had their own reasons why they were not allowing our forefathers to have access to bottle stores, but in my opinion it must have been a blessing in disguise.

Although these were ill-conceived, apartheid informed policies, they resulted in the preservation of our cultural and social order.

Honourable Members, any discussion on alcohol abuse in Namibia should trace the history linked to the previous alcohol policies and trade amongst black people especially, as very little attention was paid to this social ill prior to Independence. We are all aware of the use of alcohol as payment in the wine industry in the Western Cape and believe you me, in some of our farming communities - and here I do not draw any distinction between the commercial farmers, who happen to be mostly white, and black communal farmers and the new entrants into the commercial environment of farming – and the effects of alcohol on these communities. Detachment from the heritage of the colonial alcohol policy will not be easy, especially as there are other socio-economic challenges that are being experienced by the people.

In 1992, in reference to the San community living in Namibia and Botswana, a researcher, a certain Axel Coma, commented that: *“In the past people had money for alcohol, food and clothing, now they just have money for alcohol.”* This highlights the extent of alcohol abuse in our community today.

Today, whilst Namibians have become aware of the dangers of illicit drug abuse, alcohol abuse seems to have slipped under the radar and is wreaking havoc in the country. The focus primarily seems to be on looking at ways how we can combat drug abuse, but the big brother next to us, alcohol abuse, seems to be falling through the cracks in terms of our efforts.

Currently 56% of adults in Namibia drink alcohol and 10% suffer from different alcohol-related illnesses. According to the Coalition for Responsible Drinking (CORD), one-quarter of Namibians have been

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injured as a result of drunken driving. Twenty percent of Namibians have suffered a broken relationship due to alcohol abuse and 92% agree that parents who abuse alcohol fail to take care of their families.

Within the 13 to 16 year bracket age group and the out-of-school youth alcohol is used rampantly as a form of cheap pleasure and also due to curiosity and peer pressure and cultural norms. As a result, most children in this category experience social problems at school and with law enforcement agencies.

The above statistics from the Ministry of Health and Social Services may be dismissed as out of hand, but very few people would disagree in this august House that alcohol is widely used and abused amongst our respective communities.

In June 2007, a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador spoke and highlighted alcohol abuse in our country and compared it to an evil that needed to be addressed throughout the African society. Alcohol abuse and its effect on families are at the core of underdevelopment amongst us as people.

Through alcohol abuse many social ills, stretching from rape, murder and child neglect, are committed. Like HIV/AIDS, alcohol abuse also affects the pace at which our economy grow, inevitably so. It has an impact on work productivity through absenteeism and a significant portion of our national Budget is allocated towards addressing the associated health care needs. As a result of alcohol abuse, more people are exposing themselves to risky sexual behaviour that can accelerate the spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Various schools of thought have been advanced on how to tackle the challenges posed by alcohol abuse, but most do not offer a long-term and sustainable solution. Currently the Government, the media, the civil society and community church leaders have been advocating for responsible drinking, but does it have any effect? Some within our society have urged that Namibia is tackling many social issues, such as HIV/AIDS and poverty, such that resources for tackling alcohol abuse might be scarce. I beg to differ as alcohol abuse and HIV/AIDS are not

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mutually exclusive, for if as a society we tackle alcohol abuse we will at the same time be addressing an issue that catalyses both HIV/AIDS and poverty through the destruction it does to a person's health and society at large.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, alcohol use has been entwined with nearly all human societies throughout history. Its use is broad and is associated with social custom, but however alcohol is a major cause of social ills globally and Namibia is proving not to be an exception. The harmful consequences of alcohol use, both for the users and for others, are diverse and comprehensive. Often these consequences bear down hardest on the vulnerable population segment.

Research by the Alcohol Drug Council of Australia found that the cheaper and more available alcohol is in a community, the higher the consumption and the greater the harm caused by the use of alcohol and the Australians probably ought to know because the whole of the Aborigines, the indigenous people of that continent, have been destroyed. We do not need to reinvent the wheel, we need to take examples from what has happened elsewhere and start to save the destiny of our people in terms of the level of exposure to alcohol. These studies also concur on the relationship between alcohol sales and property damage, public disorder, assault and crime in general. I will probably listen to you if you advise me while I am sober and I happen to be sober all the time, but if I have taken something, I will look you up and down and say, "*listen, who are you to tell me anyhow?*"

Honourable Deputy Speaker, although current legislation in Namibia prohibits the sale of alcohol under the age of 18 years – who is fooling who – a survey conducted by UNAM in 1999 reported that 50% of our youth have access to alcohol. If you have five children in your household, know that maybe three must have had some acquaintances with alcohol.

The World Health Organisation and the World Bank concur that the most effective approach to reduce alcohol abuse is to implement a comprehensive set of measures to reduce alcohol consumption. At its 63rd World Health Assembly a resolution was taken to embark upon strategies

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to reduce the harmful use of alcohol. These strategies include community action to reduce the harmful use of alcohol, addressing the availability of alcohol, addressing marketing of alcoholic beverages, pricing policies and reducing public health impact of illegally and informally produced alcohol.

I do not have the intention to thwart the efforts of individuals in our community, but the level at which alcohol consumption and alcohol advertisement is glorified leaves a wrong message. If you watch these up and coming popular music stars, when you are prompted by the young people in the household to watch their video, there is a bottle in one hand and a glass of sparkling wine in the other and it is becoming a culture. We need to do something about it so that people start to appreciate other things. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: May I ask a question? What is your view about how we are marketing our pride, Tafel Lager, *My people my pride* as advertised on our Television screens?

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: You know, from a very early stage we were told that too much of anything, whether good or bad, is going to be detrimental to you as an individual and to the society at large. I have no axe to grind with our pride, the Windhoek Lager. There are probably Namibians who find joy in using it, but the point that I am making is that we should not glorify the consumption of alcohol. If we glorify it, it sends the wrong signals to the people we are so fond of referring to as the leaders of tomorrow.

When I look at us, and I am also in that category now, there is no way that I can escape that, the generation gap is narrowing and once we are gone, do we see people that are able, in terms of ethical behaviour, to take over? Are we as a Nation not running the risk of inadvertently contributing to the demise of the very crop of people that we want to raise through certain

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activities that we glorify, certain examples that they see and embrace as role models? I am only asking.

Honourable Members, the initial solution is for us to recognise that alcohol abuse is a common problem in our country and owing to its socio-economic impact on our community. When you go for treatment at some learned people's places, they tell you that you must first admit that you have a problem and it makes the process of healing much easier, but if we are in a state of denial and of late as a Nation we seem to be in a state of denial with so many things, you would hear people screaming at the top of their voices that "*I am not a tribalist*", but when you sit back and reflect you wonder who is fooling who. Sometimes actions speak louder than words.

In conclusion, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, as a Nation we must stand united and find solutions together that best address the challenges of this social menace. We must work and support the alcohol control efforts that are being championed by the Ministry of Health and Social Services, the Minister of Safety and Security, the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the Ministry of Justice. I call on all Members to ensure effective coordination and let us work together for a common purpose for the benefit of our Nation.

The alcohol industry should also be part of the solution in finding a lasting social responsibility effort. I thank you for your attention and I want to register my unconditional support to Honourable Ulenga's Motion.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Simataa.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. Let me start by thanking Honourable

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Ulenga for having introduced this Motion, a motion that has elicited record interventions from both sides of the Chamber due to its relevance to the progress, social and economic well-being of our Nation.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, some of the Members who spoke earlier on this Motion acknowledged that alcohol is as old as the creation of humankind and I think that was said by Honourable Kaura and that is very true, because alcohol, in biblical terms, is as old as the act of getting baptised. Its benefits and ill-effects have been and will continue to be contested for generations to come, for in my view, for as long as humankind exists, alcohol and alcohol consumption, regardless of economic status of the individual, will continue.

I personally have seen fellow Namibians who live in abject poverty, but use whatever cent they lay their hands on, on nothing else but alcohol. That particular act in a desperate situation tells a story a thousand times.

Trying to bar the consumption of alcohol is a futile lifelong exercise that no nation on earth will ever accomplish. Even in those closed communities where alcohol consumption has been barred, people always find a creative way to quench their thirst with the forbidden liquid.

I, therefore, tend to agree with those who spoke earlier on this Motion, advocating for moderation for those of us who cannot resist the temptation of feasting on this liquid. My emphasis is "*feasting*". By the way, there is no problem – and I will stand by this statement – in drinking alcohol, the problem lies in excessive intake of alcohol. There is no problem in taking alcohol, it is normal. Those of you who have been to France may have realised that they do not take a meal without a glass of wine, but they do not open a bottle of wine, *gooi die doppie weg en die bottle moet leeg wees. Dit is ons probleem daardie*. The problem lies in the excessive intake of alcohol with the result that one loses control over one's mental faculties, because once in this state, the evils associated with alcohol will then start to emerge. The Bible says any excessive intake of any foodstuff is a sin before God.

Having said all this, the question is, what should we do? There are several

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options. One is that the entire spectrum of our society, as was stated, must acknowledge that we have a problem. That must be the starting point for Namibia. I wish to repeat, denial will not take us anywhere. We must collectively examine the current state of affairs with regard to this problem, which makes me want to support the proposal that was made by Honourable Von Wietersheim that the Motion should not only end with our Debate in this House, but should be referred to the relevant Standing Committee of this Chamber for further examination. There is merit in this proposal for, as I stated earlier, all stakeholders, from those of us who are privileged to be here, those who are outside, the individuals, the families, the communities, the clergy, everyone must be involved. Hopefully this process will, amongst other things, include a close examination of the research that has been done so far and a close examination of the social and economic effects of alcohol, not only on individuals but also on the ability of our country to pursue its developmental initiatives under the drowning weight of alcohol.

Additionally, such an extensive engagement should examine what seems to be the lost value systems in our society, which may easily be at the heart of the problem. Yes, there have been several calls made to review the existing legislation. While I agree, we also need to acknowledge that some of the existing provisions of the Liquor Act, in particular, have not been fully applied.

When Comrade Nambahu was intervening, he referred to one of them. We issue licences, they are legal, but I do not know how many of us have realised that within the Liquor Act there is a provision that any given community can petition through the Courts for the removal of a shebeen. Can we go in our records and establish how many communities in Namibia have exercised that particular option? If I am not mistaken, the answer is zero. Therefore, while we need to review the existing statutes, we also need to examine all the other issues.

Let me conclude by saying this is one of the more lively relevant Motions that I have ever seen being introduced in this Parliament since I joined Parliament, by the Opposition and I am encouraging the Opposition to continue introducing such Motions. I thank you for your attention.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House is adjourned until the 12th of June 2012.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2012.06.12 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
12 JUNE 2012**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, kindly take note we have in the Chambers staff from the National Assembly of Kenya who are on attachment for the whole week to our Parliament. You are welcome to the National Assembly of Namibia.

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

**TABLING: REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON GENDER AND FAMILY AFFAIRS**

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I lay upon the Table:

- Report on the Familiarisation Visit of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Gender and Family Affairs to Karas, Hardap, Caprivi and Kavango Regions during the month of February 2011 for discussion;
- Report on the Familiarisation Visit of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Gender and Family Affairs to the Parliament of

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Rwanda, undertaken during the period 14 to 18 March 2011 for note-taking; and

- Report on the Exchange Visit by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Gender and Family Affairs to the Stortinget Parliament of Norway from 16 to 20 October 2011.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Reports. Any further Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE: MOTION ON INITIATION OF LAW
TO REGULATE RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on the Initiation of a Law to Regulate Respect for Human Dignity.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the House adjourned on Thursday, 23 of February in terms of Rule 90, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Moongo that the Motion be adopted. The Honourable Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs had the Floor and he may continue.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. Just to refresh the memories of the Honourable Members, the Motion by Honourable Moongo was one that we should have a law that regulates

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issues for respect of human dignity. Previously in my contribution I did indicate that such Motion is not necessary as the law already exists that addresses such issues. I did cite Article 8 of the Namibian Constitution that says that the dignity of all persons shall be inviolable.

I want to talk about physical dignity and personal or emotional dignity. I want to bring to the attention of the Mover of the Motion that the issue of human dignity in respect of physical dignity has long been addressed by our Courts, as stated in the case of *Ex Parte Attorney-General: In re Corporal Punishment*. It is outlawed because it is infringing upon the physical dignity of a person in the sense that self-respect will not be observed in our society and when a State is involved in this type of infringement of physical dignity of people, it equally reduces the State to the level of the offenders.

It is also outlawed because of its very nature, that it is insensitive and it does not appeal to emotional sensitivity. It is also arbitrary in the way it is carried out because it depends on the one carrying it out.

I want to come to the issue of emotional dignity. Honourable Moongo particularly cited some of the words being used, like *Omalandwambongo* and so on, saying we should outlaw the infringement upon the emotional dignity of persons. Again the law does exist. We have criminal law, we have civil law. If you really feel that your right has been infringed upon, you should seek recourse from the courts of law. For example, there is a principle laid in cases such as *Bester versus Calitz*, 1982(3) SALR, 864 and *Pretorius versus Masilela*, 1994(3) SA, 167 Transvaal Division. These ones are saying infringement upon the dignity of persons includes insults and actually any insult or belittling contemptuous behaviour. If the Honourable Member feels that his dignity has been violated by certain words directed at him, he is free to see recourse from the court of law as precedents have already been set.

However, it should not only be the Honourable Member who feels his dignity has been infringed, it should be perceived as such by the society. For example, when you hear SWAPO members saying DTA *otwemutokola omushila*, meaning, “we have cut DTA’s tail” or mention

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the name of any leader of the DTA, it does not mean that you have a tail. In Oshiwambo when you say “*Ngandi okuna omushila omule*” it means you have so many people following you and now we have cut these followers from you and these are not insults. (Intervention)

HON SHIXWAMENI: May I ask a question? Do you remember that during the colonial days the South African apartheid regime agents would depict His Excellency the Founding President and many other leaders with tails and would you accept that it was basically an insult that was carried over from the colonial regime?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: These are two different things. The apartheid regime drew pictures, depicting the head of Comrade Sam Nujoma on the body of an animal with a tail, but when the NANSO leader, Ignatius Shixwameni, was teaching us songs, he taught us to sing “*Moongo otwemutokola Omushila.*” When you as a NANSO leader were teaching us those types of songs, it was not a reference to the tail of people, but referring to the supporters. (Intervention)

HON SHIXWAMENI: May I ask the Honourable Member a further question? Just to preface it as the Honourable Member may have been young that time, can he recall the time when exactly I was singing that song which he mentioned?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: I vividly remember that when we were attending a NANSO conference in Otjiwarongo, Comrade Pohamba Shifeta sitting next to me is my witness.

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These are figurative speeches, they do not literally mean people have tails, therefore they must not be taken to be insults.

I think the Honourable Member who moved the Motion misunderstands this concept of figurative speeches. These are not insults, it means we are reducing the followers of this person and not that the person has a tail like an animal.

The other issue is that the Honourable Member is also a Traditional Leader and our Traditional Courts insults come with costs, these are not laws that we need to enact, these are things that we already deal with.

For example, if you are insulted in the traditional community of the Honourable Member, they have penalties ranging from N\$100 to N\$200, depending on which body parts are being mentioned or how you are being insulted. Therefore, you can take a person to a Traditional Court if he insults you.

However, we must not come here and act as if we are holier than others. I know of leaders of the Opposition who make reckless statements about SWAPO leaders. You have never heard us complaining when you do these things. I read in the paper that the Mover of the Motion this year had Independence celebrations at his house where he levelled all kinds of accusations against the Government and its leaders. It was never an issue, but when you meet a SWAPO leader on the political battle front and you are being boxed heavily, then you start crying and bring Motions here that we should enact laws. There is no need for that as these laws exist, just seek recourse from the courts of law. I thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Shifeta.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE,
SPORT AND CULTURE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy

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Speaker.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I want to echo what my neighbour here has mentioned, that we do not have any legal void in our Constitution or our laws, including common law, when it comes to the protection of human rights, inclusive of what the Honourable Member has indicated, namely insults, etcetera.

Chapter 3 of our Constitution, which is the cornerstone of our fundamental human rights and freedoms, clearly stipulates those protections in Articles 5 and 6 and more specifically Article 8 deals with respect for human dignity, thus there exists no legal void, everything is covered here. If any person feels that his or her right has been violated or infringed, that person may approach any court of law or tribunal for redress. (Intervention)

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HON SHIXWAMENI: May I ask a question? Honourable Deputy Minister, I fully agree with you that there is no legal void in our Constitution and that the laws are there to protect human dignity, but would you agree with me that in order to seek recourse in the courts of law in our country is too expensive for the ordinary man? Would you agree that that is the case today?

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE,
SPORT AND CULTURE:** We also have Traditional Courts which have their own sanctions. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: The Honourable Member mentioned Traditional Courts, but the Traditional Courts never tamper with any issue to do with politics. I thought they were educated at UNAM on the law, but they do not understand that the provisions of the Constitution are the basics only.

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We need a practical law which stipulates the punishment when you insult your opponent.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Honourable Moongo, an insult is just an insult. Whether it is politically motivated and you if feel that your rights have been violated, that does not make any difference. If you judge that against the Constitution and it is found that it has really been violated, it is an insult, whether done on the platform of a Political Party. What you need to do is to seek redress from a court of law or tribunal. We must also understand how our adjudication works. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: You cannot disagree with your chief, you can disagree in your congress.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: I understand, but here you are not a chief. Honourable Moongo, I want you to understand that an insult is just an insult and everything you mentioned in your motivation is taken care of by the Supreme Law, the Constitution. Article 8 clearly answers Honourable Moongo's question. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Honourable Deputy Speaker, may I ask my student a question? He is my student but sometimes I do not understand you and in fact, many times you will never understand him even if he is a teacher. Honourable Moongo was my student. The question I have is that when Honourable Moongo tabled this Motion, he was never specific to say he was insulted by someone who said what. Honourable Moongo, the Chief of Omalaala,

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has also not indicated to us that when he was insulted, he has taken somebody through the normal channels. If you have clearly indicated that you were insulted, you went to Court and the matter was not addressed, then you could convince us. Honourable Shifeta, do you think Honourable Moongo is genuinely saying that there is a need to create another law to protect him? Because if people were to be taken to Court or disciplined for using bad language against others, Honourable Moongo would have been first because he has insulted everybody, including the Founding Father. Do you think he is genuine in his request?

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE,
SPORT AND CULTURE:** I was trying to find out how Honourable Moongo would title that law, because what he has motivated is already covered under Chapter 3. Does it mean that we need to enact a law for everything that happens to an individual while protection is already guaranteed by our Constitution?

I do not know if Honourable Moongo has read Articles 5, 6 and 8 of the Constitution and whether he understands it. Reading is one thing, understanding is something different. That is probably why you have come up with this Motion. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question, please? Honourable Deputy Speaker, before I ask my question, allow me to congratulate the Honourable Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs because I understand that he has now graduated as a lawyer. Coming back to my question, I am a bit at a loss listening to the three Colleagues. The Motion on the Order Paper is talking about respect for human dignity, it is not talking about Honourable Moongo as a person. Listening to the three Colleagues, I am getting the impression that the reason why Honourable Moongo brought this Motion is perhaps to try and address exactly the disrespect that is being shown to him for bringing in this Motion.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Honourable Tjihuike, I do not know whether you have read Honourable Moongo's mind, but what I can detect from his Motion is that when people sing political songs, he has no case to take to Court. Now he wants us to come up with law that would stop people from singing political songs, which we cannot do. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Deputy Minister, you are doing well, just try to convince Honourable Moongo that another law to regulate is not needed.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Honourable Moongo does not understand. It is very difficult to convince Honourable Moongo if he does not understand. Honourable Moongo, everything is covered here, there is no void with regard to your Motion. If somebody has insulted you, you can still go to Court or any institution and seek redress. There is no need to come up with any law to address your case. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Kazenambo.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: I listened to Honourable Moongo's motivation of this Motion and I sincerely respect Honourable Moongo's sentiments as expressed in his motivation. As much as the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia and other public policy instruments are in place, I think I am not necessarily sharing or supporting Honourable Moongo's sentiments. Taking a leaf from some of the issues that he raised, such as respect for one another and not calling each other names, I think I appreciate the background from which our society has emerged, a background of

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entrenched discriminatory policies that were based on colour, ethnicity, economic and social status, etcetera. I am appreciating the background of our society which is composed people of different cultural backgrounds, a country where you find citizens needing translation when they speak to one another at time, a society which was at war for over a century. In a society such as this one policy instruments may not be enough to have a paradigm shift from the background of yesterday, because our past experiences may continue to haunt us and we need to do soul-searching. Sometimes we talk about the policy of reconciliation, sometimes we talk about having put in place an inclusive society, we talk about gender balance, but taking a step forward from these good public instruments, the prejudices still rule the streets of this country. The prejudices may be of political nature, economic nature or even of legal nature while the public policy instruments are in place. Somehow, somewhere this society needs soul-searching.

I live in a country with good thoughts and good ideas, but when you see people not having an iota of respect for human life, you cannot claim that you have respect for human dignity – a society in which we have baby-dumping, a society in which young women are being battered and their lives taken almost every day by their lovers. It tells us that somehow we need to appreciate, contextualise about respect for human life.

Yes, when we are canvassing for votes at political rallies we call each other names and we are all guilty of this. We may be doing this because of the culture of yesteryears, but if we are to depart from this and take a new approach, all of us will need to agree as it takes two to tango and it cannot be otherwise. Even the men of cloth are doing this and the third time you will forget that he is a man of the cloth and you will be tempted to do the same. If you discriminate against others, you will force them to discriminate against you and it is a natural course. If you do not respect others, you will force them to disrespect you.

We enjoy sitting in our cosy little houses and little corners, calling each other names either based on ethnicity or colour, so let us stop pretending. Let us say in the Namibian society, in this peaceful country of ours, founded on the principles of unity, solidary and justice for all it cannot be

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justice for some – forget about it. Unity of common purpose needs sacrifices from all the Parties that we have to unite. It cannot be in one Party’s interest and be sustainable.

Both of us are duty-bound to build this society. If we say that our culture is not to call one another names, let us engage one another on issues, let us debate the issues, let us forget about colour, gender, ethnic background and economic and social standing in society and let us tackle the issue. Then we will build a new culture. As long as we retreat when our personal vested interests are challenged, we will not build an ideal society for this country, forget about it.

In conclusion, respect takes two to tango. If you are talking about respect, it is respect for yourself and immediately you engage the second person, it should be mutual respect. It cannot be respect on the part of one person forever, it was not designed to meet one person’s interest, it should be in the interest of us all. With this intervention, I rest my case.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Dr Kawana.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. Let me join my learned Colleagues who are aspiring to be lawyers, such as Honourable Mushelenga, who has B.Juris, Honourable Pohamba Shifeta, who is pursuing his Law Degree and will possibly be joined by Honourable Shixwameni whom I know is also pursuing legal studies and then there is also Honourable Utoni Nujoma, the Foreign Minister and Comrade Nambahu.

I concur with the Honourable Members who said there is no need to come up with legislation as per the Motion of Honourable Moongo, the Vice-President of DTA. I will start with the Supreme Law of our land, the Namibian Constitution, which covers the subject matter under discussion,

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particularly Article 8 which addresses the issue of human dignity.

In addition, Article 66 of the Namibian Constitution recognises the common law and under common law you can take somebody to Court if you are insulted and that is already recognised in terms of Article 66 of our Constitution. Equally, under customary law there are procedures that can be used for redress before customary institutions. Our customary law is recognised by Article 66 of our Constitution.

In addition to that, the Namibian State has ratified a number of international conventions which address the subject matter under discussion, either conventions passed by the United Nations or the African Union and again the Namibian Constitution, under Article 144, recognises those conventions which have been ratified by Namibia and they become part and parcel of the Namibian law.

Having regard to all these instruments, it would be an over-kill, a waste of time to come up with another piece of legislation while we already have these instruments which are covered by the Namibian Constitution.

On the basis of this conclusion, therefore, I Move that this Motion is unnecessary because we have more than adequate legislation on our statute books, the common law, the customary law, provisions of the Constitution and international instruments which cover the subject matter under discussion. I rest my case and I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I call on Honourable Moongo to reply.

HON MOONGO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I listened to the contributions made by the Honourable Members and there are those who think it is not an issue and those who feel that if we really want true unity of Namibians, we have to eradicate all the colonial slogans. Let me thank

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those who participated and also those who did not want to be seen to be supporting the Motion.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the history of agony and intolerance during the dark chapter of lack of tolerance must be buried and closed after 22 years. If after 22 years we are still using those slogans of colonial times, I think we have gone wrong somewhere. If we want true unity and democracy in Namibia, then we must listen to what Honourable Kazenambo said.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, some SWAPO members and the Government are too stubborn to change and pave the way for peace and tolerance. (Interjections) No, it is not insulting.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you have started well, but I do not think the word “stubborn” is a fitting one, otherwise you are contradicting yourself. Just withdraw the word.

HON MOONGO: I said some of them, but I will withdraw. Many of the SWAPO members say they will forgive, but they will not forget and this is an indication that SWAPO does not want to recognise the plight of oppressed Opposition Parties and some individuals who are oppressed by deadly propaganda, that they are puppets who were bought by the enemy while there is no proof that anybody was used by the enemy. It is said they are stooges. Do you have proof of anybody who is a stooge? That is why we need a law to prove it.

Some SWAPO members prevent you from going to Regions to address political meetings. Is that democracy? Colleagues, I think after 22 years this is wrong. *Oombwanawa ihadhiningi oonde!*

Honourable Deputy Speaker, when the Opposition and oppressed individuals in Namibia demand a change from this intolerance by

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SWAPO, SWAPO becomes more intolerant. The more you want them to change, the more they remain the same. Is that not an insult? They change only the faces of the hard-line leaders; they are replaced with hypocritical leaders, those who say they uphold the Constitution while they do not respect the Constitution.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:15

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Moongo, before you conclude, several Members of Parliament have quoted decided cases, that there is no need for such a law and I thought that you would respond to that. Right now you are attacking and I humbly request you not to misuse the right you are given.

HON MOONGO: I am appealing to the House that we forget about the colonial propaganda and have new constructive slogans, one Namibia, one Nation and not to call each other puppets and all those things.

If we continue with the old slogans of that time, then there is no democracy, no freedom of Opposition to campaign freely. Therefore, we need a law to bury the miserable past. If someone instigates political violence, the law must be applied to punish the culprit in a court of law. That is what I demand.

I know the Constitution is the fundamental basis, but we need to domesticate our law, with punishment, with everything. If you insult somebody, you will be punished N\$100 by a Traditional Court and it is put into practice and there is peace in the Traditional Authorities, we do not hate each other. We want to change from hate to unity.

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Lastly, Honourable Deputy Speaker, we need to advance democracy and true unity and true reconciliation. We need restorative justice in order to repair the past injustice. I think many of you do not know about restorative justice. It is to redress the past agonies and mistakes and to replace it with progressive action. We do not need *tit-for-tat*, we need true reconciliation and tolerance to bury the ugly past. With this I appeal to all of you to support respect of each other's dignity. That is all. This is a constitutional obligation and we need to demonstrate it. Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I now put the Question, that the Motion be adopted. Any objection? The House is divided. Those Members in favour of the Motion, please rise. Those Members against, please rise. Those Members abstaining, please rise.

The results are as follows: Those in favour of the Motion – 1; those against the Motion – 33; those abstaining – 10. The Motion is rejected. The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE: MOTION ON ALCOHOL ABUSE

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Alcohol Abuse in Namibia.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the Assembly adjourned on Thursday, 7 June 2012, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Ulenga, that the Motion be adopted. Any further discussion? Honourable Shixwameni.

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HON SHIXWAMENI: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I did not really want to participate in the Debate, but as the discussion was going on I thought I am historically obliged as the sole representative of our Party in this House to say a couple of things. Mine is not going to be a long speech, it is just going to be adding some footnotes to the Debate on alcohol abuse in Namibia.

Indeed, it would have been interesting, to have an open way of debating, to ask how many Members of Parliament have shebeens that sell alcohol. That would have been a very good starting point. I know some, but it would have been good for us to know or by the end of the Debate for this House to know how many Members of Parliament have shebeens, because we need to set the example when we are debating these issues. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, how do you define a shebeen? It is the way it looks, that it is ugly or is it the contents or what is your definition of a shebeen? Whenever something is selling alcohol, is it a shebeen? Can you define what a shebeen is?

HON SHIXWAMENI: I think the Liquor Acts spells out very clearly what a shebeen is, because when the Liquor Board issues licences, they have certain criteria that they follow, but the Honourable Deputy Minister of Justice can just go to the archives and read it. We do not need to engage in a linguistic gymnastics around here. I was saying it would have been interesting, in fact to the society as a whole, to just know how many Members of Parliament own shebeens.

I must, of course declare my interest, because we must depart from a point of declaration of conflict of interest. Some of us are defending what is being defended here because we have direct ownership, so we have that interest to defend. Some of us do not have any interest to defend apart

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from declaring that some of us, like myself, take wine now and then. But it would have been a very good departure point. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: A question from my side. When you ask how many Members of Parliament have shebeens, do you also include Members who have formal shops that are selling alcohol? That is why he asked you to define shebeens.

HON SHIXWAMENI: I am including all alcohol outlets when I am debating now about the way that alcohol is being made available in the country. Woermann Brock may be a well-decorated shebeen, but they just basically do the same thing.

My departure point of my footnote is that the State has the responsibility to protect its citizens and in this particular case where our Nation is being destroyed by alcohol, I think it is the State's responsibility to take action that would protect its citizens from self-destruction. Departing from that point, I must say that I agree with most of the arguments that have been raised, both the historical, the health, the effects of alcohol used and abused in our society. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: I have a question to the Honourable Member. When one says that the State has a responsibility over the issues of liquor licences, that they also have responsibility over its citizens, are you aware that as individuals we have responsibilities over ourselves, meaning that when you go and drink, you should know that liquor is intoxicating. If you take more than you can handle, it would definitely intoxicate you, do you think it is the State which has to ensure that you are not intoxicated? Are you aware that as individuals have responsibilities over ourselves on what we take in and how much we take in?

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HON SHIXWAMENI: The Honourable Member jumped the gun, I was coming to that. I was going to say that alcohol use or abuse is about self-regulation at the end of the day, but the State, in terms of laws, has to regulate the availability of the substances or to make it not available. It is very important that whilst the individual is at the end of the day responsible for his or her own actions, the State has to ensure that the substances are not easily available in such quantities that they self-destruct (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Member a small question? On that point, Honourable Shixwameni, you are taking me back to where you started. Do you not think it would be a good idea for the public out there to know how many of us sitting in this Chamber are selling alcohol, whether in decorated shebeens or the ones in Evelyn Street, by way of saying those who have shebeens should raise their hands and then we will know?

HON SHIXWAMENI: No, I do not want to put anyone on the spot, but as I said, it would have been interesting right from the start of the Debate if each and everyone who took the Floor would have declared that I drink my wine and this is the way that I drink it or I sell alcohol at a shebeen or at Woermann Brock. It would be good that by the time that the Mover of the Motion concludes, he actually insists to know how many people have shebeens around here.

There is no need for me to repeat what was said by Honourable Simaata and Honourable !Naruseb. They articulated the issues so well that one does not need to go into details. What I would like to propose is that we separate the long-term issues from the short-term issues, because we all agree, as the Debate has demonstrated that alcohol abuse in this country has gone haywire and that we need to act.

When people talk about research, there is already a body of knowledge

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both nationally and internationally available on what alcohol abuse can do to a country and its people. We can make use of that, we do not need to reinvent the wheel time and again when we have a problem, we can make use of the body of knowledge that is readily available in the national and international spectrum. I think Honourable Simaata referred to the destruction of the Australian Aborigines and we can leapfrog and we do not need to go back and start with the industrial wheel as it was invented in Britain or in Germany in order to take action. I would like us to act in order to save the Nation, because as Members of the Legislature we do not have anybody to cry to, we are the top leaders of the country and we are the ones that need to take the steps and the action needed in order to stem alcohol abuse and alcohol availability in this country.

In order not to waste time, I appeal to this House that we act now to save our Nation and there are certain things which can be done with immediate effect. That is why I said I am putting footnotes to the facts. We have a Ministry of Trade and Industry which is responsible for the issuing of these liquor licences and they can take immediate action without waiting for research, without necessarily having to go and interview people, because I think that report will probably come here. The Standing Committee on Gender, the Standing Committee on Constitutional Affairs toured around the country and it is a cry by all the regional leaders and local leaders that the easy availability of alcohol and the mushrooming of shebeens at almost every second house need to be stopped. Therefore, we do not need to go and ask people for their opinions on this because the leaders at regional and local levels have aired their serious complaint on the way that the Liquor Boards are operating. For example, the Liquor Board in Keetmanshoop issues a shebeen or bottle store licence in Aroab, but they do not even bother to go to Aroab to determine the vicinity of this bottle store. People do not have a way of objecting, because the Liquor Board members do not consult the people in the villages whether they approve of the shebeen or not.

My motivation has always been that people have the right to object under the Liquor Act, but we must also accept the level of both literacy and understanding of the laws of our country by our citizens, that not everybody is aware of the provisions of the law.

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There is a slogan which says “*Don’t Drink and Drive*”, but alcohol is available at service stations. What does that say to us? The Ministry should basically act and tell the service stations to concentrate on their core business, that of selling petrol, diesel and oil. They must get out of the business of selling alcohol, because that is also a provocation for drivers to take one for the road. The Government can simply decide that alcohol would no longer be sold at service stations, period, because we now spend millions of dollars on the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund to attend to victims of motor car accidents, while at the same time we are complaining people should not drink and drive.

Another suggestion is the abolishment of the so-called Special Liquor Licences. That is also an action to be taken between the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Justice, it does not need to wait for a very long research. We can decide as a Nation that we have had enough of these shebeens. I went to Evelyn Street and from the first end to the last end, at every side is a bottle store or a shebeen. If you go there at night it is like being in New York. The traffic of persons and vehicles is just too much. In fact, one can say that Evelyn Street is the street that never sleeps in Namibia because up to 04:00 they are still selling alcohol around there and truly, we can limit the number of Special Liquor Licences. As a Nation we can stand up and say they shall be limited in terms of location, that you would not award ten Special Liquor Licences in the same proximity. That is a measure which can be taken because it is a question of regulation.

The third one is that if we all agree that shebeens are too many, bottle stores are too many and easily accessible to people, we can decide on a moratorium on the further issuance of liquor licences. We can say that for the rest of the year we shall not grant liquor licences countrywide.

At the end of the day the abuse of alcohol by the youth is our responsibility and we also need to educate our communities, particularly the young people because the young people have taken to alcohol and that is the future that is being destroyed. We cannot say, as Dr. Kenneth Kaunda during the seventies said, “*how do we lead a drunk Nation?*” That is the question that we need to ask ourselves. However, at the end of

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the day it is about self-regulation and I hope as leaders we shall all be united, as we have been united during this Debate, to make sure that the availability of alcohol is limited and probably the prices need to be increased so that those who do not have cannot squander their little resources on alcohol. Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Makgone.

HON MAKGONE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I rise to make a small contribution on the Motion. So much has been said and I am not going to repeat what was said. I listened to the previous speakers who made contributions from different perspectives – historical, biblical, social, cultural, biological, scientific and even chemical reactions of alcohol.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, me being a woman, a mother and being a member of the Gender and Family Affairs Committee, I will fail in my duty if I do not briefly talk about this issue from the gender perspective.

All these social ills which are happening due to alcohol misuse are mostly affecting women. When we as committees go out in the communities there is an outcry and this outcry is mostly from women that their children and husbands are in shebeens, there is no food on the table, there is no money to send children to school. Now one asks oneself, who are mostly the owners of shebeens, from a gender perspective? It is men and I am sure that the women who own shebeens are today given an alternative, they would abandon the shebeen business because they know the destruction caused by this business to their families.

I feel that if men could be on the forefront of this war, we will win it. They should stand up and do something physically. We should go out there.

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I can remember once the Founding Father called upon the men to stay out of shebeens because he said he does not want to lead a drunken Nation. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD

WELFARE: May I ask a question? You are saying only men own shebeens, but do you want to tell the public out there that when the women go to shebeens at night, it is the men calling them or who is calling them? We have to tell the truth, we cannot defend women all the time. Women are human beings like others and we can tell them not to walk during the night. The shebeens do not belong to the men, the shebeens belong to the rich people. Our black men here do not have shebeens, the shebeens belong to the whites who have money.

HON MAKGONE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I want to draw the attention of the House to a newspaper article published in *The Namibian* of 20 April 2012, entitled “Africa’s Demographics – Dividend or Disaster?” There was a summit in Johannesburg and just on top they are saying, “Wanted Investors for Young, Hot and Thirsty Continent.” I just want to highlight some aspects in this article.

They were looking at the population growth in Africa and what investments can be made. They say they expect ever-higher numbers of childless young people to enter the labour market and earn money that they can spend or save. Later on in the article you will hear how to spend it. They were saying, to give just one example, 46% of Zambians are below fifteen, we are going to benefit from a demographic dividend. They are going to have this significant increase in consumers, consuming what? While they were arguing some were saying that the hype around Africa is overdone and concentrating on the big macro-economic numbers gives a misleading picture. But then listen what was said, because they were not discouraged. One is giving the example of Nigeria where a sophisticated retail model is actually non-existent. The other one said no, the bulk of

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trade is still taking place in the informal markets, the shebeens and that is where we want it to be. Then the South African Breweries were saying: *“SAB Millers African business, not counting South Africa, is the group fastest growing in Africa. Beer is highly aspirational. As economies improve and the legal drinking population grows, the prospects are very positive for beer and soft drinks.”*

The strategy with Africa’s income levels and demographics was simply to make beer affordable by cutting the price. They say you have this natural increase in wealth, the population growth in Africa is natural increase in wealth slowly and surely across Africa and what we want to do is go down and meet it earlier as opposed to waiting for it to come later. Meaning, the young people are in trouble. If you can get the price of beer down to where after thirty minutes of work you have enough money to buy a beer from the three to four hours it takes currently, we would significantly increase the opportunity for our sales. That is what they are saying on Africa. Therefore, the young people are seen as a target.

What are we saying here? The investors think that selling liquor is one of the best, if not the only business venture that has the potential for growth and mostly by selling it to the young African population. Therefore, they are directly targeting the young. It is good news for them to see our populations increasing, because we will consume more alcohol and they will make more money.

We had our National Population Census last year and it shows an increase of 3%. Is it a dividend or a disaster, taking into account our unemployment rate and also the misuse of alcohol that we are now talking about? This tells us that whatever policy we make we should bear in mind the position of the liquor industry.

The article further highlights that as the legal drinking population grows, the prospects are very positive for beer. Do we have a legal drinking age in Namibia to say this is legal, you can drink? I consulted the Act and I just saw Section 56 which stipulates that selling liquor to persons under 18 is prohibited. Is it the assumption that 18 years is the legal age of drinking or what does it mean? We assume at 18 we can drink.

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At this point, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would like to encourage parents and especially our men to be more involved in becoming positive role models for our children and to take up their fatherly role to prevent our youth being consumed by alcohol. I am always asking myself, what happened to the African men whose manhood was determined by his pride? What happened to the African man whose manhood was determined by his pure conduct and what happened to the African man (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: On a Point of Information. Inasmuch as we want to support the Motion, I think the Colleagues from the Opposition Parties should not take us as being stupid. Comrade Shixwameni and the Honourable Member on the Floor cited Zambia. When I was growing up there was a certain leader who took a position and said, “*I cannot be a leader of a drunk Nation*” and there was a reaction and demonstrations. There were placards with slogans, “*No Mossi, no Kaunda.*” It meant the Government of the day. If it was them in power, they would not prescribe to us to cut that without an awareness first, because there is going to be a revolt and obviously it is them who are going to side with those revolting, hence, the issue of education first.

When the shebeen owners were there, they did not actually side with them and take a position, we were left to take the bullet alone. You now want to lay the trap so that you can take advantage. We are not going to be taken for a ride.

HON MAKGONE: I am just calling that we educate our young ones and I was just asking what happened to the African man whose manhood was determined by a family not being hungry? Where is that African man who went out early in the morning and came back late in the evening carrying something on the shoulders? Where is that man who was met with smiles of women and screams of happiness from children when he entered the courtyard and everyone knew that life has come? Where is that man who

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entered the courtyard and everyone felt safe and protected? (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: On a Point of Information. Although I support a number of points made by the Honourable Member, I want to answer here. Are you aware that the African man is here but the African man is told that *“it is my right as the head of this house to buy whatever I want and my kids cannot be told by anybody; what do you bring you this house?”* An unemployed African man just keeps quiet, an African man who is told that today we are talking about gender balance, we are equal, you cannot tell me anything, keep quiet, it is my right to drink. What will the poor African man do? The situation has changed and it is the reality.

HON MAKGONE: Where is that man who was imitated by his children because they wanted to be like him? The Namibian women have lost that man they want and they need that man. Bring that man back! I thank you for your attention.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Dr Iyambo.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. I rise to make my humble contribution on this very interesting Motion tabled by Honourable Ben Ulenga.

Alcohol is a drug just like cannabis, marijuana or LSD and the list is long. Of course, alcohol varies from light alcohol, being beer, up to the most concentrated alcohol, being spirits. Obviously, over the centuries alcohol has been available, many hundreds of years before the death of Jesus

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Christ and men (meaning all mankind) had consumed alcohol since then up to now. Obviously the trend of consuming alcohol has changed over the years up to the point where we find ourselves as Namibians on the negative end of that stick.

The influence of alcohol can indeed destroy a human being. The issue of the Aborigines of Australia has been mentioned and many of our countrymen and women are equally affected, either suffering from hypertension as a result, liver cirrhosis, heart disease, broken families, etcetera. Obviously today Namibia is known to be a country where maternal deaths are reported to be high, yet when you look at it on the surface, I think we have food available in the country. I have not seen or heard, with the exception of one case some years back, of somebody who died of hunger, but in the rest of the world we see people dying of hunger in absence of food. Why is it then that Namibia has food available and yet we are told maternal deaths are high in Namibia?

Obviously I would think that during pregnancy some of our mothers are affected by alcohol. It is a pity that no statistics are available to check the health condition of those mothers whose maternal deaths have contributed to the issues that we today read in the newspapers. I am sure had researchers been able to find out what the cause of some of these problems is it would become apparent that perhaps to a large extent alcohol is a contributing factor.

Even during the war of conflict that we had in the country our mothers delivered when physiology called for them to go in for labour, that they were prevented because of the policies of the yesteryears, yet if you go into statistics, you would find the increasingly dissatisfying record of maternal deaths. It was a rule that at 18:00 nobody should be outside and we all know babies normally like to come in the early hours of the evening, late in the night or early in the morning, maybe because they are normally fathered during those times.

One is, therefore, troubled why there is no correlation between the negative period before Independence and after Independence. Why this unbelievable number of maternal deaths, stillborn and baby-dumping,

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murder, beating, domestic violence, you name it. Is it not true that even the prospect that our children today are not performing to their maximum at school, this could also be one of the reasons. Many of you Colleagues here who were together with me in school know that we studied under very difficult conditions on an education that was very low. Some of us who left this country and went into exile, went to study with European children who had all the opportunities that were availed to them and they were never ahead of us with our limited background. I do however not think we are in any measure more genius than our children today, but the conducive learning environment is simply not there today.

Of course, life has changed, the cellular age has taken over and computers and other things, but if you think of the opportunities that are available, honestly, a lot of what is going on in particularly the locations, towns and villages, speak for themselves, that we as parents have failed and are failing to instil some proper educational discipline in our children. Of course, we will blame the teachers at school for what we fail to implement at home. It is a worrisome situation and it raises the question, where are we heading to? Is there any positive outcome that we will perhaps arrive at one day in the future or is it going to continue deteriorating as we go on?

This subject needs an in-depth interrogation and I am one of those who think the Motion can be referred to a Parliamentary Standing Committee who will study it with time, even make use of experts, find time to interrogate academics, religious groups, community members, Traditional Leaders, whom I think have also failed like the rest of us and if anybody defends that, we are fooling ourselves. We have all just failed.

I believe the low birth weight of our children is partly as a result of alcohol, because obviously feeding and oxygen is supposed to be made available to the unborn baby through the bloodstream of the mother, through the placenta and intoxication has a negative influence on all this. Unless we make a serious effort to see what we can do for our young people, our children and ourselves as leaders, what legacy are we going to leave behind? Did we establish this Republic to leave it in a bad shape for others to come and emulate our inactivity or what was the purpose?

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In my view this is a sober Motion which needs serious interrogation. We are blaming the shebeens, the Ministry of Trade and Industry, but no, it is the lawmakers sitting in this House who have to be blamed. One cannot deny that, unless we want to run away from our responsibilities as the lawmakers of this country. If we cannot show our people the way, we should not expect our people to do that themselves.

Honourable Members, without wasting too much time, I seriously appeal to all Honourable Members of this august House that we debate this Motion and at the end of the day decide where to refer it. (Intervention)

HON DR AMWEELO: May I put a question? This is very important Motion and you mentioned that it should be referred to one of the Standing Committees for consultation with other people. Do you not think that we perhaps need a national conference to discuss this subject matter?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Yes, it would be good to first have a material substance to form the basis for such a conference. In other words, it would not help us to call people and all of us will simply accuse each other. It would be better to have concrete facts which have been well researched, comparisons made and then we tell such a gathering these are the facts and what can be done? I agree with you, but let the Parliamentary Committee make suggestions on what can be done and thereafter we can call a national conference or whatever at whatever level.

However, I am just concerned, because if you look at the various activities being carried out in our country by Women for Action and for Development, Childline/Childlife, you name them, there are so many activities, Men for No Violence, Domestic Violence, Catholic Action. etc, but it seems we are all doing our little things in isolation.

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Colleagues, let us see what we can do for our people and our country and our future. This is one area where I think a lot of things in our country are depending on for development.

With these few remarks, Comrade Deputy Speaker, I rest my case and I implore all Honourable Members to think very soberly about this issue. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Katjavivi.

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. Allow me first to congratulate you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, for having been elected to the position of the third Vice-President of the Pan-African Parliament. I have no doubt that your election to this important position would help to further strengthen the relationship between our National Parliament and the Pan-African Parliament.

Honourable Members, I wish to add my voice to those who have spoken with regard to the abuse of alcohol in our country. There is no doubt that our country is not unique in this non-constructive behaviour. Many countries around the globe suffer the same, if not even worse, scenarios.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, we should definitely take concerted efforts to, firstly, ensure that there are no shebeens near schools; secondly, embark on an awareness campaign about the dangers of alcohol abuse. Secondly efforts should focus, though not be limited to schools, churches and community facilities. Thirdly, ensure provision of sport and recreational facilities that are accessible by communities both in rural and urban areas. By “accessible” I mean reachable and financially affordable.

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HON //GOWASES**

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, as we heard earlier from the Honourable Makgone, we should remember that children and young people are being targeted because they are regarded as future customers and mules of drugs and there are close synergies between alcohol abuse and drug abuse. Having said this, I would also like to endorse the statement by Honourable Dr Iyambo suggesting that this subject matter calls for serious further investigation at the level of relevant standing committees. That would enable Members of this House to engage the would-be shebeen developers and current owners to find alternative means of income-generation and livelihood. I submit so. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable //Gowases.

HON //GOWASES: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. Allow me to make my contribution towards the Motion on Alcohol Abuse. Over the years several national leaders have publicly spoken out against alcohol abuse and its effects on Namibia. His Excellency President Pohamba during his 2010 New Year's speech declared that Namibians were enslaved by alcohol, resulting in loss of employment, neglect of families, poor health and destruction of family lives through violence.

Almost every day the local newspapers report incidents of death, rape and assault on women and children. According to statistics available from the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, as we are trying to combat violence against women and children, there are many contributing factors to this social issue. The use of alcohol, which is correlated to the increase of shebeens in the community, perpetrating forced sex, domestic violence and the infection of HIV/AIDS. The most shebeens are operating in informal settlement areas.

The Society of Family Health reported: *“A total of 665 bars were enumerated within Windhoek's Kabila, which is a small informal*

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settlement area of four kilometres square and most shebeens were located in the owners' homes." In addition, research reported that every two to three women reported that they consumed alcohol before the violence and forced sex. This was reported in the *Namibian* of 19 April 2012.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, in order for us as national leaders to lead by example, we need to, for instance, come up with awareness campaigns in all Regions regarding the use, misuse and abuse of alcohol in our beloved country, Land of the Brave, Namibia. I commend the City Police of Windhoek for their efforts in the reduction of the use and consumption of alcohol by patrolling the streets, to close shebeens at the right time as per the liquor licences.

With all these, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I support the Motion on Alcohol Abuse in Namibia. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Limbo.

HON LIMBO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. First of all, I would like to start by saying that I am one of the happiest people to see that the whole House is united on this Motion. This is a very good way forward for the Nation.

I would also like to share what I witnessed over the weekend. I went to the Police Station because one of my nephews witnessed a murder and he was told to report to the Police Station the following morning. I became curious and went to hear what happened. Apparently there was a show at Augustineum School and seven kids were attacked and robbed of their cell phones as they were drinking somewhere. As a result, one of the attackers was killed by his colleague, because he was mistaken to be one of the victims. These kids were under the influence of alcohol and as we were standing there in the Police Station, I was listening to what was being said there. In the process five people came in, two couples and one man. I

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could see this woman was very desperate and I asked her what happened. She said she did not sleep well because her daughter who is 18 years old and never goes out, was last night persuaded by a friend to go and they were being kept hostage. The man who was keeping these kids hostage wanted N\$10,000 from the parents. You can imagine what is going on in our community.

The Police were saying, “*we do not know what we are going to do about alcohol abuse, we go around trying to close shebeens, but then we are being told that this shebeen belongs to big people.*” One of them recognised me and asked whether I am not a Member of Parliament. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: The definition of a shebeen is given as unlicensed drinking establishment.

HON LIMBO: This guy recognised me and he said, “*at least you people must help us, some of your colleagues own shebeens and maybe you are one of them, why are you standing here today?*” I said I came because of my nephew.

What I am trying to say is that the perception out there is that we are partly to be blame because we own these shebeens and when the Police try to take action, apparently we tell them not to do so. I want to appeal to this House that we are going to declare that we will close our shebeens so that when the Committee is sent out, at least the Nation will see that our leaders are serious. Otherwise, if we keep on talking here while at the same time our shebeens continue serving minors, we are not doing justice to ourselves.

As the Colleagues have said, we are trying to serve our Nation from this Bills, so let us do something now. At the same time, NBC must also play a crucial role here by educating the Nation, because one hears that they

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sometimes talk about alcohol, but we have not really seen the NBC informing, educating and entertaining as per their slogan. During their adverts NBC is required to inform the Nation about the dangers of alcohol, so that people can be aware on what alcohol can do to their health.

Our children are malnourished, because money is spend on alcohol instead of food, therefore shebeens must be closed as a matter of urgency. Our population is not growing because our men are spending a lot of time in shebeens. We want you people to come back home and give your fatherly support to our children. (Intervention)

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: May I ask a question? Is the Honourable Member aware that Namibia is one of the countries campaigning for family planning?

HON LIMBO: That I am aware of, but at the same time we need the father figure in the house. It is very difficult for a mother to bring up a boy and we need each other. We want you to come out of the shebeens, please. I support the Motion and at the same time I want to request that the Committee which is going to be given this task, must be given a timeframe so that the process can be speeded up to save our Nation from this problem. Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister Mutorwa.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:
Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker, for giving me the Floor to also

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make a humble contribution to this very important Motion on the Floor of this House.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, as other speakers have said already, the contributions made so far by the Honourable Members of this House have demonstrated very clearly that there is a unanimous agreement and consensus that indeed alcohol abuse in our country is not a theoretical construct, but it is a practical reality and abuse of this alcohol, as Honourable Limbo has just stated, can be seen on a daily basis.

I just want to concentrate on how we take forward this consensus and this agreement made here, so that at least the Nation can see that this House of elected representatives, after having considered the seriousness of the issue, are able to do something both in the short-term, but also in the medium and long-term. It is against that background, Honourable Deputy Speaker, and also read together with Article 63(1) of the Namibian Constitution that at least I am going to propose that something can be done in the short-term to deal with this issue and then, of course, long-term, as Honourable Dr Nicky Iyambo and Professor Katjavivi have said, that we can still engage in the dialogue consultations.

I agree with those who are saying – and I think Honourable Shixwameni was very pertinent and clear on this one – that we need to refer this particular Motion to the relevant Standing Committee, probably the Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs and the other one on Human Resources, Social and Community Development, but when we refer this particular Motion to those committees, I want to be clear that their terms of reference must be short-term and long-term. The short-term that I am talking about, and many Members have made reference to this, is that we have a law that regulates the issue of alcohol usage, particularly the licences, etcetera. Therefore, as Honourable Shixwameni has said, with the experience of the Honourable Members so far in their interaction with the Namibian community, that the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs must have the responsibility to look at how the Liquor Act is currently applied, what are the shortcomings and loopholes and maybe within a specified timeframe return to this House with specific recommendations on what we can do in the short-term, because that is our

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mandate to enact and amend laws.

On the other hand, the issue of referring to the Committee for further consultation is still fine, but what I will not support is just to refer the matter for the purposes of an academic debate and exercise while Rome is burning. We cannot afford that because the people will ask; what is it that our elected people are doing. They are aware of the problem and they are not doing anything. Therefore, refer to the Committee, but immediately look at the loopholes and shortcomings and how we can strengthen the Liquor Act and make specific recommendations to this House to be effected. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House is adjourned until tomorrow, 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2012.06.13 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
13 JUNE 2012**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 20:

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 21 of June 2012, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services the following questions:

1. Do you accept that while you as a Member of the Executive of our Government have a duty and a responsibility to implement, monitor and evaluate policies and programmes effectively and efficiently, all of us in this House, as representatives of the people, have a duty and responsibility, apart from making laws, to oversee and review this implementation, which can only be effected by holding Members of the Executive accountable through our oversight function?
2. Would you agree that the Ministry of Health and Social Services is not just another Ministry, but is a very crucial one being responsible for matters of life and death of virtually all of our citizens?

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HON VON WIETERSHEIM**

3. Can you agree with the statement by the National Council Deputy Chairperson that, *“the recent deaths of a mother and two new-born babies were a real wake-up call that the red lights are on and that the deaths were irresponsible and could have been prevented”*, adding that *“such negligence is a crime against humanity and cannot be tolerated?”*
4. Do you know that red lights have been flashing for a long time if you take a similar incident six years ago already of a mother losing her new-born baby when she – and I can supply her name – started getting birth pains two days before a caesarean birth was scheduled and when hastened to hospital was refused immediate attention and care even though she explained that she had had two previous caesareans due to her inability to give birth naturally, she was forced to deliver naturally and her new-born died immediately after birth while she herself had to be extensively operated on to save her own life?
5. I assume that you are well aware of the frightening history of child mortality and maternal mortality in Namibia in terms of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Can you demonstrate to this august House how you arrived at those latest seemingly improbably statistics for maternal mortality which you quoted during your pre-emption of my Motion on the Order Paper after witnessing the maternal mortality rate increasing steadily from 225 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 271 deaths in 2000 and then rapidly increasing to 449 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2008? The new statistics presented here appear questionable at least and it seems inconceivable to reach the target of only 56 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2015.
6. Can you confirm the following as reality in our health facilities? A domestic worker who works only two or three days per week has to undergo an operation as State patient and expressed her anxiety about having to bring N\$15 with her as a bed fee. Apart from that, she is preparing to bring her own blanket and pillow and a thermos for hot water and some tea bags and sugar.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON VON WIETERSHEIM**

7. In your pre-emptive Ministerial Statement you listed, understandably, the achievements of your Ministry, but there remains all those unanswered questions like why the Windhoek Central Hospital Maternity Ward is still closed after which is now years, while new opening dates are rumoured occasionally, but do not materialise?
8. What has been the outcome of the controversy surrounding the interrupted oxygen supplies in Gobabis State Hospital during July last year and earlier in Windhoek at the ICU of the Windhoek Central Hospital in which patients were seriously affected?
9. Doubts are now being expressed about the viability of the state-of-the-art Cardiac Unit at the Windhoek Central Hospital as problems are surfacing regarding the salaries of heart specialists which are outside the scope of Public Service Commission rules. Has this issue not been addressed and resolved during the planning and budgeting phase before commencement of business?
10. Do you know that it does not go down well if a leader is continually seeking personal face-saving measures, apportioning blame onto others for wrongs that occur within his field of responsibility, revealing that he is not in charge, does not know who is doing what, where and why right under his nose, like with the Cuban vaccine debacle and the Global Fund Deal? Is it not you, Honourable Minister, who must accept ultimate responsibility for the tragic cases in your Ministry as well as all those other publicly known or unknown acts of poor service delivery in this country of ours? Does the buck not stop with you, the political head of the institution, as the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry so aptly remarked the other day

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Honourable Dr Kawana.

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**NOTICE OF MOTION
HON DR KAWANA**

NOTICE OF MOTION

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on Tuesday, 19 June 2012, I shall Move –

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution, objectives, powers, functions and personnel of the National Planning Commission and for matters incidental thereto.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Motion. Any further Notice of Motions? Message from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE:
MOTION ON ALCOHOL ABUSE IN NAMIBIA**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Alcohol Abuse in Namibia.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the Assembly adjourned yesterday, 12 June 2012, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Ulenga, that the Motion be adopted. Any further discussion? Honourable Jankowski.

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HON JANKOSKI**

HON JANKOWSKI: Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Motion before us requires a thorough review and introspection. I think it is time for us all as parents and leaders to ask ourselves where things went wrong. The World Free Encyclopaedia defines alcoholism as a broad term for problems with alcohol and is generally used to mean compulsive and uncontrolled consumption of alcoholic beverages, usually to the detriment of the drinker's health, personal relationships and social standing. It is medically considered to be a disease, especially a neurological disorder and in medicine several other terms are used, especially alcohol abuse and alcohol dependence, which have more specific definitions.

In 1979 an expert World Health Organisation Committee discouraged the use of alcohol in medicine, preferring the category of alcohol dependency syndrome. In the 19th and early 20th century alcohol dependence in general was called dipsomania, but that term has a much more specific meaning. People suffering from alcoholism are often called alcoholics. Many other terms, some of them insulting or informal, have been used throughout history. The World Health Organisation estimates that there are at least 140 million people with alcoholism worldwide.

Alcohol abuse is a serious problem in our country. Unfortunately it affects our most productive members of society, namely the youth. If irresponsible alcohol consumption among the youth continues unabated and uncontrolled we will have many serious problems in future. May I dare to say that irresponsible drinking is the root of most social evils? I believe that if a person is under the influence of alcohol, his or her mind-set is also under the influence of alcohol. He or she does things normally done when sober.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the discussion of alcohol abuse should first start at home. It is home where the children observe the drinking. The chances are very high that the children will also abuse alcohol when they grow older. If parents use alcohol moderately, I believe the children will also use alcohol moderately when they reach adulthood. I, therefore, urge all parents and teachers to teach children the effects of alcohol abuse. The youth need to be kept busy constructively. I am sure we are all familiar

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HON JANKOSKI**

with the saying in Afrikaans that, “*ledigheid is die wortel van alle kwaad.*”

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we have to face the reality, the youth of today need access to schools, access to school study tables, access to University, access to vocational training centres, access to recreational facilities, access to sport facilities, access to cultural activities, access to youth centres, access to youth programmes, access to social workers, access to holiday programmes, access to youth camps, access to jobs, access to security and shelter, access to money, access to technology, access to wealth and access to happiness and love.

The young people of today are not as mentally and physically strong as we were when we were in the process to liberate ourselves from other social evils. In the name of apartheid you, therefore, constantly need to assure them that they are loved and they are secure.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I believe the Ministry of Youth has a very important role to play in addressing the challenges of the modern youth. What happens is that the youth resort to alcohol and drug abuse the moment they start feeling insecure. Their security must be exceeded by access to all the facilities I mentioned above.

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare and the Ministry of Health and Social Services should deploy more social workers to address the concerns of the youth. Currently there are just too few social workers in the country.

It is against this backdrop that I support the Motion. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Honourable Nujoma.

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HON NUJOMA**

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Speaker, for the Floor. I rise to contribute to the Debate on alcohol abuse.

I would like to start by thanking all the Honourable Members who have made a contribution to this very important Debate. Alcohol abuse is rampant in Namibia and I agree with all the speakers that we need to take some measures to address the problem.

Alcohol is as old as humanity itself and an old problem. If you look at developing countries and developed societies, you would find alcohol abuse everywhere. Everywhere you travel around the world you will see violence on television as a result of alcohol abuse.

Some Members proposed that we as Parliamentarians should set the example and not own shebeens, but will that really help? Even if you stop all the Parliamentarians, their places will be taken by others who will establish those same shebeens. This needs to be looked at more broadly and given more thought.

We have manufacturers of beer who trade on the stock exchange and even if we say we limit the number of these people, the others buy shares on the stock exchange either in Johannesburg, Namibia, London or New York and they are the owners of alcohol. The shareholding in Namibia Breweries has even shrunk to 25% and our own beer is owned by other people. It is rather complex.

I was thinking that probably the best way for us to start moving in addressing this problem seriously is to ensure that establishment of shebeens in new proclaimed towns and settlements is prohibited. We have to start on a clean slate and start with the new towns. If you pass through Omuthiya, you see shebeens lined up along the main road, let us not allow the people in the new settlements to own shebeens. Everybody who wants to drink must come to the main road. That is one of the issues which we need to consider seriously.

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I agree with the very good suggestions made by the Parliamentarians here, namely that the relevant Parliamentary Committee must go into this issue and come up with proposals.

Another issue I want to address is the question of advertising on the national broadcaster. NBC wants to generate income, they survive on advertising and the only people who advertise there are the breweries. If we put a stop to this, where will they derive their income from? We should critically look at this advertising because it is only us, the people in the townships, who are portrayed as brave. The South African beer advert depicts a plane which is landing and these strong guys are racing towards the airport with cars and lights on to provide safe landing to that aircraft and afterwards they go down to a pub and down a couple of beers. We need to look at some of these adverts and the Parliamentary Standing Committee also needs to look into this issue.

Basically those are the two issues which I wanted to add to the other good proposals made by my Colleagues. I thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does Honourable Ulenga wish to reply?

HON ULENGA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would like to plead for the adjournment of the Debate until next Wednesday. Quite a number of issues and proposals were brought up during the discussion of this Motion and I would like to have a look at them so that I can include them in my response. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion is adjourned until next Wednesday. The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE:
MOTION ON INCREASE OF OLD-AGE PENSION

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on the Increase Old-Age Pension to N\$1,000 per month.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the House adjourned on Tuesday, 28 February 2012, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Kaura. Honourable //Garoëb had the Floor and he may now continue.

HON //GAROËB: Honourable Deputy Speaker, thank you. I was the last one to speak on this Motion and I sat down with a question still hanging in the air. If I am not mistaken, the question was put to me by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Honourable Mutorwa. The question was whether I would find it proper for a high salary earner, such as a Member of Parliament, to benefit from the old-age pension. Before I come to the actual answer, let me first look at the different pensions.

Here in Namibia I only know of the old-age pension and disability grants which, to my mind, are just peanuts. The Members of Parliament, including myself, are entitled as per constitutional provisions, such as remuneration benefits and privileges. Pertaining to these privileges to which we are individually contributing sizeable amounts per month, I believe I am contributing more than N\$2,000 per month to my pension.

European countries, mostly the Scandinavian countries, also enjoy unemployment grants and children support grants. All these grants are unknown to our country.

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This being the case, Honourable Members, if a citizen qualifies for a grant, let him or her get it. I do not have a problem if the person qualifies for that grant.

We are now talking about the old-age pension, a grant which is not enough to cater for all the needs of our old-aged citizens. This being the case, I am one of those who are supporting... (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask a question, Honourable //Garoëb? Do you not think that it would be just to enforce a special tax on those who benefited from colonial and apartheid rule in order to augment the old-age pension, because the old-aged people are the ones who built this country, but they never received a pension? Do you not think that will be just?

HON //GAROËB: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am afraid I could not get the question and I humbly ask that the question be repeated.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Chief, during the German colonial rule railways and roads were built and during apartheid the same thing happened. These things were done on the sweat and blood of the workers, but the workers were not provided with pension contributions, but there are people who benefited from these projects and became rich, especially a certain section of our population which constitutes 5% of the population but owns, I suspect, more than 50% of the wealth of the country. Do you not think that it would be just for a special tax to be imposed on these people who benefited from apartheid and from German colonialism and that tax should be aimed at augmenting the social pension of the elderly?

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HON //GAROËB: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I would say yes and no. The reason why we believe that our senior citizens are entitled to a sizeable old-age pension is because they were not paid for the sweat which they lost and it is for that very reason that we are asking this Honourable House to at least increase the old-age pension of these people.

We all know and I believe I also mentioned it when we debated this issue that the old-aged people paved the way for us to sit in this luxurious chamber, but they did not receive any payment for the work they have done. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: May I ask the Chief a question? Is the Honourable Chief aware that the Veterans Act provides for the payment of N\$200,000 to those in high offices of the Government?

HON //GAROËB: I am quite aware that the veterans are benefiting from huge amounts and I am also ready to apply, because I would also qualify if other Members in this august House qualify for that. In comparison to the Veterans Fund the old-age pension is just peanuts. That is why we are asking this Honourable House to also look at our senior citizens in all fairness. (Intervention)

HON SHIXWAMENI: In the light of what the Right Honourable Prime Minister just suggested, that our old people toiled on the railways and built up this country and yet they were not given pensions, Honourable //Garoëb do you not think that it is time for our Government to officially join in the request to the German Government for our people to be given reparation due to them for the toil and suffering that they have undergone, but also for the many thousands of people that were killed during the colonial days? Do you not think that it is time that Government officially

and formally join the talks for reparation?

HON //GAROËB: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. It is only fair to increase the present old-age pension to N\$1,000. If we look at what the Honourable Prime Minister said and the last speaker added... (Intervention)

HON NYAMU: May I ask my Honourable //Garoëb a humble question? Honourable //Garoëb, who is denying our old-age pensioners an increase? Is it the Parliament or the SWAPO-led Government? Who is responsible for this?

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:27

HON //GAROËB: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. The Debate so far has shown that the majority of the Honourable Ministers of the Ruling Party are reluctant to support this very important Motion, but I am still very impressed to see that the Minister responsible for this Ministry is very silent and I believe that his silence must be attributed to the fact that Namibia is lauded worldwide for its beautiful human rights Constitution. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: I want to respond to the remark made by Honourable Nyamu of the RDP that the SWAPO-Party Government does not want to increase the old-age pension. This is not true because, first of all, this

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SWAPO-Party Government which he was that time a part of started equalising the pensions by making it N\$100 across the board, because even the Mover of the Motion knows that people received different amounts along tribal lines. However, this was done and today our people are receiving N\$550 and the Honourable Members knows that it is revised every second year. Honourable Nyamu is not telling the truth that the SWAPO-Party Government does not want to increase the pension. We have been doing that all along and it was increased even in this year's Budget.

Do not think the people cannot see what is happening here.

HON //GAROËB: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I think the last speaker is mistaken, Honourable Nyamu never said that SWAPO was reluctant to support the Motion. He only put a question to me on who is responsible.

I am very much impressed that the Minister responsible for the Ministry is very silent and I believe that he knows he has this obligation and if the House follows the trend of the Honourable Ministers and reject this Motion, it will be a disaster, because as I said, the Namibian Government is being lauded worldwide for their beautiful human rights Constitution and if we happen to reject this Motion, that will show the world that what they believed so far was not the truth. This being the case, I rest my case.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Witbooi.

HON WITBOOI: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, let me use this opportunity to join my senior Colleague and thank the Members of the National Assembly who represented the National Assembly in the soccer match on Africa Day. Next year we will celebrate the 50th anniversary and I am already lobbying for Members to join us.

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I rise to make a contribution to Honourable Kaura's Motion. Let me first acknowledge the enormous contribution that our elderly citizens rendered towards the development of our country. In the same vein, let me draw the attention of the House to the fact that Namibia has many different vulnerable groups to which the Government gives different categories of grants, such as people with disabilities, orphans and vulnerable children in our society.

It has been mentioned earlier in this august House that Namibia is one of the three African countries that are providing a grant to their elderly citizens. Indeed, the SWAPO-led Government has taken the financial security of our senior citizens very seriously at Independence and immediately addressed the disparities in the grants being given at the time. Is it not a great achievement that equality in grants has been achieved?

The issue of care for the elderly should be looked at holistically. It is not only the monthly grants, but also the funeral benefits and the rebate that the Government, through its structures at Local Authority level, gives to our elderly through writing off the municipal bills where there is a need and giving free residential plots according to the merits of cases and also free health services. To these we do not give credit or recognition. There are also the year-end parties organised by the Regional Councils and Local Authorities. I ask the Mover of the Motion to be patient and wait for the intended phasing-in of the increase in grant as per our economic performance in the future. For now let us accept that available N\$50 increase.

The elderly have grandchildren in their care and some of these children are orphans, whom I believe also have access to their grants. I would like to plead to this august House that the care of the elderly should not be seen as a responsibility of the Government alone, we need to invoke our family values of caring for our elderly. There is also a need for the community in which the elderly live to see how the elderly could be best assisted to use the little that they are getting in a useful manner.

Honourable Members, I have recently talked to one of the members of the elderly committees in one of the towns who raised her concern that some

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elderly people do not use the grants fruitfully and I am personally aware of that. This is a problem which needs to be addressed while we are waiting for the economy to improve and give us the necessary resources which will allow us to increase the pension regularly, to even an amount bigger than what the Mover of the Motion is suggesting. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Muharukua.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament. I rise to contribute to the Motion tabled by Honourable Kaura.

Honourable Members, I do not want to repeat what my Colleagues have already said, but I do not know why Honourable Kaura is time and again moving a Motion for the increase of pensions. He is a teacher and as my Colleague said, Namibia is one of the few countries which give this grant to its old people. I am asking myself, why does Honourable Kaura always bring this Motion when we are approaching elections? Does he want the money to be given to the old people and not to the Ovatie and Ovatjimba?

Comrade Deputy Speaker, I am the leader of the Ovatie and Ovatjimba community in Kaoko. I stand here to reject the Motion by Kaura today. I want the public to understand what I am talking about. Kaura has been talking about the Ovatie and Ovatjimba community, but he is not aware of what is happening there. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Muharukua, do you really believe Honourable Kaura is serious with this Motion? On

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the one hand he wants to advance the interest of the people of this country by increasing the old-age pension to N\$1,000, while on the other hand, according to his media statement, he wants the Ovatie people to go back to live in the mountains, live on wild berries and honey? Do you really believe that is a genuine and serious commitment from the side of the Honourable Member? Can the people of this country trust that what he is saying is from the bottom of his heart?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Honourable Herunga, that is why I am saying this is a campaign. People call him the president of a Party, but he is complaining about a group of people in my Constituency, but what about the marginalised in his own area? Last weekend he was in Otjinene, he travelled to Otjituuo, Okamatapati. Are there no marginalised people there?

Last Sunday I was at Omuru, I found some cattle and asked the people to whom the cattle belong. They said no, this is our cattle, from now we are going to celebrate like the Ovahimba to remember our old people who passed on, because all the time the Ovahimba did not give us meat when they were celebrating. (Intervention)

HON SHIXWAMENI: On a Point of Order. Can we be helped and saved from torture, because we are debating the old-age pension and not about the Ovatie and other things? Can we be saved from this torture, please?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, I think she is clever enough to associate what she is saying with the current Motion.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: I listened to you people and you are saying that you are educated. Educated by whom?

Honourable Members, I want to tell the public that Honourable Kaura is having problems in his own Party. Please, you can go and mobilise in your conference, do not talk about the Ovatue, do not talk about the Ovatjimba.

I want to tell the public that the SWAPO-led Government wants to do two important things: To increase the old-age pension, which used to be N\$60 and is now N\$550 and to bring the Ovatue and Ovatjimba community from the mountains. Now they are receiving pension like the others, they are getting cattle from the Government like other people and not from Kaura. I reject the Motion by Honourable Kaura because he did not bring the Motion as a leader. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Muheua.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you very much for the Floor. I also rise to offer some information on the Motion by Honourable Kaura on the increase of the old-age pension. I would like to join Honourable Witbooi in hailing the enormous contribution made by our elders during the bitter struggle for nationhood and like she said, that is the reason why the caring Government of the SWAPO Party saw it fit to immediately after Independence start with increasing and equalising the old-age pensions and consistently continued to increase it as and when financial resources permitted.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, before I continue, I cannot suppress the urge to rebut the uncalled for and unwarranted statement, disguised as a question to Honourable //Garoëb by Honourable Nyamu. It is totally unacceptable

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to try and fool the public in your quest to score cheap political mileage, that the caring SWAPO-led Government is against the increase of the old-age pension. The honourable thing for the Honourable Member to do would be to withdraw that question.

In 1978 when the Mover of the Motion was a puppet of the then colonial regime of the white South African minority Government, he was happy with a paltry... (Intervention)

HON KAURA: On a Point of Correction. In 1978 I was a student at Columbia University in the United States of America together with the Honourable Prime Minister, Nahas Angula. Please correct your point, it cannot go into the HANSARD that way, I was a student at Columbia University where I got my doctorate.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Correction accepted, I may be wrong with the exact year, but I remember that you were a member of the notorious *Tussentydse Regering*. (Intervention)

HON ULENGA: May I ask Honourable Muheua a question? Seeing that the Honourable Member is so much interested in history, can you tell the House exactly where you were in 1978?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: For the information of Honourable Ulenga, in 1978 I was in Namibia. I was still a secondary school student. (Intervention)

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HON MOONGO: On a Point of Order. Did I hear properly that he said he was a puppet? If so, would he withdraw that? Are we here to call each other puppets? Can he withdraw? It is shameful that SWAPO rejected a Motion on calling each other names and now they continue doing so. We called them to Order to stick to justice and proper democracy, but he is still doing that today after rejecting the Motion. Are you people sick?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Moongo, now you counter-react insult with insult. How should I rule now?

HON MOONGO: I am saying if he called the Honourable Member a puppet, he is either sick or something is wrong with his mind.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I actually did not hear the word “*puppet*”.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Comrade Deputy Speaker, I said “*puppet*”, but if it would make Honourable Moongo happier, I will change that word to “*collaborator*”.

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Comrade Deputy Speaker, those who were in exile in 1978, including the Honourable Member who was doing his doctorate there, surrendered and came back to Namibia. Some of those were SWANU and some were NUDO. In 1978 they came back to Namibia and abandoned the struggle. They renounced their Namibian citizenship and signed for citizenship of South Africa. In

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1978 they came back to Namibia, it was wartime and they signed, including Honourable Moongo. By that time they came back and joined the Turnhalle Beraad. How do you call those people?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can the Honourable Member come back to the topic, please?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Comrade Deputy Speaker, I thank Comrade Ekandjo for that lesson in history. Some of us were young and we do not remember what happened.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, the Mover then was happy with a paltry R35 that our old-age pensioners used to receive, which was discriminatory, because their counterparts, the whites, were receiving much more than that.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, we would like to urge the Namibian people to be patient. The SWAPO-Party Government has a programme as is manifested in its Election Manifesto. (Intervention)

HON NYAMU: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I have a small question to Honourable Muheua. Honourable Muheua, I grant that you, a youthful Member of Parliament and others from the opposite time, try to score credits in the Party by directing all kinds of observations and attacks at some Honourable Members on this side, I myself included. I assume you want to get credits and that is your business. I hope by making statements, SWAPO will give you more credits, but you are a member of the National Union of Namibian Workers which is married to SWAPO. The question is, when you are opposing the increase of the grants to our ageing generation, are you doing this on behalf of the NUNW or are you doing

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this on behalf of yourself?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: I think it is a fair question. Honourable Nyamu, I have joined SWAPO in 1977, I have worked for SWAPO, I have earned more than enough credits and I know I am going to earn more credits by working for SWAPO. This is why I am standing up boldly today to say what I am saying and if you are patient enough, you would know that I am not opposing the increase of the old-age pension. I did not say that.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, under the auspices of the caring Government of the SWAPO Party, is in the infant stages of a study aimed at improving the old-age pension, looking at ways and means to see if we can make it more targeted, more or less as was proposed by Honourable Shixwameni. We have launched a study to see that the old-age pension goes to people who really need it. (Intervention)

HON ULENGA: May I ask a question? Seeing that the Honourable Member persists in trying to score political points, I am trying just to score political points right now. Can the Honourable Member tell the House, from 1977 when he joined SWAPO until 1990 when the country became independent, how many SWAPO rallies, meetings or missions did the Honourable Member carry out during that period? How many rallies did he address on behalf of SWAPO?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is not relevant to the Motion.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: I am not going to respond to that, there were many.

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HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: On a Point of Information. I do not like if people “*krap waar dit nie jeuk nie.*” I can confirm with all patriotism that the Member speaking was part of the struggle and as his former teacher I taught him to be SWAPO. Secondly, Honourable Ulenga, in 1986 when people elected you as Secretary General of the Workers Union, he represented the workers of Arandis.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: If Comrade Ben Ulenga’s memory serves him well, he will remember (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Muheua, will you address the Motion, please?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Comrade Deputy Speaker, we know that our resources are limited and there are competing needs, therefore the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare is trying to find an equitable way to make it possible for the Government to increase the old-age pension. (Intervention)

HON SHIXWAMENI: May I ask my Colleague a question? I heard a plea from my sister here, Honourable Witbooi, about pensions and I heard that same plea coming from the Prime Minister about pensions. You are also repeating that people must have pensions. Maybe the Deputy Minister of Labour can help us out. Can we put a timeframe or is it just that people must wait until the study is completed or not?

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HON SCHLETTWEIN

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: I think it is a good question, but it is difficult to put a timeframe to it because of the research that must go into it. It is not as if the people are not getting anything at the moment. At Independence we started with N\$100 and we are at N\$550 and I am sure before long we would be at an amount that would make it possible for the old-age pensioners to enjoy an adequate social life.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, let me end here. We are seized with the matter and we will bring it to Parliament as soon as possible. I thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Deputy Minister of Finance.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. To start off with, I think the question of helping our senior citizens to a dignified end of their being on this planet is a very serious topic to discuss and I am a bit disappointed that we derailed it by discussing individuals and who did what. I think it is a far too important topic than being treated and used as a political point-scoring Debate.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, I will try to take issue with the point that was raised during the Debate and that is to portray the Ruling Party as a non-caring Government that has no regard for the needs of the elderly or, for that matter, has no regard for the social well-being of our citizens. (Intervention)

HON NYAMU: Will the Honourable Member accept a question? Honourable Colleague, in your case as the responsible Deputy Minister of Finance, in other words the keeper of the public coffers, the caretaker of the public coffers, do you not think it is not your task to try to influence

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the discussion regarding the policy on how that money should be used? Does the fact that you are a bookkeeper give you the authority to decide how this money should be used or not? As a bookkeeper he should keep quiet.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: It is a very interesting question coming from a parliamentarian who should know that it is this House that approves the Budget and not the Ministry of Finance.

First of all, I wanted to recall that of the Budget that this House has approved, N\$1,7 billion is in fact allocated to social grants, which is just under 5% of total spending. I also want to recall what the Right Honourable Prime Minister has said on this and that is that if we compare ourselves with our peers in middle-income countries, Namibia is doing pretty well when it comes to social safety nets, regardless of the small size of our economy.

Secondly, I think as a very caring Government we have taken an approach that we want to address vulnerabilities in a focused manner rather than in a general manner. Therefore, we have identified old-age pensions as one important component of the social network, but we have also identified veterans as an important component, we have identified orphans as an important component and we have identified foster parents as a vulnerable group. We are providing free antiretroviral treatment to HIV/AIDS sufferers as they are also a vulnerable group. We have food-for-work programmes, we have school-feeding programmes and last, but not least, this House has not so long ago approved and passed the Bill on Disaster Management. Therefore, vulnerable groups that are hit by disasters are attracting, through a legal framework, the assistance of the State and the Budget.

I feel that with these interventions it is pretty clear that the SWAPO Government has a comprehensive policy to address vulnerabilities and I think the criticism that we are only giving the old-aged N\$50 and that that is not caring is taking it totally out of context. (Intervention)

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HON ULENGA: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question, please? Seeing that the Deputy Minister is talking about the social safety net programme that is currently run by the Government and he is describing this as an indication that the current Government is indeed a caring Government, is it really the social conditions of the vulnerable that the SWAPO-led Government cares about or is it just their own image and, therefore, they are masquerading their image as indeed being a care for the vulnerability of others? Can the Deputy Minister explain whether he is perhaps not confusing the caring for their own image with the caring for the vulnerable?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: It is a question I will try to answer by quoting the latest World Bank Report on our progress with regards to poverty alleviation and the reduction of the gini-coefficient. Our gini-coefficient came down quite significantly over the total period of the SWAPO Government being in power and in fact, what is most comforting to know in that analysis is that our achievement in alleviating severe poverty is significant and only 2% of the population are now severely poor. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Information. I want to inform this august House and the public that SWAPO is a good party, but after sending some members to school and after fighting for SWAPO, they have turned around to say SWAPO is not a good party. SWAPO is a good Party, it has sent you to school, Honourable Member.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: What I was saying is that we have managed to increase the wealth status of the poorest section, whereas wealth of the richest ones were maintained. Therefore we are moving in the right direction. It is an indication that the pro-poor approach in our Budget is very much working and we are achieving it and

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that includes significant spending on social grants. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: May I ask a question? Honourable Ulenga posed a question to you, whether SWAPO, by increasing the pension to N\$550, really cares or is only improving its image. We have just concluded a very important Motion moved by the Honourable Member which was taken very seriously by all of us. Does it now mean that when Honourable Ulenga put the Motion on alcohol abuse, he was genuinely concerned about the problem with alcohol facing our Nation or he did so to improve his image? He cannot accuse us of not caring for our people. We do care about our people.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: The last point I want to raise in answering the question is, if Honourable Ulenga finds it painful that the SWAPO Government is delivering on its promise to alleviate poverty and to improve the overall living standard of its people, then that is his problem. If our delivery actually enhances our image as a caring Party, then that is exactly what we decided to do and that is what a caring Government is all about, to deliver on the promises you have given to your electorate and that is exactly what we are doing.

The message that I want to leave in this House is that we should not be tempted to look into a social network and differentiate and say this one is more important than the other one. Our approach is to look at it in a comprehensive way. That was the gist of the intervention by the Right Honourable Prime Minister when he made his intervention on a similar topic.

When the Honourable Minister of Labour, Honourable Ngatjizeko, intervened, he informed the House that his Ministry is in fact busy with a total review of the pensions and that there are prospects of introducing

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means testing, so that we are really giving effect to our policy to address pension needs in a focused manner. Where the vulnerabilities are the most, the treatment should be the most beneficial. Those who can help themselves should actually not receive that kind of assistance. I do think that that again shows that we are not only responsible in terms of how we allocate resources, we are also responsible in deciding how sustainable that resource allocation would be in the long-term.

I think I have said enough, we do care, we are not saying that the elderly people do not deserve what they are getting, but we are doing it in a very responsible and a very caring way. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Bezuidenhout.

HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. From the onset I want to apologise to Dr Nicky because when we spoke outside I said I do not think I will participate in this Debate, but I have to break my promise to him. I do this in terms of the oath that I took as a Member of Parliament as well as the requirement under Article 45 of the Constitution.

My hope was that we would deal with this Motion in the same spirit as we did with the previous Motion, but maybe I was mistaken, however I am still hopeful that we as a House can still do that. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Bezuidenhout, I do not know how many years you have been in this House, but this Motion is a political Motion, an annual political Motion. It is a ritual by Honourable Kaura because he has no political programme in his Party; his only political programme is only old-age pension. That is the problem.

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HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: Honourable Prime Minister, I am less than two years in the House, so I am still working through the HANSARDS to find out what went on.

The basis of this Motion is also cemented in Article 95(f) of our Constitution which contains two words, one being “*entitlement*”. It says, “*ensure that senior citizens are entitled to receive a regular income.*” The second word it uses is “*adequate for the maintenance of a decent standard of living.*” We have dealt with the word “*adequate*” before. First of all it is an entitlement to all senior citizens and secondly, the subjective part is the adequacy. I do not want to argue on the adequacy, but the Ministry of Labour may come up with an indication of what is adequate.

The exclusion of categories of recipients may be challenged by Article 95 and one has to look into this to see whether a citizen that is entitled to this can be excluded.

I also briefly want to make three proposals. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable Bezuidenhoudt to read Article 101 in full?

HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: If the Honourable Prime Minister wants to see if I can read English, I will oblige and read it to him. Article 101, “*Application of the Principles contained in this Chapter. The principles of state policy contained in this Chapter shall not of and by themselves be legally enforceable by any Court, but shall nevertheless guide the Government in making and applying laws to give effect to the fundamental objectives of the said principles. The Courts are entitled to have regard to the said principles in interpreting any laws based on them.*”

When that request comes to the House, we will engage and interrogate it

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from all sides, but I am of the opinion that a person who receives a lot of money from his own investments should not be entitled to this pension.

I want to make some proposals for consideration by the Ministry in their survey: We need to have a basket of necessities to determine what is needed by a citizen or human being at a specific age to sustain a healthy life. Once that is done, we will have an idea whether it is N\$550, N\$1,000, N\$10,000 or nothing, depending on what this basket of necessities tells us.

The second one is that if there are increases proposed in the policy, we must as far as possible try to make it inflation linked so that this Motion does not come back to the House. Then it will be increased on a regular basis within the means of the State while we grow the economy. We cannot wait for the economy to grow. We must actively work for the economy to grow.

The last suggestion I would make is that this is a Motion that has been discussed by all citizens, because the parents are involved, the grandparents are involved and everybody has something to say about adequacy of pension, adequacy of increases, etcetera. Therefore, we must call on our citizens to put their money where their mouths are and even consider the introduction of a special tax to fund the old-age pensions, because all of us are responsible and accountable for the vulnerable in society. This country was built by those ones who are today old, we cannot tax any person retrospectively, but I would encourage people to be open to the idea of a very special tax or, alternatively, an increase in the contributions to the Social Security Commission to fund this increase which will be administered by the Ministry of Finance. Our citizens must be open to all sorts of ideas to solve this ever recurring challenge to this House. With these few words, I thank you, Honourable Deputy Minister.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Dr Nicky Iyambo.

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HON DR N IYAMBO

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. This is a very important Motion, but we must also support what the Line Minister and the Prime Minister have said that the Government is busy investigating something in this regard.

Honourable Bezuidenhout spoke about the need for all of us to contribute. That is most probably one way that can be investigated. The other, obviously, is the test that has to be carried out, who are those people who should not be part of what is being paid? Let us give the Ministry concerned the time to do their research and come to the House with the outcome and then debate it. That is what I wanted to say. Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. On that note the House adjourns until tomorrow. 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2012.06.14 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
14 JUNE 2012**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I remind all Members of the invitation by His Excellency, the Head of State, tomorrow at 10:00 and I am sure the invitation is also extended to our spouses or partners.

We will be receiving two important guests, one being the President of the Cuban Parliament who will address us on the 26th and also His Excellency Lieutenant General Sir Sereretse Khama who would also like to address us on the 27th June.

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

**TABLING: REPORT ON WORKSHOP HELD
AT OUTAPI**

HON UEITELE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security on the Workshop held at Outapi from the 1st to 11th

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON SIMATAA / HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

Defence and Security on the Workshop held at Outapi from the 1st to 11th of August 2011 for Discussion.

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

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT:
TELECOM NAMIBIA**

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Annual Report of Telecom Namibia for the year 2009/2010.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Report. Any other Reports and Papers?

**TABLING: REPORTS OF THE
AUDITOR-GENERAL**

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

- Office of the President for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2011;
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ministry of Trade and Industry;

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**MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF STATE
HON DR KAWANA**

- Department of Works of the Ministry of Works and Transport;
- Department of Police of the Ministry of Safety and Security; for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2011.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions, Notice of Motions? Message from the Head of State. Honourable Dr Kawana.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I humbly rise to inform the Honourable Members, especially leaders of Opposition Parties represented in the National Assembly, that the President of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, is inviting all Members of Parliament on the 5th of July 2012 to witness the inauguration of Phase 2 railway-line extension from Ondangwa to Helao Nafidi, popularly known as Oshikango Border Post. Then on the 6th of July there will be the inauguration of Elundu-Nkurenkuru-Eenhana Road and Members of Parliament are equally invited by His Excellency to attend.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any Ministerial Statements? I recognise the Deputy Minister of Education.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Members of this House, please allow me to make the following statement in respect of media reports that appeared under the following headings: “*Namibian*

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR NAMWANDI**

Students in Russia Feel Abandoned.” That was the *Namibian* newspaper of 8 June 2012. “*Namibian Students in Cuba Turn to Sex Work*”. This appeared in the *Informanté* of 6 June 2012.

Honourable Members, may I explain as follows: Namibian students who are currently pursuing studies in Cuba have been awarded scholarships in terms of a bilateral agreement between our country and the Republic of Cuba. In terms of this agreement, the Cuban Government provides tuition fees, accommodation and 100 pesos per month to each student, as well as toiletries such as soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, etcetera. While this is applicable, Namibian Government, under the Namibian Students Financial Assistance Fund, provides a monthly stipend to each student as pocket money, calculated as follows: U\$300 per student per month, irrespective of field of study, for a period of three years; U\$375 per month per student for all medical students effective from the fourth year. The Namibian Embassy in Cuba is assisting NSFAP to allocate the monthly stipend to all students studying in Cuba.

With regard to the modalities of processing the payments in 2012, I am happy to confirm to this House that the Namibia Students Financial Assistance Fund effected the monthly stipend to our Embassy in Cuba on the 15th of May 2012. This allowance payment is to cover the period between the 1st of April 2012 and 31st of August 2012. Contrary to the reports in the newspapers, the stipend payments to students in Cuba was not paid late, let alone those in other countries.

Members of this august House would recall that our Financial Year ends on the 31st of March each year. At this time a new Budget should be loaded onto the system to allow for continuous expenditure under 33% continuation amount while the Appropriation Bill is under discussion in Parliament. It would, therefore, be practically impossible to process any funding before this process is completed at the Ministry of Finance. Thus all payments to Namibian students in foreign countries outside Africa were processed at the same time and on the same day.

I must also explain here that the rates of benefits paid to all scholarship students were determined and approved by the Namibian Students

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Financial Assistance Fund Board.

Let me turn to the Namibian students studying in Russia: Honourable Members, I want to bring to your attention the fact that the academic year of foreign universities, especially Russia, runs from the 1st of September to the 31st August the following year. In terms of our internal process those students contemplating to study in such institutions next year, that is 2013, are advised to apply this year, 2012. It must be noted that all applications for 2012 received last year, 2011, have all been processed and no further application shall be considered as the deadline for this year's applications has since passed.

In some cases we have students who have received admission to universities in Europe and Asia in June 2012 and want us to pay for their studies without even applying for financial assistance. We have also had cases of students who got admitted to studies without even attempting to apply for financial assistance and once they are there, they begin to put pressure on our Foreign Missions and the Ministry to get grants or loans from the Ministry. May I say here, Honourable Members, that this is unacceptable.

Regarding those studying in Russia, the approval of loans and scholarships are finalised during the month of April each year. The loan amount is then sent to the Embassy in the Russian Federation after the student has dully signed the appropriate contracts and submitted proof of registration. Members of this august House would appreciate the fact that until proof of registration from an institution is received, the Ministry cannot effect payment to any student, unfortunately.

Previous experience has proven that some students received loans but never utilised that money for studies. Instead it was used for pleasure, including travelling and drinking. In some cases they engaged in criminal activities. We need proof that a student is enrolled and registered for a specific course of study in a specific institution.

After a tedious process of selection, given the fact that the Ministry received 40,000 this year applications, the new loan awards for 2012/2013

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academic year are now ready to be paid out as from the 14th of June 2012 to the Namibian Embassy in the Russian Federation.

May I also point out that after the publication of the story about Namibian students in Russia, the President of the Students Representative Council in Russia, Mr Vilho Nghipulile, wrote an apology letter to our Ambassador on the 8th of June in which he expressed his dismay and disappointment in the content of the story and pointed out that this was not a collective position, but rather a particular student in Russia who did not even bother to consult others. I have a copy of the letter for those who are interested.

Honourable Members, wherever you have students you will always be challenged. In most cases the challenges are put in such a way as to create panic when in actual fact the situation is under control. We have had students misbehaving in foreign countries; we had challenges which we did not share with the public or this House. We dealt with these as they came.

I want to assure this august House that where we face challenges as a result of our inability to deliver, we will accept blame. It is most unfortunate for our students to claim that they have now turned to prostitution for survival. This is not only an insult to the Government and the people of Namibia, but a sign of ungratefulness to the friendly nations, such as Cuba, who generously contribute to the education of our students. We just hope this situation will not repeat itself one day, as the Ministry of Education has declared zero tolerance on this unwarranted behaviour. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Any further Ministerial Statements? I recognise the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON HAUSIKU**

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker. I am rising to make a Ministerial Statement on the 2012 Africa Public Service Day.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, the Africa Public Service Day will be held at Gobabis, Omaheke Region from the 21st to the 22nd of June 2012 under the theme, *“Capacity Development for Implementation of African Charter on Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration towards Capable Developmental States.”* The sub-theme for Namibia this year is *“Empowering Regional and Local Authorities to Promote and Provide Quality Public Service to the Citizenry.”*

The first Pan-African Conference of Ministers for Public and Civil Service held in Tangier, Morocco in 1994 agreed that the 23rd of June every year should be celebrated as the Africa Public Service Day to recognise the values and virtues of services to our communities. The meeting recognised the significance of the African Public Service Day initiative as part of the continental strategy to enhance public administration and governance programmes across the continent.

Since the African Public Service Day is falling on Saturday in 2012, the main event will be celebrated on the 22nd of June, which is on Friday.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the African Public Service Day enables us to do the following:

1. Reflect on the functions of the Public Service, its mission, objectives, programmes and projects, challenges and successes.
2. To give recognition to and make known the importance of the Civil Service, its positive contribution and benefit to the public servants, population at large, civil society, private sector and Government.
3. Motivate and encourage public servants to continue the good work, improve on shortcomings and introduce new initiatives and innovations.

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4. Prepare the Public Service and administration for a better future by proposing changes to improve the social well-being of our communities.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, Namibia has been celebrating the Africa Public Service Day successfully since 2001. By way of background information, allow me, Comrade Deputy Speaker, to point out as well as highlight the importance of the day.

The overall theme for the 2007 African Public Service Day was, *“Promoting Good Governance with the Emphasis on Anti-Corruption and Ethics.”* The theme was informed by the following three sub-themes:

1. Enhancing Transparency and Good Governance as tools for Effective and Efficient Service Delivery to the Citizens.
2. Building public trust through zero tolerance to corrupt practices.
3. Promoting the highest level of integrity among public servants to service the citizens better.

The 2008 event took place under the theme, *“From Policy to Result-based Implementation.”* This theme was further informed by the following sub-themes:

1. Policy implementation as the key to the realisation of Vision 2030; and
2. Promote good governance through effective public service delivery.

The 2009 event took place under the theme, *“Fostering Partnership in Collaboration for Sustainable Development and Improved Service Delivery in Africa.”* The sub-themes for Namibia underpinning the main theme were:

1. Capacity development for the future capability of the Namibian Public Service; and

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HON HAUSIKU**

2. Strengthening the interface between the political and administrative divide to meet citizens' expectations.

The overall theme for the 2010 event was, "Strengthening Leadership and Management for Improved Public Service Delivery in Africa."

Following the outcome of successive evaluation for the past Windhoek-based celebrations, we decided to take the annual African Public Service celebration to the Regions. The Karas Region, Comrade Deputy Speaker, successfully hosted the 2011 Africa Public Service celebration from the 22nd to the 23rd at Keetmanshoop under the theme, "*Transformative Leadership in Public Administration and Innovation in Governance – Creating a better future for All*". The theme was informed by the following:

1. The on-going leadership and management challenges on the continent;
2. The long-term strategy on the African governance and public administrative programme of the Conference of Ministers for Public and Civil Service in Africa which requires transformational leadership for its effective and efficient implementation; and
3. The fact that the service delivery has been given a pivotal role through the adoption of the Charter on the Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration by the African Union Commission Heads of State and Government at their January 2011 Summit.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, as indicated earlier, the 2012 Africa Public Service Day event will be hosted by the Omaheke Region at Gobabis on the 22nd of June 2012 under the theme, "*Capacity Development for the Implementation of the African Charter on Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration: Towards Capable Developmental States*." The sub-theme will be, "*Empowering Regional and Local Authorities to Promote and Provide Quality Public Service to the Citizenry*." A special item on this year's Africa Public Service Day

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON HAUSIKU**

agenda will be the recognition of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare and the Ministry of Mines and Energy, respectively, for their sterling efforts in implementing business courses in the areas of child welfare grants and grants to women projects for the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare and the processing of exclusive prospecting licences, mining licence renewals and applications for the Ministry of Mines and Energy. The Ministers and the Permanent Secretaries of these Ministries have been specially invited by the Prime Minister to come and receive their certificates of commendation and special trophies.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, I would like to formally inform and invite all the Honourable Members of this august House to come in big numbers to this important national event, to join us to collectively recognise the work of all public servants, often rendered under difficult circumstances.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank you for your attention.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further Ministerial Statements? Question No. 7 is put by Honourable Nyamu to the Right Honourable Prime Minister.

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

QUESTION 7:

HON NYAMU: I put the Question.

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON NYAMU
RT HON ANGULA**

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I thank Honourable Nyamu for his question and I would like to answer as follows:

The Constitution of the Republic of Namibia under Chapter 2, Article 4(6), makes provision for the conferment of Namibian citizenship upon any fit and proper person by virtue of any special skills, work experience or commitment to or service rendered to the Namibian Nation either before or at any time after the date of Independence.

The Namibian Citizenship Act (Act 14 of 1990), Section 6(1), reads as follows: *“When in the opinion of the President, any person who is not a Namibian citizen has rendered any distinguished service to Namibia, the President may grant such person honorary citizenship of Namibia.”*

No Minister has the authority to confer honorary citizenship. A person to whom honorary citizenship is granted in terms of the Namibian Citizenship Act (Act 14 of 1990) Section 6(1), shall become an honorary citizen of Namibia on such date as the President may determine. The grant of honorary citizenship shall not render the honorary citizen liable to any obligation as a citizen of Namibia, neither will it entitle him or her to be registered as a voter, nor will it entitle the spouse, child or any other family member of the honorary citizen to become a Namibian citizen.

So far, Honourable Nyamu, Namibia has granted honorary citizenship to the late Karlson, a distinguished citizen of Sweden, who served as the first Governor of our Central Bank and to His Excellency Martti Ahtisaari, a distinguished citizen of Finland who served Namibia as a Special Representative of the UN Secretary General. I thank you for your attention.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question 12 was put to Honourable Moongo to the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

QUESTION 12:

HON MAAMBERUA: I put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: In the first instance, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the Member wanted certain information with regard to the allocation made from the contingency provision to the Ministry of Works to finance repair or upgrading work on a certain portion of railway infrastructure and he asked a range of questions that I am going to answer.

I would like to highlight the fact that I am rather taken aback by his preference to try and denigrate the Report that was tabled by the Minister of Finance in this House on the use of the contingency provision by characterising the Report as a loose leaf, creating an impression that the Report fell short of a standard that was set that the Report ought to meet. I just wanted to clarify that while Treasury rules indeed oblige that the Minister accounts to Parliament for the use of the contingency provision, it does not prescribe that that Report so provided should be part of another Report or should be in a certain format to warrant that the Honourable Member should characterise it that way. I just wanted to clarify that, because otherwise people would leave with an impression that this Report was supposed to be part of something else, but the Minister of Finance chose to not present it as such and present it in another format.

Having said that, I would proceed to answer the specific questions that the Honourable Member has posed.

The first question was whether the Ministry of Works did not have ample time to make budgetary provision for the works that were required on that portion of the railway infrastructure in the Budget for 2012/2013 and my answer to that one is that the Ministry approached Cabinet to request that funding be provided from the contingency provision to carry out that work because the work was urgently required to enable TransNamib to perform its functions and that it posed a risk to the safety of those that would use

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HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

the infrastructure in the condition it was. Cabinet agreed that funding should be allocated from the contingency provision to enable the Ministry to carry out that work. That amount was set aside from the balance that was available on the contingency provision in order for the Ministry to carry out the work. Obviously, doing that would involve some logistical arrangements which are the responsibility of the Ministry of Works and, therefore, it was not surprising to us when the day after that, that money was not drawn. We were expecting however, that this money would be drawn upon by the end of the Financial Year. The Budget preparation has time lines, it has targets, specific dates that have to be met and it cannot be expected that on the 31st of March when the Ministry of Works realises that it will not be able to draw that money, that that money is incorporated into the Budget for the next year, because by that time the Budget was already tabled in Parliament. As you would recall, that Budget was tabled in February and at that time there were still 30 days before the end of the Financial Year. Therefore, it was not really possible to say in February, the time that we tabled the Budget, at least from the point of view of the Ministry of Finance, that this money cannot be used and therefore we have to suspend this money and then incorporate it into the Budget for the next year. That is my answer. There was not ample time to include that amount in the Budget for the next year.

Even if the Ministry had decided to approach us at the end of February to say we should incorporate it, it was also going to create logistical problems for us, because we need to finalise the Budget documentation, the Medium Term Expenditure Framework, the Estimates of Income and Expenditure. To have them sent to the printers at the last hour is problematic. This is not to say that they came with that and we said no. I want to clarify this, they did not come asking for it to be incorporated in the next year's Budget and we refused. I am only saying that we are expecting that Ministries should meet deadlines in terms of dates by which Budget submissions to enable the Ministry of Finance to finalise the Budget on time.

“Would you as the Minister of Finance also agree that the holding of funds by the Ministry to transfer it to the next year is an indication of poor planning?”

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HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

Obviously the law requires that expenditures for a given year must be appropriated by Parliament in that year and that that expenditure must be utilised in that year. As to what has happened with regard to this money, I am not really able to say, because as I indicated in the beginning, the project was presented as an urgent project that needed to be implemented in order to make sure that there were no disruptions in the railway transportation system and, therefore, Cabinet agreed that money should be allocated on an urgent basis to ensure that that work was carried out. That money was left available to the Ministry until the end of the Financial Year and because there was no provision made in the Budget for the next year, the Ministry saw it appropriate to have this money set aside, transferred to TransNamib in order to make sure that whatever commitments may have been entered into already, could be settled since there were no provisions made in the Budget for the next Financial Year.

“Would the Minister provide this House with rules and guidelines that govern the contingency provision?”

I think these rules and guidelines were provided to this House previously, on several occasions in fact, and they are just that, firstly, the project that needs to be funded with moneys from the contingency provision has to be urgent and it should not have been foreseen at the time of preparing the appropriation for this year. I believe that that test was passed.

Secondly, it has to be urgent and it should be in the national interest that this project should continue under the contingency arrangement, otherwise the national interest would be harmed. I think all of us would agree that if you have infrastructure that pose a risk to the people, it is urgent that you address that and, obviously it would not be in the national interest to delay that unnecessarily if that can be avoided. To that extent I think it was justified that we should allocate money from the contingency in order to have this work done. In fact, that criteria is so important that even where we may find that it may have been foreseen, although we would, of course, want the Ministry to ensure that something that was foreseen is not presented for contingency funding, we can however not go to the extent of saying we will compromise the national interest and refuse to allocate

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HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

money from the contingency just because this was foreseen, otherwise people can lose their lives. These trains can be involved in accidents and people can die and properties destroyed. That criteria of national interest and urgency is very important.

“Would the Minister agree that the attitude displayed by the Ministry of Works and Transport that they had to transfer this money to TransNamib was to avoid money being returned to Treasury and much as it may not be illegal, is it not contravening the spirit of prudent and responsible management of public funds?”

I do not have evidence to that effect as of now, that the Ministry was playing some sort of game. If I thought so, I would not have agreed for this money to be given. I agreed for this money to be given for the sole purpose that I have indicated in the beginning, that we were informed that this work is required to be carried out urgently in order to ensure the safety of those who are using the infrastructure and to make sure there are no disruptions. We availed the money for this purpose on the instructions of Cabinet and that is the same reason why we allowed this money to be transferred.

If the Honourable Member has any information to the effect that there are actually some other considerations, Treasury would be happy to look into this information.

I just want to conclude in order to make sure I am not misunderstood, that I am not here trying to justify that the people should do things outside procedures. The only thing that I am trying to say is that every procedure has an objective and that objective is to serve the interest of Namibia and the Ministry of Finance, as I said in the beginning, availed this money from the contingency in order to make sure that the interest of Namibia is secured and that the infrastructures were in such condition that it enables economic activities to be carried out unhindered and that there is no risk posed to the lives of people and to the assets which are transported along this infrastructure. That was the only reason why this money was availed and we will continue to be focused on that objective of serving the interest of Namibia in administering fiscal policy. However, we expect all the

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**FOLLOW UP- QUESTION
HON MAAMBERUA**

Colleagues to make sure that the way they carry out their ministerial work is such that it does not lead to a situation where we operate outside the established laws and procedures. Thank you.

HON MAAMBERUA: I would like to thank the Minister for the answer. Knowing that normally Ministers provide these answers in writing for the record, the loose leaf that I am talking about is this one, detailing the Contingency Fund. The commitment was made on the 22nd of December 2011 for N\$95 million to be used for contingency purposes. From 22nd of December to the 31st of March is a long time and the Ministry should at least have made use of some of that money. Therefore, the question that I posed, whether the Ministry of Works and Transport had ample time or not, is justified. Indeed, they did have ample time if it was an emergency, as presented to Cabinet, for that money to be used on the basis of urgency, but there was no urgency in terms of the usage of the money.

The question is, the money was transferred to TransNamib, was TransNamib the contractor of that particular project or why was the money transferred to TransNamib? Do rules and guidelines governing the usage and allocation from the Contingency Fund exist and can the Minister provide this House with the rules?

The last additional question: Who actually transferred this money? Is it the Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Finance or is it the Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Works and Transport? Those are my additional questions.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:18

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I think the Honourable Member was directing those questions to the Ministry of Works and Transport, because the information he is really seeking can only come from the Minister of Works and Transport who is here and who will be able to answer those questions. I have answered my part to explain what the criteria are.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question 11 is by Honourable Maamberua to the Minister of Works and Transport. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

QUESTION 11:

HON MAAMBERUA: I put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. Before I respond, I want to give the background of what happened.

During November-December 2011, the Ministry of Works and Transport received Reports of six serious derailments that occurred across the country's railway-line network due to dilapidated railway lines. As a result, we approached Cabinet to be provided with funds for urgent repair and rehabilitation of the affected sections.

The Ministry resolved that there was an urgent need to commence with the repair and rehabilitation process of the railway network, starting with the northern-bound railway line, specifically with the Tsumeb-Kranzberg section. This is in view of the fact that the northern-bound railway line carries most of the traffic and is crucial to the economic activities in the northern part of the country.

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In March 2012, while the emergency repair work was on-going at the Tsumeb-Kranzberg section, it was clear that the work on that railway would not be completed before the end of the Financial Year, which is the 31st March 2012. In addition, floods washed away the railway line near Aus. The Ministry was compelled to respond in order to ensure that the above serious situations are addressed on an urgent basis and then the Ministry needed to have funds at hand in order to avoid disruptions of the work in progress. In that regard, the Ministry approached the Ministry of Finance to alert them about the work in progress at Tsumeb-Kranzberg and the washed-away situation and the need to restore the washed-away rail infrastructure at Aus.

In consultation both Ministries agreed that the Ministry of Works and Transport may use a portion from the money that Cabinet has approved for the rehabilitation of the Tsumeb-Kranzberg section to repair the damage at Aus railway line. With a view that the work was in progress at the Tsumeb-Kranzberg and the flush floods washed away the railway line near Aus, it was then jointly agreed that an amount of N\$95 million be transferred into the Government's upgrading of railway infrastructure account at TransNamib in Marcy 2012 as cash-at-hand for all the necessary repair work of the railway. The Ministry of Works and Transport is the custodian of this account, it is not TransNamib itself. They cannot touch it.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, allow me to respond to the questions that were asked by Honourable Maamberua.

Honourable Maamberua asked if the Minister of Works and Transport is aware of the Forensic Audit Report compiled by Deloitte and the TransNamib Internal Audit department which was released on February 17, 2012 and what date it became aware of such a report.

Yes, I am aware of the forensic audit, I was informed by TransNamib when the audit commenced during October 2011 and I have also been provided with the final Forensic Audit Report compiled by Deloitte when it was delivered to my office in March 2012.

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In Question 2 Honourable Maamberua wants to know, if the Ministry of Works and Transport was aware of lack of control of the financial system at TransNamib, how could the Ministry entrust such huge amount into TransNamib's account?

As mentioned earlier, in March 2012 the amount of N\$95 million was transferred into the Government's upgrading of railway infrastructure account at TransNamib, which has been in existence for more than 13 years. TransNamib has no authorisation to incur any expenditure on that account without the approval of the Ministry. In order to release money from that specific account, there should be a written authorisation and certification of payment from the Accounting Officer of the Ministry to effect any expenditure from the account. With that in mind, there would be no question whether the Ministry should trust TransNamib because the money cannot be moved without the knowledge of the Ministry. For the information of the Honourable Members, the railway line belongs to the State while the operator is TransNamib and the railway stations belong to TransNamib, which means that the Ministry of Works and Transport has to ensure that the line is repaired when damaged.

In Question 3 Honourable Maamberua requested the Minister of Works and Transport to provide the balance of money in that specific TransNamib account by Thursday, 7 June 2012.

It was urgent work to be done and it was during the December holidays when the accident occurred. Obviously, you cannot do too much during the holidays as everybody is on holiday and within four months one cannot complete everything. The situation is that 2008 the Report on the dilapidated railway lines in Namibia was brought to Cabinet and it was estimated to be N\$9 billion. What we are now trying to do is only to repair and rehabilitate, but rehabilitation is a major problem. That part where the derailment has taken place is now repaired, but the rehabilitation is on-going. The railway line was constructed more than a hundred years ago and the steel sleepers are becoming old. We need sufficient money to rehabilitate.

In June 2012, the N\$95 million earmarked for both the rehabilitation work

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between Tsumeb-Kranzberg railway line and the repair of the flood-damaged railway line at Aus are still in the bank account, but we used our savings in the beginning because it was very urgent.

Let me also indicate to the House that a tender for the repair work at Aus will close on Tuesday, 19 June 2012. The emergency work that was done was meant to address the emergency situation, but the complete rehabilitation process is yet to be implemented. For this reason, passenger train services will not be allowed on that section.

In addition to the above questions, Honourable Maamberua indicated that in terms of SOE Act, 2006, Section 17(1), the Portfolio Minister must within a month of being constituted and with due regard to any directive laid down by the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Council under Section 4, enter into a written governance agreement with the board of State-Owned Enterprises, as stipulated under Section 4 of the Act. Based on Section 4 of the Act, Honourable Maamberua asked that the Minister of Works and Transport demonstrates to this House how all the provisions of the Act in questions: A to H, specific to the content of the performance agreement had been complied with or otherwise and if not, why not in each specific case.

Answer: **Scope of business:** Efficiency and Financial Performance and Achievements of Objectives: TransNamib was established to provide and promote, either by itself or through any subsidiary company, transport of passengers or goods by rail, road and air or any other manner which may be approved by Cabinet. I would like to inform Honourable Maamberua that TransNamib is operating and transporting passengers and goods in line with its scope of establishment on a daily basis on the national railway line and the national roads.

I would, however, like to indicate that the company is not achieving maximum efficiency due to ageing below rail and above rail infrastructure that constantly disrupt operations. I would also like to indicate that the financial performance of the company has been heavily impacted due to stiff competition by operators offering freight services on the road. The matter of ageing below and above rail is a concern for the Ministry and we

are devising plans to address the situation.

Annual Business and Financial Plan: I have to admit that the company has not been submitting their annual business and financial plan on time, but as a Ministry we have engaged the company on several occasions to highlight the importance of submitting these annual objectives on time.

Last year Cabinet gave a clear directive on this same issue and emphasised the need to submit financial statements and business plans on time. As a Ministry we have informed all our State-Owned Enterprises about the seriousness of submitting these documents on time, but there remains a challenge to fully comply. Some companies blame external auditors for non-complying with this Section of law. In some cases, State-Owned Enterprises inform the Ministry that external service providers fail to prepare financial statements on and balance it in time, but we are busy devising a plan to address this issue in the best possible manner.

Financial Soundness of the Company: The only way that the Ministry could establish the financial soundness of the company is through the Financial Statements and Annual Reports submitted by the enterprise concerned. TransNamib has provided the Ministry with Annual Reports, the latest being for the Financial Year ending March 2010, which is for 2009. The submission of the 2011 and 2012 Financial Years is due in September this year as per the provision of six months of the State-Owned Enterprises Act.

Key Performance Indicators: Four key performance indicators are:

- Financial performance;
- Human resources development;
- Service and marketing; and
- Production or operations.

With the challenge that TransNamib has been faced with in the industry that the company operates in, the company has not been able to reach the targets to the Ministry's expectation. I am, however, convinced that the company should have done better regardless of the challenges. As an on-

going concern, the Ministry has engaged the company to ensure that the organisation meets the agreed key performance indicators.

Structure and Business Plan: The Structure and business plan adopted by TransNamib is in line with the requirement of the State-Owned Enterprises Act. The Act indicated what should be in the business and financial plan and that is the approach we have used.

Surpluses in the Amount of the Company: The performance agreement has been clear that in case TransNamib achieves a surplus, TransNamib has to pay dividends to the shareholder, which shall be determined by the Board of directors and tabled for approval by the SOE Council in accordance with the provisions of Section 25(a) of the State-Owned Enterprises Act. In the past few years, TransNamib did not realise a surplus that would have made it possible to pay dividends.

Any Matter Relating to Performance of a SOE Function under Any Law: TransNamib is compelled to abide by all the applicable Namibian governing laws.

Copy of TransNamib Governance Agreement for Public Inspection: The Governance Agreement with TransNamib Holdings Ltd., and the Performance Agreement with the members of the Board of directors are available at the Ministry as well as at the TransNamib Holding Ltd offices. Anyone is welcome to visit the Ministry or TransNamib to peruse through the agreement.

I would also like to indicate that the Ministry, with the assistance of GIZ, has contracted KPMG auditing firm to facilitate the updating of the performance agreement with the seven State-Owned Enterprises that fall under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Works and Transport. The performance agreements are expected to be finalised soon.

Honourable Maamberua, I believe I have answered the questions to your satisfaction and submit a copy of the Governance Agreement which the Minister has signed with TransNamib. I thank you.

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**FOLLOW UP-QUESTIONS
HON MAAMBERUA**

HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, when the Minister of Finance referred the unanswered questions to the Minister of Works and Transport, I thought those questions were going to be answered. One question was on the rules and regulations governing the contingency provision and the Minister did not answer that, as well as the Minister of Finance, and the question on who actually transferred the money to that particular account, whether it was the Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Works and Transport or the Accounting Office of the Ministry of Finance. That remains unanswered.

However, an additional question to the Minister, did I get you correctly that the transfer of the money to that particular account was on the instruction of Cabinet and how much was in that account by Thursday, the 7th of this month. We have still not received that balance.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have put the question to be answered by the Minister of Finance and it is a new matter for the Minister of Works and Transport. It is fine if he is ready to answer, but if not, you can put it to him next time so that he can prepare.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Honourable Maamberua, the transfer was an issue of Cabinet. You were a Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and you know the procedures. If the money is being transferred for something which was already approved by Cabinet, what Cabinet wants to hear is that the work was done. What is required is only that the work must be done.

As I said that is a thirteen-year old account, the one taking care of the maintenance of the rail and if need be, that can be provided to you.

HON MAAMBERUA: I want to plead that my question be answered: Who transferred the money?

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Honourable Maamberua, you were the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and you know exactly who is doing this – period. You should tell me how you did it when you were there. I have nothing to do with finance, I was not in the Ministry of Finance, but you are aware of the procedures being followed.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question 13 is by Honourable Maamberua to the Right Honourable Prime Minister.

QUESTION 13:

HON MAAMBERUA: I put the Question.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Your Excellency, Mr Maamberua, president-in-the-wings, thank you for your question.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, I am taking this opportunity to respond to questions posed to the Right Honourable Prime Minister as follows:

The predecessor to the State-Owned Enterprises Governing Council Secretariat, the Central Governance Agency, paved the way for the successful promulgation of the State-Owned Enterprises Act, 2006, which was enacted in November 2006. The full implementation of the said Act would have been enabled by the availability of guidelines and the necessary policies. The ideal situation should have been to develop all the supporting guidelines, directives and policies before the enactment of the Act, so that once the Act is promulgated, the State-Owned Enterprises

would start complying with the Act. Unfortunately this was not the case and the situation was further compounded by the fact that the current Secretariat lacks the necessary capacity as its current structure does not adequately respond to the functions as stipulated in the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Act.

To remedy the situation, Council is currently engaged in the process to fully capacitate its administrative arm, which is the Secretariat, by looking at a more appropriate structure which will align itself to the functions of the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Council, as stipulated in the current State-Owned Enterprises Act.

As far as guidelines, directives and policies are concerned, Council is at an advanced stage in coming up with appropriate regulations to aid in the successful implementation of the Act. A draft document containing these guidelines has been completed and is receiving full attention of the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Council. It is expected that the draft document will soon be shared with Board members of the State-Owned Enterprises in order to solicit their further comments before it is submitted to Cabinet for endorsement.

A list of potential Board members whom the Secretariat is going to engage has been drawn up and a workshop, which is scheduled for the 9th of July 2012, has been agreed upon.

The principles, policy frameworks and directives for State-Owned Enterprises in Namibia include the following:

- Principles on corporate governance and the legal framework;
- Directives on the governance agreement to be entered into by the portfolio Minister and the board or chairperson of a State-Owned Enterprise;
- Directives on performance agreements to be entered into between the portfolio Minister and individual board members;

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- Directives on performance agreements to be entered into between the board and its Chief Executive Officer and other senior management staff;
- Performance measurement in the evaluation of the State-Owned Enterprises;
- Business and financial planning, annual reporting and budgeting;
- Principles and determination of the number of members to be appointed to the State-Owned Enterprises Board;
- Social responsibility programmes;
- Restructuring plans for the State-Owned Enterprises;
- Framework for policy and procedure development on human resources;
- Assets and finance for State-Owned Enterprises;
- Investment policy and exemption from provisions of the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Act.

The following has been achieved and is being implemented by State-Owned Enterprises:

1. A template for governance agreements has been developed and State-Owned Enterprises have been using it to suit specific setups. Some State-Owned Enterprises have already signed those governance agreements with their portfolio Ministers.
2. A template for performance management has also been developed and has been utilised by some State-Owned Enterprises to enter into agreements with their individual Boards, Chief Executive Officers and senior managers.

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3. The remuneration levels of Board members, Chief Executive Officers and other senior management has been taken care of within the context of Government Gazette No. 4538 on the directives in relation to remuneration levels of Chief Executive Officers, senior management and annual fees and sitting allowances of Board members.
4. Benefits of employees in the State-Owned Enterprises are the prerogative of the Boards and management of specific State-Owned Enterprises. Those benefits are reviewed based on the level of inflation and the agreement reached with the bargaining units.

On some occasions the portfolio Minister has an option to consult other line Ministers as well as the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Council for possible legal, financial or other implications likely to arise out of an action or decision regarding the determination of benefits of the employees.

With the aforementioned information, I hope I was in a position to properly answer your questions. I thank you for your attention.

HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister and also the other Ministers who have answered my questions. The follow-up question is just to confirm my understanding, because my question was whether because of lack of implementation of those provisions in the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Act is actually what led to the precarious position in which TransNamib and others find themselves? Is that what the Prime Minister has actually confirmed?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: That question is misdirected because TransNamib has a portfolio Minister who can be asked that question.

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HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I asked the question to the Prime Minister in his capacity as Chairperson of the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Council and not in terms of the supervision of a particular portfolio Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Let me explain to Honourable Maamberua. The Governance Council is an oversight body. It can only act on an issue affecting a State-Owned Enterprises if a portfolio Minister brings that issue to the Governance Council. It cannot initiate by itself to investigate or discuss issues pertaining to a particular State-Owned Enterprise while the portfolio Minister has not raised that issue with the Council. If the portfolio Minister does that, yes, the Council will exercise its prerogative and look into the matter. That was not done. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question 14 was posed by Honourable Moongo to the Minister of Trade and Industry.

QUESTION 14:

HON MOONGO: I put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Thank you, Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly. I would like to thank Honourable Moongo for asking the question dealing with shebeens in Namibia, but before I answer the question, let me remind all Honourable Members here that only last week we had a very intensive Debate on abuse of alcohol. We all spoke out against that thing called alcohol, how detrimental it is to our community. All of us, including Honourable Moongo, were very strong against alcohol abuse. It is within

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that context that I am going to answer Honourable Moongo's question.

However, another issue that is disturbing is that Honourable Moongo had a Motion on respect and we again debated on how we must respect each other, but knowing my Colleague, I am wondering why he is so angry with the SWAPO Government. If you look at the tone of his questions, coming from the same person who is calling for respect and decency in how we talk to each other, the tone is angry. I appeal to my Colleague to tone it down a bit and not to be so angry. He told us to be decent to one another.

It is unfortunate that Honourable Moongo regarded the action by the Police as "*a high degree of autocratic manner of making their own laws.*" Let me assure the Honourable Member that the Namibian Police are not autocratic, we do not see them beating up people in the streets. I see on television how in other countries the Police are manhandling people, beating them up. We do not see that with our Police. Therefore, I would say that we do not operate that way in this country. If there are Police Officers who have used maximum force or abused their powers, there are laws governing this country as well as institutions to ensure that you have recourse to those laws or courts to get redress. If any people were beaten up by the Police that the Honourable Member is aware of, there are Courts, they can make cases and since we are a country governed by laws, they will have their day in court or those who misbehaved will have their day in court.

The Government did not become autocratic, however it allows for the Police to enforce the law. The Police did not close the shebeens in the north only, but closed down shebeens in other parts of the country, especially in Windhoek. The shebeen operators are required to have liquor licences which allow them to trade in liquor. What the Police did was to close down the shebeens that opened before 10:00, the required time to open and those who operated without the required licences.

I must reassure Honourable Moongo and Members of this House that nothing was done which is against the Constitution. However, I plan to address this august House on this important matter in detail in the near

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future, particularly the implementation of the Liquor Act. As you know, the implementation of the Act is done by the Ministry of Justice, we are supposed to be charge of it, but the Magistrates are issuing the licences. We are right now busy, also in view of the Debate on alcohol abuse, to address this issue thoroughly and I will, therefore, throw it back to you so that we can see how we can collectively handle this very, very serious matter, which is also part of alcohol abuse. I thank you.

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I thank the Minister that he acknowledges that those who are licensed are supposed to operate from 10:00, but when your people were there in the Regions, they demanded that the shebeens be closed the whole day and I think they were Out of order.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question 15 was put by Honourable Moongo. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

QUESTION 15:

HON MOONGO: I put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. Allow me to respond to questions raised by Honourable Moongo.

In Question 1 Honourable Moongo wanted to know what prompted the SWAPO Government and what is their hidden agenda to vacate officials who occupied and rented houses by contract in Oshakati West and Oshakati East before and after Independence?

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I am going to reveal something here in Parliament: My Ministry is not aware of any official being vacated from Government renting properties in Oshakati, especially after Independence. Our policy is that we may rent out properties to private individuals if Government is not in need of such property at that stage, especially when the property is at risk of being vandalised when unutilised.

We are aware that even before Independence the DTA Party of Namibia has been occupying Government property in Oshakati. Government is now in need of that property to construct a regional office for the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration in Oshakati. The DTA Party, however, claims that it is their property, but is unable to provide any proof in this regard. Hence, they have now been given notice to vacate in order to commence with the project.

Question 2: Honourable Moongo further wanted to know if, what he calls, nonsensical action is only applied in Oshakati or is also applied to other towns in Namibia.

As I said before, it is the policy of the Ministry to avail unutilised Government properties for the time not needed to interested parties on contract in order to curb deterioration and possible vandalism. It does not matter whether the properties are in Oshakati or anywhere else in Namibia. However, once needed for Government purposes again, notice is given to vacate in accordance with the conditions contained in the individual contract entered into.

I trust that with this brief statement I have clarified the questions raised by the Honourable Member in this august House. I thank you.

HON MOONGO: Thank you very much for the answer. I know my Colleague is usually truthful, but maybe the Honourable Member is not aware of the facts because he only took over the Ministry recently. We produced the cheque with which we bought the house and we have evidence. If you do not want to negotiate, let us go to Court. We have all

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the proof and evidence of this. Those which I mentioned in my question are individual citizens who occupy houses in Oshakati and were ordered to vacate while they have been paying all the years. You said you are not aware of this and I will provide you with the names of people who were forced to vacate. Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question 17 is by Honourable Kaura. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

QUESTION 17:

HON KAURA: I put the Question.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Member, your question is misdirected. It should be directed either at the Minister of Works and Transport or to the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development. The Office of the Prime Minister has nothing to do with lights being cut off in Keetmanshoop and other places. Therefore, my humble advice is that the Honourable Member asks the relevant Ministries for information. Thank you.

HON KAURA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I raised that question with the Right Honourable Prime Minister because he is the Leader of Government Business and when an embarrassing situation like this arises, I feel he is the accounting person to answer to such questions, but I will redirect it. Thank you.

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTION BY HON ULENGA
HON NGHIMTINA**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question 18 is by Honourable Ulega.

QUESTION 18:

HON ULENGA: I put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Honourable Deputy Speaker, allow me to respond to the questions raised in this august House by Honourable Ulega.

His Excellency Nelson Mandela, former Head of State of the Republic of South Africa, visited Namibia in August 1994. During his visit, various issues which, *inter alia*, include state assets claimed by the latter were discussed. In a subsequent meeting of the Heads of State of Namibia and South Africa in Upington on 6 December 1994, the issue of the transfer of Government properties from South Africa to Namibia was discussed. As a result, 24 properties which were occupied and utilised by the South African Government were transferred to the Government of the Republic of Namibia in 1995. Currently only 18 properties, such as houses in Windhoek, were retained by the South Africans.

Question 1: Honourable Ulega wanted to know if there are immovable properties that belong to the Government of the Republic of South Africa that are currently being used by the Namibian Government.

The answer: None. The Ministry of Works and Transport is not aware that the Government of Namibia is utilising any properties which belong to the Government of the Republic of South Africa. As I mentioned earlier, the ownership and utilisation of certain properties were already resolved between the Governments of the two countries.

Question 2: Honourable Ulega also wanted to know whether the old State House and Suiderhof Military Base fall within this category.

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Answer: No, these properties do not fall under the said category, the old State House has been allocated in terms of Cabinet Resolution to the Office of the Prime Minister to serve as offices, while the Suiderhof Military Base is occupied and utilised by the Namibian Defence Force.

Question 3: The Member further wanted to know what the Government's plans are with regard to these properties.

Both the old State House and the Suiderhof Base were transferred to the Government of the Republic of Namibia in June 1995.

I trust with this brief statement I have clarified the questions raised by the Honourable Member in this august House. I thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question 19 is put by Honourable Kaura.

QUESTION 19:

HON KAURA: I put the Question.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you very much. I wish to answer the question on behalf of my Minister.

The Ministry of Education is well aware of the sewer system problem at the school, which has been a challenge to the Ministry for the past years – but not for the past 22 years – because of the hostel capacity which has exceeded the required capacity, thereby putting constant pressure on the existing hostel infrastructure. There are currently 478 learners in the hostel, whereas the hostel should have accommodated 300 learners only. However, the Ministry is refuting the media release that the sewer has been blocked for the last 22 years without the Ministry taking concrete

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action.

I would like to make it very clear here, Honourable Kaura that various efforts were made to rectify the situation from the side of the Ministry and the Regional Council and the following steps were taken:

The Ministry of Works and Transport replaced all sewerage pipes with new ones at the school in 2009, which cost the Ministry of Education N\$465,464. In 2010 and 2011, the Ministry of Works followed up again and cleaned the sewerage pipelines from both boys and girls hostel up to the main drain. While all these efforts are being made, it should also be mentioned that learners at the hostels have also deliberately contributed to the blockage of the sewerage system, as stones, rocks and many other items could be found in the sewerage pipes during the cleaning process. To mitigate this situation and in consideration of the health of learners and the community, the Ministry of Education, through its agency, the Regional Office and Kunene Regional Council will undertake the following to rectify the situation once more:

1. The Regional Education Office staff under Planning and Development is directed to immediately assess the situation on the ground and to come up with recommendations to the Kunene Regional Council.
2. The Directorate of Works has been approached to do the costing for the replacement of the smaller and worn-out sewerage pipes with bigger ones, whereas in the interim the blocked pipes will be attended to.

The Regional Council has on its plans to expand the hostel capacity at the school to address the need of the learners during the current MTEF period. Thank you very much.

HON KAURA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Minister, for your humility and your kindness and your answer which is very clear.

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HON KAURA

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

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE:
MOTION ON INCREASE OF OLD-AGE PENSION

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Increase of Old-Age Pension.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the House adjourned yesterday, 13 of June 2012, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Kaura. Any further discussion? Would Honourable Kaura wish to reply?

HON KAURA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would like to adjourn the Debate until next week, Wednesday.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The item is adjourned until next week, Wednesday. The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE:
MOTION ON DEMOLIITION OF HOUSES

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**MOTION ON DEMOLITION OF HOUSES
HON UTONI**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on the unfair demolition of houses by the Oshakati Town Council.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the Debate was adjourned on Wednesday 22 February 2012, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Moongo, that the Motion be adopted. Any further discussion? Honourable Utoni.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I also rise to make a contribution to this issue of the demolition of shacks. (Interjection)

HON MOONGO: Houses!

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Well, maybe some are houses, but we have observed on television they are shacks, but it still remains a sensitive issue.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the word “demolition” sounds scary to the ears of many people in the country. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Order. There are two Motions, one dealing with the demolition of kindergarten houses and the other one is the last on the Order Paper. I think he wanted to speak on the shacks, not on the houses.

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**MOTION ON DEMOLITION OF HOUSES
HON UTONI**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can we give the Member the benefit of the doubt? After he has explained we will be able to judge whether he is talking on the current Motion.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:
Honourable Deputy Speaker, we are talking about demolition of houses, “*demolition*” being the key word.

As I have already indicated, the word “demolition” sounds so scary in the ears of many people in the country and it seems some people are blaming the Local Authorities for the action they have taken, but personally I do not want to blame only one side, the blame should be balanced because there are many implications. Fingers should be pointed on both sides, not only to one side.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, in 1992 a number of towns in the northern part of the country were proclaimed and those Local Authorities were given portions of land. However, maybe it was not properly understood by many people after the proclamation of those towns and now there exists a big confusion when it comes to land administration or land distribution in some of these towns. Why do I say that? Firstly, there are three groups of people who are allocating land in those towns, being the Town Councillor who is the custodian of the land as proclaimed by Act 23 of 1992, the Village Headman whose portion of land falls within the boundaries of the town and thirdly... (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question, please? You are telling us that there is complete confusion in that area because there are three distinct institutions which are allocating land to people. While you have admitted that there is that confusion, you proceeded to demolish people’s houses before you have resolved the issue. Why did you not wait until you have resolved the issue to know exactly who was responsible for allocating that land? To me it does not

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make sense that you are admitting, but at the same time, while you know that this is a problem, you proceeded to demolish these houses. On what legal basis did you do this?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: There are three groups of people, one being the elected Councillor who has been given the jurisdiction of that piece of land as a Local Authority to administer that land and allocate to members of the community. Then one has the Village Headman who has a portion of his village falling within the town boundaries. The third is the owner of the field who is also allocating land to individuals in the name of business. Now you can see where the confusion comes in.

When all these structures are set up, they do not comply with the town planning scheme. Council is trying to plan this way, somebody else is allocating land to people and this is the situation prevailing there.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, therefore, these were the contributing factors to the demolition of houses. The Local Authority Councillors were informing the individual occupants and the Headmen, but they thought they also have the right to allocate land to individual members and this is what caused the problem.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, as I have already indicated, these towns were proclaimed in 1992 and it has become very difficult for the Local Authorities to administer land. The law gives the right to the Local Authority that a certain area should only be administered by them, but the problem is caused by those who do not want to abide by the law of the land.

We have a programme under TIPEEG whereby Government is asking Local Authorities to make serviced land available to the people, however, the problem is that the area which the Local Authority is supposed to service is already occupied as the land was allocated by the Headmen.

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Therefore, the Local Authority has no further available land to service because all the land is occupied. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister another question? Honourable Deputy Minister, I am trying to understand what you are saying, but the more you are explaining, the more I am getting confused. You have admitted that there are three legal structures that allocate land to people in that area and now you are trying to justify that before you have exhausted the process of consultation as to whom has allocated that piece of land to whom, the Municipality decided to demolish the houses. Would you agree with me that some of the houses that were demolished were legally built on those places and if that is the case, would the Municipalities of those areas be prepared to compensate the people for their loss of properties and what is more, the psychological suffering by those people?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: The structures that were demolished are the ones which were built illegally and not in accordance with the town planning scheme. Let us take the example of Ompumbu an area which the Council wants to develop in the future, but the Headman of that area whose land falls within the Town Council area is busy allocating land to individuals illegally. The area is already under the jurisdiction of the Town Council. (Interjections)

No, you passed a law here for the Local Authorities to administer a given portion of land. (Intervention)

HON SHIXWAMENI: The Honourable Deputy Minister is doing good in confusing us. May I ask him a question? You explained very well that towns were proclaimed in 1992. The people were there already before the towns were proclaimed, which means the town schemes came afterwards

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and it found the people already there. It is like the Europeans saying they discovered Africa while Africa already existed. What is the difficulty to negotiate with the Headmen, who are also legally recognised, and make them aware that the town is now going to expand, but we found you here, so what arrangement can we come to, to ensure that we do things in a proper planned way?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Maybe you do not understand. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: I want to help Honourable Utoni. I think he is right because he is saying the Chief was allocating land, but if the people have been there for 500 years, why is the Chief now giving them land? They should have been given the land already 500 years ago. It does not make sense.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: The Honourable Members who are raising questions here are the ones who passed a law here to give the Local Authorities the sole mandate to administer that area and no one else. I hope it is now clear to you. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? Are you aware of the lawlessness among members of the Opposition Parties by trying to instigate the members of the public to disobey the laws of this country?

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: One can hear that the questions are meant to instigate and violate the laws that they passed in this House. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I rise on a Point of Information. I want to clarify something. If a place is a communal area in terms of the Communal Land Reform Act, there are three entities responsible for the allocation of land. In fact, we do not even say “*allocation of land*”, we say “*allocation of customary land rights*”. It starts with the Traditional Authorities and then it is referred to the Land Board, depending on the size of the land. If the size is more than 20 hectares, it starts with the Traditional Authority, it goes to the Land Board and then it comes to the Minister of Lands. That is the procedure being followed in a communal area. However, the moment that communal area is proclaimed as a Local Authority, then the Traditional Authorities Act of 2000 states that the Traditional Authority ceases to have jurisdiction over that area and in terms of the Local Authorities Act of 1992, it is that Local Authority which is elected which now assumes jurisdiction. That is the procedure in the law.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: I thank the Honourable Member for giving more information. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, on a Point of Information. I appreciate the effort of the Attorney-General, but the fact of the matter is that we are not talking about the land after 1992, what we are saying is that the people in those areas of Oshakati, Ongwediva and Ondangwa were legally given land before 1992. If a Local Authority wanted that piece of land for the purpose of development, the best would have been to engage those people who were staying there legally, because

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before 1992 there was no Local Authority in those places. The only people who were providing land to the people were the Traditional Authorities. There could have been proper consultation and compensation paid to these people, rather than the Municipality, because they have the power, ignoring the rights of the people and demolishing these properties. That is unjustifiable. That is all we are saying, that it was wrong for the Municipality to do that because these people were staying there legally.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: The Honourable Member does not understand. The Council is negotiating with the people on the existing infrastructures and they are being compensated, but of recent some Headmen and individuals are allocating land. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: On a Point of Information and then a question. Comrade Utoni, what we should understand is that there are people who, when the moon is somewhere, do not behave in the normal way of behaviour and that has been proven somewhere else, it is normal to have those types of people. When you have people behaving like that, you sometimes have to ignore that because it is in their nature of behaviour. The question I have is that when you have somebody with a short memory in a House like this, what do you think we should do to improve the situation around here?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Coming to my conclusion, we only wanted to make it clear to the Honourable Members from the Opposition, because they are telling the public that the Councillors are destroying everything that they found there, which is not the case. We are talking about new structures which are right now being erected, which are not in line with the town planning scheme. (Intervention)

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HON RIRUAKO: I am not here to condone what happened, but we never before had this kind of confusion, this confusion has now arisen in this period where we are. Who lives on the moon and who does not, we never had this before. Wherever you went, everything went smoothly, but the demolishing of properties started after Independence and never before. They never, ever destroyed property. I cannot defend that the property of people who are independent is being destroyed without any lawful reason. This is unfair. You are well-educated, you came over here and were elected as the Government for the people and now you are acting as if there are no people here and that is unfair. Let us face the reality, the right of the people must be known. All this happened after 1990 and you are defending what you have done.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Honourable Riruako, maybe I should remind you of the Old Location and what has happened there. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: With that the House is adjourned until 19th June at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2012.06.19 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
19 JUNE 2012**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

1. Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration;
2. Ministry of Mines and Energy;
3. Ministry of Lands and Resettlement;
4. Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare;
5. Namibian Correctional Services of the Ministry of Safety and Security;
6. Ministry of Veterans Affairs;
7. National Council; and
8. Ministry of Finance;

for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2011.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
RT HON ANGULA**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Reports. Any further Reports and Papers? Right Honourable Prime Minister.

**TABLING: REPORT ON NEW EQUITABLE ECONOMIC
EMPOWERMENT FRAMEWORK**

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I once again lay upon the Table, the Report on the New Equitable Economic Empowerment Framework (NEEEF) for urgent discussion.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Report. Any other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Honourable Moongo.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 22:

HON MOONGO: I give Notice that on Thursday, 28 June 2012, I shall ask the Minister of Lands and Resettlement the following:

It is a known fact that Namibians has fought for their freedom and for their land. Therefore, Namibia is indeed the Land of the Brave.

1. What prompted and hindered the SWAPO-Party Government not to give or allocate free plots to poor Namibians who have maintained and lived there long before Independence in all Municipal areas in the country?

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2. When will the Government give free communal land to the poor people that lived there long before Independence and not leasehold or ownership, the same way the Government is awarding N\$200,000 to some of those who participated in the liberation struggle both inside and outside the country?
3. Will the system of the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer continue to dominate in an Independent Namibia?
4. Can you explain as to why the rich people in this country are the only ones that own land in Namibia?
5. Are you not upholding the Constitution which states that all people, whether poor or rich, are equal before the law?
6. Do you acknowledge that in doing so, the SWAPO-Party Government is causing serious divisions and discrimination on social grounds, which is a constitutional obligation of any governing party?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Question. Any further Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statement? The first Notice of Motion is Moved by the Honourable Minister of Presidential Affairs and Attorney-General. Does the Honourable Minister Move that the Bill be now introduced?

**INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING:
NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION BILL**

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**NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION BILL
HON DR KAWANA**

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

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

SECRETARY: *National Planning Commission Bill.*

**SECOND READING:
NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION BILL**

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

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

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

**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND
ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy

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Speaker. Honourable Deputy Speaker, I rise to motivate the National Planning Commission Bill.

One of the most important aspects of any successful Nation is economic planning. Economic planning at the national level provides a roadmap to both domestic and foreign investors as to which economic sector has the prospect of better returns. It also provides an opportunity to the Government to assess the extent of its success in managing the economy. Against this background, economic planning enables the Government to distribute economic benefits among its citizens by directing economic development to those parts of the country where they are needed most.

In some countries, economic planning is combined with finance, while in others the two are separated. The mothers and fathers of the Namibian Constitution, some of whom are still in this Chamber, viewed economic planning as one of the most important functions of the Government. It is for this reason that Article 129(1) of the Namibian Constitution placed the National Planning Commission in the Office of the President. Article 129(2) established the title of the Director General, appointed by the President of the Republic, who was to be the head of the National Planning Commission.

In 1994 the National Planning Commission Act (Act 15 of 1994) was passed by Parliament. The aforementioned Act defined the membership of the Commission. It also regulated the powers, functions and personnel of the Commission.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, it has now become necessary to redefine the role of the Commission by a new Act of Parliament. This is important if we are to realise our dream of achieving Vision 2030. It has become critical to effectively monitor and evaluate our five-year National Development Plans. It is also clear that despite the achievements and milestones that we have reached so far, more needs to be done to ensure that we remain on track towards Vision 2030. It is against this background that the legal mandate of the Commission needs to be redefined in order to focus more on the development planning and monitoring.

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Changes that have been introduced in the Bill include turning the Central Bureau of Statistics into an autonomous body outside the civil service. This became a reality, as Honourable Members may recall, when the Namibian Statistics Act was passed last year. The Act created the Namibia Statistics Agency. I am pleased to announce that the Agency has been operational since April this year.

The Commission has been reconstituted so that apart from the Director General, Cabinet Ministers are no longer members of the Commission once this Bill is passed into an Act of Parliament. In addition, the objectives of the Commission will be streamlined so that it can focus on macro-socio-economic planning.

In the current setup, the commissioners consist of the Director General of the National Planning Commission, five ministers and eight individuals from outside the Government. The experience has been that this arrangement has not worked well for various reasons. Commissioners will now consist of Namibian individuals who are experts and leaders in the relevant fields. The relevant fields of expertise are those that are critical for socio-economic development. The Director General is the link between the Commission and the Cabinet. He or she must ensure that Cabinet is properly briefed during the whole planning process. The role of the Ministry of Finance and that of the Commission has been clarified, especially when it comes to budgeting and donor management.

Over the years the determination of the Capital Budget has been a grey area. It has not always been very clear as to who determines the Capital Budget. National Planning Commission has been perceived to be the one providing funds for the Capital Budget and, therefore, various stakeholders used to approach the Commission for funding. It is for this reason that there should be clarity on the role of the Ministry of Finance and the Commission. To be effective, there must be only one entity that is responsible for the total Budget and that is the Ministry of Finance.

The correct role of the Commission should be to appraise the Minister of Finance on the status of the economy and the possible macro-economic interventions as input in the preparation of the Budget. National Planning

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Commission should, therefore, no longer be perceived to be in charge of the Capital Budget since Budget is purely the mandate of the Ministry of Finance, both in terms of Article 125 of the Namibian Constitution and the State Finance Act of 1991. National Planning Commission should only satisfy itself that the budgetary allocation closely reflects the priorities as set out in the National Development Plans and Vision 2030. In addition, donor management, which has been managed by the National Planning Commission all along is a financial issue and hence needs to be managed by the Ministry of Finance as well.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, it is a well-known fact that we are a Nation recognised as having good plans although at times without the ability to thoroughly implement them. This is largely due to the lack of proper monitoring and evaluation. Without an effective monitoring and evaluation process, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to know whether we are achieving our long-term plans. It is, therefore, recommended that the Director General be required to present to Cabinet a report on the progress being made with the implementation of the NDP's every six months. The report will clearly state whether or not we are achieving the desired outcomes as planned. The report should also suggest corrective measures to be taken so that we remain on course.

In order for the National Planning Commission to carry out its objectives effectively, there is a need to build and retain strong technical capacity. Currently there is a lack of advanced technical skills in the National Planning Commission. The National Planning Commission should be the "*think tank*" of Government when it comes to socio-economic development. As such it needs to be filled with highly technically qualified professionals who are motivated to excel at what they do. The challenge in the past has been that the remuneration structure of the Public Service was not found attractive enough to attract such professionals. I am pleased to report that the National Planning Commission has engaged the Public Service Commission and received approval to amend its structure accordingly.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Bill before this august House consists of seventeen clauses. Clause 1 covers definitions, Clause 2 covers the

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composition of the National Planning Commission, while Clause 3 covers the application of the laws governing the Public Service Commission. Clause 4 covers the objectives of the Commission. Disqualification for appointment as members of the Commission is covered under Clause 5. The vacation of office and filling of vacancies is provided for under Clause 6, while Clause 7 establishes advisory committees of the Commission. The disclosure of interest by members is covered under Clause 8, while Clause 9 covers remuneration and allowances of members. Meetings of the Commission are regulated under Clause 10, while Clause 11 deals with appointments, tenure of office and termination of appointment of the Director General. The powers and functions of the Director General are covered under Clause 12, while Clause 13 covers the functions of the Permanent Secretary and other staff members of the Commission. Clause 14 covers performance management and discipline of staff members. The annual reports of the Commission are covered under Clause 15, while Clause 16 covers the repeal of the existing Act. The short title and commencement is covered under Clause 17.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, in conclusion, I Move that the streamlined and focused functions of the National Planning Commission, as contained in the Bill, be passed without any further delay. Allow me, therefore, to commend the Honourable Members of this august House for their understanding and I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable Shixwameni.

HON SHIXWAMENI: I Move that the Debate be adjourned until next Wednesday, the 27 June.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The discussion on the Bill is adjourned

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until next Wednesday. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE:
MOTION ON DEMOLITION OF HOUSES**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Demolition of Houses by the Oshakati Town Council.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the Debate was adjourned on Thursday, 14 of June 2012, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Moongo, that the Motion be adopted. The Deputy Minister of Safety and Security had the Floor and he may continue.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. On Thursday I expressed my concern about land administration in the towns and I made reference to especially towns in the northern part of the country where they have a different way of administering their land. For example, we have those towns which were proclaimed in 1992 and also those, such as Windhoek and others, which have been in existence long before that. I made reference specifically to those in the northern part of the country.

I mentioned that the allocation of land in those towns is not being done in an orderly manner, the reason being that one has a number of entities who are allocating land in those towns. In a town which was proclaimed in 1992 one would have the Local Authority which has the duty to allocate land to members of the community. However, in some of those towns one would find Headmen whose villages fall within the town boundaries and this Headman is also allocating land. Even the owner of a mahangu field

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has now also started selling land to individuals, thereby causing confusion and the creation of many illegal structures within the town boundaries.

However, one cannot condone demolition without consultation.
(Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Member Deputy Minister a question, please? Honourable Deputy Minister, we are discussing the demolition of houses by the SWAPO-ruled Oshakati Municipality. We want to find out, as a matter of principle, whether people's houses can be demolished. Is that the Ruling Party's policy, is that a Government policy or what? I am asking this question because a couple of days ago the SWAPO-ruled Windhoek Municipality waited until it is very cold before demolishing houses of the poor people in Katutura, where we have seen women with babies on their backs pleading with the people, but their houses were demolished. I have not heard any statement from the Ruling Party on whether it is Government policy position. The youth have been asking what is the position of the SWAPO Government as far as the demolition of the poor people's houses is concerned.

Secondly, what we have seen on television, how does that differ from what actually happened at the Old Location? Is it acceptable to the Ruling Party to see this kind of situation 22 years after Independence being done by black people to other black people? Is that acceptable?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Maybe you are not hundred percent correct to refer to the SWAPO Government in Oshakati, we also have some other Parties represented in the Oshakati Town Council. Maybe it was a joint decision of all the Parties in the Oshakati Town Council.

However, we also need to be specific and as I said, we are also not condoning demolition, but we are in Parliament to enact laws for the

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institutions to govern. We have given a mandate to the Local Authorities through the Local Authorities Act and we should not allow other people to allocate land in a Local Authority area. Communication is very important because the Town Council and the community are the same people.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, maybe we should try to educate members of the community. (Intervention)

HON SHIXWAMENI: May I ask a question? I think the Deputy Minister is trying to avoid answering the question and maybe Honourable Jerry Ekandjo will be able to provide an answer. In 1959 our people were forced to move from the current Hochland Park to where we are now living and the question that the SWAPO Government must answer is whether it is official Government policy to demolish people's houses. You call them shacks, but they are people's houses. That question needs an answer and we cannot avoid it, we must answer it on the Floor here. Is it official SWAPO Government policy to demolish people's houses? I know the Deputy Minister is capable of answering that.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think you could defer the question to when the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development takes the Floor. You have done your level best to answer it, just proceed and the right person is the Minister in charge of Local Authorities.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I was just moving towards the point of saying that we as leaders have a responsibility to educate our members that we also have laws in the country. (Intervention)

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HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? Honourable Deputy Minister, do you know how much was the cost of demolishing those houses in Oshakati and those in Windhoek both to the Municipality and to the inhabitants of those houses?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Now you have moved to the cost, which I am not able to answer. What I was trying to say is that we as leaders also have a responsibility to educate our members on what is required of them and not to do things illegally. We have laws in the country and it is our responsibility as leaders to educate our members. Tomorrow you will ask the Municipality to provide a piece of land, yet that land has already been allocated by somebody else. Let us educate our members. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Comrade Deputy Speaker, on a Point of Information. Hypocrisy is a disease and there are a number of people who suffer of chronic hypocrisy. What the Opposition of this country is normally doing is to make laws here, but then they instigate the citizens of this country to go against the laws they passed in Parliament. The Opposition members instigate people to go against the law and when they come back here, after having instigated the people, they pretend to be on the side of the people while they are in actual fact the very people fuelling the situation. In actual fact we have a problem that we have to deal with in this Parliament, because we have Opposition members who are not serious about what is being done here. Why should you instigate the people while you know very well that it is against the law? Now you come here and pretend to be on the side of the people that you have misled. Comrade Utoni, I want you to be very straightforward and tell them that it is illegal, but the SWAPO Government does also not condone demolition of houses.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Honourable Deputy Speaker, as I was saying, instead of instigating people, let us educate our members. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: I want to find out from the Honourable Member whether he is convinced that the SWAPO Party is excellent at instigating people to vote for it during elections, but it lacks the ability to instigate the people not to occupy land they are not supposed to occupy?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: The Members of Parliament serve in committees and we should educate our communities out there and not try to score points here in Parliament. (Intervention)

HON SHIXWAMENI: May I ask a question? My fellow prisoner at Seeis is alleging that the Opposition instigates people to construct illegal structures. My question is whether the Honourable Deputy Minister knows that the houses which are being demolished in the 1959-style, are indeed in the majority owned by SWAPO Party members? Is the Honourable Member aware of that?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: I do not have any statistics and I do not know where you get that information. Maybe that is why it is being said here that you were there. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: On a Point of Information. I think we are treating this issue very lightly, but it is very serious. Today it is freezing and there

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are women and children who are on the streets because the Windhoek Municipality does not care about the plight of the poor. The Mayor of Windhoek is a woman, but women with their kids are sleeping in the open as we sleep because the SWAPO-led Municipality of Windhoek has demolished their houses and here we are trying to play games, saying that these people belong to this Party or that Party. That is not the issue. Honourable Deputy Minister, we say that we want to protect and defend the Constitution and the laws of the Republic Namibia, but Article 10 of the Constitution deals with freedom from discrimination. “(2) *No person may be discriminated against on the ground of sex, race, colour, ethnic origin, religion, creed or social or economic status.*” You are discriminating against the poor people because they are poor and it is unconstitutional. No matter how much you are trying to justify or how much you are trying to play games with politics, what you have done by throwing women and children into the streets in the middle of winter while you are laughing at them, is criminal.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member is contradicting himself, he does not have any facts, yet he also does not look at the laws that he passed here. He has been here for some time now and his argument is one-sided and he is contradicting himself.

It is important that these three groups I have mentioned, the Local Authority, the Village Headman and the owner of the land, should consult. Maybe the Council of Traditional Authorities should also discuss the issue to clear the confusion, because the Headmen might not be well informed on who has the power to allocate land within the town’s jurisdiction and this is the confusion that is causing the erection of illegal structures in town. I rest my case.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister Ekandjo.

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HON EKANDJO**

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. Before I come to the Motion on Oshakati, let me just clarify the issue of Windhoek. Immediately after I saw it on television, I called two Councillors and they went there and they stopped the demolition. This does not mean that we support land-grabbing, but it is simply because it is wintertime and also the way the demolition was done. At least it could have been dismantled so that the materials could be used at a later stage, but to use bulldozers was not proper and therefore we stopped it. Apparently what happened is that the City of Windhoek only demolished those structures that were erected recently. Apparently two Police officers went there to stop the people and then they were surrounded by the people and told them they will not stop and as a result, more people started doing the same. Land grabbing is illegal, but also, it is wintertime and maybe there should be a policy that in future, should demolition be done, it should be done properly.

We also saw that somebody in Katima Mulilo put up a car wash and the bulldozer came and bulldozed everything. We also contacted them that it should not be done this way. (Intervention)

HON VAN DER WALT: On a Point of Information. It is really undesirable that our people's houses be demolished and I am very pleased, Honourable Minister, to hear that you stopped it. I feel that our Government needs to take action so that something like this never happens again. We have so much land and the time has come where our Government needs to take some land from the Municipalities and locate our people, because for me it is not nice to hear that this is happening.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** This is now as far as Windhoek is concerned and I just wanted to say that we stopped it.

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Let me now come to Oshakati. Honourable Deputy Speaker, there is a village called Ompumbu which falls within the Oshakati town land and the streets have already been mapped out. Then a person built a house, part of the house is in the street and he was told not to continue. The house is there he still lives there as we speak. Half of that house is in the street. Then the owner tried to build a veranda on the part that is on the street, almost stretching to the middle of the street. When he built the first half in the street, he was told not to do so, but during Christmas he completed the structure and now that half is in the street. Then he again wanted to extend that part which is already in the street with a veranda. It was only the pillars and the veranda which were demolished, not part of the house.

The other was a kindergarten which was also built in the street and the owner was told by the time he started with the foundation. Since then up to today, the people in Oshakati or in that area, whenever they want to build structures, approach the Municipality to enquire whether they are violating or not. Therefore, it was only two structures which were demolished and up to now everything is normal. That is as far as Oshakati is concerned.

Coming to Ongwediva, the area of Omatando was proclaimed as a village and has already been mapped, but there are still traditional houses. Every fifth or sixth house is a traditional house with a mahangu field and instead of cultivating mahangu, the owners have sold the land and one finds three, four houses already constructed within the mahangu field. I went there and most of the houses are still unoccupied, already painted and others in the process of being constructed. That means the Council of Ongwediva is now forced to adjust the planning because of those houses which were built haphazardly. That village is now a fully-fledged township and the owners of mahangu fields are already selling the land. I was considering de-proclaiming that area, but should I do so, those people who bought the plots will turn against the owner and claim back their money because it will become an ordinary village. I can de-proclaim the area, but people have built two, three houses on the mahangu fields because they know the land now has value. By the time the Municipality starts constructing roads, the person can claim to have spent so much.

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I am told that when the Local Authorities extend their boundaries, the amounts in compensation vary from N\$700,000 to N\$2.2 million, etcetera.

What is the future? Honourable Deputy Speaker, we are now busy amending a Section within the Local Authorities Act which says the Local Authorities can dispose of immovable properties, including land. This means to sell land by auctioning, tendering, etcetera and Municipalities such as Walvis Bay, Windhoek and Swakopmund can sell land without approval from the Minister. We are now busy amending that clause so that in the future it should read that foreign nationals and foreign companies will in future only lease land for fifty years renewable and no more buying. The auctioning of land and tendering will be out, the Namibian nationals can buy land by private treaty and once we amend that Section of the Act, then we will have to make a Cabinet submission so that Cabinet can decide on the prices to be charged by Village Councils, Town Councils and Municipalities. Whether you buy in Katutura or Ludwigsdorf, Cabinet has to decide what the price is. That is what we envisage for the future.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, I rest my case and the Motion should be rejected.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:30

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further discussion? I recognise the Minister of Finance.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I rise to make a few comments on the Motion which was tabled by Honourable Moongo.

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Obviously, all of us are in agreement that eviction of people and the demolition of their structures is not a pleasant issue and I am sure it is not the preference of anyone that they should go and evict somebody and demolish their structures, especially when such people are faced with the kind of poverty that we experience in this country. As the Minister of Local Government has indicated, the situation is made worse when this happens during harsh weather conditions, such as the winter that we are experiencing now. Any such occurrences are always regrettable.

Obviously, Namibians are law-abiding people and the mere isolatedness of these incidents show the respect that the Namibian people have for the laws that they have put in place through their representatives in this House. That is why you do not have people going around grabbing land every day. It is because they restrain themselves because they respect the laws and they are hopeful that eventually we as a Nation will work together in order to address the concerns that sometimes compel them to act in the manner that they have acted in this case. This may also in part be attributed to the lack of information, as the Deputy Minister was saying, that some of the people who started putting up these structures may not have been fully aware of what the procedures are; and that is another aspect that we need to address, to make sure that our people are fully informed about how they can go about asserting their rights and a situation is not created where people may face harsh consequences.

Housing is a basic necessity and one that the State recognises as such. That is why housing is identified as one of the priorities for development under our National Development Plan and also under our Budgets. We as a Nation must, therefore, be committed to ensure that all our people have access to basic housing because it is a basic necessity.

Obviously it is a challenge to be able to afford the resources needed to service the land so that all Namibians can have access to decent housing and we must, therefore, look at ways other than the conventional ways of raising funds to try to expedite the process of providing houses to our people.

We have programmes, such as Build-Together under the Ministry of Local

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Government and Housing, we provide support to the Shack Dwellers Association, we have NHE and we provide subsidies to Municipalities, Towns and Villages to enable them to provide municipal services so that people are able to construct houses, but of course, these fall short of what is needed to ensure that there is serviced land for everybody that needs such land.

Therefore, some of the options that I think we should consider and I know when I once proposed these options to the House, there was no unanimity as to their appropriateness, but somehow I feel that we need to study them further; one such option is a special levy on natural resources to a dedicated fund that addresses the most basic social needs of communities. I feel strongly about this. I feel it is not enough for us to tax the profitability of companies because you cannot rely on that to provide a steady flow of income and there would always be the smart ones out there who would ensure that they end up paying minimal taxes or no taxes. It is true that people who come here to exploit our natural resources create jobs and we benefit from that, but it is also true that they benefit much more in monetary terms than we do as a Nation. If we have a levy which would not bankrupt them which will be put in a pooled fund, we would then be able to augment what is provided by Government through the Budget towards social programmes.

I want to target specifically the Resources Sector because of the way in which these resources are accessed by investors. It is something different if you put up a car manufacturing plant from having the right to exploit diamonds, because diamonds are commonly owned resources of the Namibian people and currently investors only pay tax when they declare a profit or a small portion by way of royalties. We need to say that due to the fact that they have access to diamonds, there must be something that they give to the Namibian people and that could be that levy.

Besides the Natural Resources Sector, such a levy could also be part of the corporate responsibility. There should not be too much discretion, to say that I can decide to give five cell phones to a school and now the whole Namibia should applaud me, while I can actually afford to sponsor the construction of a whole block of classrooms or a whole school, for that

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matter. I think we should actually have guidelines for corporate responsibility, where these contributions are somehow mandatory and they are also pooled so that we have guidelines on how we distribute the flows from that.

These are the two proposals that I make. I know that there are many corporate entities here that have a spirit of giving, but maybe because they are not guided and they see other people do not give anything and they continue to benefit, they are discouraged to continue giving. Maybe we can look at some of these possibilities.

Besides these alternative sources of revenue, I think we should also frontally attack this issue of land speculation in urban areas, people hoarding land not because they want to develop it or anything, but just waiting for the price to go up so that they can sell it and, therefore, driving the price of land up and making it unaffordable.

Finally I want to say something on the companies that are surviving on the purchase of land and houses from even the poorest. People complain about the share that goes to the taxman from prices of fixed assets, but if you look at how much the taxman is getting, it is peanuts compared to what some of these other people get. There must be a real estate agent, there must be a conveyancer, an architect, an engineer and all of them charge on the basis of percentage. I do not know how we can regulate their fees which are enormous compared to what is collected by Government in the form of stamp duty and transfer duty, which actually goes into further development of the communities, whereas the other ones are just going towards the maintenance of those individuals. I am not saying that they should not exist, but we should have guidelines to regulate their behaviour, because even when we reduced transfer and stamp duties, abolished VAT on residential properties, these colleagues were just having a good time and have taken over whatever we have given up and no benefits accrued to the people we are trying to target. (Intervention)

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HON MAAMBERUA: May I ask the Minister a question? Honourable Minister of Finance, are you aware that the philosophy and approach that you are propounding now is actually very much consistent with the socialist philosophy of SWANU of Namibia?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: No, it is based on the socialist philosophy of the SWAPO Party, but I know that we are coming from backgrounds which are not too far apart. We are just wondering whether you still hold on to those principles.

These are some of the proposals that I wanted to make. I think we should take time to reflect on these issues, otherwise land would become so unaffordable that the State itself may find itself facing the risk of bankruptcy, trying to rescue the situation, if we do not deal with this speculative behaviour of other stakeholders in this process. Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Does Honourable Moongo wish to reply?

HON MOONGO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would like to thank the *Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development* because when I moved the Motion he took note and went to Ongwediva and he is convinced that something is wrong. Let me also thank *Honourable Uutoni* who realised there is confusion. Of course, we must find a solution before resorting to the demolishing the houses.

I also thank *Honourable Kazenambo* and all my Colleagues on this side who sided with the poor people who are out in the cold.

Before I end, I would just like to remind the House of Article 13 which deals with privacy. Even a Police Officer may not search a house without

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a warrant because the people have a right to privacy. This demonstrates the seriousness and to demolish a house is going too far, even demolishing without a Court order. You are supposed to first negotiate with the people and find a resolution. From there you can obtain a Court order.

According to Article 16, which provides for the right to own immovable property, a person is entitled to just compensation. Were any payments done in this case? Nothing! It was illegally demolished. I am very happy that the Minister went there and took a stand. It is the first time that I see him acting like that. It demonstrates that he will become a good Minister if he himself investigates when the Opposition moves a serious Motion.

Honourable Members, what is supposed to happen with the demolition of houses is that you first negotiate with the people, take a resolution and agree and if not, go to Court and get a Court order to vacate people. You cannot just do that on the basis of rules of the Municipality. This reminds me of the dark chapter of the Old Location. What is the difference between what the minority white South African Government has done and what the SWAPO Government is doing now? It is one and the same. (Intervention)

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** On a Point of Correction. They obtained a Court order. The Police only act upon Court orders. It is only we stopped it, so we violated the Court order.

HON MOONGO: If that is true then the community was not well informed. You cannot implement a law without them knowing what will be the effect. You have to educate the people to understand, but you acted with a violent attitude and demolished the houses. I did not think that is the philosophy of the SWAPO Government. The SWAPO Government opted for peaceful resolution of problems. We did not pass any law here to demolish houses. (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you are supposed to respond to the queries and suggestions which were put on the Floor.

HON MOONGO: Therefore, I thank you all and I hope you will support justice and oppose the unjustified demolition of houses in Namibia. Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I now put the Question, that the Motion be adopted. Any objection? The House is divided.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** If the Motion is adopted, what is the way forward? What is expected from the House? Can it not be said that we take note of the Honourable Member's concern?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you want us to take note or do you want the Motion to be adopted? It is up to the Mover.

HON MOONGO: I accept that it be for note-taking so that we make progress.

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

**CONSIDERATION: REVIEW OF AUDITOR-GENERAL'S
REPORTS ON CENTRAL GOVERNMENT**

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**REVIEW OF AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT
HON MAAMBERUA**

SECRETARY: Consideration of Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts on the Review of the Auditor-General's Reports on the Central Government for the Financial Years ended 31 March 2007 and 2008.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House. It is with great honour that I rise to motivate the Public Accounts Committee's Review of Audit Reports of Government Offices, Ministries and Agencies for the Financial Years ended 31 March 2007 and 2008, respectively, and these Reports were presented to this House a few weeks ago.

I should remind the Honourable Members that the Report of the Central Government was first tabled in November 2011 and it lapsed. In this respect, I urge fellow parliamentarians to put efforts to discuss the Report within the time limit of the current Session so that it does not lapse again. The Report has Executive Summary, containing the most important information and highlight the general findings with corresponding general recommendations.

Members are reminded that for each general finding there is a corresponding general recommendation. It will, therefore, be useful and helpful if Members could concentrate their interventions in interrogating mostly these Sections of the Report because at the end of the discussions the Committee should have an idea as to which recommendations have been adopted by the House. This approach will help with developing implementation and monitoring processes.

It should further be pointed out that within the Report there are detailed findings and recommendations that are specific to each Ministry, Office and Agency.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the powers of the Committee are conferred upon the National Assembly by Article 59(3) of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia and the duties and functions

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of the Committee are outlined in rule 47(1), (2) and (3) of the Standing Rules and Orders of the National Assembly. In terms of this Rule, the Public Accounts Committee has the duty to examine, consider and report to the House on the accounts showing the appropriation of moneys granted by Parliament to meet public expenditure.

While on this point, Honourable Members are invited to note that procedures of subpoenaing and those on how to administer the oath seem never to have been spelled out in the past. Therefore, the Committee has sought legal advice through the Secretary of the National Assembly, as endorsed by the Standing Rules and Orders Committee. Those procedures are now in place, albeit a few adjustments need to be made and should be effective as from next week. The oath is to be administered in terms of Sections 162 and 163 of the Criminal Procedure Act 51 of 1977. The subpoena will be administered in terms of Article 59(3) of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, read with Section 14 of the Powers, Privileges and Immunities Act (Act 17 of 1996). These procedures empower all committees of the National Assembly to access information and documents which are of public interest, but which would not otherwise have been accessed.

As part of its efforts to perform its mandate, the Committee undertook and is still undertaking a number of measures with the purpose to enhance its oversight function by cultivating collaborative oversight and strategic partnerships with stakeholders. These measures include:

- Forging closer collaboration with the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Economy of the National Council;
- Consultative meetings with other accountability institutions in the country, including the Namibian Police, Anti-Corruption Commission, NAMFISA, Bank of Namibia, Office of the Accountant General, Office of the Auditor-General and the State-Owned Enterprises Secretariat. The need for more frequent consultations is imperative.
- Collaborative partnerships with Association of Public Accounts

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Committees (APAC) in the Republic of South Africa.

- Membership of Southern Africa Development Community Organisation of Public Accounts Committees (SADCOPAC).
- Holding of accountability conferences, like the one held between the 7th and the 9th of May in Windhoek.

THE REVIEW PROCESS:

The review process undertaken by the Public Accounts Committee includes requests for written responses and conduct of public hearings. During the review process the Committee found that recent responses provided by some Accounting Officers of Ministries, Offices and Agencies were sufficient and, therefore, the Committee did not find it necessary to follow up with public hearings. However, in some instances and for the purpose to gather more information, it was found necessary to conduct public hearings with some Accounting Officers. The outcomes of those are contained in the Report.

Without getting into too much detail of the Report before the House and since I trust that Honourable Members have had an opportunity to read the Report, I want to highlight some issues that we as Committee members have picked up on the Central Government Report which requires urgent and serious improvement, and these are:

UNAUTHORISED EXPENDITURE:

It has become the trend year after year that some Offices, Ministries and Agencies overspend their Budgets in contravention of Section 27 of the State Finance Act of 1991. Hence, to avoid recurrence of that nature, the accounting officers are again called upon to ensure strict control over the expenditure to eliminate occurrence and reoccurrence of unauthorised expenditure.

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**OUTSTANDING SUBSISTENCE AND TRAVELLING
ALLOWANCES:**

The Committee noted that a number of Offices, Ministries and Agencies continue to violate Section HBO 505 of the Treasury Instructions, which states that: “A *claim for subsistence and other anticipated expenditure shall be submitted within 30 days after a person returned to his or her headquarter.*” This transgression resulted in enormous outstanding amounts, some being outstanding for more than two Financial Years and in some instances the Accounting Officers have stated that part of such amounts is irrecoverable. In this respect, we call on all the Offices, Ministries and Agencies to strictly adhere to the provisions of Section HBO 505 and HBO 506 of the Treasury Instructions which state that persons who fail to submit a claim of daily subsistence and travel allowances within 30 days after returning to the headquarters, the outstanding amount shall be deducted monthly from his or her salary, starting from the next month.

BUDGET CONTROL:

The Committee further noted lack of budget controls in some Offices, Ministries and Agencies. These are characterised by lack of accounting skills, poor internal controls and laxities in punitive actions, resulting in unchecked excess expenditure and virement of money from items that are in excess to the items with savings. In this respect, the Committee calls upon managers in the Offices, Ministries and Agencies to continuously check and monitor the work of subordinates to detect administrative errors on time. Sanctions, as provided for in the Public Service Act and State Finance Act, must be invoked. Training is also vital and should be a priority for the accountants to avoid unnecessary mistakes and fraudulent practices.

OTHER CONCERNS:

The Committee found a number of additional issues which were of concern to the Committee. Those include, lack of proper record-keeping,

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deviation from Tender Board procedures, non-reconciliation of statements and on-submission of Financial Statements for audit purposes. In this regard, Offices, Ministries and Agencies are reminded of their responsibility to apply the best accounting practices. We also call upon line Ministers to be more involved in the supervision of the work of Accounting Officers. Similarly, Accounting Officers must ensure that all the laws governing financial management in Namibia are strictly enforced.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to conclude my statement by expressing my appreciation to the Accounting Officers who willingly appeared, responded to questions and listened to the advice given by the Committee Members.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, let me also thank the Auditor-General and officials of the Office of the Accounting-General for their continuous commitment and support along with the staff from the Ministry of Finance in general.

Honourable Members, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank and appreciate the cooperation of the fellow Members of the Committee and I now have the honour to submit the Report to this august House for your consideration. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any discussion on the Report?
Honourable Minister of Finance

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I, firstly, want to thank the Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee for the Report and the whole Committee for reviewing the Auditor-General's Reports of the Government Offices, Ministries and Agencies. If there is no one who would like to make their contribution today, I would like to request that the discussion on this Report be adjourned until next week, Tuesday.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any objection? The item is adjourned until next week, Tuesday. The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

**CONSIDERATION: REVIEW OF AUDITOR-GENERAL'S
REPORTS ON STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES**

SECRETARY: Consideration of Reports of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts on the Review of the Auditor-General's Reports on the State-Owned Enterprises for the Financial Years ended 31 March 2006, 2007 and 2008.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does Honourable Maamberua Move that the Report be considered?

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House. Again it is with great honour that I rise to motivate the Public Accounts Committee's Review of Audit Reports of the State-Owned Enterprises for the Financial Years ended 31 March 2006, 2007 and 2008, respectively.

During the process of reviewing the Audit Reports on the accounts of State-Owned Enterprises, the Committee had identified matters of concern which some Accounting Officers or Chief Executive Officers had to answer at public hearings. Among the State-Owned Enterprises on which public hearings were held were the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation, the Namibia Students Financial Assistance Fund, Namibia Press Agency, Motor Vehicle Accident Fund, War Veterans Fund, Education Development Fund, Game Products Trust Fund, Karakul Board of

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Namibia, National Heritage Council, National Arts Council and Social Security Commission.

Consultative meetings with the State-Owned Enterprises Secretariat are being arranged. In addition, the Committee will continue to hold public hearings and to seek written responses on any matter of concern in relation to public finances. The purpose of this activity is not to grill or to shame any party, but to influence clean statements of public finances and accounts as well as to ensure that those entrusted with public money spend such money in the interest of the public and properly account for such funds.

With respect to the Report on the State-Owned Enterprises, during the review the Committee observed some issues which are matters of serious concern and that require either urgent or long-term solutions. The issues are outlined in the Report as general findings, followed by general recommendations and some of the findings and recommendations are as follows:

1. That the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Secretariat does not seem to have sufficient control, information and supervisory capacity over the State-Owned Enterprises. It is, therefore, recommended that the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Secretariat should be more proactive in demanding timely reports of the State-Owned Enterprises and to ensure harmonised reporting standards for all State-Owned Enterprises.
2. That some State-Owned Enterprises are not audited by the Auditor-General because some are registered under the Companies Act (Act 28 of 2004), yet others, such as NamPower, GIPF and Bank of Namibia, are not required to be audited by the Auditor-General and therefore, they are not being subjected to parliamentary accountability oversight. Even the Annual Reports of such State-Owned Enterprises tabled in the House are not referred to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts for scrutiny, allowing such State-Owned Enterprises to escape from being subjected to parliamentary accountability. In this respect it is recommended that

3. Annual Reports of all State-Owned Enterprises not being audited by the Auditor-General and where the State has an interest, within six months after the closure of their Financial Year should present annual financial reports to the portfolio Ministers and then Ministers should table such Reports before the House within one month and the Reports should automatically be referred to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts for scrutiny.
4. It was further observed that many of the State-Owned Enterprises submit their Financial Statements for auditing in an irregular manner and at times very late, such that many are outdated and no longer reflect the true picture of the State-Owned Enterprise concerned at the time of review by the Committee.
5. The Committee observed that communication between Line Ministries and State-Owned Enterprises is very poor. It is recommended that communication between the Line Ministry and State-Owned Enterprises should be strengthened through regular meetings and quarterly reports.
6. On matters of reporting, the Committee found that in some instances there are no performance agreements between the Line Ministries and State-Owned Enterprises and where such agreements exist, there is lack of monitoring and evaluation of reports. It is recommended that the State-Owned Enterprises Secretariat should oversee the establishment and enforcement of performance agreements between the Line Ministries and State-Owned Enterprises and ensure that where such agreements exist, monitoring takes place and that the Secretariat further develops a standardised policy on performance agreements.

Allow me to conclude my statement by expressing my appreciation to the heads of the State-Owned Enterprises who willingly appeared, responded to the questions and listened to the advice given by Committee Members.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, let me also thank the Auditor-General and

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officials of the Office of the Accounting-General and the Ministry of Finance for their continuous commitment and support that they have rendered to the Committee. Similarly also my appreciation goes to my fellow Committee Members.

Honourable Members, I now have the honour to submit the Report to this august House for your consideration. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER Any further discussion? I recognise the right Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I would like to thank Honourable Maamberua for doing his oversight function over the State-Owned Enterprises. If there is nobody who wants to take the Floor, I would like to suggest that we adjourn this Debate until the 5th of July.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any objection? The Debate is adjourned until the 5th of July. The Secretary will read the Fourth Order of the Day.

**CONSIDERATION: REPORT ON FAMILIARISATION VISIT
TO KARAS, HARDAP, CAPRIVI AND KAVANGO REGIONS**

SECRETARY: Consideration of Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Gender and Family Affairs on the Familiarisation Visit to Karas, Hardap, Caprivi and Kavango Regions.

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**REPORT ON FAMILIARISATION VISITS
HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Manombe-Ncube Move that the Report be considered?

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker, distinguished Members of Parliament. It gives me immense pleasure and honour to be granted this opportunity to motivate the Report of the Standing Committee on Gender and Family Affairs on the Familiarisation Visit to Karas, Hardap, Kavango and Caprivi Regions.

The Committee on Gender and Family Affairs wishes, first and foremost, to express its gratitude to the National Assembly for being given the opportunity and resources to undertake the missions to Karas, Hardap, Caprivi and Kavango Regions. The Committee also wishes to thank the Regional Offices and stakeholders of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare of the four Regions for their cooperation and assistance during the familiarisation visit.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would like to extend a special word of thanks to the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation, particularly NBC-Television and Radio, as well as local newspapers for their coverage of the visit to the four Regions.

As we all know, Honourable Members, the Parliamentary Committees are the lifeblood of Parliament and the overall mandate of the Committee on Gender is to deal with matters pertaining to gender and family affairs and to ensure that gender is considered in all legislation being made through Parliament. In fulfilment of its mandate the Committee has undertaken familiarisation visits to these four Regions from 17 to 22 January 2011.

The purpose of the visits was to acquaint members of the committee with the conditions of orphans and vulnerable children and income-generating activities, Woman and Child Protection Unit, early-childhood development centres and to assess the implementation of the Government policies and programmes with regard to gender and family affairs and other relevant issues that fall under the ambit of the Committee.

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HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

In the Report the Committee has observed with concern that the scattering of small amounts of funds among several income-generating activities does not contribute much to poverty alleviation. There are no proper business plans for the income generating activities that the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare supports. The situation is manifested in the lack of markets for goods and services produced by the activities. It is our hope that in the future the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare takes the lead in the establishment of an inter-ministerial committee consisting of the Ministries responsible for financial support to economic activities for the rural poor in order to coordinate and streamline assistance to those projects. This should be done in close cooperation with the offices of Regional Governors.

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare should render adequate support to income generating activities in order for them to transform into small and medium enterprises. The Committee further observed that projects are taking too long to be approved because the requirements are too complicated.

With regard to the Woman and Child Protection Units, the operations of these units are hampered by a high rate of withdrawal of domestic cases due to poverty and dependency on husbands or partners for support. However, a positive best practice was learned by the Committee at Rehoboth where the Magistrate does not allow withdrawal of gender-based violence cases since there is a directive from the Prosecutor General's Office.

It has also transpired to the Committee that the implementation of the new rape kit discourages Police Officers and doctors to perform their duty because it is too cumbersome and takes plus minus two hours to be completed. The staff complement at the Woman and Child Protection Units and at hospitals is limited, hence there is a lack of trained doctors for rape kits.

Another challenge observed by the Committee was that unless the alleged perpetrators of rape are arrested, the rape kit cannot be handed over to the

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**REPORT ON FAMILIARISATION VISITS
HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

doctor. Hence the delay in prosecution as well. The Committee was further informed of incidents where some Police Officers at Charge Offices laugh at male victims of gender-based violence when they report cases of being abused by women. The behaviour of the Police Officers is said to promote the community's perception that the Woman and Child Abuse Protection Unit is an institution only for women.

Other notable findings in the Report are the lack of national documents to enable vulnerable groups to access social grants. An example of this situation was the visit by the Committee to a family household at Kayingona in Rundu. In that household it was discovered that there are others who are in possession of voters' cards, but without national documents, such as identification cards and birth certificates. It was observed that most of the family members that we visited have mental, psychological disabilities.

Live in Extreme Poverty: Twin boys were taken to the hospital to receive foster care and a boy who lived tied to a tree because the family is desperate as to how they can keep him safe, because parents had IDs called 99 that hinder them to qualify for social grants provided by Government.

The Question Put to Us: Why can the process of obtaining a voters' card not apply to the process of obtaining an ID?

In conclusion, Honourable Deputy Speaker, the centralisation of maintenance grants at regional headquarters was also cited as it creates access problems to beneficiaries who are often constituency-based and lack the income for transport and accommodation cost.

With regard to early childhood centres, the registration process of these centres is too cumbersome. As a result, most of the centres are running on and off due to non-payment of volunteer caregivers. The Ministry should assist the ECD centres with advice to meet the registration requirements and to train child caregivers, irrespective of whether the centres are registered or not.

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HON KAVETUNA**

Honourable Members, I now have the honour to submit the Report to this august House for consideration and I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable Kavetuna.

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The discussion on this Report is postponed until tomorrow. The Secretary will read the Fifth Order of the Day.

**CONSIDERATION: REPORT ON WORKSHOP
HELD AT OUTAPI**

SECRETARY: Consideration of Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security on the Workshop held at Outapi from the 1st to the 11th of August 2011.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does Honourable Ueitele Move that the Report be considered?

HON UEITELE: I so Move, Honourable Deputy Speaker. Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security met under the theme,

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HON UEITELE**

“Effective Oversight.” The objectives of the workshop were as follows:

- To enlighten the Honourable Members on the extent to which Millennium Development Goals within the realm of the Ministry of Health and Social Services and the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare are implemented;
- To allow Honourable Members to understand and appreciate the effectiveness of the laws, policies and directives of the Ministries, Institutions and Agencies which fall under the mandate of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security.
- To further gain understanding of the prevailing situation with regard to the plight of the war veterans and the inter-governmental agreement between Namibia and the neighbouring countries on water and power utilisation with emphasis on human security.

Honourable Members, I wholeheartedly thank you for giving me an opportunity to present the motivation for the Report tabled before you for discussion. It is the Report on the capacity-building workshop of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security which was held in Outapi, Omusati Region, from the 1st to the 11th of August 2011. I also thank the resource persons of the various Institutions, Ministries and Agencies and members of the Secretariat of the National Assembly for their cooperation and commitment to attend the workshop.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, there is a need for Namibia to work tirelessly towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals where the health related Millennium Development Goals remain a priority. In this regard, the Standing Committee on Rules and Orders and Internal Arrangements requested the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security to invite the National Planning Commission, Ministry of Health and Social Services, Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare to report on Namibia’s progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

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During the first three days of the workshop, representatives from abovementioned institutions made their presentations, although regrettably the Ministry of Health and Social Services did not make a presentation. In light of the Health Ministry's failure to enlighten the workshop, the experiences and challenges in our national health sector were presented by Regional Offices and officials of the National Planning Commission.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the National Planning Commission is mandated to design, implement and monitor development plans, projects and programmes in conformity with the National Development Goals and Objectives with a view to ensure sustainable economic growth, equity, social harmony and balanced development. It was for this reason that they were able to meaningfully report on the implementation of the health-related Millennium Development Goals in light of the fact that the Ministry of Health and Social Services was unable to make a presentation.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, despite satisfactory progress reported at the workshop, that there has been meaningful success in the following areas of human welfare: poverty, gender equality, access to education. These include HIV/AIDS control, environmental sustainability, development and management issues pertaining to the maternal-child mortality and access to basic sanitation. These remain significant challenges which may even undermine the gains made in other areas.

Key recommendations and intervention programmes are set out in this Report with respect to the implementation of each of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the alleviation of poverty, access to health facilities for rural women, access to primary education, assessment of impact of existing gender-related legislation on the lives of women, matters related to the reproductive health issues, such as investigation of cases of baby-dumping and HIV.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Members should see the role within the overall context of Vision 2030 and the Auxiliary Development Programmes that are supervised by the National Planning Commission.

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This role, amongst others, is to achieve human security for all Namibian people. The attainment of these goals is anchored around the constitutional principles of sovereignty, democracy, unity, justice, liberty, equality, fraternity among the Namibian people as well as the status and progress of the Millennium Development Goals.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Members were further able to take note of the redefinition of the meaning of national security to reinforce human security. The presentation by the institutions falling within the Committee's oversight mandate provided the Honourable Members with an understanding that security is no longer just about the survival of the State and its protection from external and internal aggression. In this context, national security has an additional dimension which includes environmental, economic, energy, water and human security concerns that now require different approaches of intervention.

Consequently, because of the Committee's need to understand its broad mandate towards the Line Ministries, Institutions and Agencies over which it has the oversight function, the key Ministries, Institutions and Agencies were invited to make presentations. These include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration, the Ministry of Veterans Affairs, Ministry of Safety and Security and the Namibia Central Intelligence Services. Resource persons from the Ministries, Institutions and Agencies presented their Ministries, Institutions and Agencies' operational experiences and challenges to the Honourable Members, as indicated below:

1. Namibia's Foreign Policy and its relations within the international community.
2. Work of Central Intelligence Services, the legislative policy framework of their activities.
3. Defence Act and related policies.
4. The work of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration as well as their related Acts and policies.

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5. Work of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs as well as the related Acts and policies.
6. The issue of housing for members of the armed forces, especially Namibian Defence Force and the Namibian Police.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, apart from reaffirming their overall constitutional mandate clearly set in Article 44 and Article 63 of the Namibian Constitution, the Honourable Members also spent time assessing the impact and the purpose of their mandate as provided for in Article 59 of the Namibian Constitution. During the workshop the Honourable Members acknowledged that quality service delivery to the people, whose national interest is our primary concern, starts with the lawmakers. Parliament as the principal State organ that defines the parameters of the role of law and accountability is expected to assert itself in a way that enables it to effectively, reliably execute the oversight function.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee, *in tandem* with its objectives to enhance their skills for more effective oversight, also made very pertinent recommendations in respect of the various stakeholders that made presentations which are contained in the Report. The recommendations span across the following issues of human security:

1. Matters related to the conditions of the members of the law enforcement agencies in respect to affordable and adequate accommodation;
2. Sustainable and adequate transport as well as proper administration machineries that ultimately guarantee effective service-delivery to the Namibian Nation.
3. Matters relating to the Ministry of Veterans Affairs where a coordinated approach is imperative among stakeholders so as to ensure the success of development projects. There is a need to build

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HON VON WIETERSHEIM**

capacity around helping veterans to write meaningful and fundable business project proposals.

4. Matters relating to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: On the international level the Committee recommended that Namibia ratifies the African Charter of Democracy, Elections and Governance because this Charter is important to our mandate as parliamentarians. Namibia's ratification of international legal instruments is impressive and commendable, therefore we should continue to encourage ourselves through partnership with key stakeholders so as to ensure their implementation and impact assessment on the livelihood of the Namibian people.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the workshop enhanced the Honourable Member's understanding and appreciation of their oversight function of the key sectors that they are responsible for. It also created a platform for exchange of information and open discussion with the relevant stakeholders on the issues that affect the Namibian people. I express my gratitude towards those Honourable Members who, despite their busy schedules, made time available to participate in this workshop.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to encourage Line Ministries, Institutions and Agencies to seriously consider enforcing the recommendations contained in this Report. I hereby request the Honourable Members to discuss the Report and make the necessary input and I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Any further discussion?
Honourable Von Wietersheim.

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I want to

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**MOTION ON WATER DEBTS
HON TJIHUIKO**

take the opportunity to adjourn the Debate until Thursday, 21 June.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The discussion of the Report is adjourned until Thursday, 21 June. The first Notice of Motion is one by Honourable Kaura. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion?

HON KAURA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, in view of the fact that this Motion was tabled in February, I would rather withdraw the Motion.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion is withdrawn. The second Notice of Motion is the one of Honourable Moongo. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion? The Honourable Member is not here and the Motion lapses. The third Notice of Motion is the one by Honourable Tjihuiiko. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion?

MOTION ON WATER DEBTS

HON TJIHUKO: I Move the Motion.

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

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you for the opportunity for me to motivate a Motion on water debts owed to NamWater by poor rural and communal farmers in Oshikoto, Ohangwena, Oshana and Otjozondjupa Regions.

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Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, on the 8th of September 2008, almost three years ago, Honourable McHenry Venaani Moved a Motion in this Chamber, calling on us as leaders and elected representatives to consider, in the interest of the poor rural communities, to request NamWater to write off water debts.

After a lengthy deliberation on the Motion it was referred to the Parliament Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration under the chairmanship of Honourable Peya Mushelenga. The Committee consisted of the following Honourable Members: Dr Moses Amweelo, Honourable Ipinge, Chief Ankama, myself and Honourable McHenry Venaani. The Committee visited the following Regions: Oshikoto, Oshana, Ohangwena and Otjozondjupa.

The Committee, following its fact-finding mission to the Regions, compiled and submitted to this august Chamber a Report with clear recommendations for its consideration and approval, but due to national and presidential elections in 2010, this very important Motion lapsed.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, it is against this background and importance of this Motion that I have decided to reintroduce not the whole Motion but the findings and recommendations for the urgent approval of this Honourable House.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we all know that the capacity of Namibians to house and feed our people has deteriorated alarmingly under the current Government. There seems to be no vision or no coordinated and concerted efforts to steer the agricultural sector towards expansion of especially the agri-business to bring about meaningful improvement in its productivity.

Water has become prohibitively expensive for the rural poor and, therefore, inaccessible to most Namibian households, especially to those historically disadvantaged who constitute a sizeable majority of the rural populace.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, it is a known fact to

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all of us sitting in this Chamber that our poor people in rural areas are trapped in a vicious cycle of water debts. This debt has reached a point of no return. There is a need for us to quickly ask ourselves whether the idea of commercialising rural water supply was in the interest of the community. I wonder whether there is one of us in this Chamber who may stand up and say “*I am happy with what we are seeing on the ground today.*”

Honourable Deputy Speaker, let us be brave enough and accept the fact that we have erred in our judgment to commercialise such an essential service as water. There is nothing wrong with us realising our mistakes and to rectify them. Most, if not all of the communities visited by the Committee, pleaded with Government to consider writing off the water debt as it was the case with the debt owed to Namibia Broadcasting Corporation and even Air Namibia.

Water is life and no creature will ever survive without water, let alone a human being.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, towards the end of 2011, in one of the local newspapers under the heading, “*King Kauluma Village Water Supply Cut*”. It was reported that the community owes NamWater about N\$600,000. NamWater cut water to the community of Onamungundo Palace, which is connected to two communities of Onethindi, Ontananga, Ondonga, Onamulunga and Onambundo.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, for two weeks innocent women and children and old-age pensioners and pitiful animals were denied access to water by NamWater and, through that, by our own Government. The only crime that these people have committed was simply because they are poor and they do not have money to pay for water. Had it not been because of the involvement of a Good Samaritan, a local businessman, a son of the community who has stepped in to make sure that the community has access to water, what could have happened to the people of those villages?

The Government’s decision to commercialise water was very unfortunate. It is, therefore, still in our power to rectify our own mistakes by reflecting

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on the water law that we have passed in this Chamber. NamWater was created by Act of Parliament (Act 12 of 1997).

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House is adjourned until tomorrow 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2012.06.20 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
20 JUNE 2012**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I would like to announce that the Parliament Standing Committee on Standing Rules and Orders resolved to appoint the following members:

Honourable Maamberua and Honourable Agnes Tjongarero as the Board of Trustees of the Members of Parliament and other Office-bearers Pension Fund in terms of Rule 5(1) of that Fund with immediate effect.

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

**TABLING: REPORT ON VISIT TO OTJOZONDJUPA,
KARAS AND OSHIKOTO REGIONS**

HON KAVETUNA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resources, Social and Community Development on the familiarisation visit to Otjozondjupa, Karas and Oshikoto Regions during 2011 for note-

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taking, before doing so, I would like to give a brief background and motivation for this Report.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, it gives me immense pleasure and honour to be granted the opportunity to motivate the Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Social and Community Development on the Familiarisation Visit to the Karas, Otjozondjupa and Oshikoto Regions.

The Committee on Human Resources would like to express its utmost thanks and gratitude to the National Assembly for being able to give us an opportunity and resources to undertake missions to the abovementioned Regions.

In the Report the Committee recognises the efforts of the Ministry of Education to address the problems of education in Namibia, such as the Education Training Sector Improvement Programme (ETSIP), the Millennium Development Challenge Account that was praised to be a Good Samaritan especially by providing them with the needed textbooks throughout the country.

The decision of allowing the Grade 10's to repeat and regular visits by the Minister and Deputy Minister to problematic schools were overwhelmingly supported by both parents and teachers.

The Committee was further pleased by a number of young men and women in the field who are working tirelessly, going extra miles and who are showing continued commitment and dedication to the call of making Namibia a better place through education.

Honourable Members, many of the teachers we met are working under difficult circumstances due to inadequate resources, lack of support, lack of motivation and lack of consultation from their Regional Offices.

Honourable Members, the Committee has identified challenges that the schools are encountering. We are also aware that many of these challenges have been outlined and discussed during the educational indaba

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that was held last year. The Committee, however, deemed it necessary to mention and to urge for speedy rectification of some of these malpractices that hamper the education in our country. I will only highlight some of the most pressing challenges, which are:

- The automatic promotion of learners;
- The dilapidated infrastructures;
- Lack of consultation with regard to schools' priorities; and
- Poor quality materials that are delivered at schools very late.

It is also with a broken heart that this Committee observed the issue of the Education Sector Policy on Prevention and Management of Learners' Pregnancy. At most schools we visited in the Regions, teachers and parents in the strongest terms expressed their dismay and rejection of this policy. They allege that the policy was not extensively consulted in terms of its formulation and implementation. Some even went to the extent of accusing the policy for promoting pregnancies.

Narrating some sentiments aired by parents, teachers, learners and high-ranking officials from the Ministry in some Regions, the Committee identified an absolute lack of consultation. A grandmother of a pregnant child in Oshikoto stated: *"My child is walking ten kilometres every morning and afternoon to attend school. Why does she have to proceed walking that distance if she is pregnant? What productivity is in that process? Because when she reaches school she is exhausted, she has painful and swollen legs and she is even suffering from fatigue. I stopped her from going to school until she has delivered and is ready to go back to school."*

They accused the Head Office of unrealistic policies for implementation without proper information and guidelines. They were of the opinion that the principals are held liable and are put in charge of taking care of the pregnant learners on top of their huge load of scholastic work. The schools are further not equipped with adequate supporting facilities to ensure safe pregnancy and safe motherhood for all these girls. The Committee in this regard understands the good intention of giving a girl-child a chance to further her education, but a number of serious

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shortcomings in the policy are detrimental to the entire educational system and the community. It has the minimum involvement of parents, it overloads teaching staff with responsibilities outside their scope of practice and lastly, it is in no way advancing a true reflection of what a conducive educational environment is, but rather creating more fear and anxiety among the entire school.

The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends the withdrawal of this policy pending wide consultation, proper planning for implementation of the policy that is aimed at remedying the situation regarding the pregnant girl at school.

With regard to health facilities visited, the Committee has generally observed a state of hygiene and cleanliness at almost all hospitals and clinics and that there is no significant lack of medical supplies at these facilities.

HIV/AIDS programmes are in place and all centres visited are running without serious problems, except for isolated defaulting of some ARV patients. Despite achievement, the Committee observed the following as some of the challenges that are still being experienced at health facilities visited and they are:

- Transportation for staff and patients;
- Staff shortage, especially in terms of registered nurses and doctors and other specialised medical staff; and
- Lack of renovation of most of the hospitals visited. They are mostly in dilapidated stages and they are a hazard to most of the patients.

Honourable Members, I now have the honour to submit this Report to this august House for note-taking.

Furthermore, I also lay upon the table the Report of the Parliament Standing Committee on Human Resources on the Motion by Honourable Shixwameni on Housing and Transport conditions for urban workers for

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discussion. I so Move, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the two Reports. Any further Reports and Papers?

TABLING: NATIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: I lay upon the Table, the National Rural Development Policy of the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, March 2012.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Report. Honourable Dingara.

**TABLING: INTERIM MISSION STATEMENT:
SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM**

HON DINGARA: I lay upon the Table, the Interim Mission Statement of the SADC Parliamentary Forum Election Observers to Lesotho, 24 May 2012 National Assembly election for note-taking. Please take note that it is only an interim statement of the SADC Parliamentary Forum, because the process which is usually followed is that after preparing an interim statement, we give the concerned country three months to settle down

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HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

after the elections before having a meeting with their Electoral Commission to inform them how they have performed during the election and what good practices we as the SADC Parliamentary Forum have learned from their electoral process. We also inform them of areas where they have not done well and where improvement is needed.

In this particular case the election took place last month, therefore we will return to Lesotho at the end of July for feedback. It can be mentioned, however, that the Mission is of the view that there existed a substantially conducive and peaceful environment in which elections were conducted. The Basuthu were accorded the opportunity to freely express their will in voting for Political Parties and candidates of their choice.

Having duly noted that the 2012 Lesotho National Assembly Election was a credible reflection of the will of the people of Lesotho, the SADC Parliamentary Forum therefore declares the 2012 Lesotho Elections as having been free and fair.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Report. Any further Reports and Papers? Honourable Minister of Finance.

TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

- Ministry of Education;
- Namibian Correctional Services of the Minister of Safety and Security;
- Department of Transport of the Ministry of Works and Transport;

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- Ministry of Justice; and
- Office of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year ended March 31, 2011.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Reports. Any other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions?

Ministerial Statements? Honourable Minister of Mines and Energy.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. I have realised that members of the public and Members of this august House have much interest in renewable energy and at times the Ministry of Mines and Energy, the Electricity Control Board and NamPower have been accused of not being willing to source power from renewable energy. I would like to give some information on the status of renewable energy in our country and that of the independent power producers.

As of today, eleven licences have been issued to prospective independent power producers. However, only five have shown some seriousness in the generation of power through renewable energy and they are in three categories, namely wind projects, solar projects and thermal projects. There are three companies involved in wind projects, being Diaz, which is the former Aeolus Power Generation Namibia (Pty) Ltd., Electoral Wind and Inno Wind. The solar project is by a company called Greennam and the thermal project is Natura Energy Power Plant.

Diaz Wind Project is an independent power producer which would like to

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generate 40 megawatts and it is located near Lüderitz. This company received a conditional licence from the Namibia Electricity Control Board and NamPower has been negotiating a power purchase agreement and a transmission connection agreement since April 2007. By the end of 2008 a Draft Power Purchase Agreement was in principle accepted by both parties. However, in early 2009 Aeolus reverted with a new version of the power purchase agreement that included, among other things, the consequences of their choice of project financing.

Since the renewable energy subject at that time was new to NamPower, NamPower then undertook studies to review aspects of wind power integration into the grid and financial modelling for wind power projects.

During 2010 the shareholding and the name of Aeolus was changed to Diaz. Diaz installed a wind mast at their site and wind data has been collected since February 2011. NamPower is expected to receive the data once it has been evaluated.

In 2011, Diaz assigned Enviro Dynamics to carry out an environmental impact assessment study for the Lüderitz Wind Plant and this process is ongoing. Further negotiations on the power purchase agreement and the transmission connection agreement took place in November and December last year between NamPower Energy Trading and Diaz, including a meeting between Diaz and NamPower Transmission on the draft memorandum of agreement on the construction of the transmission infrastructure on the 2nd of April this year.

The following plant timelines were communicated by Diaz and a final Wind Report with twelve months' data will be available by April this year and an expected financial clause will be finalised by September this year and expected commercial operations date is March 2014.

What is Diaz offering? Diaz will build a 40 megawatts wind plant in Lüderitz. The provisional approved energy tariff is N\$1.24 per kilowatt hour and a revised purchase agreement in which Diaz was not willing to accept the risk of a regulated cost recovery mechanism failure, the change of law, the delinking of the Namibian Dollar from the Rand and a

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number of other contractual positions. However, NamPower also has its position, that while NamPower has yet to evaluate the final energy tariff offering by Diaz, it was comfortable in principle with the revised offer. However, NamPower was not willing to accept the risks Diaz sought to impose on it under the new draft Power Purchase Agreement.

Currently, because NamPower is not willing to accept the proposed risk allocation, Diaz has promised to engage the Ministry of Mines and Energy to see whether there can be any possible support to mitigate the risks that they will experience.

The second one is Electra Wind Project, which is the 60 megawatts power plant that is located at Walvis Bay. Electra Wind received a conditional generation licence for a 60 megawatt wind farm at Walvis Bay from the ECB. At the most recent briefing meeting that was held with NamPower on the 9th of June last year, Electra Wind informed NamPower that they have collected the actual wind data during the past nine months, but the outputs are very disappointing and not as expected. The capacity factor measured at 15% compared to an expected and bankable capacity factor of at least 22%. They stated their intention to explore possibilities of a smaller wind plant in Lüderitz and a larger plant in Oranjemund with coordinated cooperation with the Kudu Gas Project. A written confirmation of their abandonment of the project for Walvis Bay site has not yet been received.

The third one is Inno Wind Project, which is also expected to produce 60 megawatts and is also located at Walvis Bay. Inno Wind received a conditional licence for a 60 megawatt wind farm, also located near Walvis Bay from the ECB that came into force in March 2010. NamPower has been notified that they have also obtained a record of decisions on the environmental impact assessment from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

In March 2011, Inno Wind informed NamPower that they had approached potential lenders to comment on the Draft Power Purchase Agreement provided by NamPower. NamPower has received some feedback from potential lenders and has requested an update on the progress Inno Wind

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was making on the discussions with the remaining lenders and how they would proceed towards finalisation of the Draft Power Purchase Agreement.

Inno Wind was able to obtain adequate land from the Walvis Bay Municipality, but the commercial terms appear to be unacceptable. NamPower transmission studies indicated that an initial capacity of 30 megawatts with around up to 60 megawatts within an agreed period may cause difficulties due to the intermittent energy injection into a system that is already dependent on more than 50% energy import. Inno Wind has been in discussion with NamPower Transmission Division on the connection requirement for the project. A connection application has been made with cost allocation still to be agreed upon.

Power Purchase Agreement negotiations are in progress, but the allocation of risks still need to be further discussed. Almost two years of wind data has been collected to date and this indicates a likely capacity factor of about 24%. In February this year Inno Wind provided information to NamPower to enable NamPower to continue with due diligence.

What is NamPower saying to this offer or what is Inno Wind offering? They are offering a 60 megawatt plant. The provisional approved energy tariff is N\$1.14 per kilowatt hour. Inno Wind was not willing to accept the risk of cost recovery mechanism failure, change of law, delinking of the Namibian Dollar from the Rand and a number of other contractual provisions.

NamPower is in principle comfortable with the final energy tariff offered by Inno Wind. However, NamPower is not willing to accept the risk Inno Wind sought to impose on it under their draft terms.

I now move to solar energy where Greennam is involved. Greennam is planning to set up three 10 megawatt solar projects at different proposed sites in Namibia. Greennam received a conditional licence last year. Negotiation meetings for both Power Purchase Agreements and transmission connection have taken place since September last year. Further progress meetings took place on the 30th and the 31st of January

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this year. Greennam informed NamPower that they held a meeting with ECB on risk apportionment, where ECB indicated that they are taking the matter up with the Ministry of Mines and Energy and they have not yet done so.

In February 2012, trips were undertaken by Greennam and NamPower Transmission to the potential sites. NamPower is proceeding with negotiations with Greennam based on modelling by NamPower of the appropriate tariff level.

What is on offer here is 30 megawatts in three sites, one of which is Keetmanshoop and another in Rehoboth. The provisional approved energy is N\$2.65 per kilowatt hour, but Greennam was not willing to accept the risk of regulated cost recovery mechanism failure, change of law, delinking of the Namibian Dollar from the Rand and a number of other contractual positions.

NamPower's position is that they have not yet evaluated the final energy tariff offering by Greennam and they are in the process of doing that. However, NamPower is not willing to accept the risk Greennam sought to impose on them.

The last project is Natura Energy. Natura Energy is planning to set up a 120 megawatt Heavy Fuel Oil plant based at Arandis. This project has changed over a period of years from an original concept to utilise slop oil from Ships to fuel a Walvis Bay plant to a 120 megawatt plant at Arandis run on Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO), which could still use slop oil, but would not be dependent on its uncertain supply. Natura has been granted an interim licence from the Electricity Control Board.

The project has involved NamPower in two capacities. Firstly, as a potential partner and user of its product. On the 30th of April 2008, Natura signed a memorandum of understanding with NamPower which was then renewed in December 2010. Since July last year Natura has been involved in Power Purchase Agreement negotiations with Energy Trading at NamPower. Natura has discussed transmission connection with NamPower, but has not initiated NamPower's formal connection

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application process.

In mid-2011, Natura submitted to NamPower an information memorandum, financial model and draft contractual terms for power sales for the project. NamPower carried out a detailed evaluation of this, which identified serious concerns over the risks that Natura proposed to pass through to NamPower, as Natura proposed contractual terms and conditions not only reflected this unacceptable risk allocation, but were also inconsistent with NamPower's regulatory obligations.

Energy Trading has drafted an acceptable Power Purchase Agreement based on its standardised contracts and also requested additional information as part of its due diligence. NamPower has, however, suspended negotiations with Natura until some other issues are cleared.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, that is the account of the renewable energy interests that have been shown by different companies. Others who received the go-ahead are yet to come out of their cocoons and start implementing the renewable energy generation. What I can inform the House is that it is true, Namibia has abundant sun, that solar can be a solution, but only for small industries, not for industrialisation of our country. However, the cost, as you might have heard, is far beyond what the grid can provide in terms of hydro, coal or gas. I thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON MAAMBERUA: I would like to register my profound thanks to the Minister of Mines and Energy, however the clarification I am seeking is on the ping-pong between NamPower and these private players. It is like NamPower is an authority in its own right. The investors are not willing to take any risks, even fearing things that do not exist in Namibia, like delinking the Namibian Dollar from the Rand. I do not know where that decision has been taken. My question is, where is the catalytic role of the Ministry of Mines and Energy, which portion of the risk are you sharing so that we can actually start creating the enabling environment by taking some of the risks ourselves as a Government and as a Nation in

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order to develop this very important Energy Sector?

HON KAURA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, being a Member of the Economics Committee which visited the Ruacana Hydro-Electric Plant and the Tsumkwe Solar Plant, I am so excited about what the Minister has mentioned and I was wondering if there was not a possibility of the Minister tabling it by way of a Motion so that we can discuss it and thrash it out and ask a lot of questions instead of just by way of a Ministerial Statement?

HON AMATHILA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for the information he provided, which seems to be a reaction to the applications that he received from individuals. In my view, there is no innovation to facilitate the participation of the citizens of this country, small as they are, in this particular industry to try and make every citizen a producer of electricity, which is technically possible. This is a route which the Ministry needs to look into, because through that we will be able to solve the income problems most of our citizens have.

From what the Minister has explained there, the one issue seems to be running through is the problem of risk-taking between the investor and NamPower and I think that is what Honourable Maamberua described as a ping-pong game between the investor and the Ministry. Obviously, this is something that I would be interested to know, how this will be handled when you have individual residents producing electricity in this country. All they need is to be connected to the grid and if those risks have to be applied, obviously they will frustrate a very lucrative industry. Namibia depends on imported fuels, like oil and we seem to be developing facilities in other countries and yet, if we take the combination of hydro at Ruacana and the capacity that each and every resident in every town can develop, these things are supposed to complement each other.

I will certainly support those who feel that this document must be

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circulated to all Members and I think the Committee on Economics would certainly like to invite the Minister to come and discuss this matter, because just imagine if every resident here in Windhoek can have solar panels and a very beautiful model that they can afford to pay off to generate electricity, that they will be able to pay their bills to the Municipality by getting money from NamPower. This can be done all over the country and that is where the secret lies, how do we generate a project that would allow each and every resident of Namibia to become a power producer? That is what is missing in the position of the Minister. Instead of discussing here, the Committee would like to invite the Minister at an appropriate time and the Chairman of the ECB to discuss this issue. I would like to see this as a trend. If the residents of Otavi can produce their own electricity, use what they use during the daytime and put the rest on the grid, if people in Uis and Walvis Bay can do the same, we will build a model. If Minister Jerry Ekandjo or Minister !Naruseb can buy a piece of land outside Windhoek where the people sitting on the corners can get a plot to put up solar panels with meters, all they need to do is read the meter and the electricity generated on those panels, thereby having an income. That is the kind of situation that we need to look into very seriously and every day that passes is a day lost to this possibility. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Bezuidenhoudt.

HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. My appreciation goes to the Minister for the information availed. Of the eleven companies participating in this or the five that are active, what is the Namibian ownership, because if we look at what Honourable Maamberua said about who is able to take risks, my view would be that if we need to take risks, it must be on behalf of Namibian citizens and not on behalf of foreign investors who would not want to take the risk.

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Secondly, do these investors come and dictate what Namibian policy and laws should be to fit their business plans and not their business plans fitting the Namibian situation? Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Kapia.

HON KAPIA: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. My question was taken by Honourable Bezuidenhout, but my concern is energy security. Energy is no longer just energy; it has become indispensable to any Nation, particular with regard to security. If we have investors who negotiate for almost ten years, bringing in issues which are not even known, is the Minister really convinced that they are genuine or do they just want to play with our lives? A serious investor will first study the laws of a particular country and from there see how he or she will operate within those laws.

I do not know who is playing who in this whole game. NamPower wants to supply electricity, the Ministry wants to supply electricity, here comes people claiming to have the knowledge to produce electricity, but they have all kinds of conditions. Do you not think that they are playing with us, because energy becomes a serious security threat if it is not available at all times. Thank you very much.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:20

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Dingara.

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HON DINGARA: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. While I was reading the statement by the Minister, I was reminded of what I read in the newspaper, that the REDs are not making enough profits. I was wondering how the REDs do business if they do not connect the Namibian people. One colleague of mine connected near Ondangwa and he was charged N\$30,000, which is a very high price to pay. I was thinking that it is their business and if they do not connect people, how will they make money? The people are waiting for electricity, because the power line is there, but you do not have N\$70,000 to connect your house, therefore you stay without electricity.

I do not know whether to advise the Minister or to advise the REDs directly that if they want to make money, they must just connect everybody in the country and start making money. Electricity has now become a basic need, everybody wants it and they need to connect us so that they can make money.

We do not have skilled people in this field, that is why we get advice from those who serve their own interests. When they say this is expensive, we will believe them because we do not know. If they say it is cheap, we will believe them because they are the ones who have the knowledge.

For example, if they say there is a lot of gas at Kudu Gas and we say we want to develop it, they will come back and tell us it is not economically viable to develop it and we will believe them because we do not have our own people with the knowledge and skills to advise us. We should equip our people with the knowledge so that they can advise us. Maybe the Minister could tell the REDs to connect all of us so that they can do business. They are becoming bankrupt because they have only taken the energy to some places. Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I just want to intervene by saying that I do not agree with you that we do not have the skilled people. There are a number of youth who have graduated in this field, but they are being frustrated by some of the people in the industry, with the result that they

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end up resigning. I have concrete examples of our young people being frustrated and this has to be investigated.

HON KAURA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, this is a very exciting topic. I just want to find out from the Honourable Minister whether he is aware of the fact that the Ohorongong Cement Factory is generating its electricity from wood chips which they cut. There is also a programme of the Cheetah Group in Otjiwarongo which also generates their electricity from wood chips. Is the Honourable Minister aware of that and what is the possibility of generating electricity in small towns from wood chips?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Amweelo.

HON DR AMWEELO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, this is a very important subject matter and having in mind the ideas and information given by Comrade Ben Amathila and Honourable Kaura, it is very important that we have either a Motion or the Minister and other people come to the Committee to give more in-depth information. We need to have more information about the companies mentioned by the Minister and how the Government is involved with regard to policy. We need to have more detail on this matter.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I feel if we have a Motion on this subject, it would enable us to go deeper into the matter and have answers by the Minister. Since the Ministerial Statement was meant

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to give information, can we call it off from here and bring a Motion for the matter to be discussed?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Van Der Walt.

HON VAN DER WALT: I agree that there be a proper Motion on this we could discuss the whole matter in detail. However, we had a meeting with Erongo RED very recently and there was a problem with taxation for Local Authorities and for Erongo RED, but according to the law it is actually not the right thing to do because it is a non-profitable organisation. Nevertheless, I think the time has come where we need to take this subject very seriously. As Honourable Ben Amathila has said, we need to look into solar and wind energy and I can talk about it the whole afternoon, but it is not the right time and place now. However, it is time that we need to know exactly how much we are paying per unit from South Africa, how much the Municipality asks, how much NamPower asks per unit and Erongo RED. I believe wherever there is a middleman in business, money is to be made in the process. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, could you respond within five minutes, with the understanding that you would probably in the future be called before the relevant committee to give more information?

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. Having said that, I will not deal with REDs tax, I will not deal with the REDs, it was not part of my Ministerial Statement.

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Honourable Kaura, I am aware that Ohorongo Cement is producing part of their own electricity and they are actually willing to make it available to NamPower whenever they are not using that electricity. That is the type of investment we want, not passing on any risk to anybody. They generate electricity and now NamPower can also utilise it. That is the business we want. We have to be careful of those who want to pass on the risk to NamPower or to Government and those are many.

I said eleven companies were given licences. Why are they not generating electricity as they have requested? It is because they want to pass on the risk to somebody else and if you are a businessman and you do not want to take a risk, you should just close your office and go and do something else. You cannot expect the Government to carry the risk. Also as *Honourable Bezuidenhout* has said, most, if not all, of these companies are not Namibians and now the taxpayers must take the risk on their behalf. I feel we have to look at that one very seriously and what *Honourable Kapia* has asked is exactly what I want to know, whether they are really serious investors.

I do not expect the Ministry to take over the risks that are inherent in these transactions. The Government has a State company, NamPower, and that is the company that has been entrusted with the generation of electricity. The Ministry oversees, facilitates, guides and gives policy directives and unless we find a loophole in the policy, it is standard and it must be followed.

We have a solar revolving fund in the Ministry and I have mentioned here time and again that if you want electricity for your household, you can apply. The facilities are there, it is available and we should make use of them. I must also caution that we cannot rely solely on one generation mode. If you have a contract to supply someone with electricity, there may be days when it is raining and no sun. In the electricity industry there is a clause that you have to pay me for my losses because that day you did not supply me with electricity and those are the risks that NamPower does not want to accept. If you are not able to take those risks, you should also not pass them on to someone else and if we rely solely on solar and then it rains the whole day, you will come and cry again.

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If we want to talk about electricity in general, let us just bring a Motion here and discuss. Then you could even give me more ideas. As regards the price, you cannot tell me that N\$1.24 is the same as N\$2.65. I know N\$2.65 is more expensive than the other and one has to take the figures into consideration. I thank you.

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

**CONSIDERATION: REPORT ON NEW EQUITABLE
ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FRAMEWORK**

SECRETARY: Consideration of Report on the New Equitable Economic Empowerment Framework – Transformational Empowerment.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does the Right Honourable Prime Minister Move that the Report be considered?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I so Move.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any objection? Agreed to. The Right Honourable Prime Minister has the Floor.

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. Democracy requires that you have to consult, consult and consult again until you come to consensus. I hope this is the final consultation on this subject matter.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, during October 2011, I introduced the New Equitable Economic Empowerment Framework (NEEEF) to this august House. The said Framework is a result of a concerted effort which started far back in 2002. During the year 2002, Cabinet mandated the Office of the Prime Minister to undertake wide-ranging consultations with relevant stakeholders with a view of designing a Black Empowerment Economic Policy embodying all existing laws and in shaping new policy objectives. The result was the BEE Policy Document which borrowed extensively from the South African and Malaysian experiences. However, the document did not make effort to situate the policy in the reality of Namibia and was vague on a number of key issues.

As a result of the shortcomings of the BEE Policy proposal, the Office of the Prime Minister engaged various stakeholders and the Transformational Economic and Social Empowerment Framework (TESEF) was presented to Cabinet in 2008. Cabinet then approved TESEF in principle as a policy guide towards the restructuring of the ownership patterns of the Namibian economy and transformation of the social relations.

The same decision directed that the TESEF document be submitted to the SWAPO Party Polit Bureau and the SWAPO Party Caucus of the National Assembly and the National Council for scrutiny before tabling it in the National Assembly. The document was submitted accordingly.

During March 2011 the SWAPO Party Polit Bureau decided that the new name for the empowerment economic order in the country should be the New Equitable Economic Empowerment Framework (NEEEF).

The meeting further directed the Prime Minister to table the document in Cabinet. The New Equitable Economic Empowerment Framework retained the concept of transformational empowerment and is aimed at

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empowering previously disadvantaged Namibians. In essence, the Framework is about the transformation of the flexible structural socio-economic inequalities in our society by adopting an inclusive and all-encompassing approach which requires the collaboration of a wide spectrum of stakeholders, agencies and all benefactors as to integrate deprived Namibians into the economic mainstream.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, NEEEF is anchored in the principles that underpin the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, in particular Article 16 which deals with property, Article 23 which deals with Apartheid Affirmative Action, Article 95 which deals with the Promotion of the Wealth of the People, Article 98 which deals with the Principles of Economic Order, Article 99 which deals with Foreign Investment and Article 100 which deals with Sovereign Ownership of Natural Resources.

In particular, Article 23(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia allows for Parliament to enact, *“legislation providing directly or indirectly for the advancement of persons in Namibia who have been socially, economically or educationally disadvantaged by past discriminatory laws or practices or for the implementation of policies and programmes aimed at redressing social, economic or educational imbalances in the Namibian society arising out of the past discriminatory laws or practices.”*

Article 23 of the Constitution further notes: *“In the enactment of legislation and the application of any policies and practices contemplated by sub-Article (2), it shall be permissible to have regard to the fact that women in Namibia have traditionally suffered special discrimination and that they need to be encouraged and enabled to play a full, equal and effective role in the political, social, economic and cultural life of the Nation.”*

The need to create a framework for empowerment is, therefore, a constitutional imperative to facilitate growth, development and stability in the economy.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, the SWAPO Party Government remains

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committed to pursuing economic and social policies with the aim of securing prosperity and a life of human dignity for all Namibians. The Government's ultimate objective is to create an equitable and socially just society in which the distribution of income becomes far more equitable than it is at present. In order to achieve this end, NEEEF promotes the economic empowerment of all Namibians and accelerate the process of transformation that Government is committed to delivering.

Government recognises that a wide range of economic policies, fiscal and tax, monetary and inflation, education and health, justice, security and crime, infrastructure, business and employment policies all have an important role to play in contributing towards the creation of a more equitable economy and society. Equally, it is accepted that the most important contribution Government can make to achieve a more equitable economy and society is to pursue economic policies that can create sustainable and decent employment for the mass of Namibian people.

It is of paramount importance that the private sector must play the leading role in the creation of decent employment. This being the case, Government policies must avoid raising the cost of employment to private sector employers. Rather policies must be designed which encourage businesses to use more rather than less labour.

The New Equitable Economic Empowerment Framework thus encourages the private sector to become more equitable and to make a greater contribution towards national economic empowerment and transformation.

More importantly, NEEEF will be based on voluntary business practices. Government would use all the legitimate market mechanisms at its disposal in the form of procurement programmes and licensing regimes to promote transformation and empowerment. At the same time, Government reserves the right to expropriate in the public interest, with market-related compensation, according to the Constitution.

Our expectation as Government is that all businesses should proactively

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embrace national transformation and participate wholeheartedly in the transformation of the ownership and empowerment.

Specific details with regard to the various empowerment pillars and associated score cards are spelled out in the NEEEF policy document which has been made available to the Honourable Members of the august House. The five empowerment pillars include ownership, management control, employment equity, human resources and skills development, entrepreneurship development and community investment. The pillars of empowerment are aimed at addressing a variety of needs of the previously disadvantaged person in our country.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, NEEEF is designed to be an incentive driven set of policies that encourage businesses to take transformation more seriously rather than a penalty-driven initiative. Companies that fail to comply with NEEEF targets will not be explicitly penalised, however they will not be eligible to tender for Government or State-Owned Enterprises contracts or to receive fishing, mining, telecom or other licences and may therefore, find themselves in a disadvantageous and uncompetitive position.

In conclusion, Honourable Members, we need to open up our minds and hearts and embrace NEEEF objectives, seizing opportunities that they offer and mitigating associated challenges. The founders of our Nation, our republic and our political system have made a firm commitment to bring about transformation and a new beginning. Social liberation and economic empowerment of fellow humans ought to be an individual and collective resolve of every Namibian as a noble act of solidarity and reciprocal affirmation. Fear of the unknown should not be allowed to hijack clear thinking and become a handicap inhibiting moving forward with conviction. Land redistribution and NEEEF are two specific and pressing areas that demand determined action. The way forward must be built on unity of purpose and dedication to our common future. The expectations will not go away, we must all deal with them not by resorting to a rhetoric list of imponderables, but by proffering solutions through dialogue and initiatives.

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With NEEEF and other interventions we want to be able to eradicate poverty, create employment, eliminate income equality disparities, contain and overcome the HIV/AIDS pandemic, streamline gender inequality, promote youth development, provide for people with disabilities and transform village environment. The list is long, but these are some of the critical tasks that we must focus on when there is understanding and collective vision. The multiplying factor is greater and the outreach goes out far and wide.

Our work as lawmakers, ladies and gentlemen, will not be complete until Parliament approves NEEEF and in so doing validate our commitment and programmes aimed at promoting public interest. Once adopted by Parliament, the legal drafters will shape NEEEF into a Bill which will be tabled in this august House.

With these few words, I thank you for your attention.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any discussion? Honourable
Bezuidenhoudt.

HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. It is the second time around we have to deal with the issue. I will just highlight the pages on which I seek more information from the Mover of the policy.

On Page 5, the second paragraph reads: *“The ultimate objective is to create an equitable and socially just society in which the distribution of income becomes far more equitable than it is at present.”* Honourable Prime Minister, this policy replaces another one and what did not work properly in the previous one which would ensure that in future it would be far more equitable than is currently the practice?

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On Page 7, specifically on human resources and skills development, my contribution would be that yes, we have various ideas of apprenticeships for skills development and human resource development. I do not know how many companies or sectors have really supported this apprenticeship to the extent that we can really develop our skills base in the country while we are empowering our young people and freshly graduated people to learn the skills without exploiting the people.

On the same page I think it is just obvious that the additional sectoral charters would probably also come to the House for consideration.

On Page 9, specifically on the question of ownership and on Page 10 where the Framework lists the various sectors, my question would be on the capital intensive sectors. I know we have the Development Bank and the SME Bank, but how will we ensure that ownership will be true and honest, without the repugnant practice of window-dressing, to ensure that there is real, proper Namibian ownership within these capital intensive industries of mining and telecommunication industries that require a lot of money to build something before you can reap the benefits?

Carrying on to Page 10 and manufacturing, do we still have AGOA status or what is the status currently? How did we take advantage of that specific benefit as a country?

Lastly on the acquired interests, ownership or shares within various companies. On Page 11, the second paragraph says that there will be no limitation on the ability to buy and sell the ownership. I would suggest that there must be some initial period where you need to stick with your ownership or shares, otherwise we may end up in a situation where people just acquire benefits and then immediately transform it into cash. The example I may mention is that when the South African Government empowered the South Africans with shares in Telcom SA as well as MTN, people sold these the moment it increased in value for the sake of short-term gain. I want the Prime Minister to assist us with some of these questions.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. On Page 15 it mentions that “*good citizenship requires social investment in communities.*” What is happening right now in the communities is that the medium and small businesses are in a way eliminated. Is it the intention that community investment will replace them and when will the community develop themselves? The way I see it, the small and medium businesses are not fully supported and there is no good cooperation with the community. Small and medium businesses are unhappy with the way the Government is implementing this investment to replace them, thereby causing them to become poorer.

If I understood the Prime Minister correctly, he said that this Framework was submitted to the SWAPO Party only and not to all Parties. Is this now the routine which we are going to follow in future? Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Ekandjo.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you very much. The practice in the Ruling Party is that policy starts at the section level, at the branch level, at district, regional, polit bureau and central committee and then the Cabinet is instructed to implement. Therefore, it is not to say that it should also go to the DTA. That is just for the Honourable Member to understand. As the Ruling Party we are implementing the SWAPO-Party Manifesto. Thank you.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Shixwameni.

HON SHIXWAMENI: I would like to adjourn the Debate on this item until tomorrow afternoon.

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

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE:
MOTION ON WATER DEBTS**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on water debts owed to NamWater by rural households and communal farmers.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the Assembly adjourned yesterday, 19 June 2012, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Tjihuiko, that the Motion be adopted. Honourable Tjihuiko had the Floor and he may now continue.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. The Government's decision to commercialise water was very unfortunate. It is, therefore, still in our power to rectify our own mistakes by reflecting on the water law that we have passed. NamWater was created by an Act of Parliament, Act (Act 12 of 1997), namely the Namibia Water Corporation Act of 1997, as a legal successor to the Department of Water Affairs.

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The objectives, functions and powers of the Namibia Water Corporation was to maintain efficiency in the provision of water and in the best interest of the Republic of Namibia. The primary business is the provision of bulk water supply to customers in sufficient quantity, of a quality suitable for customer purposes and through cost-effective and environmentally-sound sustainable means and secondary the business is rendering water-related services, supply of facilities and the granting of rights to customers upon their request.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, as per the NamWater Act, NamWater has the legal right to provide bulk water to institutions and Government departments and to legally demand payment from her customers. It is, therefore, within NamWater's legal rights to cut water to those institutions, but NamWater does not have the legal right to cut water to the end-users. NamWater does not have the legal right to cut water to individual users.

It is, therefore, within NamWater's legal right to cut water to those institutions, but NamWater does not have the legal right to cut water to the individual end-users.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the role of providing water to individual members of the community rests with the Local Authorities in urban areas and Rural Water Supply Department in rural areas.

The NamWater Corporation Act of 1997, under the heading, "*Duties of the Corporation*" maps out the duty to supply water in 9(1) to (3): "(1) *It is the duty of the Corporation to consider each application for bulk water supply by any potential customer and subject to the availability of water in the required quantity and quality, to accept the application as a customer. (2) Bulk water supply to the customer shall take place in terms of written agreements between the Corporation and each customer. (3) The Corporation shall negotiate with its major relevant customers prior to establishing new waterworks which will affect the cost of water supply to those customers.*"

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Honourable Deputy Speaker, it is indeed very clear that the mandate or duty of Namibia Water Corporation was and still is to supply water to their clients, but not to provide water to an individual at a price determined by the Corporation unilaterally.

The Corporation under 10(1) and (2) was given power to interrupt and reduce water supply to customers under these conditions:

1. *Subject to the provisions of Subsection (3), whenever drought or other natural intervention causes an insufficient source of water, the Corporation may, with the prior written approval of the Minister and after consultation with affected customers, temporarily interrupt or reduce the supply of water out of any waterway or portion thereof to customers.*
2. *Subject to the provisions of Subsection (3), the Corporation may on account of breakdown of any waterway or portion thereof or for the purpose of carrying out routine maintenance or repair of such waterway or works of capital nature, temporarily interrupt or reduce water supply out of such waterway to its customers.”*

It is only under those conditions that NamWater has the power to interrupt water, according to the Act. NamWater does not have the legal right to deny people access to water if we go by the Act which is still in existence.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, even if NamWater goes by Part 4, 5(1) and (2) of the Act which states, *inter alia*: “*The Minister may enter into a written agreement with the Corporation for the supply of water, service or facility under this Section to any person, body or organisation or category of persons at cost subsidised or fully paid for by the Minister. The money expended by the Minister in defraying the full cost or part thereof for providing the water service or facility under this Section shall be charged out of a fund appropriated by Parliament for such purposes.*”

Therefore, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I believe that the N\$444 million that was budgeted for water was actually meant for that. Considering this

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Act, NamWater was wrong to demand payment from individual users. It is on this basis, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, that this august House should direct NamWater to stop cutting water to communities and write off water debts with immediate effect, because what NamWater is doing right now is illegal, is not within the law that has created it. NamWater has a mandate to carry out, a mandate that has been given by the Act that established NamWater – nothing less, nothing more. In that Act there is no provision that allows any water supply to be disrupted under any circumstances.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, through the democratic process undertaken by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration, soliciting public views and recommendations, the message obtained and which is contained in the Committee Report tabled in this august House was very clear, that NamWater debt must be written off and water as an essential service should be reverted back to Government.

In this NamWater Act even Trade Unions are not allowed to strike because water is an essential service. None of God's creatures will survive without water and still NamWater is denying people water and schools have closed in Rehoboth because NamWater has taken the law into their own hands and nobody says anything. Nobody in this country has the right to deny anybody access to water. I am not the one saying this, it is contained in this Act and I hope anybody who is going to take the Floor will tell me where I have gone wrong in my reading of the Act.

As we are moving towards a people-centred society, Honourable Deputy Speaker, it will be the task of Government to engage all segments of the society in a continuous conversation, irrespective of their status in their community and to take their views seriously. The community that we have consulted through the Economics Committee, has expressed their views. The elected representatives of the people in this Chamber have since 2008, when Honourable Venaani Moved the Motion, not taken a decision and in that process we have denied the people their legal right to have access to water.

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Government officials and politicians have the attitude of professional elitism that implies that they are the only ones who know the need of the people better than the people themselves. That is the attitude that we have and I am one of them. Honourable Deputy Speaker, let me assure you right here that if my interpretation of the law is not correct, if anybody can prove me wrong, I am prepared to withdraw this Motion with immediate effect, because I know that if we go by the law, if we respect the laws that we have passed, I stand my ground to prove that NamWater has exercised powers that they do not have. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I want to draw your attention to Rule 108 which talks of general restrictions and 108(f) says it is not allowed in any Motion, Debate or Question, including a supplementary question, to refer to matters awaiting or under adjudication in any court of justice. If I remember correctly, the matter whether NamWater may in fact close water is in court, if the article in the *Namibian* of today is correct.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member is referring to hearsay and secondly, the Motion that we are discussing now has been on the Table since 2008. It has nothing to do with the Court case and we do not know anything about that. Therefore, allow me to continue, if I may.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, before I conclude, allow me to use this opportunity to refresh our minds on the recommendation made by the community for our consideration and approval.

The community recommended that the function of NamWater be transferred back to Government and that the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry's Directorate of Rural Water Supply be empowered to provide affordable water to the community, based on cost-recovery

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principles. This is the recommendation of the community.

That water debt owed to NamWater be written off with immediate effect. That all underground pipes should be replaced to prevent the current problem of underground water leakages and TIPEEG must be used to do that and create jobs.

That free water should be made available to all, as water is life and nobody can live without it. It is indeed a gift from God.

That Government should drill more boreholes and excavate more earth dams to provide water to rural villages and they recommend that TIPEEG should also be used for this purpose.

In terms of the NamWater policy, the Corporation has been mandated to operate on cost recovery basis. The Corporation is expected to recover its cost from its customers as well as the money earmarked for investing in future water supply infrastructure.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the policy is very clear and it is based on the cost recovery principle. Now which one would prevail? The Act is saying that people should not be denied access to water under any circumstances. The policy is saying that people should pay on a cost-recovery basis. Which one would prevail in the event of conflict? I believe that it is obviously the Act of Parliament and I believe that NamWater, being a professionally-run institution, the Minister would have been able to know that in the event where there is conflict, the Act of Parliament would prevail and therefore, there is no excuse that people are being charged for water.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, on the 29th of October 2008, Honourable Isak Katali, by then the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, while contributing to the Motion of Honourable McHenry Venaani said the following: *“Before I specifically address the issue in the Motion by Honourable Venaani, let me reiterate the policy of this SWAPO-led Government, approved by Cabinet earlier this month. The Constitution advocates equity as a fundamental principle to ensure equitable access to*

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water supply and equitable economic opportunities for all Namibians.

Essential water supply and sanitation services should become available to all Namibians and should be acceptable and accessible at cost which is affordable to the country as a whole.” He went on and said: “Full cost recovery and prevention of debt as part of the principle of water as an economic good, should be promoted and implemented based on equitable tariffs to improve access by poor and marginalised communities.” That is what the then Honourable Deputy Minister said. It is a policy position, it is a Cabinet directive. Today NamWater is cutting water, denying poor people access to water and nobody says anything.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, it is to say that beneficiaries should contribute towards the cost of water and sanitation services their desired increasing rate for standard of living exceeding the level required for providing basic needs. The question that we need to ask ourselves, the people that we expect to pay against the law for these services, these are the pensioners who are earning N\$500 per month, these are the people who should be paying for water. These are the 48% of those who have been declared very poor in this country. These are the people whom we expect to pay for water. The 52% unemployed, these are people whose water we have cut in Rehoboth and other places, the children-headed households and the list goes on.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, these people simply cannot afford to pay for this water cost. The community of Onethindi, Ontananga, Ondonga, Onamalunga, Onamungundo, can simply not afford to pay the N\$600,000 they collectively owe NamWater. Selling water to poor communities is in fact insensitive and totally unacceptable, because what happens is that some of these communities who could not access water do not owe NamWater any money, it is a village. If there are people in the village who have not paid, the water to the whole village will be cut. The people do not owe NamWater any money. Simply because Honourable Kaura does not want to pay because of a reason only known to himself, the whole community’s water is cut. It is a collective punishment for those who are also paying for their water. I am sure that not everybody in Rehoboth has not paid for their water, it is not possible,

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but how is it possible that you cut the whole community's access to water?

Let me conclude, Honourable Deputy Speaker, by saying water is an essential service, just like the army, the Police, health, education and others. We budget money to make sure that everybody has access to a hospital and I am sure that Honourable Kamwi will not sit back and see somebody being turned away from a hospital because they cannot afford to pay for the services. These are definitely things that can be taken care of by the State. The answer that we are always being given is simply that there is no money. Honourable Deputy Speaker, it is not true, we have the money.

I read in today's newspaper, the *Namibian*, that NWR lost N\$42 million of the taxpayers' money. The Rehoboth Municipality owes NamWater N\$29 million. If we are happy to see N\$42 million being lost just like that, we could have used that money to subsidise Rehoboth. Money is not a problem, it is a question of priorities and the political will, of course.

The Government should, therefore, find money to cover NamWater losses, if there are any and write off the debts, the same way they have done with Air Namibia, the same way they have done with all these bottomless-pit Parastatals. I am telling you, the money we have been spending to support a few Chief Executive Officers of these Parastatals, could have been better used by subsidising the water of the whole community. Rather than thinking about thirty, forty or a hundred people who are benefiting from the millions that we are always budgeting here, subsidising these institutions, that money could have been diverted to subsidise water to the poor rural communities. The money is there, it is a question of the political will to do that and mind you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, there is no justification for NamWater to continue doing what they are doing. This Parliament should direct the Minister of Agriculture to intervene and stop NamWater from cutting water to the communities until this confusion is sorted out. It cannot continue with business as usual, because illegal activities cannot be condoned.

Yesterday we were saying that our people are building illegal structures, but Government is sitting back while NamWater is illegally cutting water

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supply to the communities. What is the justification for this? I call on you, Colleagues to support this Motion so that we can at least once in our lives do something substantive to the poor communities who have been trying to work within the legal framework, because Namibia is a country governed by the rule of law. This is not a banana republic, we cannot allow people to take the law into their own hands.

With that I call on you, Honourable Members, to support this Motion and to immediately start doing the necessary so that we can help our people.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Kaura.

HON KAURA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I would like to thank Honourable Tjihuiko for tabling this Motion and having listened to him, I am afraid that saying anything, one could commit plagiarism and I do not want to commit plagiarism.

I agree with him that the provision of water should be a Government function, just like education, health, defence, home affairs, etcetera. It should not be given to an institution to make profit, where you have Chief Executive Officers who are earning more than a million while they are subsidised by poor people.

The Honourable Deputy Prime Minister is trying to uplift members of our communities that were left behind, especially the San people. These are unemployed people who own absolutely nothing. They do not have an income whatsoever. Now who is paying for their water? Who is going to provide these people with water? NamWater will not do so because it is a business, they say not a drop of water without NamWater and you cannot have a drop of water unless you pay for it. The San people are the people the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister is looking after. Who is going to provide these people with water? They have no income whatsoever and they live in communal areas and they must drink water, but NamWater

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does not provide water to somebody who is unable to pay.

Therefore, it is logical that the Government must take this function, as it was under the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Affairs, because it has the compassion to look after the pensioners, the unemployed, the school children, hospitals, etcetera. It is unimaginable that water can be cut to a metropolitan area. There are women, children, disabled, the sick, there are hospitals and schools, but yet you are cutting water to a metropolitan area. There are even prisoners in jail and you are cutting water to them. This situation is really unimaginable and we as servants of our people must in retrospect realise we made a serious mistake to have created this Parastatal, NamWater. We must bring this function back to the Ministry who can compassionately deal with all this. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: May I ask Honourable Kaura question? Honourable Kaura, you are saying “*you cut the water.*” I do not know whom you are referring to. NamWater is a State company. Are you not part of the State yourself?

HON KAURA: This is quoted from the Honourable Minister. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, on the 29th of October 2008, Honourable Isak Katali, when he was contributing to Honourable Venaani’s Motion then said the following: “*Before I specifically address the issue in the Motion by Honourable Venaani, let me reiterate the policy of this SWAPO-led Government, approved by the Cabinet early this month. The Constitution advocates equity as a fundamental principle to ensure equitable access to water supply and equitable economic opportunities for all Namibians. Essential water supply and sanitation services should become available to all Namibians and should be acceptable and accessible at a cost which is affordable to the country as a whole. Full cost recovery and prevention of debt as part of the principle of water as an economic good should be promoted and implemented based on equitable tariffs to improve access by poor and marginalised*

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communities.” This is exactly what you said and that is the answer to your question.

Therefore, based on the Committee Report after they have visited the communities throughout this whole country, when the DTA member, McHenry Venaani, tabled that Motion in 2008 which recommended that NamWater must be phased out and this function must be given back to the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, that is our recommendation, that is the position which I support, that we must revert this function back to the Ministry. Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Iilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker. We are dealing with a very important Motion which should not be politicised. It is a national issue and I want this Motion to be adjourned for my Minister to address the water problem in the country and not pinpoint certain towns. I want the Motion to be adjourned until the 4th of July so that we hear the position of the Government and what is being proposed to handle the issue of debts. From there we can see how the recommendations and proposals can be accommodated.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is a good proposal. We would like to hear the side of the Ministry on this important issue. Can we agree that we postpone it to the 4th July?

HON ULENGA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, on that one I just have the suspicion that it may not be within the rules of the Assembly, because the

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Honourable Member is just informing us that the Honourable Minister is going to explain the position of the Government or the Ministry and then the Debate can continue.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can continue. You have five minutes and then the Motion will be adjourned until the 4th of July.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I will briefly say that this arbitrary decision on the time does not sound to be very fair, but I will abide by the time.

Deputy Speaker, I would like to wholeheartedly agree with the Mover of the Motion and I would like to plead with the Honourable Members of this House and the public, generally speaking, to deeply reflect on this issue of the commercialisation of essential services and essential resources of the country for the mere purpose of making profit. I am saying so because if you look at the structures and the workings of NamWater, if you look at the salary scales provided therein, you cannot escape the conclusion that this is for mere profit.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we have in our Constitution a provision that says that Namibia is a mixed economy and I see in one of the papers today that a Minister, a State official, has been reminding some sections of our population that this is indeed a mixed economy. Mixed economy actually means that the State is in control not just as a matter or pretext. The way I understand it, when we were writing the Constitution, a mixed economy is that the State must be in the control at least over some portion of the economy, which means capitalism will not be allowed to play its fullest role like it does in certain other economies.

I understand, for example, that there is a lot of water in this country which just goes unexploited simply because most probably certain people feel that they cannot make a profit by mining that water. I understand there is

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this huge underground lake and even the Founding President of this country, Comrade Sam Nujoma, once proposed that we ship in water from a river up north in the Congo. The practicalities aside, basically the idea is very sound taking into account Namibia's situation as far as water is concerned.

I was looking at some of the writings of a very historic politician and social scientist who said that for the State to control the population properly, their first act is to expropriate the resources of the people. It is true, Honourable Katali, that we are the agents of the State, we must not deny it. We must question ourselves what kind of State is it that we are serving. Is it a State of the people or is it a State of the big bosses, the people who are chasing profits or is it a State which is there to look after the interests of the people? By the look of things this is no longer a State that is prioritising the interest of the people and the example of what is going on with regard to water supply in this country today is a prime example that this State is not chasing after the interest of the majority. I thank you, Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: With that the House is adjourned until tomorrow at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2012.06.21 AT 14:30