

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

SPEAKER

Dr T-B Gurirab (Mr)

DEPUTY SPEAKER AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE

Prof Loide Kasingo (Ms)

THE CABINET

MINISTERS

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

Dr G H Geingob (Mr)	<i>(Prime Minister)</i>
Mr M Hausiku	<i>(Deputy Prime Minister)</i>
Mr N Angula	<i>(Defence)</i>
Ms P Iivula-Ithana	<i>(Home Affairs and Immigration)</i>
Mr I Ngatjizeko	<i>(Safety and Security)</i>
Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwah	<i>(Foreign Affairs)</i>
Dr A Kawana (Mr)	<i>(Presidential Affairs & Attorney-General)</i>
Ms S Kuugongelwa-Amadhila	<i>(Finance)</i>
Mr J Ekandjo	<i>(Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture)</i>
Mr U Nujoma	<i>(Justice)</i>
Mr E Nghimtina	<i>(Works and Transport)</i>
Dr D Namwandi (Mr)	<i>(Education)</i>
Ms D Sioka	<i>(Labour & Social Welfare)</i>
Mr J Mutorwa	<i>(Agriculture, Water & Forestry)</i>
Mr J Kaapanda	<i>(Information & Communication Technology)</i>
Mr U Herunga	<i>(Environment and Tourism)</i>
Dr N Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Veterans Affairs)</i>
Mr A !Naruseb	<i>(Lands & Resettlement)</i>

Dr R Kamwi (Mr)	<i>(Health and Social Services)</i>
Ms R Nghidinwa	<i>(Gender Equality and Child Welfare)</i>
Mr C Namoloh	<i>(Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development)</i>
Mr B Esau	<i>(Fisheries and Marine Resources)</i>
Mr I Katali	<i>(Mines and Energy)</i>
Mr C Schlettwein	<i>(Trade and Industry)</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>(Agriculture, Water & Forestry)</i>
Mr P Iilonga	<i>(Defence)</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>(Fisheries and Marine Resources)</i>
Mr P Mushelenga	<i>(Foreign Affairs)</i>
Mr P Shifeta	<i>(Environment and Tourism)</i>
Ms J Kavetuna	<i>(Youth, National Service, Sport & Culture)</i>
Mr W Isaacks	<i>(Mines and Energy)</i>
Mr S Simataa	<i>(Information and Communication Technology)</i>
Dr E Kaiyamo (Mr)	<i>(Home Affairs and Immigration)</i>
Mr K Nguvauva	<i>(Works and Transport)</i>
Ms P Beukes	<i>(Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development)</i>
Vacant	<i>(Finance)</i>
Ms S Makgone	<i>(Education)</i>

SECRETARY

Mr. J Jacobs

DEPUTY SECRETARY

Mr F S Harker

DEPUTY MINISTERS IN THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

Mr K Ngauva	<i>(Works and Transport)</i>
Mr T Diergaard	<i>(Lands and Resettlement)</i>
Ms H Nicanor	<i>(Veterans)</i>

LIST OF MEMBERS AND PARTIES WHICH THEY REPRESENT

ALL PEOPLE'S PARTY (APP)

Mr I Shixwameni	<i>(Chief Whip and Party Leader)</i>
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CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS (COD)

Mr B Ulenga	<i>(Chief Whip and Party Leader)</i>
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DTA OF NAMIBIA

Mr K Kaura	<i>(Party Leader)</i>
Mr P Moongo	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>

NATIONAL UNITY DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION OF NAMIBIA (NUDO)

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

RALLY FOR DEMOCRACY AND PROGRESS (RDP)

Mr S Bezuidenhoudt	
Mr Hidipo Hamutenya	<i>(Party Leader)</i>
Ms A Limbo	
Mr H Lucks	
Mr P Naholo	
Mr K Nehova	
Mr J Nyamu	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>
Mr A Von Wietersheim	

REPUBLICAN PARTY

Ms C //Gowases

(Chief Whip)

SWANU

Mr U Maamberua

(Chief Whip and Party Leader)

SWAPO OF NAMIBIA

Ms S Kuugongelwa – Amadhila

(Minister)

Mr B Amathila

Dr M Amweelo (Mr)

(Deputy Chief Whip)

Mr N Angula

(Minister)

Dr H Geingob (Mr)

(Prime Minister)

Dr S C Ankama (Mr)

(Deputy Minister)

Ms P Beukes

(Deputy Minister)

Mr E Dingara

Mr J Ekandjo

(Minister)

Mr B Esau

(Minister)

Dr T-B Gurirab (Mr)

(Speaker)

Ms P Haingura

(Deputy Minister)

Mr M Hausiku

(Deputy Prime Minister)

Mr U Herunga

(Minister)

Mr P Iilonga

(Deputy Minister)

Mr W Isaacks

(Deputy Minister)

Ms P Iivula-Ithana

(Minister)

Dr N Iyambo (Mr)

(Minister)

Mr J Kaapanda

(Minister)

Dr E Kaiyamo (Mr)

(Deputy Minister)

Dr R Kamwi (Mr)

(Minister)

Mr P Kapia

Prof L Kasingo (Ms)

(Deputy Speaker)

Mr I Katali

(Minister)

Ms J Kavetuna

(Deputy Minister)

Dr A Kawana (Mr)

(Minister)

Mr K Kazenambo

Ms L Lucas

(Deputy Minister)

Ms S Makgone

(Deputy Minister)

Ms A Manombe-Ncube

Mr N Mbumba	
Ms A Muharukua	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr A Muheua	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr P Mushelenga	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr J Mutorwa	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms T Mushelenga	
Mr B Mwaningange	
Mr T Nambahu	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr C Namoloh	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr D Namwandi (Mr)	<i>(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>
Dr B. Ndjoze-Ojo (Ms)	
Mr E Utoni	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr P 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>(Chief Whip and 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
10 SEPTEMBER 2013**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment

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

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, welcome back after the long recess. I was not informed of the swearing in of any new Members, however, I have three announcements to make:

It is with sadness that we learned about the passing on of Honourable Raphael Dinyando. The late Honourable Dinyando served in various Standing Committees as a Member of this august House and Deputy Minister of Information and Broadcasting before he left to take up the position of Ambassador to Austria. He had contributed in his unique way towards the drafting of various legislations. I would, therefore, ask the Honourable Members to rise and observe a minute of silence.

THE HOUSE OBSERVES A MINUTE OF SILENCE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The second announcement is just to remind Honourable Members that we resume the Second and last Session

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON A TJONGARERO**

of 2013. I would like to remind you that the House will go into recess at the end of November as per our parliamentary calendar and we will resume again in February 2014. As was previously resolved by this House, no Bill or any other new Business will be tabled after the 1st of November this year in order to allow for enough time to dispose of all Business, provided that the House may upon a Motion moved resolve to extend this time limit in the event of a matter being of urgent nature. I thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

Lastly, 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 *Electoral Amendment Bill* [B8-2013] without Amendment.

In terms of Article 72(3) the Bill had been referred to the President to deal with it under Article 56 and 64 of the Constitution, where-after it will be published in the Government Gazette.

Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Honourable Tjongarero.

**TABLING: REPORT ON 2011 ANNUAL
PARLIAMENTARY HEARING AT UNITED NATIONS**

HON A TJONGARERO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I lay upon the Table for information and note-taking the Report on the 2011 Annual Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations. Before I do that, Honourable Deputy Speaker, allow me to highlight just a few points:

The main theme of the 2011 Hearing was “*Strengthening Political Accountability for a more Peaceful and Prosperous World.*”

Members of Parliaments across the world examined the following

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON KAURA**

universal, social and economic pressing issues:

- The role of the United Nations General Assembly in strengthening global accountability;
- Youth participation in the democratic process – challenges and opportunities;
- Accountability in the management of public funds – good practices and model legislation for Budget transparency; and
- Strengthening the links between national institutions and Civil Society towards more open societies.

The National Assembly, Ministries and all stakeholders are invited to follow best practices and consider implementation of the important proposals and recommendations made in this Report. I so Move, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Report. I recognise Honourable Kaura.

**TABLING: 2012 ANNUAL PARLIAMENTARY
HEARING AT UNITED NATIONS**

HON KAURA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I rise to lay upon the Table for information and note-taking the Report on the 2012 Annual Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations. Before I do that, Honourable Speaker, with your permission please allow me to briefly introduce the Report.

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HON KAURA**

The 2012 Annual Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations Headquarters, jointly organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Office of the President of the General Assembly, brought together close to 200 Members of Parliament from 55 countries to discuss the theme, “*A road less travelled: Parliamentary approaches to conflict prevention, reconciliation and peace-building.*”

The purpose of the Hearing was to establish the role that Parliaments can and often do play in the various stages of conflict and post-conflict management against the backdrop of the work of the United Nations as the premium global organisation mandated to deal with such issues.

This Report refers to the main findings of the Hearing with regard to the role that National Parliaments, the United Nations and other organisations can play in the conflict prevention, reconciliation and peace-building, highlighting institutional challenges as well as appropriate and effective approaches to these processes. The Report examines the concept of conflict prevention, reconciliation and peace building, the Report also examines the findings, resolutions regarding Parliaments’ role in peace-building and conflict resolution and reconciliation. The Report, finally, examines the following:

- Challenges to parliamentary involvement in conflict management;
- Cooperation between the United Nations and other international and regional organisations;
- The role of women in conflict prevention, reconciliation and peace-building;
- What mechanisms can enhance cooperation among Political Parties;
- What are the conditions for effective parliamentary involvement in conflict prevention, reconciliation and peace-building;
- Women and long-term stability;

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HON DR NAMWANDI**

- How can the United Nations more effectively prevent conflict and how can the United Nations more effectively engage Parliaments in its peace-building work?
- How can post-conflict society achieve just and inclusive reconciliation?
- How can regional cooperation support national political stability?

As a young constitutional democracy, we as elected representatives of the people should be at the forefront of conflict resolution, conflict management, peace-building and national reconciliation. We also have a duty to ensure that our brothers and sisters in the SADC Region, Africa and the rest of the world adhere to these noble ideals.

I kindly request the key Line Ministries, Offices and Agencies, in particular the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Parliamentary Standing Committees to examine the Report, for us to follow best practices and ensure possible implementation of recommendations and resolutions. I so Move, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Report. I recognise Honourable Minister of Education.

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT 2012:
POLYTECHNIC OF NAMIBIA**

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I lay upon the Table the Annual Report of the Polytechnic of Namibia for the year 2012. I so Move Honourable Deputy Speaker.

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HON VAN DER WALT**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Report. Honourable Van Der Walt.

**TABLING: REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON PARLIAMENT, MINORITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S
EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS**

HON VAN DER WALT: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I this time rise to re-table the Report on the International Conference on Parliaments, Minorities and Indigenous Peoples' Effective Participation in Politics which was held in the State of Chiapas, Mexico from the 31st of October to the 3rd of November 2010, for information.

Before I do that, Honourable Deputy Speaker, please allow me to briefly introduce the Report.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, in fact this Report was tabled in the June 2011 Session but it had lapsed. It was again tabled during the October-November Session during 2011, but it lapsed again. Then attempts were made to have the Report re-tabled in 2012, but it did not materialise. This Report is not new but it has to be tabled.

The IPU invites all Member Parliaments to hold a special Debate on the Chiapas Declaration and to adopt a plan of action to make the right to equal participation and non-discrimination a reality for minorities and indigenous peoples.

In the Namibian context we refer to these communities as marginalised communities. The IPU is also tasked to monitor implementation of the Chiapas Declaration and convene meetings to review progress two years after November 2010, which is 2012. The IPU is also willing to provide the support our Parliament may require.

The issues raised in the Report, I believe, are still relevant. I particularly and humbly request the Office of the Prime Minister, the custodian of

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HON ULENGA**

marginalised communities, to study the Report and to submit possible proposals how we can at a later stage take the Report further. I so Move, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Report. Honourable Ulena.

HON ULENGA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I do not have a Report to table, but I just wanted to find out from you whether I could make a comment or two and perhaps put a question with regards to the Reports which were submitted regarding the work of the United Nations by Honourable Kaura and Honourable Tjongarero. I am saying so because I think we are at the present moment, as the whole world, holding our breaths so to say, with regard to the very issue of conflict resolution and it looks like this very United Nations that we are talking about and we are receiving Reports about is actually held hostage and cannot carry out properly and sufficiently the said mandate that it is mandated to carry out on behalf of the international community.

I would have liked very much and eagerly so to hear from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Honourable Ndaitwah, with regard to her own position and the position of our Government and Nation with regard to these recent disturbances and anxieties, especially with regard to the conflict in Syria and the slowly unravelling situation in the Middle East and perhaps the whole world over. I thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Rules do not really prohibit any follow-up comment on Reports tabled for note-taking, however, I can be guided in this regard. Maybe you could formulate it in the form of a question to the Minister of Foreign Affairs under Notice of Questions. I

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON !NARUSEB**

recognise Honourable
!Naruseb.

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012 OF THE
MINISTRY OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT**

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. I lay upon the Table the Annual Report of the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement for the year 2011/2012. I so Move Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Report. Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Honourable Ulenga.

ORAL QUESTION

HON ULENGA: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. I wish to ask the Minister of Foreign Affairs a question on the issue which the whole world is wondering and fearing what might happen. This does not only refer to other countries, we, the very people who are sitting here are involved as well. The Honourable Members who spoke with regards to these Reports are highlighting the role that needs to be play by a Parliament such as ours and by Members of Parliament with regard to the important issues of peace-building, reconciliation and the stopping of conflict in the whole world. The Reports dealing with these issues have been tabled at the very time that the world is holding its breath with regard to the conflicts in the Middle East and the unravelling situation Syria.

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HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

I have not recently heard of any statement by our Government, I can only guess more or less what position the Government is taking and I would very much have liked to hear from either the Minister or the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs with regards to what is going on, what is the position and the prospects with regards to this unravelling situation in the Middle East.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister was out, maybe you could briefly repeat.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, please tell us as representatives of the people in this House where are we going to as the world, what is happening and what are we to expect with regard to the warring situation in the Middle East, specifically in Syria. Are we to hold our breaths forever, can we have hopes or expectations of peace and the peaceful resolution of the on-going conflict, specifically with regard to the use of chemical weapons? Can you talk peace and quiet into us or can you tell us to perhaps expect the worst?

RESPONSE TO ORAL QUESTION

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, and thank you, Honourable Ulenga, for asking the question. I am sure Honourable Members are aware that in conducting our foreign relations we are guided by the Namibian Constitution in addition to international instruments which we are party to.

Starting with the Namibian Constitution, it is very clear that we should advocate peaceful solving of conflicts in the world and that is exactly what we are advocating. International Law also guides us as to how conflict can be resolved, particularly should a situation arise where there is conflict in a particular country which could be regarded as a civil conflict between members of that particular country. Instead of encouraging more war, one

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**RESPONSE TO ORAL QUESTION
HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

should endeavour to bring the two parties together to talk to one another so that there should be no further bloodshed and loss of lives.

Your question was specifically on Syria and the issue of chemical weapons. Namibia is a member of the UN, particularly the Convention regulating the use of chemical weapons and we do not and will not condone the use of chemical weapons in any country, including Syria.

As to what is happening in Syria, we know that the United Nations had sent a team of experts to Syria to determine whether chemical weapons were used. We have been informed that the team has returned and in their report assert that chemical weapons were used. We are saying we do not accept such a situation. At the moment we do not know who had used the chemical weapons in Syria, because there are two parties to the conflict and we are saying whoever has used those chemical weapons stands to be condemned.

We want to encourage that instead of advocating for further war in Syria, we should pursue peace, because we know many people have already died and we do not want to see more deaths. Therefore, we hoped that the discussions in Geneva would bring something better.

We are also informed that Russia has now asked the Government of Syria to surrender the chemical weapons in their possession to an international body so that they can be handled in a proper way. We believe that should this happen, our aim of not having further war in Syria will be achieved. The dialogue is continuing and hopefully we will not have a situation of another war in Syria.

I hope I have clarified the Namibian position on the matter. I thank you.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, there is something which was not yet answered.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, if what happened in Syria were to happen

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HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

somewhere in Europe, the United Nations would have been there within fifteen hours, but the Asians started the fire from Tunisia, Syria, Egypt, Libya, some of the Africans were jolly-jolly, but that is not fair to yourself.

Sometimes if you happen to be in the same situation you expect other people to react, but some of the African States were jolly-jolly, however now it is a fire which is destroying all our countries.

In Egypt the first President was taken away, the second President has been ousted and now I do not know whether the third President is going to stay. That kind of habit has started as a fire and the African countries are keeping quiet. If that happens in our area we are going to make a row. What will now happen? That is a query.

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I know the Reports tabled deals with conflict resolution, but unfortunately I have not had time to peruse them. I am not sure whether I really understand the question of Honourable Riruako, though I heard names of countries being mentioned.

The situation of instability is definitely unacceptable and it is very unfortunate when that happens. Africa has a standing understanding on how to deal with African Member States, especially those who change their Governments undemocratically. The first and immediate action taken is to suspend them from the African Union, which has happened in the case of Egypt and Africa has identified a team of imminent persons, very respected African leaders who have served as former Presidents in their countries, to assess the situation in Egypt. They visit Egypt regularly and Egypt continues being suspended from the AU. It is a very unfortunate situation, the AU did not condone it. It continues to monitor the situation and demands that the people of Egypt should enter into negotiations and stop the on-going conflict. Therefore, Africa is not idle when such things happen on the continent. It also pronounces itself when things are happening anywhere in the world.

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HON ULENGA**

That is all I can say since I have not read the content of the Reports now under discussion. I thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Chief, as the Minister has stated, she has not had time to peruse the Reports, but maybe you can Move a Motion next week for this topic to be discussed. Honourable Ulenga.

ORAL QUESTION

HON ULENGA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I have something totally different. I would like to pose an Oral Question to the Right Honourable Prime Minister as Leader of the Government Business in the House on a completely different issue.

The issue on which I would like to ask a question to the Right Honourable Prime Minister concerns the commemoration of national days in the country, specifically the 26th of August, also known as Heroes Day, which was commemorated only a few weeks ago.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we know that Heroes Day appears on the national calendar as a public holiday and as far as I understand it is supposed to be a national holiday, to be commemorated at national level and without reference to Party politics, but it appears that the commemoration of Heroes Day was held at a private Political Party level as if it was designated for private commemoration by SWAPO as a Political Party. I would like the Prime Minister to clear that situation and hopefully reassure me, the House and the public out there that Heroes Day is just what it is, it is a national public holiday and should be commemorated in a politically neutral, patriotic manner without any adulteration in Party-political directions. (Interjections).

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RT HON DR GEINGOB**

Please bear with me, Honourable Deputy Speaker, because I have several sub-questions on the issue and if the Colleagues can bear with me, I will conclude and then they can make comments.

Whatever the comment would be of the Honourable Prime Minister on the first issue, perhaps you can tell me and the House exactly how many Party Leaders from the SWAPO Party were formally invited in terms of being given invitation cards to attend this last Heroes Day and also tell me and the House why the leaders of other Political Parties were excluded and did not receive these invitations.

The third issue that I would like you to shed light on, Right Honourable Prime Minister is, why were national leaders such as Ministers and MPs draped in SWAPO Party colours instead of standing as national leaders?

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the second-last question would be: Has the Right Honourable Prime Minister contemplated what the ultimate outcome could be if national days, such as the one I am referring to, were to be commemorated in this way instead of a single style with a single national, non-political loyalty?

Lastly, how much was spent from the National Treasury on the last Heroes Day commemoration?

I thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, and I would like the Prime Minister to respond.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you very much for the well-prepared ambush. Heroes Day was declared as a national day, but do not forget to connect that day with an event that happened. On 26 August some historic event happened and as a Nation we said that that day will be Heroes Day.

Although the heroes we are talking about on 26 August were fighters of SWAPO, we said we should have one day to recognise all heroes who in,

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RT HON DR GEINGOB**

their own ways were resisting or fighting and put it to the main event that happened. That is what 26 August is. You know that when you were in SWAPO we used to celebrate that before Independence as Namibia Day at the UN and so on. After Independence we then said it must be a national day.

Firstly, I do not know how the Opposition Members work in this country. Is it just to look for excuses to complain? There was a day I deliberately invited all of you by letter to an event, signed by me for a national day, and I only saw Honourable Hamutenya and Honourable //Gowases, the rest I did not see. Yet I had invited you in writing. Not even the courtesy to say, *"I am sorry, I cannot make it."* So, do not come with a question of were they invited by letters. You do not even acknowledge letters.

Coming now to that day, let us distinguish between two things: There was the launching of the SWAPO constitution and it was decided to launch it at that venue. Please, let us not talk for the sake of talking. There were two separate events. The launching was done and yes, SWAPO chose that place because it means a lot of SWAPO. The launching was done earlier where people were in SWAPO regalia and that is where the constitution was launched. Then the other event followed and you did not see any SWAPO leader in SWAPO colours, none of the national leaders. Tell me who was in SWAPO colours. I am telling you, at the commemoration of that day nobody had SWAPO colours. Let us not exaggerate. If somebody, even one, had that, people are free to do what they want to do and please, in future do not be ashamed to wear your Party colours to national days. Is it because your supporters are very few and you are afraid SWAPO may overwhelm you? What does Party colours mean? Go and celebrate the event.

To sum up, that day SWAPO constitution launch was a separate event. Heroes Day was celebrated with a guest of honour, the President of Senegal who addressed that event in a dignified way. Do not confuse the two events. Heroes Day was celebrated as a national day.

As for the invitations you mentioned, none of the SWAPO members received invitation cards to Heroes Day. It is a calendar day and all

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RT HON DR GEINGOB**

patriotic people will get up and go. Therefore, nobody was invited by card.

I agree that everybody must feel it is a national day, but why should any patriotic Namibian feel bad about the day people died for the freedom of this country? In fact, I said we may all have different types of heroes, just go and celebrate your hero on that day. However, those who remember that day in the long struggle that we were part of are saying we must not forget those who died. That is why we are today sitting here as free people.

I am on record that I have previously invited the Opposition by letter, but they do not respect it and I am no longer going to write letters to invite you. There was no acknowledgement, not even a telephone call to say you could not make it. Why should I keep on doing that? We should respect each other, because when I take my time to write, respecting you, at least there should be acknowledgement. Now the Honourable Member is asking whether they were invited by cards. We do not invite by cards on a national day like that, it is announced and we know about it and we attend. I can add that it is protocol that when the leaders of the Opposition attend, as we did at Omuthiya, we arrange for them to be received and seated properly and I saw Honourable Hamutenya and Honourable //Gowases. The Chief was there too and they were received, but not Honourable Ulenga.

Therefore, when we talk about these issues, let us also act and show we mean it, not just to score political points. However, I am saying we must dignify the national days, everybody must feel part of it, but we also cannot deny the painful history. Why should the history of Namibian patriots hurt somebody else? It is not a history of Namibians oppressing other Namibians, it was a fight against oppressors. That is what we are commemorating and why should all of us not join in that?

To summarise again, it was two separate events. Maybe you saw the launch of the SWAPO constitution on television and saw SWAPO colours, but the main event was at a different venue with the guest of honour, the President of Senegal.

10 September 2013

**ORAL QUESTION
HON RIRUAKO**

As for the cost, since you have ambushed me with these questions I would not know and that you can easily find out later on from the Finance Minister.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Riruako.

ORAL QUESTION

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I did say in Okahandja that I have been travelling to Ondonga, travelling to Ohangwena, Outapi, but I invited all these people who are talking here now and they never responded. I have sent the whole troop and I let Nguvauva represent me there. No name was mentioned. Honourable Ithana was there and they were there with horses, the horses must not come in, I was watching, until the people cried and said, *“let the horses come.”* But you could have told me, *“do not bring the horses, we do not know about horses”* and I could have done that.

I cannot blame the Prime Minister, before Independence we were the same people. I said, *“park your Mercedes here, we will walk from here to the graveyard”* and he did that several times but no one of you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: And the question is, Honourable Chief?

HON RIRUAKO: The question is, Heroes Day is independent from our political activities, we are supposed to accommodate one another and not just as you want it.

10 September 2013

**ORAL QUESTION
HON RIRUAKO**

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I do not know how we want to unite the country if division is created by the very same people who said we have to unite. Let us change our attitude.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: On a Point of Order. Rule 82(d) reads: “*The time allowed for Oral Questions shall not exceed 20 minutes each day.*” Therefore, I feel we should not be subjected to this long Debate.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Chief Riruako, I will give you a second to wrap up.

HON RIRUAKO: We are supposed to unite and we are capable of doing that and if we are wrong, we are supposed to correct our own wrongs without inviting some people from other countries. This is the motto of the people who are qualified to lead the country. As people who happened to lead for 23 years, they must be exemplary, we cannot go on and on in this hijacking way. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The comments by Honourable Chief Riruako have already been responded to by the Right Honourable Prime Minister. Against this background I now close the Floor for Oral Questions.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

10 September 2013

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MOONGO**

QUESTION 27:

HON MOONGO: I give Notice that on Thursday, 12th September 2013, I shall ask the Minister of Veterans Affairs:

1. Why are the members of the Board on Veteran Affairs ignoring and not acknowledging the fact that more than twelve people who were assassinated and maimed during 1978 and also more than twenty people who were killed in the Oshakati bomb blast and elsewhere in Namibia was due to war ammunition during wartime?
2. Is it because the board members were ill-informed or they do not accept the sacrifice made by the victims?
3. Can the Minister explain whether board members also participated in the liberation struggle?
4. Why are the victims and their dependents not benefiting from the Veterans Fund?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Questions. Any Notice of Motions? I recognise Honourable Kawana.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Finance, I give Notice that on Tuesday, 17 September, I shall Move:

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to regulate the procurement of goods and services; the letting or hiring of anything or the acquisition or granting of rights for and on behalf of and the disposal of property of public bodies; to establish the Procurement Policy Office, the Central Procurement Board, the procurement committees and procurement management units and to provide for their powers and functions; to provide for the establishment of bid evaluation committees and provide for their powers and functions; to provide for procurement methods; to provide for bidding process, bidding challenge and review; to provide for preferences to local individuals and companies and entities; and to provide for incidental matters. I so Move Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Motion. Message from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? I give the Floor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs to share information with us regarding the burial of late Dinyando and other issues.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. We have just observed a minute of silence in honour of Comrade Dinyando who passed on. He passed on while serving as Ambassador of Namibia based in Vienna. The Government has made arrangements and today we have sent a plane to collect his remains. As you know, Ambassadors represent the President in receiving countries, there will thus be a memorial service in Vienna this evening. The President has designated the Permanent Secretary in the Office of the President to bring home the remains of Honourable Dinyando. The Permanent Secretary will this evening deliver a message at the memorial service.

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ADJOURNMENT

The plane is expected to return tomorrow and arrive in Windhoek on Thursday, after which a memorial services will be held at St Mary's Cathedral here in Windhoek. The time will be communicated later. Thereafter a second memorial service will be held in Rundu on Friday and the burial will take place in his village on Saturday. That is the information available for now and the media will make announcements to indicate the times as determined at a later stage.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for that information. As there are no other items on the Order Paper, I request the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House until the 17th of September 2014.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. I Move that the House now adjourns until next week, Tuesday, at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:50 UNTIL 2013.09.17 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
17 SEPTEMBER 2013**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment

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

HON SPEAKER: We shall commence with the Business of the House as scheduled for today. Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Honourable Amweelo.

TABLING: REPORT 128th IPU ASSEMBLY

HON DR AMWEELO: Honourable Speaker, I rise to lay upon the Table for discussion and consideration by this august Assembly, the Report on the 128th Assembly and related meetings of the IPU held in Quito from 19 to 27 March 2013.

HON SPEAKER: Please table the Report. Any further Reports and Papers?

ANNUAL REPORT 2013: MEATCO

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Annual Report of Meatco, Namibia for the year 2013.

17 September 2013

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MOONGO**

HON SPEAKER: Please table the Report. Any further Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Honourable Moongo.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 28:

HON MOONGO: I give Notice that on Thursday, the 19th of September, I shall ask the Minister of Safety and Security:

1. Does the Minister acknowledge the fact that freedom of movement is a basic requirement for fundamental rights enshrined in Chapter 3 of the Namibian Constitution?
2. Can the Minister explain why the users of public roads are obeying orders by the Police to park along the roadside for more than four hours between Ondangwa and Oshakati?
3. If yes, why is the freedom of citizens highly disrupted, disturbed and disregarded and not respected by the VIP escort when they escort Ministers and Excellencies?
4. Is it not high time that the Namibian Government or the so-called SWAPO Party Government formulate a humanitarian mechanism to limit the time for State motorcades so that other public road users can also be served?
5. Can the Minister explain as to whether the Ministers and Excellencies have more rights than other public road users?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON BEZUIDENHOUDT**

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

QUESTION 29:

HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: I give Notice that on Thursday, the 3rd of October 2013, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following:

Seeing that the Office of the Prime Minister is the custodian of the E-Governance Policy of the Republic of Namibia, I want to enquire from the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following regarding E-Governance: Will the Right Honourable Prime Minister update this House and the public at large regarding the following:

1. The STATUS of E-Government Policy as a project?
 2. The GOVERNMENT'S NETWORK infrastructure, readiness for E-Governance implementation;
 3. The implementation strategy of the e-governance project, the potential of possible LOCAL NAMIBIAN ICT COMPANIES' INVOLVEMENT in rendering of services to the E-Governance Project; and
 4. The LEGAL FRAMEWORK OR LAWS required for the implementation of E-Governance Policy.
-

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Questions? Any further Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? The Notice of Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Finance. Does the Honourable Minister Move that the Bill be now introduced?

17 September 2013

**PUBLIC PROCUREMENT BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

**INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING
PUBLIC PROCUREMENT BILL [B.7 – 2013]**

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I so Move Honourable Speaker.

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

SECRETARY: *Public Procurement Bill [B.7 – 2013].*

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister Move that the Bill be now read a Second Time? Any Objections? Agreed to.

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

HON SPEAKER: You have the Floor, Honourable Minister.

**SECOND READING:
PUBLIC PROCUREMENT BILL [B.7 – 2013]**

17 September 2013

**PUBLIC PROCUREMENT BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is my honour to present the *Public Procurement Bill* in this august House. The Bill is designed to provide the legal framework for in-depth reforms to our Public Procurement System, which is essential to implement Government's Programmes in a manner to achieve value for money with higher level of efficiency and effectiveness.

Robust procurement management in the Public Sector is a tool for achieving political, economic and social goals. In the era of diminishing resources and increased demand for accountability and transparency in Government, the electorate and other stakeholders of the Public Sector are demanding more effective and efficient use of public resources.

It is important to emphasise that, key to developing any good procurement system is understanding the mission and goals of the overall organisation, the role played by the sub-entities within the overall structure and the relationships among the various entities. Every procurement system shares certain core components, such as budgeting, cash and debt management and accounting. Other ancillary modules, such as asset management and the Integrated Financial Management System, must also be linked to the procurement function.

In today's complex global business world, the overall success of organisations, whether in Public or Private Sector, boils down to the efficiency and effectiveness of its supply chain. Competitive strength relies both on an organisation's products and the processes that provide products to customers. Effective supply chain management enhances productivity and performance with the strategic combination of people, systems and technology to successfully compete in the global marketplace.

Public procurement officials are confronted with these new developments when doing business with the Private Sector. Hence, there is pressure on public institutions to embrace the new approaches to efficiently manage their finances and tendering procedures.

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**PUBLIC PROCUREMENT BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

Our current procurement legislation, the *Tender Board Act* of 1996, which we seek to repeal with this Bill, has been on our statute book for almost two decades and its provisions are no longer sufficient to achieve our developmental objectives. Moreover, at the time of promulgating the *Tender Board Act*, the focus was on regulatory aspects as opposed to promoting socio-economic objectives through public procurement. As a result of the evolution of the procurement function, we have resolved to reform the entire system.

The Bill lays down the legal framework for in-depth reforms to our Public Procurement System, which is essential to implement our Expenditure and Development Programmes in a manner to achieve value for money with higher level of efficiency and effectiveness.

Before concluding this draft Bill, extensive research was done on the different legal frameworks that exist in both developed and developing countries, hence the Bill is inspired by international trends and best practices. Most importantly, we have crafted it to meet the unique needs of Namibia.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, public procurement is increasingly being used as a strategic tool to achieve policy objectives. Governments realise that significant savings can be achieved through a well-organised Public Procurement System characterised by a proper institutional and governance structures to ensure increased transparency, efficiency, accountability, integrity and value for money, thus enhancing public trust in the system.

The proposed legal framework will regulate all procurements undertaken by public bodies from the process of identification of needs to delivery. It goes beyond compliance to rules and serves as a lever for policy implementation and puts particular emphasis on stimulating economic growth through a series of preferences to local businesses, industries and socially and historically disadvantaged groups.

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**PUBLIC PROCUREMENT BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

The key elements of the proposed Bill are:

- a) The institutional structure for public procurement;
- b) The establishment of efficient and transparent procurement methods and processes, which enable public bodies to address any procurement needs in any given circumstances;
- c) The provision of transparent and efficient procurement processes;
- d) Introduction of framework agreements;
- e) Preferences to boost the participation of local bidders, including previously disadvantaged and racially discriminated groups;
- f) Integrity provisions to control unethical conduct, abuses, conflicts of interests and corruption; and
- g) Prescribing severe sanctions to defaulters.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, let me now discuss briefly some key elements of the proposed Bill.

The Procurement Policy Office

While the Minister determines the Policy, the Bill, establishes a Procurement Policy Office, a specialised office with a core function of advising the Minister on Policies and translating policy into guidelines, standards and manuals required to maintain an internationally competitive public procurement system in Namibia.

The ancillary functions of the Procurement Policy Office include, amongst others, recommending thresholds, setting mandatory training standards, capacity building and competence levels, developing performance assessment systems, monitoring compliance with the Bill, disqualifying, debarring and suspending suppliers, conducting investigations where

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**PUBLIC PROCUREMENT BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

necessary; and performing any other function as the Minister may direct.

The Central Procurement Board

The Central Procurement Board will replace the current Tender Board and will operate at a heightened level of efficiency and accountability. Its main responsibility will be to cater for procurement of high-value contracts, as per the prescribed threshold. This is to be taken note of, it is not to adjudicate over all tenders, but only high value tenders that are above a threshold that will be prescribed by the Minister. Among its functions, it will have to vet bidding documents prepared and submitted by public bodies, invite bids, receive bids and approve the award of the contracts. As I have indicated, the membership of the board will no longer be drawn from officials of the Public Service on account of the offices that they hold, as is presently the case, but will be made up of experts on account of their expertise and experience.

The Procurement Committees

The Procurement Committees in public bodies is created to provide the proper structure for the award of procurement contracts within the threshold set for public bodies, which will further enhance the efficiency in the award of contracts and delivery of public services to the public. The Procurement Management Units will provide the required technical support to the Procurement Committee and to the Accounting Officer of the public body.

The Review Panel

The Review Panel is established to deal with applications for administrative review from aggrieved bidders, who are still not satisfied after having challenged procurement proceedings at the level of the Central Procurement Board or the public body. The Review Panel will issue decisions, which must be implemented by the Central Procurement Board or the public body. The intention is to provide for the speedy resolution of such complaints, which will minimise the frequency of

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**PUBLIC PROCUREMENT BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

bidders' recourse to Court actions.

Procurement Methods

Honourable Speaker, among the variety of procurement methods that will be available, open advertised bidding will be the default procurement method. In the event that the public body has reason to believe that open advertised bidding does not support the empowerment and other socio-economic policies of our Government, other methods of procurement may be used. Therefore, they will not be forced to seek for tender exemption and be relived from complying with all the provisions, but there will be alternate methods of adjudicating the process.

Framework Agreements

The Bill provides for the use of framework agreements for goods and services the need of which recur on a repetitive basis and also for the aggregation of requirements of all public bodies in respect of common use items and assigning responsibility for their procurement to lead organisations. Such an arrangement will not only allow for substantial savings from economies of scale, but will also avoid duplication of efforts by the various public bodies.

Procurement Processes

The conduct of the procurement processes is governed by clear rules, which will be supplemented by regulations, directives, guidelines and instructions. These rules are essential for the achievement of transparency, accountability, fairness, effective competition and value for money. They relate to compliance requirements for performing key functions in the process ranging from procurement planning to award of contract. A public body cannot afford to depart from the application of these provisions, which may be subject of challenge and application for review. Strict compliance enhances public confidence in the procurement system as it offers predictability of the process.

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**PUBLIC PROCUREMENT BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

The Object of the Bill

Another essential object of this Bill is to promote the **empowerment of Namibian women and youth** by creating economic opportunities for them and enhancing their participation in the mainstream economy.

Preferential Treatment

It further provides for **preferential treatment** in the allocation of procurement contracts and the advancement of persons or categories of persons who have been disadvantaged by past racial discriminatory Laws or practices. This category would make sure that others that were left out, who are not youth or women, would be reached.

Sourcing of Local Products

The Bill further promotes sourcing of local products, industrialisation, local entrepreneurial development through Government approved policies and job creation.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, no public procurement reform initiative is complete without the introduction of Information Technology. The Bill introduces e-procurement as a means of simplified, easily accessible and transparent procurement and requires guidelines to be issued in that regard. The Bill further empowers the Minister to make regulations on the adoption of e-procurement for different stages and methods of procurement. These procedures specified in this Act are deemed to be modified for substituting written communication by e-communication in the manner that improves competition, efficiency and transparency without affecting the sanctity, security and recording of such communication and the information contained therein.

Competent staff constitutes a key element for the effective management of the procurement system. Skills and capacity development is essential for the smooth operation of a procurement system. Through this Bill, Government intends to develop and establish a dedicated professional cadre to handle public procurement activities. It will be the mandate of

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HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

the Procurement Policy Office to help establish such a cadre, as well as to develop and implement professional Development Programmes to enhance capacity and provide training opportunities not only to public officials, but also to potential procurement officials by partnering with training institutions. Programmes will also be run to train bidders and potential beneficiaries of Government initiatives that are intended to promote socially disadvantaged groups.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, before I conclude I would like to say that the establishment of the Procurement Committees and the Procurement Management Unit would not only ensure that there is a delegation of some functions from the Central Procurement Board to public bodies, which are Ministries and State-Owned Enterprises, but that we would also achieve the same improvement in the organisation of our procurement activities at Local Authorities and Regional Councils level and that we are better enabled as Ministries to delegate some of our functions in line with the *Decentralisation Act* and Policy of Government to the Regional Councils. When that has happened the Regional Councils would then also be able to adjudicate over the procurement within their Regions without having to rely on Ministries. It is very important to note that decentralisation in Namibia is to be undertaken in terms of the *Decentralisation Act*. We cannot try to implement it through the *Procurement Act* or through the *State Finance Act*, it has to be governed by the *Decentralisation Act* where ministries have to identify the activities that would be delegated to the Regional Councils, the resources that are required and ensure that they are so delegated to the appropriate structures. When that has happened, they will now fall under the jurisdiction of the Procurement Committees and the Procurement Management Unit and the accounting officers at those levels. The Policy Office would then be ready to go to those structures and provide the support that it is empowered to provide in terms of this Bill.

To conclude, I would say that the Bill has been drafted with the objective of ensuring competition, transparency, probity, quality, efficiency and economy in public procurement. Apart from addressing the main concerns of the Government concerning the inadequacies of the current Act, I am glad to state that the Bill is substantially in line with

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**PUBLIC PROCUREMENT BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

international trends and best practices.

Above all, it allows the use of Public Procurement as a strategic tool to achieve socio-economic objectives and to promote the growth of Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises, as well as socially disadvantaged groups.

Finally, it fosters probity by not only empowering the institutions, but also by empowering the people who are going to manage the system. The Bill specifically states that a public official shall act without fear and favour and this applies to any public official involved at any stage of the procurement process.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is because of the need for us to undertake this review in order to align our system with best practices that it has taken us this long to get to this point and I am happy that the work that we have done has significantly enriched this proposal that is brought to this House for consideration and approval.

It is now my pleasure to ask the Honourable Members of this august House to consider this *Public Procurement Bill* for adoption.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister. That is the *Public Procurement Bill* tabled before this Honourable House for consideration by one and all. Any further discussion? Honourable Maamberua.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I Move that the Debate be adjourned until next week, Tuesday.

HON SPEAKER: If there is no other Honourable Members who, at this stage wishes to make a contribution, then I yield the Floor to Honourable Maamberua who is deferring further consideration of the Bill until next

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ADJOURNMENT

week Tuesday. Is that the pleasure of the House? The Debate is adjourned until Tuesday, next week.

The House stands adjourned until Tuesday, next week.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:15 UNTIL 2013.09.24 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
24 SEPTEMBER 2013**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment

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

HON SPEAKER: We commence the Business as scheduled for today. Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Honourable Dingara

**TABLING: REPORT ON STUDY VISIT TO
PARLIAMENT OF ESTONIA**

HON DINGARA: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table for consideration on Wednesday, 25 September, the Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information and Communication Technology on the Study Visit to the Parliament of Estonia.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please table the Report. Any further Reports and Papers? Minister of Finance.

TABLING: REPORTS OF AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON DR KAWANA**

- (i) Office of the Prime Minister;
- (ii) Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry;
- (iii) Minister of Justice;
- (iv) Ministry of Health and Social Services;
- (v) Ministry of Information and Communication Technology;
- (vi) Electoral Commission

for the Financial Year ended March 31 2012.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister please table the Reports? Honourable Kawana.

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT:
NAMIBIA STATISTICS AGENCY**

**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND
ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Annual Report of the Namibia Statistics Agency for the year 2012/2013.

HON SPEAKER: Any Notice of Questions? Honourable Moongo.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 30:

HON MOONGO: I give Notice that on Thursday, the 3rd of October 2013, I shall ask the Minister of Trade and Industry:

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON TJIHUIKO**

1. Is the Minister aware that there are systematic malpractices of discriminatory nature practised by many foreign businesses by donating old clothes and other commodities whose quality dropped to the level that they are no more marketable or profitable to the charity organisations of their respective countries? Why do they ignore poor Namibian charity organisations, why do they not share it?
2. Can the Minister explain or initiate and regulate a better system that can benefit all countries concerned?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please table the Questions. Honourable Tjihuiko.

QUESTION 31:

HON TJIHUIKO: I give Notice that on the 3rd of October 2013, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry the following questions:

On November 28, 2012, this Honourable Chamber adopted a Motion by myself on water debts owed to NamWater by rural households and communal farmers. The Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry in his concluding remarks said the following:

“The Government of the Republic of Namibia was, is and shall continue to actively be seized with Programmes, project matters and initiatives not only to provide or supply clean drinking water for human, animal and plant consumption, but will also continue to be seized with the issue related to the affordability of water, particularly to the very poor of our country and our Nation. In this regard, Cabinet, on recommendation of the line Ministry, took a very important decision with regard to potable water and means of subsidising water supply by the State through

24 September 2013

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON TJIHUIKO**

Government for and to the very genuine poor of our country and our Nation.”

The Honourable Minister went on to say:

“Cabinet took a decision on the 2nd of October 2012 through Cabinet Decision No. 17 of the 2nd/2012: In principle and in line with applicable policies, the Government, through the Line Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry that accepted the recommendation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee as outlined and recommended by the Committee.”

These are the recommendations that the Minister was referring to:

“That since there is no chance in recouping inherited debts, which are debts owed to NamWater, by the deceased and migrant relatives, the Committee recommended that such debts should be written off. That since there is no clear practical cooperation between NamWater and the Directorate: Rural Water Supply, Government through the Directorate: Rural Water Supply should assume the responsibility of supplying water and that the Directorate should be empowered and resourced to be able to carry out that function. That to avoid any escalation of debts, NamWater, through the Line Ministry, should inform Government about communities under financial stress, thus likely to default on water payments so that appropriate measures can be taken in good time. That the Line Ministry should consider providing individual households with their own meters in order to control their water consumption. That since Government will be subsidising water, the current debt should be written off. That to deal with underground water leakage and pipe bursts, TIPEEG funds should be used to fast-track the replacement of old and damaged water infrastructure. That to ensure that poor rural communities have access to potable water, the Committee recommends that water tariffs should be based on cost-recovery basis”.

1. Is it true that after the adoption of the abovementioned recommendation by the National Assembly, poor Namibian communities are still being denied access to water through water cuts

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON TJIHUIKO**

by NamWater?

2. What has your Ministry done to implement the abovementioned recommendations?

QUESTION 32:

HON TJIHUIKO: I give Notice that on Thursday, the 2nd of October 2013, I shall ask the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry:

1. Is it true that the supply of water of Okaku Constituency has been disconnected by Rural Water Supply?
2. Can the Honourable Minister also confirm that residents of Okaku Constituency have indeed paid their debts, but water supply to the community has not yet been reconnected? Why has it not been reconnected, Honourable Minister?
3. For the information of this Chamber and the public out there, which Law, whether the *NamWater Act* or any other Act of Parliament, authorises Government institutions to deny humans or animals access to water?
4. Cutting water to poor communities in the middle of this devastating drought, where is the Ruling Party's moral responsibility to the poor previously disadvantaged Namibians that they claim to represent?

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

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

24 September 2013

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON MUHEUA**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that tomorrow, Wednesday, 25 September 2013, I shall Move –

That this Assembly –

Appoints Ms Margeret Sezuni as a member of the Employment Equity Commission as endorsed by Cabinet in terms of Section 6 and 7(2) of the *Affirmative Action (Employment) Act*, 1998 (Act 29 of 1998).

HON SPEAKER: Any further Notice of Motions? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING
PUBLIC PROCUREMENT BILL [B.7 – 2013]**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – *Public Procurement Bill* [B.7 – 2013].

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, 18 September 2013, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable Maamberua adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I think we are busy with a very critical and yet, also important Bill before us. Also taking cognisance of one of the objects of this Bill, that it is also

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PUBLIC PROCUREMENT BILL
HON UUTONI

to promote the empowerment of Namibian women and youth by creating economic opportunities for them and enhancing their participation in the mainstream economy, as stated in the Minister's statement, given the complexity of the Bill, particularly the legal dimensions, we had some consultations with the Chief Whips of Political Parties represented here and I should also stress the fact that nowhere is it clearly indicated that broader consultations with particularly the groups being mentioned in the statement have ever taken place, and also looking at the need for workshops and public hearings, I, therefore, wish to propose that this Bill be referred to Joint Committees of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and the Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration for further consideration, in-depth analysis and for all the above reasons that I have enumerated. I thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Member. Honourable Uutoni.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I also want to touch on some of the points in the new *Procurement Bill*. This Bill is a very important one and in the first place I want to thank the Minister of Finance and staff for tabling such an important Bill.

Honourable Minister, I have some questions that need clarity and one is emerging from Page 11, Section 8 which deals with the Executive Director and Directors. The Executive Director will be appointed to the Policy Office and to me this seems to be a high-level office or institution. Immediately this person is appointed he or she has to enter into a contractual agreement with the Minister, which I feel is good as people have now started entering into performance agreements, which has not been the practice in the past. (Intervention)

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HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Honourable Speaker, I am not quite following whether the Honourable Member is talking on the proposal by Honourable Maamberua or what your Ruling is, on the proposal.

HON SPEAKER: He is making a contribution. Those kinds of proposals are made after deliberations. Continue.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I want to apologise to my Colleague who has the Floor for interrupting, but I was informed that there were prior consultations amongst the Chief Whips of Political Parties that concluded that given the technical nature of the Bill, they would benefit from a detailed presentation by the Ministry of Finance on the Bill at a workshop to be organised for the Members of Parliament. My understanding was that this was going to be a workshop, not necessarily that the Bill will be referred to the Committee yet. The workshop is only to enable the office to provide detailed explanations, which I could not provide in the statement, so that you would go into the Debate with a clearer understanding. If after the Debate we find that we want to refer the Bill to the Committee, it is still our prerogative to do that.

I thought there was an understanding that if we were to go that route, we would probably not delve into the Debate until that workshop has been conducted. That was my understanding, but I was not a participant in these consultations, I can be corrected.

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: I would like to confirm that that was the spirit of our understanding and the consultations that we conducted, that we would basically provide an opportunity for Members of Parliament to meet in a parliamentary workshop format to digest the Bill and also to receive the kind of explanations the Minister of Finance is referring to.

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That was really the understanding and I hope the House will give us the necessary support for that.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Uutoni, sorry for delaying your contribution. Continue.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Honourable Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to continue my contribution to the Bill.

What I wanted to find out from the Honourable Minister of Finance is (intervention).

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, there is a proposal that Members want a better understanding of the Bill and they want to have a parliamentary workshop, whereby the Minister will come and give more information. Thereafter the Debate will start.

HON SPEAKER: That should have been the first thing the Minister should have guided us to do when we started and we would not have gone into this confusion. I overruled the contribution by Honourable Maamberua on the understanding that we were beginning to discuss the Motion by the Minister. I should have been advised right at the beginning even before Honourable Maamberua spoke that there is an understanding that there should be a workshop preceding this. Then I would have proceeded to other items.

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HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I wanted to explain that I was advised that it was agreed that Honourable Maamberua would rise today to give that indication, rather than to make a contribution. That was the reason why I did not make an announcement, because I was expecting Honourable Maamberua to say what I just said. I only rose when I realised there was a miscommunication between Honourable Maamberua and the Chairperson of the Committee. The unfortunate situation is that the Speaker may not have been in the picture, but I thought he was.

What is being proposed is that the Debate does not start today, that it is adjourned to a date agreed by the two Parliamentary Committees. The date of the workshop will have to be agreed by the Committee Members. We should be able to conduct our workshop this week and then resume the Debate next week, Tuesday.

HON SPEAKER: On that understanding, further consideration of this Motion stands adjourned until Tuesday, next week. The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

**CONSIDERATION: REPORT ON 28TH ASSEMBLY
AND RELATED MEETINGS OF THE IPU**

SECRETARY: Consideration of the Report of the Parliament Standing Committee on the 28th Assembly and related meetings of the IPU.

HON SPEAKER: Does Honourable Dr Amweelo Move that the Report be considered?

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**REPORT ON 28TH IPU ASSEMBLY
HON DR AMWEELO**

HON DR AMWEELO: I so Move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: You have the Floor Honourable Amweelo.

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House. I kindly seek your permission to allow me to briefly highlight what is contained in the Report on the 28th Assembly and related meetings held in Quito Ecuador from 19 to 27 March 2013.

The Quito Assembly brought together more than 1,198 delegates, including 619 MPs from 118 countries – 202 women MPs, in other words, 32%, 33 Presiding Officers and 38 Deputy Presiding Officers.

The principal theme of the 128th IPU Assembly and related meetings was *from unrelenting growth to purposeful development “Buen Vivir”*. New approaches, new solutions. The theme reflects the growing concern around the world that something is amiss in the way we think about development and, more generally, about progress.

Buen Vivir in English basically means well-being or a good life. In Africa we refer to *ubuntu*, a Swahili word describing the awareness of community, mutual commitment and care among community members. The question is, do we practise the principle of *ubuntu* as the leaders of Government and representatives of the people and as a community?

In the final Quito Communiqué which is attached to the Report it is stated that: *“Sustainable development is now at crossroads. In a finite world, the perennial cycle of increasing consumption and production that is at the heart of the current economic model is no longer sustainable.”*

The Assembly adopted an emergency item, titled, *“The Role of the Parliaments in addressing the security and humanitarian impact of the*

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crisis in Syria and in bringing pressure to bear on their Governments to assume their international and humanitarian responsibility towards Syrian refugees and to support the neighbouring countries that receive them.” Most of us, I believe, are following the current developments and events as they unfold in Syria.

IPU First Standing Committee on Peace and International Security adopted a resolution on enforcing the responsibility to protect the role of Parliament in safeguarding civilians’ lives. The Resolution calls on Parliaments and Governments to do everything they can to safeguard the lives of civilians in conflicts, paying particular attention to women and children.

The IPU Second Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade adopted a Resolution on fair trade and innovative finance mechanism for sustainable development. Parliamentarians and the IPU were urged to take the lead in advocating fair trade as a means of ensuring sustainable development.

The IPU Third Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights adopted a Resolution on the use of the media, including social media to enhance citizen engagement and democracy. The resolution calls on Parliaments, in addition to the usage of television and radio, to use social media to inform and engage with citizens, in other words, to use ICT and to protect the rights to freedom of expression and of life. The Resolution also underscores that a free, open and accessible Internet is both a fundamental human right and a tool for citizen engagement. I am aware that our Parliament right now is in the process to upgrade and improve the Parliament’s website. I, therefore request the Secretary of the National Assembly to ensure that this project is completed without delay.

Furthermore, I encourage our Secretariat and Honourable Members to feed the website with new and fresh information, because the website is just like a newspaper. We ourselves as MPs need to feed our website with information.

Honourable Speaker, I also want to mention that during the recess period

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MPs and staff attended a seminar on Public Relations, Media and Communication in Swakopmund where we gained a lot of information and skills so that in future we can engage with the media, because MPs are doing many things but the communities do not know what they are doing. Therefore, it is very important for us to engage with the media to report what we are doing.

MPs has a code for democratic governance to be included as a stand-alone goal in a new development agenda to replace the Millennium Development Goals when they expire in 2015 to Millennium Sustainable Development Goals. Members of the IPU declared that it was more important than ever for Parliament to assert their legitimate place in the decision-making process at national and international levels and for Parliaments to be strengthened across the world to allow greater oversight and legislative authority.

Parliaments across the world have been urged to take a much tougher approach to sexual violence, in particular to rape. Our Honourable Speaker this year tabled an unopposed Motion on violence against women and children. Our Parliament also concluded the Debate on a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration addressing the widespread violence against women and children.

Furthermore, we need to take the IPU resolutions downwards to our Regions, Constituencies and villages.

The IPU Assembly also noted that too many MPs in the word are being targeted, intimidated and harassed, which is nothing else but an attack on democracy itself.

The Meeting of Young Parliamentarians adopted the proposal for the establishment of a Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU.

The following workshops and panel sessions were also held concurrently with the Assembly:

1. Development in Danger: Filling Legislative Gaps to Combat

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HON RIRUAKO / HON NUJOMA**

Tomorrow's Natural Disaster.

As we are all aware, our country is currently hosting COP 11 on combating desertification, land degradation and drought. Those are some of the contributing factors of natural disasters.

2. Meeting of Parliamentary Whips, addressing the rights of children with disabilities and ensuring accountability for women and children's health.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, once the Report is endorsed in this House, it will be submitted to the various Line Ministries for implementation. I thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members.

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

HON RIRUAKO: Mr Speaker, I thank Honourable Amweelo, but we are discussing about the accommodation of homosexuals and this is not mentioned. Could he elaborate on that? I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable Nujoma.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker, I would like to thank Honourable Dr Amweelo for his very elaborate Report. I just wanted to ask Honourable Amweelo a question.

Honourable Amweelo, you presented the Report of the IPU, which is very clear on several issues, Syria included, violence against women and so

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HON KAZENAMBO**

many other developmental challenges, but then you again brought in the Report of Swakopmund and I got confused as to whether it is Swakop or IPU.

I also wanted to hear the views of the other MPs with regard to the situation in Syria, because there was this threat of military action (intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Minister, I think that goes beyond the Report. Honourable Kazenambo.

HON KAZENAMBO: Thank you Comrade Speaker. I thank Comrade Amweelo for tabling this IPU Report. Maybe before I continue, a general enquiry: When Reports like these are tabled here, what mechanisms do we have in place to follow up the issues raised in this Report, to act on them, etcetera? That is a prelude in the form of a question.

Having asked that, on Page 12 of the Report, 2.5, mention is made of the Second Standing Committee on Sustainable Development , Finance and Trade. I understand Comrade Amweelo is quoted on Page 15: *“That Dr Amweelo of Namibia, recalling decisions and resolutions adopted by the international community with regard to innovative mechanisms, stated that his country did not have a legal instrument in place to monitor and regulate fair trade. However steps are being taken to address the shortcoming and technical assistance and capacity-building were needed. Although the principles of fair trade were positive, measures needed to be taken to ensure that producers in developing countries benefited from the system.”*

I wonder if these mechanisms for fair trade are in place and if they are in place, as stated here, I would be interested to know who is steering this mechanism. Is it the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Finance, because fair trade is a very big issue in economics and it would

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be of great interest for one to know where are these mechanisms as stated here. There are many people, be it livestock farmers, crop farmers, across this continent who are grappling with the issue of marketing their products and many farmers and business people are grappling with accessing finance in the rural areas. Do these mechanisms exist in the form of cooperatives, are they in-house at the retail banks? Are there mechanisms at the Development Bank of Namibia or are we talking about the SME Bank here? What mechanisms are here and in what context does this all link to World Trade Organisation instruments? Maybe that is the question I would like to note and a progressive statement that I would like to associate myself with, that Namibia needs to address the issue of fair trade as a subject.

Another topic contained in this Report is on Page 16, 2.6, Third Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights: The use of media, including social media, to advance citizens' engagement in democracy.

It is very heartening that IPU is discussing this issue. Again, I will be interested in knowing what is the position of Namibia as a country and the society in the issue of social media in terms of having legal instruments in place. The issues of human rights and democracy are very critical and democracy is one of the very important institutions for a country to develop. It is an economic tool, because if you have democracy, free people can contribute to economic growth with the production of goods and services.

However, my point goes to the point of social media. I want to know what instruments the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology has in place to address the issue of social media, because we know that Facebook is being used in this country. Our President has baptised it "Bookface". "Bookface" in this country is being used to malign people, to denigrate people, to violate fundamental human rights of individuals. One of my good lawyers wanted to sue somebody whom I think is very poor, but we are ready to sue him. I will not mention his name, but we are ready, we did our research to sue the person, but because of the spirit of national reconciliation that also prevailed in our Congress last year, we decided otherwise. However, the fact remains (intervention).

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HON SPEAKER: I am not quite sure that is where Honourable Amweelo's Report is leading to. I do not think Honourable Amweelo is competent enough to make judgments about those who are using social media to malign other citizens. I did not understand Honourable Amweelo's Report to be suggesting that.

HON KAZENAMBO: That is exactly the point that I am trying to search for an answer. I am not questioning Dr Amweelo's competencies, it is not in my nature, I am not a professor, I am not examining anybody here, but Comrade Speaker, when are we in Namibia going to come up with legal instruments and Policies, Laws and Bills that address this subject? (Intervention).

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Speaker, I agree with the way the Honourable Member is presenting his case, but I can see two things: One, the Report on the Table and the issue that he is addressing. Do you not think, Honourable Member, that the issue that you are trying to address now, the issue of Facebook, the Laws in Namibia, that it can be discussed at a different platform so that we go into that and at the present moment only concentrate on the Report of the Honourable Member that you have just said he is incapable or whatever you said. I will Move a Motion next week, then we discuss that matter.

HON KAZENAMBO: I hope the Honourable Member is not joking as usual, but since he is saying that he is going to Move a Motion to discuss this issue, I will not go into detail. However, my contribution was aimed at Honourable Amweelo's progressive and competent Report tabled here. I understand IPU is a body of Parliaments and the Namibian Parliament is one, therefore, I was just thinking, how do we connect the issues that are being raised at the IPU with those affecting us, such as the use of social

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media in Namibia, which also borders on the issue of human rights? If it is true that Honourable Tjiuiko will bring a Motion here so that we can debate it here, my concern is addressed. I support the Report.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Amweelo.

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you very much. *Honourable Kazenambo*, with regard to the social media, the IPU discussed the use of social media as a part of ICT. All we are saying is that we need to shift from manual to automatic or to migrate from analog to digital. In order to inform the grassroots, it would also be good to use the Internet, because then information will be flowing very fast. Therefore, the IPU said the countries should start thinking about using social media and Internet in order to inform all the people.

Honourable Riruako, the IPU discussed sexual violence as our Parliament has been doing and what needs to be done. We as MPs need to go further and inform our people about whatever the IPU discussed. IPU is just a Parliament like this one, only that it is international.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Amweelo, what I did not like is that you introduced homosexuality in order to defend sexual violence and we are not here to defend homosexuals. In Africa we have a culture that we cannot throw out the window. You have to come and discuss it in a very clear language.

HON SPEAKER: I did not get that.

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HON DR KAWANA / HON DR AMWEELO

HON RIRUAKO: I mentioned the protection of homosexuals. They can even get married here. Why do we have those kinds of things from other countries with their cultures to change us indirectly? Come up and explain that to us.

HON DR AMWEELO: Honourable Riruako, I repeat that Parliaments across the world have been urged to take a much tougher approach to sexual violence Regions. We are not protecting homosexuals, we are against homosexuality.

HON SPEAKER: I do not want us to go there. Let us listen to one another and not attribute implications of what you are saying. Attorney-General.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Speaker, I think the Honourable Chief is correct, because on Page 4 of the Report, Paragraph 2.3 reads: *“That homosexuals are entitled to full rights of citizenship. It is the role of Parliaments to pass legislation that discriminates homosexuality and homosexual acts between consenting adults.”* This was proposed by New Zealand. But I think in terms of our Laws it was thrown out by even our Supreme Court and currently it is a criminal offence. I think that is what the Honourable Chief was trying to explain.

HON DR AMWEELO: This proposal was not adopted by the IPU, nobody accepted it. Honourable Riruako, the IPU emphasised an urgency to take a much tougher approach to sexual violence.

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HON DR GURIRAB / HON DR AMWEELO / HON TJIHUIKO**

HON SPEAKER: As a recent President of the IPU, maybe there is a need for advice, that we should not bring here everything that IPU discusses, we should screen some of the things and leave out things which are irrelevant to our National Assembly. It is your Report that provoked the question and that is what the Attorney-General is clarifying. A lot of things that are discussed there are not relevant to us, therefore we should screen what we are bringing to our Chamber.

HON DR AMWEELO: This Report, once endorsed by Parliament, will be referred to the Ministries concerned for implementation and what is lacking needs to be initiated. The IPU is an international organisation and it recommends the implementation of that which does not exist.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, on the same Page 4, it is also clear that: *“After taking the Floor the delegation from New Zealand and Mexico decided to withdraw their proposals and instead submit them for consideration to the Third Standing Committee on Democracy and Human rights”* So, the Motion was actually withdrawn.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? I put the Question, that the Report be adopted. So decided. The Right Honourable Prime Minister will adjourn the House until tomorrow afternoon.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, I Move that this House now adjourns until tomorrow, 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:04 UNTIL 2013.09.25 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
25 SEPTEMBER 2013**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment

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

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

HON SPEAKER: I ask you to remain standing as I call the name of Reverend B G Karuaera who passed on Monday, 23rd. He is one of the heroes of our country, part of the struggle of the past, a traditional leader and a great man who knew the beginnings of our phase of the struggle very well. It is a great loss to the Nation, to his community, to his church and certainly to those of us who have come to know and respect him dearly. We will observe a minute of silence.

THE HOUSE OBSERVES A MINUTE OF SILENCE

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

**TABLING: REPORT OF 4TH WEST-AFRICA
ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEES**

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON DR AMWEELO / HON WITBOOI
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

HON DR AMWEELO: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table for note-taking, the Report on the Fourth West-Africa Association of Public Accounts Committees (WAAPAC) held in Banjul, Gambia from 1 – 5 July 2013.

HON SPEAKER: Please table the Report. Honourable Witbooi.

TABLING: REPORT OF 59TH CPA CONFERENCE

HON WITBOOI: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table for note-taking, the Report of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Namibia Branch Parliamentary Delegation to the 59th CPA International Conference held at Sandton, South Africa from the 2nd to 6th September 2013.

HON SPEAKER: I congratulate you for leadership in that organisation. It is good for Namibia. Minister of Finance.

TABLING: REPORTS OF AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

- i. Office of the President;

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HON VON WIETERSHEIM**

- ii. Department of Police of the Ministry of Safety and Security;
- iii. Department of Works of the Ministry of Works and Transport;
- iv. Department of Transport of the Ministry of Works and Transport;
and
- v. Ministry of Finance

All for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2012.

HON SPEAKER: Notice of Questions? Honourable Von Wietersheim.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 33:

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 3rd of October 2013, I shall ask the Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture the following:

1. Since the Honourable Minister was not prepared to answer to the media the perfectly legitimate question about the cost incurred for the erection of the statue at Ongulumbashe, I want the Minister to share that information with this Assembly, being the responsible and accountable institution for the Budget.
2. The Minister expressed the opinion that the value of the statue was of no importance and I wish to know from the Minister how he explains his frivolous remark that "*it does not matter whether it costs 10 million or 10 billion*" to those who scrape a living from the dumpsites or to that majority of our people who struggle to make ends meet and for whose social conditions this Assembly is responsible and accountable for.

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HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

3. Can the Honourable Minister please inform this Assembly where in his Budget provision was made for this expenditure I hardly expected to be classified as development expenditure?
4. Can the Minister furthermore inform this Assembly about the exact total amount which was spent for its participation at the Ongwediva Trade Fair as well as what each expenditure entailed and from which Budget Provision these expenses were covered?

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

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: Honourable Speaker, I Move an Unopposed Motion:

That this Assembly, on behalf of the Parliament of the Republic of Namibia,

- *Recognising* the long-standing historical ties, the strong bond of friendship and growing excellent bilateral relations between Namibia and Cuba;
- *Recalling* the selfless sacrifices and enormous contribution made by the brave sons and daughters of Cuba towards Namibia's protracted struggle for national Independence from the yoke of colonialism and Apartheid;
- *Given* the long history of aggression as well as persistent and unfounded allegations at international fora against Cuba by successive administrations of the United States of America;

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- *Convinced* that the Cuban people have long suffered from severe and excessive economic blockade imposed by the successive administrations of the United States of America on Cuba;
- *Conscious* of the fact that successive administrations of the United States of America had continued to illegally occupy part of the Cuban territory in Guantamo, and included Cuba on the US unilateral and unfounded list of countries promoting terrorism and human trafficking;
- *Aware* of the imprisonment of the five Cuban nationals who are unjustifiably accused of espionage and currently being held in the United States of America's maximum security prisons without access to fair trial;
- *Taking note* of the fact that the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention considered the trial and conviction of the five Cuban nationals by the current administration of the United States of America, arbitrary, illegally and without being backed by evidence, thus violating the basic human rights and civil liberties; and
- *Whereas* family members of the Cuban Five visited the National Assembly of the Republic of Namibia in 2007, during which visit they were accorded overwhelming solidarity and support for the plight of the Cuban Five by Members of this National Assembly by way of a Motion;

Therefore and wherefore

Call for the immediate and unconditional release of the Cuban Five;

Demand the lifting of the inhuman and unjustifiable economic blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba;

Further demand the immediate and unconditional closure of the United States of America's base in Guantanamo Bay in the Republic of Cuba;

Affirm once again our support for the Cuban Revolution that has given the

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON NAMOLOH**

Cuban people sovereignty, dignity, education, health and other significant achievements.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to formally inform this august House about the Mass Housing Development Programme.

His Excellency Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia early this year appointed the members of the National Committee on Mass Housing Development to which he is the Chairperson. The committee comprises of the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development as Deputy Chair, Minister of Presidential Affairs, the Minister of Finance and the National Planning Commission. We were tasked to come up with ideas and to accelerate housing delivery. Therefore, this initiative is an accelerated continuation of the existing Housing Programmes that the Government of the Republic of Namibia, in general, and my predecessors, in particular, together with the other stakeholders have been working on to deliver houses that are economically sustainable and create a positive social impact in the community at a fast-tracked rate.

To date the national housing backlog is estimated at 100,000 units and this

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number is growing at an alarming rate per annum.

Honourable Speaker, this Programme forms part of a national policy and strategic objectives which requires the involvement and participation of all Regional and Local Authorities and other stakeholders for it to succeed. The Programme will cover urban and rural areas in all the fourteen Regions with the aim to satisfy the housing market need for the next eighteen years in line with Vision 2030.

I, therefore, call upon you, Honourable Members, compatriots and friends to fully engage in this Programme and direct all concerted efforts to the implementation of this project so that one day Namibia will be rid of all informal settlements and for each Namibian to have a decent house.

The Mass Housing Development Programme is designed in such a way that it addresses all key housing development aspects for improved and accelerated delivery of affordable housing in the country.

Honourable Speaker, financing of this Programme will be done through Government grants to be channelled through the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development to Local Authorities and the NHE, resources mobilisation through Public-Private Partnership, debt financing and household savings.

The funding would be used to resource areas or components of the Programme, as mentioned earlier, such as servicing of land and the construction of houses. As a Government we took cognisance of the capacity that exists in the country with respect to executing the implementation of this Programme. Notwithstanding such, the Government will keep the option of importing foreign expertise to supplement the local capacity as the need may be. Equally, Government will also explore an option to supplement the local supplies with any other resources that are affordable.

However, there will be a need to strengthen the capacity of institutions, particularly those that will be involved in the implementation of the institutional mechanisms at all levels of the programme execution.

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It is for this reason that the Programme provides for capacity-building and strengthening the legislative, regulatory and policy environment through the Programme's lifespan.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, this Mass Housing Development Programme will be executed through two phases. The first phase of the Programme is to be implemented during the first two years, 2013/2014 and 2014/2015, which constitutes pilot projects targeting urban capital centres in the fourteen Regions. Therefore, the Programme will be rolled out to other localities during the second phase, which will run up to 2030.

Recognition has also been given for the need of some flexibilities of the Programme and the National Ministerial Committee will exercise the discretion to identify other localities for programme implementation during the first phase should some capital centres not be ready. This is critical to allow quick programme implementation in all the Regions where serviced land is available.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, a robust procurement and tendering system will be used to secure the services of companies and entities that will be involved in the implementation of the Programme. The aim is to have a transparent way and mechanisms of dealing with procurement without subjecting the Programme to cumbersome and bureaucratic processes. Hence a dual tendering system will be applicable, involving the tendering system of NHE as well as the Decentralisation Procurement System of the Government.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, as alluded earlier, all Regional Councils and Local Authorities will have a role to play in the execution of the Mass Housing Development Programme. I am, therefore, glad to note that the blueprint document clearly outlines the roles of all these stakeholders as they relate to various components of the Programme and I am informed that this blueprint has been forwarded to the Parliamentary Committee on Human Resources, Social and Community Development.

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ANNOUNCEMENT
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA

Honourable Speaker, next month the Programme will be launched by His Excellency the President by way of ground-breaking. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister. Minister of Finance.

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I just wanted to announce that I have circulate an Explanatory Memorandum to the *Procurement Bill* through the Secretariat of Parliament to be a background document to the *Procurement Bill* that was distributed, in order to assist the Members to better understand the provisions of the Bill in preparation for the workshop that is organised and also for the Debate to follow. I would like to urge the Members to peruse through the document so that they would be able to effectively participate in the discussions at the workshop. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Maamberua.

**STATEMENT: 54TH ANNIVERSARY
OF SWANU**

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, I am indebted to this

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august House on the occasion marking the 54th anniversary of SWANU to provide a synoptic overview of the trials and tribulations and the long journey we have travelled in the annals of the Namibian history. I will also be sharing with you the intricacies, challenges, bolts and nuts of the current political dispensation that underpins SWANU's relevance.

I am elated by the acceptance of my request by the Honourable Speaker to address you today. The positive response is not only vindictive of the maturity of our National Assembly, that it has come of age, but is also reflective, concrete and practical demonstration that it upholds the doctrine of the right to be heard – *audi alteram partem*. As a Party we wish to convey our profound commendation and appreciation to all of you.

The deliberations on the birth of the national liberation politics that culminated in the formation of SWANU started at Katajee Hall at the Old Location in Windhoek on the 27th of September 1959. This exercise was preceded in 1958 by extensive consultations centred on the format of the political formation, that is whether or not it should take the format of the National Congresses such as that of the African National Congress or other formats. What was opted for then was a National Union, a political National Union.

The question now is: What has kept SWANU going? The answer is within our basic documents and programme of reconstruction and I quote: *“Our beliefs in the correctness of our political line, justice for our cause and unshakeable confidence.”* That is what keeps us going.

The sons and daughters of Namibia who were repositories of historical knowledge of the liberation struggle waged between the periods of 1864 to 1907 and from another period, 1915 to 1933 and between 1933 and 1958 decided on the 27th of September 1959 to form a national political organisation. Why? I quote again from our basic document and that is: *“The temporary but costly defeat of our people at the hands of their enemies were in the broader sense the cumulative effect of inadequate popular mobilisation, politically, organisationally and militarily, and the absence of genuine national unity in times of maximum danger to our*

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Nation.”

The above historical account must be seen, viewed and understood as having been the catalyst that paved the way for the birth of national liberation politics through the formation of SWANU. All Namibians were united, even the South West Africa Progressive Association (SWAPA, a student organisation), Herero Chiefs Council, Ovamboland People’s Organisation (OPO) were present and their leaders were, if so to speak, elected to the SWANU Executive.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, in pursuit of the agenda of patriotism, comradeship and solidarity, SWANU, through Comrade Gerson Hitjevi Veii, ex-President of SWANU who became the embodiment of the Namibian aspirations, was the first black Namibian to be charged under the *Sabotage Act 76* of 1962, as amended by Act 62 of 1966. His arrest, detention and subsequent conviction was based on the basis of a profound statement he made: “*The redder the blood, the sweeter our victory.*” That is a statement that he made on the 4th of December 1966. This caused him to be incarcerated at the notorious Robben Island for five years, a prison where the cream of our revolutionaries were held.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, I am not going to provide a lengthy account on the SWANU role in the liberation struggle. Suffice to say that as part of our strict policy of non-collaboration with the occupational racist Pretoria regime, we frustrated South Africa’s colonial design in Namibia to the point of their fatigue.

Honourable Speaker, I can read from the perplexed faces of our Honourable Members as they perhaps would want to know, “then what is SWANU’s relevance in the current political dispensation?” The answer lies in this: History teaches us that there is a need to have a protective network to articulate the fundamentals of a society which emerged from ashes of slavery and Apartheid colonialism of which a class is a characteristic remnant. It is pertinent to realise that before the advent of colonialism our societal arrangements were communally based and were devoid of classes. It is a fact that currently social stratification among the

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free Namibian people are pronounced, leading to contradictions between the rich and the poor, privileged and underprivileged, between the ruling class and those of subjugated people or *Le Miserables* in the words of Frantz Fanon.

The specific contributions and relevance of SWANU today as we are to celebrate our 54th anniversary:

On Health: Members would have noted that as a Party that subscribes to the elimination of inequality, we made recommendations to the Presidential Commission of Inquiry on Health to consider the viability of socialised medicine and the Commission in their recommendation concurred with this aspect to such an extent that they qualify that “*such proposition is attainable when considered against the background of the levies which are prescribed by both the MVA Fund and also the Namibian Training Authority.*” It is only a Party with a clear ideological foundation that can propose such a policy for consideration.

On Education: SWANU responded positively to the request of NIED for stakeholders to submit comments on their envisaged Basic Education Curriculum and as a Party we made constructive inputs in that regard and, therefore, I am happy to state here that copies of these submissions are freely available at SWANU Head Office.

On Genocide and Reparations: We shall recall that subsequent to SWANU’s Motion in this august House for the Government to consider renaming Independence Memorial Museum to Genocide Memorial Centre and after further consultations with some of the Executive Members, we are happy at the prospects of a statue or monument to be erected in honour of the genocide victims and we hope this will become a reality in the near future. This is an indication that Namibia is going in the right direction, provided we listen to each other’s ideas.

Our pronouncements on reparations for genocide committed against our people have helped to shape the understanding of all dimensions on this matter. For example, SWANU is advocating, in addition to the reparation to affected communities and people, that reparations also be extended to

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the State of Namibia in its own right, because as a State we have lost a lot. Namibia would not have been classified as middle-income country today had we not lost so many of our human resources. We would probably have been among the high-income countries today.

On the Land Question: Honourable Members, Comrades and friends, since SWANU's inception the Chimurenga Battle Cry, which reads as follows, "*give the land back to the people*" has been a central pillar on our political menu. There is a candid admission from all of us that the land question remains unfinished business. SWANU constantly reminds Namibia that land quality degradation and soil erosion in the northern Regions of Namibia contribute to the poor agricultural yields.

It is against this background that we are still relevant to pursue this agenda for the benefit of all our people. These examples, Honourable Members, suffice to illustrate the contributions being made by SWANU and to demonstrate its currency and relevance, contrary to the sweeping statements by some Doubting Thomases on SWANU.

Let me on behalf of the Party assure the veterans of the liberation struggle who started this political formation in 1959 that has now graduated to a political giant, that this giant is still safe and in good hands.

Honourable Members, we defend the heritage and we will abdicate or swing away from the noble cause of articulating the wishes and aspirations of our people. We are free but yet subjected to the challenges of a class society. Our preoccupation at the moment is the winning of hearts and minds of our people to support progressive ideology that is diametrically opposed to the evil greediness of capitalism. Rest assured that we will endeavour to make a constructive contribution to the Land of the Brave for the betterment of our people.

Honourable Members, Comrades and friends, fellow countrymen and women, the celebrations will be held in Swakopmund on Saturday, the 28th of September this year at the Rossmund Golf Club. The Honourable Members of this Honourable House are most welcome to join us. It is also our plea to fellow Political Parties to invite each other when Parties

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HON DR IYAMBO / HON KAZENAMBO**

have their anniversaries as a way of inculcating nurturing the spirit of political diversity and pluralism in the Land of the Brave. I thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Happy Birthday, SWANU. Honourable Iyambo.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I wish, on behalf of SWAPO of Namibia, to congratulate SWANU on its coming anniversary. Indeed, they have come a long way and, of course, as you have said yourself, that your being allowed to make a statement in this House on behalf of the coming anniversary of your Party is an indication of the maturity of democracy, I want to assure you from our side of SWAPO that as long as SWAPO is in charge of the affairs of this country, democracy will continue to reign. We wish you all the best. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kazenambo.

HON KAZENAMBO: Comrade Speaker, it is really unfortunate that I have to speak after my senior has spoken, but unfortunately this friendly Party, with whom we have come a long way together, is a Political Party in Namibia just like the Party I am representing. Therefore, I want to mention one critical point contained in this candy-coated statement of our fellow Comrade.

Comrade Speaker, I have to congratulate SWANU, they have come a long way as a Political Party and former liberation movement, however it is unfortunate that your political schemes and ambushes have never in the history of our journey managed to dilute, weaken SWAPO as the sole

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representative of the people of Namibia. We have out-manoeuvred and outsmarted you at the OAU and some of the people who have outsmarted SWANU representatives at the United Nations are still amongst us, such as the Honourable Speaker, and I can promise you that the Young Turks of SWAPO will continue to outsmart SWANU now and in the future.

In your candy-coated statement you said that SWANU played a role in the national liberation struggle and I do not contest that, but now you are saying you are the protective guard of the poor, which is not true. The people of Namibia voted for a protective guard as in this democratic country we choose who is the protective guard and this protective guard has been SWAPO of Namibia since 1990 and will continue to be the one. In this country you do not write statements like that, you are not the protective guard, in Namibia the protective guard is determined through elections. You are trying to say that you are the representatives of the Namibian people, SWAPO does not care about poverty and that insinuation is not true. We are against unemployment, we are against poverty and as for the genocide, last year we went to Germany to take on the issue of genocide and we cannot be found wanting.

I congratulate you, Colleague, but we are here as the sole representatives, the custodian and guard as given the mandate by the people of Namibia and SWANU, please enjoy the ride.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Thank you Honourable Speaker. On behalf of the All Peoples Party, I would like to congratulate SWANU of Namibia on their 54th birthday. No one can take those credentials away from you, we had worked with people like Gerson Veii, Vekuui Rukoro and many others who have contributed immensely to the struggle of this country.

Honourable Speaker, what provoked me to take the Floor, apart from congratulating SWANU, is to say that you do not go to somebody's birthday and quarrel. If you want to wish him happy birthday, you do so and leave the quarrel for another occasion. Thank you very much.

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HON MAAMBERUA: I want to take the opportunity to thank those who have congratulated SWANU on its birthday, but of course, it is important that we underscore the fact that those who have abandoned the Socialist revolution talk like Honourable Kazenambo. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: With that we proceed to the Business scheduled for today. The Notice of Motion is the one of the Honourable Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Welfare. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion? Who seconds? Objections? Agreed to. The Deputy Minister has the Floor.

MOTION ON APPOINTMENT

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I have taken the Floor to seek approval for the appointment of Ms Margaret Sezuni as a member of the Employment Equity Commission by this august House. The current members of the Employment Equity Commission were appointed by the National Assembly to serve a three-year term effective from the 31st of March 2012 until the 1st of April 2015. There is, however, now a vacancy on the Employment Equity Commission due to the resignation of Ms Joyce Mokuvi who represented the State on the Commission.

The request for the nomination of a candidate to fill the vacancy was made in accordance with Section 6 of the *Affirmative Action (Employment) Act*, 29 of 1998. The Office of the Prime Minister put forward the name of Ms Margaret Sezuni for consideration by the National Assembly in accordance with the enabling legislation.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I have perused the CV of Ms

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Margaret Sezuni and, therefore, has every reason to believe that she has what it takes to make a meaningful contribution to the programmes and activities of the Employment Equity Commission in furtherance of the employment equity at the workplace.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is now my singular honour to request the Honourable Members of this august House to approve the appointment of Ms Margaret Sezuni as a member of the Employment Equity Commission for the unexpired portion of the current Commission's term of office that is until the 31st of March 2015. I count on your usual support and I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, just one or two questions. I do not have an objection to the Motion, but looking at the CV that the Deputy Minister has presented to us, it is indicated that at the Caprivi Senior Secondary School Form 5 was completed in 1985 and going down, it says: *"Did not write exam for Form 5 at Caprivi Senior Secondary School during 1995 but completed Form 5 through correspondence at A Shipena in 1994."*

On the second Page it states that she has completed a Diploma in Personnel Management in three years, B-degree in one year, Master's Degree in one year. She seems to be a very fast learner. Can the Honourable Deputy Minister just explain to us whether there is anything that he can comment on this or is the appointment based on Affirmative Action, because this CV leaves much to be explained. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Tjihuiko. Yes, there are some questions, Honourable Deputy Minister.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you for the opportunity, Honourable Speaker. I believe anyone can see that it is a typographical error on Page 1 and as far as Page 2 is concerned, I do not see anything untoward, this is the education that she has obtained, we have documentary proof that she has obtained them and we have no reason whatsoever to question the time it took for her to obtain this education. I thank you.

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

**CONSIDERATION: REPORT ON STUDY VISIT
TO PARLIAMENT OF ESTONIA**

SECRETARY: Consideration – Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Study Visit to the Parliament of Estonia.

HON SPEAKER: Does Honourable Dingara Move that the Report be considered?

HON DINGARA: I so Move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: You have the Floor Honourable Dingara.

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HON DINGARA / HON DR GURIRAB**

HON DINGARA: Honourable Speaker, it is my honour and privilege to introduce to this august House the Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information and Communication Technology on the Study Visit to the Parliament of Estonia which was undertaken from the 8th to the 12th of October last year.

Comrade Speaker, after the Committee was established in 2010 and after we have visited several countries in Africa and Asia, we used the technology to identify which country is doing best in ICT around the world, resulting in Estonia being indicated as a country which is very far advanced in ICT. We decided to visit Estonia with the aim of finding out how they succeeded in arriving at such an advanced stage. We looked at how they are using ICT to provide Police services, how do they use ICT in schools and education as a whole, hospitals, banks and for voting.

When we arrived in Estonia we were overwhelmed by what we found there and upon our return decided to consult other stakeholders. We consulted the Office of the Prime Minister and informed them what we have seen, we consulted the Minister of Information and Technology and the Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration, encouraging them to visit as Estonia. As we are speaking, the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of ICT and the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration have already returned from Estonia and agreed that what we have seen in Estonia is very much useful for this country to emulate.

The Report that I tabled yesterday contains all the details of what we have observed and we want the House to consider and adopt it. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: As good leaders do, Honourable Amweelo stole the idea from me, because I asked a good friend, known to everybody here, Marti Arthisari, that I wanted to take a delegation to Finland to learn from them how they manage ICT. You know Marti Arthisari, a school-mate of Honourable Nickey Iyambo. He said instead of Finland we should go to Estonia, they started from scratch after they left USSR. That is how it

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happened and I am glad that the mission was successful. We are better for it, but I would have been happier if the results you enumerated for us feature in how we make use of ICT, including helping the speaker to master the technology. Any further discussions?

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Honourable Speaker, I rise to thank the Parliamentary Committee for having been proactive in promoting ICT development in our country. They are a true and reliable partner of the Ministry of ICT.

The findings in the Report indicate the level of ICT utilisation in Estonia, which indicates how ICT contributes to quality service delivery in that country in terms of efficiency and cost-effectiveness, because naturally ICT employed in any service delivery cut costs and increases productivity.

What the Report entails as far as ICT utilisation in Estonia is concerned is not very far from what we have in Namibia. We have ICT services being rendered through mobile phones, like the payment of electricity and Multi-Choice accounts and most of the banks utilise mobile phone banking to transfer of money.

However, Comrade Speaker, what is very important for this country is that we need to have a Law in place which regulates e-commerce, e-banking, etcetera, which Law is at an advanced stage, the *Electronic Transaction Bill*. We have been waiting for this Bill to regulate e-governance, e-banking, e-education, e-health and we are now tightening the loose ends so that it can be presented to the Cabinet Committee on Legislation for approval before bringing it to Parliament.

Comrade Speaker, in the absence of this Bill we have done a lot in this Sector. We have an e-health centre at the Windhoek Central Hospital which is fully operational. Our doctors at the Central Hospital consult their fellow doctors in India through Internet conferencing, a very interactive approach where doctors can consult on clinical matters. X-rays are put on a screen for a doctor in India to say, “*this dot is not malignant*,

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this is benign, it can be treated with medication or by operation.” It is just like talking to each other in the same room and that is happening here.

We have an e-learning centre at the Ministry of Education where we can enrol distant learning students and get lectures from India. This centre is also fully equipped with everything necessary equipment and all that is needed is a coordinator for all the administrative issues. Therefore, we are not very far from what Estonia is doing, we are on course.

However, I really appreciate the efforts of the Committee on ICT and I would encourage them to interact with us. We will always keep them posted on what we are doing. Of course, we need more funds in order to do a lot of things.

Comrade Speaker, we have set up a core committee comprised of members from academia and the Private Sector where we try to promote ICT especially in the area of product development. Last month we inaugurated a product that was created by students of the Polytechnic of Namibia which are being used to monitor the development of a pregnancy, whereby the pregnant woman would be advised when to see a doctor, so that at the end of the day she can deliver a healthy baby.

We have inaugurated a product by another student of the Polytechnic of Namibia who developed a taxi television which can broadcast music, information and also messages. They plan to add an additional software in the same television which can record the number of passengers boarding the taxi so that at the end of the day the taxi owner can download information and will know exactly how many people boarded the taxi during the day so that he could balance the number of passengers and the amount of money earned.

Comrade Speaker, we are on the right track and we are doing our best with the little resources at our disposal. People approach us with ideas for products, but we cannot help them because we do not have the money. Estonia would tell you they invest a lot of funds in ICT, you cannot achieve that with meagre resources.

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HON NAMBAHU

I thank you very much, our Parliamentary Committee, keep on researching and also demand additional allocations to the Ministry of ICT.

HON SPEAKER: I think the last remark is the point you wanted to make. You are our first serious ICT Minister, you are doing a wonderful job, but we are not on par with Estonia, so do not fool yourself, we are not even near to where India started. Since you are sitting to the Minister of Finance you should be making the point, “if only I had so much money, I would have...” Do not send the wrong message outside that we do not need any support for ICT, we can do it on our own. We do not want to say that. Honourable Nambahu.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker, I want to congratulate the Colleagues for choosing such a far away country which is small and almost comparable to us in terms of the population and maybe you have seen how the socialist inclination funded this and how they do that.

Be that as it may, Comrade Speaker, e-governance, etcetera, is the way to go and, obviously, when we got the explanations from the responsible Minister, we could see this is what has to be done. The only problem, and this is what I have always been saying in this House, that inasmuch as we advocate for e-governance, Internet, there is always the issue of security. When we talk about ourselves using this kind of technology, we should also look at the example of the News of the World, the revelations by Edward Snowden and all these other things. When we buy, do we ask the suppliers about the security of our data we are storing on computers?

One only hears positive things from those marketing their products, but one never hears about the downside and it is only proper that our buyers, people who are advocates of this technology should also apply their minds to personal data security. One exchanges information with companies but no one knows whether they have any contractual obligation to protect and

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not to share that date. We are more concerned about hacking, cyber security and if you ask your people in your own department how safe am I, how safe is our Government, how safe is my Ministry, how safe is this case because we are now going for e-filing and all the dockets are now becoming electronic, how secure am I if I put all this information in there, then for the most part we are told to buy additional equipment. Can you also apply your mind and tell us how safe is Namibia once we open ourselves up and make all these things available in electronic format?

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** On a Point of Information. In normal circumstances you can buy a computer, but it is up to you to develop software of your own to protect your information. It is not the seller that protects your information, you have to develop that system yourself to protect your information.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: That is a very valid point. I also want us in this Parliament to ask ourselves until when are we going to be happy to simply be at the consuming end of these products. Each and every one of us know that presently the fastest computer is made in China and people are investing quite a lot of money in producing their own firewalls or systems to protect their data, rather than depending on Good Samaritans to protect our data. I understand some countries are even trying to develop an alternative worldwide web of their own, putting a satellite up there, because what is putting the other people ahead of us is actually dominance in Information Technology.

As long as we continue to be at the consuming end and not told what are the efforts collectively – The Boeing is not being manufactured by one country, it is done by various countries and even if we do not have the money we can coordinate and assign ourselves a role so that we can actually collectively protect ourselves, because the next war is going to be a cyber attack and you will not have people to come with armoured cars to

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assist you. It will be hacking your data, hacking your banks and all that can make life impossible for you and your Nation, and your people are as a result going to revolt.

With those remarks, I just wanted our people to ask the right questions and I rest my case.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Mushelenga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, I have a very brief contribution to make on the consideration of the Report by the Standing Committee.

First, like other speakers, let me congratulate the Committee for choosing Estonia to go and look at e-governance. Estonia being a small State, our literature on Foreign Policy speaks about cooperation among small States because they understand each other very well, they have similar features, so when you are going to learn from your look-alike it is always the right thing to do rather than going to learn from large States which have different set-ups than your own.

It is very important that we talk about e-governance, especially now when we are hosting the COP 11 Desertification Conference, whereby people are talking about reducing paperwork and concentrate on e-commerce. The banks are also moving away from printing cheques towards electronic banking, cell phone banking in order to preserve our forests by cutting down on the use of paper.

Building on what Honourable Nambahu was talking about and what General Namoloh said, it is very important that we develop ICT training, of course starting with Parliamentarians, coming to Public Servants, so that people know how to protect this information using codes that can only be decoded if one has authorisation to do so and maybe NIPAM which trains Public Servants will be the right institution to target Government

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employees for courses on ICT, in particular with regard to the protection of information. Officials should also be made aware of which information is supposed to be stored on which instrument. For example, people who do not want their information to leak in any way, use computers which are not linked to the Internet, because the moment your computer is linked to the Internet, it becomes vulnerable to others getting into your system and your information.

With these words, Honourable Speaker, I really want to commend the Committee and I want us to start with Parliament to really take the issue of ICT very seriously. Thank you very much.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Honourable Speaker, as regards data protection mentioned by the Deputy Minister of Justice, I just want to say a few things so that you know what our Ministry is doing in that regard, if you will allow me.

HON SPEAKER: Should you be telling him publicly here about what you are doing? The other Deputy Minister was talking about security and you say you want to reveal how we are doing that. Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Honourable Speaker, thank you very much. Let me join the others in congratulating the Standing Committee for the good Report. I am not sure whether this is coincidence, but the Ministry of Trade and Industry also tried to improve its operations. You have seen the Report on doing business in Namibia and to register a company before you start doing business and that it has been a great challenge. It so happened that we

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also decided on Estonia. It is far, it is small, but it has a system that we from Trade found very interesting.

Our system is very scattered when you want to register a business. You have different forms and you will go up to ten times to register a company. What was interesting here was the synergy. When you register a company you require a revenue stamp which must be acquired from any Magistrate's Office or NamPost, you need to register for VAT to pay your tax, another trip to Finance, you need someone to look after your books, you must find a registered bookkeeper or auditing firm. This system incorporates all these as an integrated system and we are still exploring this technology to make life easier for especially those outside the capital city to fast-track registration of companies with all the other entities. We hope this will make life easier for people who want to register companies, therefore, we are on the same wavelength. We do not necessarily want to copy but customise it to our situation so that it serves us better.

There is the challenge of security, it is true that once you are on the Internet, you are in not control and you could have whatever system, but there are certain things over which we unfortunately do not have control over. I was surprised when people who came to see in my office said they have seen me on the Parliamentary Profile and even the statements I have made on my computer. Thus there is no guarantee that your data is protected hundred percent, not when we talk about e-governance and all these. Maybe those with more knowledge can guarantee that, but I have experienced that this is not true, there is no hundred percent guarantee that your data is hundred percent protected, you have even seen it yourself with the Americans. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Dingara.

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ADJOURNMENT

HON DINGARA: I want to thank all those who have participated in supporting the Report of the Committee. Some of the remarks they have made are very much true, because Estonia's secret is the X-Road which connects their systems. What is unique in Estonia, different from many countries that we have visited, is that the Skype programme was developed in Estonia and we were taken to the building of the owner who developed Skype. They guaranteed us that until such time that you have your own people who are able to develop the systems themselves, you will not be safe. You must have your own people who are on the same level as those making computers. Until that time you will not be safe. It is like dismissing your own army and making use of another country's army to guard you, which is not safe. We have to depend on our own people and our education should concentrate on that point.

With these few words, thank you very much for all the contributions and we look forward to the implementation of the Report.

HON SPEAKER: That brings us to the end of the business scheduled for today.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:42 UNTIL 2013.10.01 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
01 OCTOBER 2013**

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 Amathila.

TABLING: REPORTS ON VISITS TO REGIONS

HON AMATHILA: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table –

- i. Report on Familiarisation Visit by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration to the Otjozondjupa Region for discussion;
- ii. Report on Visit to the Drought-stricken areas of Ohangwena, Omusati, Kunene and Erongo Region by Members of the Parliament Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration, from the 15th to the 28th of July 2013 for discussion.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Reports? Any further Reports or Standing or Select Committees?

**TABLING: WINDHOEK PLAN OF ACTION
PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION**

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TABLING OF REPORTS
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE / HON JANKOWSKI
HON MAAMBERUA

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Windhoek Plan of Action by Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) Parliamentary Workshop on Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) held in Windhoek from the 7th to the 8th of March 2013 for note-taking.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Report? Honourable Jankowski.

**TABLING: REPORT ON PRINCIPLES FOR RESOURCES
GOVERNANCE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA**

HON JANKOWSKI: I lay upon the Table, the Report on the Validation Workshop of the Final Draft of Principles for Resources Governance in South Africa – the Barometer, held in Harare, Zimbabwe from the 23rd to the 24th April 2013, for note-taking.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Report? Honourable Maamberua.

**TABLING: REPORT OF NATIONAL COUNCIL STANDING
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ECONOMY**

HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Report of the National Council Standing Committee on Public Accounts

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

and Economy on the Review of the Reports of the Auditor-General on Regional Councils and Local Authorities for the various Financial Years ending 31 March 2005 for Regional Councils and 30 June 2007 for Local Authorities.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Report? Any Reports and Papers? Honourable Minister of Finance.

TABLING: REPORTS OF AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

- i. Municipality of Mariental;
- ii. Village Council of Aroab;
- iii. Town Council of Oranjemund;
- iv. Town Council of Karibib;
- v. Town Council of Okahao; and
- vi. Town Council of Ruacana

For the Financial Year ended 30 June 2012;

- vii. Village Council of Kalkrand for the Financial Years ended June 2010, 2011 and 2012.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister please table the Reports? Any other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Honourable Nyamu.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON NYAMU**

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 34:....

HON NYAMU: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 3rd of October 2013, I shall ask the Minister of Lands and Resettlement, Honourable !Naruseb, the following questions:

1. How many people have been resettled and from which parts of the country?
2. How much money has been spent so far on the Resettlement Programme?
3. Has the Ministry undertaken a study to determine how the resettlement farmers benefit from this Programme?
4. Can the Minister dispute with facts the allegations that the Resettlement Programme is a total failure?
5. Is it true that the majority of resettled farmers lease out the land to the very former owners for grazing in order for them to earn a living income?
6. Does “*resettlement*” imply the expansion of the communal areas as defined by the Apartheid Regime?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member table the question. Honourable Lucks.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON LUCKS**

QUESTION 35:

HON LUCKS: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 3 October, I shall ask the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry the following questions:

1. Is it true that the current stock of mahangu seeds available in Namibia stands at only 6.2 ton?
2. Would the Minister consider this stock to be adequate for the current needs and requirements of food security in Namibia?
3. Will the current stock of seed be used for distribution to subsistence and communal farmers or will it be used by Government for Government agricultural projects, like Green Schemes, or will it be sold to commercial and communal farmers?
4. How is the required minimum stock of mahangu seed in Namibia determined and how is this stock managed? I so submit Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Any further Notice of questions? Any Notice of Motions? Honourable Von Wietersheim.

NOTICE OF MOTION

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that tomorrow, I shall Move -

Whereas the next round of elections are probably to be held in just over a year's time; and

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON VON WIETERSHEIM**

Whereas the Namibian High Court has pronounced itself in no uncertain terms about the urgent need to reform and improve the Electoral Law before the next round of elections; and

Whereas both the Electoral Commission of Namibia and the Law Reform and Development Commission have pointed to the need for a complete overhaul of the Electoral Law to restore the trust of the Namibian people in the electoral system; and

Whereas the first drafts has reportedly been completed by March this year and the draft legislation was actually expected to be ready by the end of May this year;

Therefore this Assembly requests the Honourable Member Minister of Justice to report to this august House as follows:

- The progress achieved with the completion of the drafting process;
- The timeframe envisaged for tabling the draft legislation in this Assembly;
- The assurances of the Honourable Minister to this Assembly as well as to the Judiciary and the Namibian electorate that the electoral legislation will be finalised in time to allow for proper preparation of the elections and true to the principles of inclusiveness, transparency and accountability.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member please table the Motion. Any further Notice of Motions? None.

BILLS CONSIDERED BY NATIONAL COUNCIL

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**BILLS CONSIDERED BY NATIONAL
COUNCIL
HON DR GURIRAB**

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 *Public Accounts and Auditors Amendment Bill* [B.6-2013].

I shall now, in terms of Article 75(3), refer this Bill to the President to deal with it under Articles 56 and 64 of 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 *Water Resources Management Bill* [B.5-2013]. This Bill will be placed on the Order Paper for reconsideration by the National Assembly as soon as possible.

With all that said, the Secretary will read the First Order of the day.

**RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING:
PUBLIC PROCUREMENT BILL [B.7 – 2013]**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – *Public Procurement Bill* [B.7 – 2013].

HON SPEAKER: When the Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, the 24th of September 2013, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable Maamberua adjourned the Debate and I now give him the Floor.

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PUBLIC PROCUREMENT BILL
HON MAAMBERUA

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for giving me the Floor so that I can make some comments and inputs to this very important Bill, the *Public Procurement Bill*, and I need to start off by acknowledging the extensive work done by the Ministry of Finance and in particular also thank the Minister of Finance for tabling this Bill. I know that reconsideration of the *Tender Board Act* has come a long way.

Now, without further ado, I will start with generic issues before I take on the specificities of the issues in the Bill.

The first one is with regard to consultations. With that I mean that we all acknowledge that procurement is very important for the economy, development and also on the issues of good governance and accountability. Hence, when we deal with issues of procurement, particularly when we are developing a framework or a Law on procurement, it is imperative that the people for whom we are developing such a Law are properly consulted and their contributions taken note of and properly articulated not only through us as their representatives here, but also that they would have been given a proper platform for them to articulate their own desires as far as this procurement issue is concerned.

It is a difficult experience that we have had with other Bills, such as the one that had established the Law on twenty hectares, that has become so topical that I think we would want to make sure that the populace out there subscribe and are indeed familiar with the content of a Bill of this magnitude in order to avoid people claiming not to have been properly consulted.

What I have discerned from the Bill itself and from the statement by the Minister is that it is apparent that stakeholders, such as Trade Unions, business community, women and youth, people with disabilities, etcetera, who are also the primary targets of this Bill may not have been extensively consulted. If I have to read from the statement of the Minister regarding that aspect: “*Before concluding this Draft Bill, extensive research was done on the different legal frameworks that exist in both developed and developing countries. Hence the Bill is inspired by*

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HON MAAMBERUA

international trends and best practices. Most importantly, we have crafted it to meet the unique needs of Namibia.”

Unless I am wrong, I do not see any evidence of consultations with the population in Namibia, the various sectors that I have mentioned. That is why I assumed that consultations with stakeholders have not taken place and, therefore, on that particular aspect and element, I wish to request (intervention).

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Information. Are you aware that the 20 hectares are only for the Hereros, not in Khorixas, not in Ovamboland, not Caprivi, not Kavango, just for one group? Why should we say yes for these kinds of things?

HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Speaker, I have concluded on that one aspect of my intervention, I think there is a need for broader consultation with regard to this Bill, unless evidence is provided that that was actually done.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Honourable Speaker, on a Point on Information on the statement that there was no consultation; I recall when I was the Permanent Secretary in that Ministry that we had at least four public consultations on this Bill. The first one was arranged at Heja Lodge where, through an advert in the paper the public at large was informed about consultations on the Bill. The second one was when we had a conference with the assistance of the Commonwealth Secretariat where we discussed procurement as a whole. The third one was when the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung discussed the principles of the Bill in a breakfast session and the last one was when the Honourable Minister invited all the Parliamentarians and the public to a workshop where the *Procurement Bill* was a topic. So, at least on four

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HON MAAMBERUA

occasions the public were invited to discuss the Bill, for information.

HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Speaker, this is a very serious matter and when we refer to extensive consultations and hoping that full information in that regard will be provided, I think it only befits if the opportunity is given to the Minister during her reply to provide that information, because these interruptions in-between will not be helpful. All the same, the partial information that was provided is appreciated. I shall proceed, Honourable Speaker. (Intervention).

HON KAZENAMBO: On a Point of Information and on a serious note, I know that over the years Namibia has degenerated tribally. Many of the people, even in this Chamber, are tribalists and it is across all Political Parties. You no longer know which is a Political Party because many people are tribalists. I do not subscribe to tribalism even though there is tribalism in this country across all Political Parties. The point is that there it is being said on the Floor of this House that there is a Law in this country targeted against one tribe without being challenged. There is no truth in this. If there is a Law in this country that has been formulated to target a tribe, as Chief Riruako has said that the twenty hectares has been done for Hereros, I would like to know that and this House must correct that. This is how genocide is caused, people start hating and then we are creating hatred. There is no truth in that.

HON SPEAKER: Let us stick to the *Procurement Bill*.

HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Speaker, on the objectives of the Bill: I wish to align myself with many if not most of the objectives of the Bill. I have, however, a concern with regard to Section 3(h)(i) where one

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of the objectives is to promote preferential treatment in the allocation of procurement contracts and the advancement of persons or categories of persons who have been socially, economically or educationally disadvantaged by the past racial discriminatory Laws or practices. That is fine, but the situation today 23 years after Independence is that of class discrimination.

If we are talking about the class stratification that we have in our country in terms of the economy, in terms of access to resources, why do we not also address the class issues in the Bill, such that much as we recognise that some people in Namibia were racially discriminated against, there are also some other categories and to be specific, those categories that fall under the lowest strata of our society, irrespective of their colour. What do we do with the white poor person? Why can a poor white person not also benefit if that person actually falls within the lower class of our economical system?

Therefore, I would want to propose that not only is it a question of formerly racially discriminated Namibians who should benefit from this procurement regime, but also those of lower classes, irrespective of their colour and other considerations.

The other generic issue that I want to talk about, Honourable Speaker, is the title and content of the Bill in that when we are talking about procurement, which is clearly defined at the beginning, that definition however leaves out the disposal of assets. It is only talking about acquisition of assets, letting, hiring, etcetera, but it does not include disposing of public assets and I shall demonstrate that.

Disposing of assets in the old *Tender Board Act* was a function of the Tender Board. In the current Bill the Board does not have such a function and I think that is a serious omission. The existing *Tender Board Act* under Section 7, Powers and Functions of the Board, over and above other things...(intervention).

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HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Maamberua was referring to the class structure in Namibia where he quoted from the *Procurement Bill* on Page 8 where it says, “to promote the preferential treatment in the allocation of procurement contracts and the advancement of persons or categories of persons who have been socially, economically or educationally disadvantaged by past racial discriminatory Laws or practices.” He is saying that this is discriminatory against poor whites, but I just want to correct him that this is a direct quotation, almost verbatim, from the Article 23 of the Constitution where it refers to Apartheid and Affirmative Action. Subsection (2) states that: “Nothing contained in Article 10 shall prevent Parliament from enacting legislation providing directly or indirectly for the advancement of persons within Namibia who have been socially, economically or educationally disadvantaged by past discriminatory Laws or practices or for the implementation of Policies and Programmes aimed at redressing social, economic or educational imbalances in the Namibian society arising out of discriminatory Laws or practices or for achieving a balanced restructuring of the Public Service, the Defence Force, the Police Force and the Correctional Services.” Therefore, unless you say we must amend the Constitution, this is what the Constitution says and you have taken an oath to defend the Constitution. If you want to go beyond that, table a Motion or resign from Parliament. Thank you Comrade Speaker.

HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Speaker, I think it is important that we read the Constitution with the requisite dignity and honesty. The Constitution does not prohibit this House to enact a Law that will take our fellow compatriots, whatever their colour of skin is, on board. (Intervention).

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. Now we are playing with words. Discrimination does not have any colour, you can discriminate against your own brother, sister or cousin. This is happening in the world. What is happening is discrimination between higher and lower classes or

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tribalism, for your own knowledge, against whom do you want to discriminate? It does not have anything to do with the Constitution, these things happen while the Constitution is there, but now you are mixing the whole issue.

HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Speaker, I was talking about disposal of Government assets that does not seem to be properly captured in the new Bill and I was trying to demonstrate how this was actually captured in the current *Tender Board Act*.

Together with other functions of the Tender Board, it says, “*and for the disposal of Government property and may for that purpose*” and then it reads further, “*or for the disposal of Government property.*” Those were some of the functions of the Tender Board, but if you look at the functions of the current Board, nothing is said about the functions of the Board that is being proposed, the only reference is to the Policy Office and I shall show what it says:

Under the powers and functions of the Policy Office it says: “*To issue guidelines regarding procurement matters, including e-procurement, the letting or hiring of anything or the acquisition or granting of any right for or on behalf of the public body and the disposal of property.*” That is a guideline, not a function, it is saying to issue guidelines. But whose function is it to dispose of Government property? It is not mentioned under the functions of the Board. What, however, is mentioned is on Page 62, Section 98(h), which reads as follows under Regulations where the Minister make regulations relating to: “*(h) requirements and procedures regarding the disposal of property by public bodies*” and that is my concern.

Disposal of Government assets cannot be left or reduced to regulations. It is so substantive. If you look at the value of our Government assets that are being disposed of by State-Owned Enterprises and also by Central Government, it is so enormous that such direction should actually be enshrined in the Act itself and not be relegated to the Minister making

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such regulations with regards to disposal of Government property and assets.

I, therefore, propose in my intervention that the disposal of Government assets should be part of the Act itself and not just regulations. I have also looked at some Acts of neighbouring countries and in fact, in Botswana the *Procurement Act* is called *Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act*.

The procurement itself, that is the acquisition of goods and assets and works is taken to be as important as disposing of Government assets and, therefore, these are put at the level of the Act itself.

The other issue that I wish to be informed about is that this Act seems to be repealing only the *Tender Board Act* of 1996. I do not see references to Sections of other Acts that might be affected by this Act that also need to be repealed. I have in mind some Sections in the *Local Authorities Act*, etcetera, but unless there is evidence that this Bill does not affect any other Act once it is enacted, then I would not have a problem with that.

Now for the specifics with regard to the Act. The definition of “*public body*” seems to be having several understandings. The first one is the one under Page 6 in the definitions, that it means, “*any Office, Ministry or Agency of the Government and includes Local Authorities, Regional Councils, State-Owned Enterprises as referred to in the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Act of 2006.*” However, the definition in that Act, the *State-owned Enterprises Governance Act*, does not limit itself only to the State-Owned Enterprises but it reads as follows.

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. Mr Speaker, we have a lot of things to talk about, like the money to be returned to the Government, 1.2 billion back to the Government. That is what we are supposed to be talking about and not wasting time on something else.

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HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Speaker, the *State-Owned Enterprises Act* reads as follows: “*State-Owned Company means a company incorporated under the Companies Act of 1973 in which the State is the sole or majority shareholder*” and also, State-Owned Enterprise means an entity that is named in Schedule 1 to this Act. So, these two, in my understanding, should actually have been included, otherwise if we are talking about public bodies for the purposes of procurement and we leave the State-Owned Companies as per the definition of the *State-Owned Enterprises Governance Act* then we are going to be in problems because by so doing, these companies that are registered under the *Companies Act*, and I know of many such parastatals – and that is why we have problems with the Audit Report, because those that are registered under the *Companies Act* are not required by Law to be audited by the Auditor-General, they are audited by private auditors and as such, their reports do not come through the Office of the Auditor-General to be reviewed by Parliament. However, specifically for purpose of this we should be able to include that, unless there is a strong legal prohibition that they cannot be regulated by this *Procurement Act*. (Intervention).

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I think this is a very important point and it is important that I intervene at this point and just provide the correct information to the Honourable Member who says that because the State-Owned Enterprises are not required to be audited by the Auditor-General, this House is not able to review the reports on their accounts. That is incorrect. He was correct to say that they are not required to be audited by the Auditor-General and they are indeed audited by private auditors, but their audited financial statements are submitted to this House as part of the annual reports by the respective Ministers. I think that is too important not be clarified.

HON MAAMBERUA: We have had cases, and I do not want to belabour that point, where some of the Annual Reports did not include financial statements and since it is not a regulated regime like those who

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are audited by the Auditor-General, we had difficulties in accessing those reports. For example, I have never seen any Financial Report of NAMDEB in this House. I may be wrong, but I do not recall having seen a report of NAMDEB in which the State is a majority shareholder or a fifty-fifty... (Interjection). Be that as it may, the point I am making is, if we exclude those State-Owned Enterprises outside this *Procurement Act*, then we obviously would have missed a lot.

Honourable Speaker, the next one is powers and functions of the Policy Office and here I wish to refer you to Page 11 where I wish to underline many things under the functions of the Policy Office. We can even start with Page 10, and that is that the Policy Office has the power to contract audits in the course of the execution of an awarded bid. I am not sure whether we can really allow the Policy Office to contract audits as a power or function and not the Board.

Having said that, if we go to Page 11, it says as part of the functions and powers of the Policy Office under (u), “*to investigate at own accord or as instructed by the Minister, any matter relating to..*” The next one is, “*to perform such other functions as may be directed by the Minister from time to time.*” The question is, why may the Policy Office not also be directed by the Board? Maybe we will have an answer to that.

The other one which is very critical is that the Policy Office may also require any information, documents, records and reports in respect of any aspect of the procurement process, including cases where a breach, wrongdoing, mismanagement or collusion has been alleged, reported or proven against any public body or any provider of services under this Act. The Policy Office is supposed to be Policy Office. If they have such powers of investigating, why is that power not actually allocated to the Board?

The next power that they also have, which I doubt that they ought to have, is to summons witnesses, call for the production of books of accounts, plans, documents, etcetera and the last one is to commission or undertake investigations and institute performance audits.

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But now if you look at the functions of the Board on Page 15, these functions seem to be overlapping. In 12(1)(a) the Board is to call for such information and documents as it may require from a public body. So, the Policy Office can require that, the Board can also require that. Next, *“to examine such records or other documents, copies or extracts from them.”* The Policy Office can do that, the Board may also do that. *“To commission any studies”*, the same provision is given to the Policy Office and the Board has the same power. The next one is, *“to establish appropriate internal procedures for the operations of the Board”*, that one is fine.

The reason why I am rising these seemingly overlapping powers is because in Section 11(1) we are informed that, *“a juristic person to be known as the Central Procurement Board will be established.”* So, the juristic person is the Board, not the Policy Office. How then do we allocate such powers of calling for investigations, summoning people commissioning this and that to an entity that falls under a juristic person in the name of the Procurement Board? I think there will be serious problems of soliciting adequate and full information if such requirements should come from two different offices with seemingly similar or same powers. I feel that we should leave this commissioning and summoning powers to the Board and not to the Policy Office. That is what I would suggest.

Honourable Speaker, the next one is on Page 11, Section 8, Executive Director and Directors. Section (1) reads: *“Despite the Law governing the Public Service, the Minister, subject to this Act and after consultation with the Public Service Commission, must appoint a suitably qualified person to be the Executive Director of the Policy Office for the term of five years that may be renewed.”* Depending on the status of the Policy Office, is the Policy Office part of the Civil Service or not? If it is not, then perhaps the Act is fine, the Minister can appoint such person, but if that person is going to be a Civil Servant, how can the Minister appoint a Civil Servant? I thought Civil Servants are appointed by the Public Service Commission under the authority of the Office of the Prime Minister. Of course, it depends on the status of the Policy Office. If it is outside the Civil Service, fine, but if that person being appointed as

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Executive Director is a Civil Servant, where does the Public Service Commission come in?

On Page 14, Section 10(2) reads: “*Appointment of staff of Policy Office.*” (2) reads: “*A Permanent Secretary of any Ministry, Office or Agency may designate a staff member with the integrity, knowledge and experience, as contemplated in Section 1, as a staff member of the Policy Office for a period not exceeding five years and on such terms and conditions as the Minister may determine.*” Again, if a Permanent Secretary designates such a person from his or her Ministry to the Policy Office that is not within the Public Service, where does the Permanent Secretary get that power from, because such can only be done by the Public Service Commission in my understanding.

Alternatively, if the Policy Office is part of the Civil Service, how can the conditions of service of Civil Servants be determined by the Minister?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Comrade Speaker, I would just like to ask Honourable Maamberua a question. Under Section 10 you are questioning the issue of the Permanent Secretary sending somebody to represent the Ministry in the Policy Office, but presently we have staff members from the different Ministries serving on the boards of parastatals and I believe this body will be a parastatal.

HON MAAMBERUA: The reason why I am raising that, Honourable Member, is because that sentence has no qualification. It does not qualify, in consultation with the Public Service Commission or something like that, it just says Permanent Secretary, full-stop.

Page 42, Section 65(2), actually refers to the award of procurement contracts. It reads: “*There is no negotiation between the Board or a public body and a selected bidder except in such special circumstances as the Minister may determine.*” To put something like this in a Law, what

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sort of negotiations can actually take place that can be allowed between a bidder and the Board? Can they negotiate about the price? The Act should have guided the Minister and even for us to know what are the limitations, the boundaries. We cannot just say the Minister can allow negotiations between the Board and the bidders. I have no doubt in the integrity of the Minister or future ones, but all the same, we need to be more specific and guide Ministers, because negotiations between bidders and the Procurement Board are actually very dangerous and, therefore, I would suggest that maybe the Act could be crafted in such a way that it is helpful to the Minister in that regard, if at all it is desirable that a bidder can negotiate with the Board, which from my own experience I do not even want to subscribe to. Why should the Board negotiate with bidders?

I would desire to see a clear prohibition in the Act and not only in the Regulations where it is clearly prohibited, either on the part of the public bodies or the Board on what is called splitting of tenders to avoid thresholds. I have tried to look at this but I could not see where that is prohibited. Possibly it is there.

The last point is the Review Panel, that if a bidder is not satisfied with the outcome, he can make an application. I do not know whether we do not have Arbitration Law in this country or not, but maybe the lawyers can advise me, but why do we not consider arbitration mechanisms in the Act? After all, when we are talking about a Review Panel, the decisions can still be taken to the High Court and there will not be much of a difference between the current the system we have. For me arbitration would have been a better choice. Thank you very much, I rest my case.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Speaker, I rise to support the *Public Procurement Bill*. Comrade Speaker, I wish to speak to Clause 12 and 17, the Powers and Functions of the Policy Office.

If one compares the functions of the Policy Office and that of the Board, one finds that it might cause a conflict of interest. It is stated in (b), “*to advise the Minister on policies for introducing e-procurement as a means*

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of simplified and transparent procurement.” It is my view that their function should only be to advise the Minister rather than performing the same functions as the Board. Maybe the Attorney-General can see how this can be harmonised.

The Government has now created another semi-parastatal or parastatal which is going to deal with tenders. Government is a business entity like any other business, but we never had any private company taken to Court because they failed to deliver. However, the Policy Office is supposed to determine the cost of any project, especially the materials, because this is where the Government is being cheated.

For example, we have big private companies here in Namibia which simply state that the work shall be done at this cost and, therefore, we need to ensure that we determine the price, invite the companies with skills to tender. After research we simply say this is the cost and they can tender, rather than determining their own price for especially labour and then the labourers are not paid according to the tender.

Those are some of the aspects to be looked at to ensure that the Government is no longer cheated and no longer taken to Court. It should simply be said this is the work, this is the price, take it or leave it. This is really one of the issues we have to consider under this capitalist system we perceived to be a good policy while it is one which is killing us.

In Clause 12 on Page 15, I want to know whether the Ministries are still going to be represented or not, because the Permanent Secretary of the Policy Office will be given the right to represent the Ministries there. Honourable Maamberua said the appointment should be in consultation with the Public Service Commission, however he is confused because they remain Public Servants.

Comrade Speaker, we must regard ourselves as a business and we cannot allow someone to dictate such exorbitant prices to us and then to take the Government to Court when his tender is not successful. We never take any private company to Court when they fail to deliver. Omungwelume road is sub-standard but if you refuse to give that man another tender, he

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would take you to Court. I do not want him to be given any Government tender again because we have spent millions there.

Therefore, when we determine the price and the specifications, the inspectors should stick to those and if you do not qualify to do so, let others do the work.

Comrade Speaker, I just want us to save money on hiring lawyers when being challenged by persons who are not successful in tendering. Those who are willing to accept the price will do the work and no one will be taken to Court. I support the Bill.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Uutoni.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Comrade Speaker, let me in the first place congratulate the Minister of Finance and her staff for a job well done and bringing new changes in the system with this *Procurement Bill*.

Honourable Maamberua has touched on some of my points, but I would like to elaborate a bit more. Section 8(c) says that the Minister will enter into a performance agreement with the Executive Director within thirty days of assumption of duty, which is welcomed and if this is going to be the practice in future, this should apply to the rest of the Civil Servants as this will make people to work hard. If you know you are working on contract, you will work very hard.

However, from Page 20 it appears that the Chief Executive Officer of the Board does not enter into a performance agreement with the Board. The Policy Officer has to enter into a performance agreement, while the Executive Director in Policy Office carries on as usual. Maybe this should also apply to the Chief Executive Officer of the Board.

Honourable Speaker, the Executive Director will be reporting directly to

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the Minister and he/she will be at the level of a Permanent Secretary. The Permanent Secretary of Finance has no role to play in the activities of this Bill. The Minister said the Policy Office is an independent body and I do not know whether we should term it to be a parastatal seeing that the Ministry of Finance has no connection with this body. Yet we know the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance is the accounting officer responsible for public moneys and money used to procure services is to be authorised by the Ministry of Finance. However, now the Permanent Secretary has no authority and the Executive Director will report directly to the Minister. I want to propose that maybe the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance should be an *ex officio* member of the Procurement Committee.

Honourable Minister, when you motivated the Bill you said that people who are going to be employed in the Policy Office and Board should not engage in any business. Where will you draw these people from, seeing that many people in Namibia are running businesses? You said they are experts, etcetera, but the majority of these people are already engaged in business ventures.

In Clause 9 mention is made of disqualification and 9(b) states that Members of Parliament, Regional Councils and Local Authorities do not qualify to be employed in this office. If we have people who do not want to continue with their political careers, can they not apply, go through the test and if they pass the test, resign from Parliament or the Regional Council? Is that not possible?

There appears to be a contradiction on Page 14 where it deals with the appointment of staff in the Policy Office. Why does the Permanent Secretary have to designate a staff member instead of the Policy Officer? I feel we need clarity on this issue.

Coming to Page 27, currently when a tender is awarded, the Ministry concerned has to solicit the expertise of engineers from the Ministry of Works, however no mention is made of these engineers in this Bill. Have they been excluded totally from the process since you are talking about the Bid Evaluation Committee here?

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The last point I want to touch on is on Page 35, Clause 48, the unsolicited proposal. This is a very good item in the Bill because it will now encourage members of the public to get involved in the planning process. It is said that, “*where a proposal to supply goods or services is requested by any person but has not been requested by the public body concerned, the unsolicited proposal method should be used if the proposal is to be considered.*” Subsection (2) reads: “*A public body receiving an unsolicited proposal must first, before acceptance, request from the Board a no-objection note and the Board may give the notice with or without conditions.*” This is a very good item in the Bill which will allow members of the public to participate in the planning process. If I have good ideas I can propose something that Government has not even thought of, yet my economic status is not that good, will my proposal be accepted? Many young people have good ideas, but maybe the Board will only need to consider the economic profile of the proposer regardless of the economic status rather than just reject it. This can be the only way we can help the upcoming SMEs. With that I conclude my contribution.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Katjavivi.

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. First of all, I wish to acknowledge and welcome the spirit of cooperation that prevailed last week and led to the agreement in this House to have this important Bill be deliberated upon in a workshop. I wish to thank the Whips of our various Political Parties represented in this House and my good friend and Colleague, Honourable Ben Amathila, whose Committee took on the responsibility of organising such a workshop.

Likewise, I wish to thank Honourable Maamberua for his positive response in cooperating with the request to have the Bill deferred to a workshop. In the same vein, I also wish to thank the Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, and her staff for the cooperation they have rendered in this important exercise.

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I believe most of the Parties represented in this Honourable House had the opportunity to review the Bill through their respective Party caucuses. Honourable Members, with respect to the SWAPO Party, I wish to thank my Colleagues who attended the SWAPO Party Caucus meeting and played a crucial role in identifying gaps within the Bill and have thus led to the strengthening of this important Bill.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, let me thank the Minister of Finance for the efforts made to prepare the *Procurement Bill* tabled before us. For all intents and purposes this is a new instrument that is intended to do away with the old Tender Board system. It is a Bill that is crafted against the background of our particular situation in Namibia and international standards with all the hallmarks of transparency and accountability.

The attempt to promote a system of accountability was very much acknowledged at the workshop that I spoke about. Above all, it is a Bill that must be seen as a tool for empowerment of disadvantaged communities, particularly women and youth, as outlined in the Bill.

Honourable Members, useful comments were advanced in reviewing the Bill. The various structures outlining the Bill should ensure that we do not see bureaucratic delays. Multiple entities within the Bill are likely to create a worrisome concern with respect to bureaucratic delays. If you have Procurement Policy Office, the Central Procurement Board, the Procurement Committees, the Procurement Management Unit, we probably do not need the Bid Evaluation Committees because Procurement Committees can as well evaluate bids. Again, these are comments that I am making on the basis of my reading and simply advance them for further consideration.

I also noted a few grammatical errors within the Bill and I will simply give my notes to the Honourable Minister to take care of those typos.

I am assuming that the Honourable Minister has already taken on board most of the useful suggestions made about the Bill last week at the workshop. With that done, I believe we are on a good start with the Bill

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and I thank the Honourable Minister and hope all goes well. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you Chief Whip. Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, I hope we had enough time to peruse the Bill because we need a change in the system. However, I want to address the Assembly on an issue which I introduced two years ago, which was rejected by certain Members, namely that the incapacitated, the disadvantaged, the unemployed are accorded social benefits and amenities in accordance with Article 95(g) of the Constitution. However, it was rejected merely because I am from the Opposition. Therefore, there was no change, the suffering continues and things remained the same.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the late tabling of the *Public Procurement Bill* is better than never. The plight of women, the outcry by the youth and unemployed was a thorn in the flesh for more than 23 years.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the concept of empowering women and children was initiated in order to create socio-economic opportunities for them to benefit and also play a role in the Namibian economy. We in this House have introduced many Laws and Development Programmes which deals with a similar subject, such as TIPEEG, women organisations, black empowerment and youth programmes to empower youth for job creation. However, we saw no improvement, no step forward, these initiatives failed dismally and the situation remains the same, the affected people's problems were not addressed.

Mr Speaker, I have a concern as to whether the Minister of Finance is ready to allocate enough funds for the implementation of the Bill which has to reach the very poor communities who are affected by lack of food, housing and water. We have introduced many Laws and Programmes in order to address socio-economic ills, such as poverty, but there is no

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change, the situation remains the same. The plight of the unemployed has not yet been addressed. The plight of the Ovatua in Epupa remains the same, they still need our help. The San community was not catered for in order to end their suffering. The *Makaravan* in Katima are still roaming around, trying to survive from rubbish bins. The San community in Kabwe and the Bushmen in Ohangwena Region need our help. Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Speaker, I am rising on a Point of Order. Can the Honourable Member clarify for our understanding, he is referring to the *Macaroni* now and I have no knowledge of *Macaroni* in the Zambezi Region. In addition, I do not think it is correct to refer to our citizens as Bushmen, I think they are referred to as the San.

HON MOONGO: Thank you very much for the advice, but it is the *Makaravans*. The communities mentioned still need our help. They are looking at us to rescue them from starving. They need urgent attention by the Government. Therefore, I feel this Bill can assist, if you do not implement it in the same fashion other Laws were implemented and things remained the same. I want improvement, I want us to reduce poverty among those very poor people so that they also achieve a decent standard of living. I support the Bill.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Kazenambo.

HON KAZENAMBO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for according me an opportunity to make a contribution on this important *bread-and-*

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butter Bill. I have made some of my points at the workshop, but I will risk to repeat them here as I do not know in which direction we are going.

If some of the content contained in this bread-and-butter Bill is not going to be reconsidered, as promised by the Minister, then good luck. We will really welcome the reconsideration, but the big question is how this will be done, because this document is now in the Floor of Parliament and we are discussing it, where-after it will be passed into Law. Thus I want to know whether between now and the Minister's reply it will be reconsidered and another document be submitted. If that is not going to be done, then unfortunately I have to say what I want to say and this is the dilemma I am facing because I have stated my points in the workshop and I will repeat them here.

Reading this document as it is, and I am not a lawyer, only student of Business Administration, Economics and Journalism, establishes a three-tiered system and I do not know which system supervises which and how the three connect to one another.

For one, I do not see the role the Ministry of Finance as an entity and the role of other Ministries in this new Law. That is the first tier.

Secondly, I do not understand the role of the Policy Office, whether it is taking over the role the Ministry of Finance and other Ministries were playing in procurement, because Government Ministries are policy institutions and I do not see the role of the Ministries here and I do not get the relationship between the Policy Office and the Ministries. Maybe the lawyers of the Government will pinpoint the role and powers of those entities in this new Act.

The third tier is the Central Procurement Board. I do not know whether the policies and guidelines which the Policy Office will set are the ones that will guide the Central Procurement Board or whether the Board is an entity on its own that will formulate and work according its own policies. I have perused this document and I mentioned at the workshop that I do not see the relationship and who is supervising who. I was told that the functions and powers of the Policy Office and the functions of the Board

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are overlapping and I do not need to repeat the Clauses.

I want the Ministry to clarify the roles of these three entities as I have my own interpretation of this document. When Honourable Hidipo Hamutenya was training us, he used to say that in any document you have you have to look at what is hidden in there. That is what you look at journalistically. It can be a good and beautiful document, but look at the threats in that document. As a journalist my main concern about this document is the fact that it is talking about a juristic person. I am not a lawyer, but for me that is the catch.

At the workshop I asked whether this Central Procurement Board is a parastatal on its own and if that is the case, will it work under the Laws and guidelines of the State-Owned Enterprises or is it going to be totally independent? Is it being established by this Act or linked to other State-Owned Enterprises, because it is a juristic person that is going to deal with our entire procurement system in this country. If it is a parastatal, is it a new form of parastatal? I am ignorant, because will other parastatals in this country be given the same powers and functions as given to this new entity? I do not know whether this Board is going to resort under the Policy Office or are they going to report directly to the Minister? If they are going to report to the Policy Office, what is the function of this Policy Office? Setting the guidelines that are going to be used where, if this Board is enacting its own policies?

The reason I am saying the above is that this Board is a power unto itself. It can require any information from anybody, any office at any time, on records, on minutes and even acquire extracts irrespective of whether that matter is military in nature and has security implications. Knowing our history in this country and we are dealing with one another, I can see scandals coming, because you do not know who are going to be the Board members of this entity, whether they will be drawn from Ministries. It is stated that this body can get anybody, even from abroad. They can solicit any information and extracts and you can only imagine the leakages we used to have in this country.

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I am discussing this document without any prejudice against the Minister and I am discussing this document in the manner that I always used to do and not that I am not a Minister day. However, it is my bread and butter, my dear, I have kids in this country and this Law is going to affect them.

This Law states that they can extract information without specifying whether it is on security matters, intelligence, military or what. They will demand that information and if you do not comply, whether you are a President, Minister or who, you will be charged N\$500,000. It is stated in the Bill that the Board, and they are not saying in consultation with the Minister or the Attorney-General or anybody, may move directly to the Law Enforcement Agencies. Therefore, you as a Minister cannot say to the Board that they have not consulted with the Attorney-General before rushing to the Police as they are being empowered to do so. This is why I am concerned.

Honourable Minister, the Cabinet and anybody who has the power to make Laws, we live in a country where as a businessman I am subjected to harassment and discrimination. Our goods and services, simply by virtue of being supplied by Kazenambo are already being categorised as sub-standard, simply because they are manufactured by me and immediately they change hands without any addition, they become superior.

It is written in one of the Clauses, and I am going to fight it tooth and nail without mercy or favour, that this Board is empowered, without the consideration of the Minister, to suspend, to debar any individual from supply goods and services to the Government. It is written in this document, to debar! And you know, when I am driving my Mercedes Benz that I worked for, I am already corrupt in the eyes of people, that I must have stolen money somewhere. Now I must sit here and support the Bill that is officiating discrimination that is happening in this country. Let us not kid one another, we are subjected to this insult every day. The goods I am producing are sub-standard. I am producing cattle on the farm and I am told that my cattle have to go to the Meatco Abattoir. This is my bread, why should you take it if it is my bread? I have emotions. Maybe you are not a business person, maybe you live from salaries, I do not live

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from salary alone.

You want me to make Laws that are affecting me, that this so-called juristic person may debar supplies, goods and services and you will not find goods supplied by blacks in Shoprite or Woermann Brock. The vegetables that we produce in Ruacana have to go to South Africa for value to be added. We are still being insulted 22 years after Independence and this is what you want us to support blindly here by this so-called juristic person. Can you define who is going to be this juristic person?

Please let us talk seriously as this is a bread-and-butter issue. Clarify this juristic person and why other parastatals in this country are not given these powers. Some of their board members are dismissed by their Ministers, but these Board members are given unlimited power, to the extent that they can go to State House and acquire information. They can go to the Ministry of Defence and require any information and records according to this Law here.

Comrade Minister, please calm me down by working on this document. This document as it is cannot pass the test, we have been subjected to discrimination, we are still subjected to it daily, our companies are inferior and everything we touch. This is making a mockery and this document is even referring to some non-existent Laws. We are not kids here, it is talking about Black Economic Empowerment, empowering youth and women, but for the past 22 years we have not had any Black Economic Empowerment framework in this country. Which one are you referring to in this document and where is it? It is said in this document that they are going to empower women and youth on the basis of some empowerment Law. Where is that Law? Our mahangu which is being stored in the silos cannot be bought in the shops here, they are not hygienic according to the so-called international standards. Our mahangu does not get onto the market, our cattle fetch sub-standard prices and once they land on a commercial farm, the very same day the price differs.

Work on your document, I do not support it.

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HON SPEAKER: We have accepted to consider this document here in this House and to that extent it belongs to all of us. What it requires us to do is to share ideas, identify flaws in it and if possible, improve upon them, but until we get to a point of calling for adoption, the Floor continues to be open.

HON RIRUAKO: Mr Speaker, we heard what has been said. Who is the author of this document? Could we know that? Who is the author, who was behind it, we demand to know that.

Secondly, why does it smell of South African interest, former South African Government? Why? It has that smell and that is another question, why does it smell like that?

Thirdly, why is it given all these powers? Who has the right to give the power of the land to one committee without our consent? Who has that right? Who is behind this?

HON SPEAKER: This is not the first time that we see this document and we listened to the Minister introducing this document. (Interjection) One person at a time and the one who is speaking now has the last word, so listen to me. The document was introduced, at the end of which the Debate was adjourned by Honourable Maamberua for workshops. We are back now where we adjourned, Honourable Maamberua was the first speaker and we had a series of speakers making their contributions. So, let us continue to do that. We will get to a point where the Speaker would ask whether or not we should adopt the document or otherwise, depending on what would have been proposed during this discussion. Until then, let us cool down. Anything bad would affect all of us and what would be good of the document will be in the best interest of the Nation inclusive of all of us here.

If battles are to be fought, I would like to know who is on whose side and

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who is fighting against the other, but for now let us with sober minds share ideas and wait until we get to a point where we decide on the status of the document one way or the other. Until then, speak to the document.

HON RIRUAKO: Seemingly this document is going to create havoc. We began with our railways...(intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Show me where does it say that? What page or what Section?

HON RIRUAKO: I do not care what page.

HON SPEAKER: You must, otherwise I will rule you Out of Order.

HON RIRUAKO: Words formulate themselves as they come out of the mouth and you have already concluded to stop me. How do you know where I am going?

HON MEMBER: Do not argue with the Presiding Officer.

HON RIRUAKO: I am not arguing with the Presiding Officer, but how do you know what I am going to say? Do not read my mind as I do not read your mind. Do not read my mind, I have my rights.

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If I happen to be hurt by this document as a citizen, but many people have come to the conclusion that this document is our death and they happen to come up with strange ideas, how are you going to stop it if you do not want to discuss it? You can come with all the documents and say what page, but let us talk about the document you brought here.

HON SPEAKER: Yes, that is what I want you to do.

HON RIRUAKO: We are not saying it has to go out the window, we will have discussions until we see whether we want to have it or not, but as it is now, it is not worth having it.

HON SPEAKER: But tell us, Chief, what is it that makes it not being worthy.

HON RIRUAKO: I will give an example. We used to have a creamery here, feeding our children and feeding ourselves. It was removed because of cheap consumption from South Africa and after that we suffered the consequences of that. Now the agent who comes and buys cattle from me gives me the price, I do not have the right to make my own price. If somebody comes to your kraal, "*that one is five hundred, that one is six hundred.*" Who has given them this kind of permission? He cannot go to a white farmer and do the same thing. He will ask for the price. What is that? It is discrimination and the Government is allowing that to happen to its own people who voted for them.

I am going to sit down, but I want the people to know what they have at hand. I thank you.

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HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable Kawana.

**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY
GENERAL:** Honourable Speaker, I Move that the Debate be adjourned
until next week, Tuesday.

HON SPEAKER: Any Objection? Agreed to. The further
consideration of this Bill stands adjourned until Tuesday, next week. I ask
the Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House until Tuesday, next
week.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I Move that the House now adjourns
until next week Tuesday, the 8th of October.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:10 UNTIL 2013.10.08 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
08 OCTOBER 2013**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House is called to order. Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Honourable Taeyele-!Nawases.

**TABLING: PLANS OF ACTIONS
ARMS TRADE TREATY**

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I rise to table two Plans of Action, but before doing so, let me just give a brief background.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs, at the request of the Secretariat of the Parliamentarians of Global Action hosted an important two-day workshop from the 7th to the 8th of March 2013 on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons: The Role of Parliamentarians.

The main purpose of the workshop that brought fourteen MPs from southern Africa and West African regions together discussed the Arms Trade Treaty, regulating small arms and light weapons and how legislature could make a contribution in this regard. This workshop was held against the background negotiations on the Arms Trade Treaty which were to resume on March 18, 2013 at the United Nations Headquarters in

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

New York.

The Windhoek Workshop was, therefore, regarded as an important one of which its recommendations and Plan of Action were used during the Arms Trade Treaty negotiations in New York.

Honourable Speaker Deputy Speaker, the year 2013 is regarded as a crucial year for the international efforts in addressing the terrible consequences of inadequate regulations of the international arms trade. Namibia has always advocated and supported negotiations that will culminate in the adoption of a treaty that would regulate the illicit trade in arms, light weapons and ammunition.

Given its unwavering support for the Comprehensive Arms Trade Treaty, Namibia was once again invited, attended and participated in another PTA Regional Parliamentary Workshop on Arms Trade Treaty: The Role of Parliamentarians that took place in Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania from the 29th to the 30th of May 2013.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the purpose of the Dar-Es-Salaam workshop in which Members of Parliament from ten African countries participated was to sensitise MPs to the importance of advocating for earlier signature and ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty which was adopted at United Nations Headquarters on the 2nd of April 2013. As you may be aware, Honourable Members, the Arms Trade Treaty was opened for signature to all UN Member States the 3rd of June 2013 and it is anticipated that many UN Member States will wish to sign the Treaty.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, let me state it here that the important work of Parliamentarians is not confined to advocating for signatures of the Arms Trade Treaty only, but also for its subsequent prompt ratification and in the longer term, its implementation within the legislative framework of their respective domestic legal systems.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, it is now my single honour and pleasure to table these two Plans of Action and I so Move. Thank you for your

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON A TJONGARERO**

attention.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further Reports of Standing or Select Committees? I recognise Honourable Tjongarero.

**TABLING: REPORT ON FOURTH
CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT**

HON A TJONGARERO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Report on the Fourth Children's Parliament held at the National Assembly from 6 to 10 May 2013 for discussion. I so Move.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Report. Any other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Honourable Von Wietersheim.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 36:

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 10th of October 2013, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following question and allow me to quote one paragraph from the Hansard which I base my question on:

My Motion on Air Namibia of April this year, requesting an in-depth

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON VON WIETERSHEIM**

parliamentary investigation, was unanimously set aside on recommendation by the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport, motivating as follows:

“Currently we have two Programmes on the ground: One Programme spearheaded by the Right Honourable Prime Minister, including some Ministers and the Aviation Industry that is operational, and also to find a financial of way moving ahead. The other Programme is on the forensic auditing that we (and that is the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport), are conducting in order to know what is exactly happening. I, (the Honourable Minister of Transport), propose that we finish with the Prime Minister’s Programme and the forensic audit and then we table the Report in Parliament. If we are not satisfied with the outcomes of the Report we can continue with the parliamentary investigation. Otherwise we will duplicate all the efforts of the Government because the Investigating Committee has to be paid for by the very same Government. I (that is again the Honourable Minister), therefore, advise that we first complete the on-going investigations in the affairs of Air Namibia and then report back to Parliament.”

In the light of the above announcement, can the Right Honourable Prime Minister provide this Assembly with information pertaining to the present and the intended future strategy with regard to Air Namibia which will satisfy the Members of this House that the deteriorating financial state of affairs of the airline is being contained and the unsustainable volume of subsidisation is not expected to continue indefinitely?

QUESTION 37:

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: I give Notice that on Thursday, 10 October 2013, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport the following question:

After the Honourable Minister provided a detailed Report to this Assembly earlier this year on progress achieved with the forensic audit

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

into the financial state of affairs of Air Namibia, it can safely be assumed that the audit must by now have been finalised and I would ask the Honourable Minister, when the Members of this House can expect this Report on the matter, as undertaken by him when he advised to set aside a parliamentary investigation instead?

HON SPEAKER: Please table the Questions. Any further Notice of Questions? None. Notice of Motions? I recognise Honourable Professor Katjavivi.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: I give Notice that leave of absence, due to official business, be granted to the Minister of Finance, Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila until 16th October 2013. I so Move Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Motion. Ministerial Statements? I recognise Honourable Minister Herunga.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you very much Comrade Deputy Speaker. Honourable Members, I would like to take this opportunity to report back to you on the main outcomes of the

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: COP 11
HON HERUNGA**

Eleventh Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification which came to an end in the early morning hours of Saturday, the 28th of September 2013.

In a press conference on the final day of the Convention, outgoing Executive Secretary, Mr Luc Gnacadja, hailed COP 11 as a resounding success on both the logistical and technical levels. The UNCCD Secretariat reported that COP 11 was attended by over 3,000 participants, including 45 Ministers from around the world. Most delegates expressed their high level of satisfaction with the logistical arrangements for Cop 11 and left Namibia with a very positive impression of the country they had previously known very little about.

Honourable Members, COP 11 was convened under the theme, “*A Stronger UNCCD for a Land Degradation Neutral World*” and a total of forty-one decisions were adopted in Windhoek, many of which will impact greatly on the future workings of the Convention.

COP 11 was the first COP of the UNCCD to be held since Rio Plus 20 Conference in 2012 and its “*Future We Want*” outcome document which gave birth to the concept of land degradation neutrality and an expanded mandate for the UNCCD to issues of desertification, land degradation and drought.

This was a major point of debate during COP 11, which resulted in the establishment of an inter-governmental working group to follow up further on land degradation neutrality and its implications for the Convention. This represents a very important outcome for COP 11.

In order to enhance the UNCCD as a global authority on the desertification, land degradation and drought issues, the establishment of Science Policy Interface was approved by parties of COP 11 and that will serve as a platform to bring together scientists and policy-makers so that policies become more influenced by science-based facts and solutions.

In follow-up to Decision No. 6 of UNCCD COP 10, the process to identify a new housing arrangement for the global mechanism was

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: COP 11
HON HERUNGA**

finalised during COP 11. It was ultimately recommended to relocate the Headquarters of the Global Mechanism to Bonn, Germany, with the Liaison Office remaining behind in Rome, Italy. This was a longstanding and difficult decision facing the Convention which required a considerable diplomatic intervention from Namibia, with the strong support from our South African colleagues.

Honourable Members, Namibia, with its long history of battling desertification, land degradation and drought, made its voice loud during the COP 11. This was a strong local participation in the Parliamentary Forum and Sustainable Land Management Business Forum, both of which resulted in strongly worded declarations which are included in the official report of the Conference.

A total of 89 site events and special events were held on different aspects of desertification, land degradation and drought during COP 11, fifteen of which focused directly on Namibia's experiences.

A Namib Declaration on a Stronger UNCCD for a Land Degradation Neutral World was also issued during the final day of COP 11. This outlines six venture areas of action for the UNCCD from the Namibian perspective, which include, amongst others:

- strengthening the leadership of the UNCCD for "*The Future We Want*";
- addressing drought mitigation as a matter of priority;
- advancing the Science Policy Interface;
- focusing on local communities;
- engaging with the Private Sector; and
- empowering of our women.

As the President of COP, I will ensure that we work closely over the next two years with the incoming UNCCD Executive Secretary, Ms Barbut, to ensure that the decisions of COP 11 are effectively implemented for the maximum on-the-ground impacts. The next COP will take place in Turkey. I thank you.

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: COP 11
HON AMATHILA

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much for the Report and congratulations for being elected as the President of COP 11. Any further Ministerial Statements?

HON AMATHILA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, and welcome back. We have heard about your bereavement and we wish you all the strength in the challenges in the time ahead.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, I wanted to ask the House to take cognisance of what you just said, to congratulate the Minister of Environment for having steered the holding of COP 11 in our country. I got the impression that most, if not all the delegates who came to attend this workshop were very, very impressed with how Namibia carried out this particular workshop and how Namibians have participated. Therefore, the outcome is monumental and we have to congratulate the Minister and his staff for the achievement.

We equally have to take note of all these resolutions. They are a challenge to Namibia. We are a dry country and most of the approaches and resolutions are trying to help all countries, including Namibia, to overcome land degradation, poverty and drought. At one stage or the other we have to review these resolutions to see how best Namibia can learn from those resolutions which COP 11 has passed. Congratulations Minister and your team.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The Notice of Motion is by Honourable Von Wietersheim. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion?

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: I do, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

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MOTION ON ELECTORAL LEGISLATION
HON NAMBAHU / HON VON WIETERSHEIM

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Who seconds? Any Objection? Deputy Minister of Justice.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you very much Comrade Deputy Speaker. I actually do not have an objection to the Notice of Motion, but wish to raise some procedural issues which might be helpful for the Debate to go in the right direction.

My Minister and I were under the impression that this was put as a Question and are still of the opinion that the issues raised in the Motion contain some inaccuracies and I am not too sure how a Debate will help the situation. We are more than willing to provide answers should this come in the form of a question. However, if the House is of the opinion that the Debate can be helpful in providing assurances due to the way the Motion is framed, I leave that up to the House, but we are more than willing to provide information should it come in the form of a question.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can we adjourn this until tomorrow so that the Minister of Justice and the Mover can discuss and then agree or disagree?

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Honourable Speaker Deputy Speaker, I think the answer to this concern is contained in the Motion. It actually ends in a way that opens that gate and I think if there are inaccuracies or whatever, that is what the Debate is meant for. Just allow me to put the Motion, to motivate and then we can decide on what the next step would be.

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MOTION ON ELECTORAL LEGISLATION
HON PROF KATJAVIVI

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: I was going to reinforce your kind offer for the two parties to consult on the matter and for the Mover to have a number of options, including written responses. We can consult on that offer. If you agree, then obviously there will be written responses; if there is no agreement the Honourable Member could be allowed to continue to present his Motion.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have to follow the Rules if somebody objects.

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Honourable Deputy Speaker, it was once more said, there is no objection, there was a suggestion. My suggestion is that I motivate the Motion and the moment it is motivated we can adjourn or we can get the answers in the Debate.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I am trying to save the situation, I do not want to divide the House. The reason why I said it can be deferred to tomorrow is to prevent a situation where I am forced to divide the House and then your Motion lapses. If somebody objects the House is divided.

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: Honourable Speaker, let me repeat, because I think we are trying to avoid getting into a deadlock. The offer on the Table, if I may reinforce the Deputy Speaker's suggestion, was to refer to this matter for consultation. In the event that there is no agreement, it comes back and the Honourable Member will resume the Debate by presenting the Motion afresh to the House and then we can take it from there. Thank you.

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**MOTION ON ELECTORAL LEGISLATION
HON TJIHUIKO**

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I beg to be guided here, because this is the first time I come across this situation where the Honourable Minister can object to a Motion before the Motion has been motivated. Normally the Motion will be motivated and on the basis of the content of the information the two parties could come together and agree. That is what we did with the Motion of Honourable Kaura with the Minister of Agriculture. What is it that they are afraid of that we do not know?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just listen to the procedure as I have read it: I said, “*does the Honourable Member Move the Motion?*” He did. “*Who seconds?*” It was seconded. The next one, “*any objection?*” How do you react to that one?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I objected and I gave my reason for that.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: This Motion is deferred until tomorrow. The Honourable Member can Move it again if there is no agreement. So decided. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE:
PUBLIC PROCUREMENT BILL [B.7 – 2013]**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – *Public Procurement Bill* [B.7 – 2013].

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**PUBLIC PROCUREMENT BILL
HON DR KAMWI / HON TJIHUIKO**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on the 1st of October, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the Bill be read a Second Time. The Honourable Minister of Presidential Affairs and Attorney-General adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. Honourable Members, I was asked by Honourable Dr Kawana that his contribution to the Bill be deferred to next week Wednesday. I so submit for your consideration. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further discussion? I recognise Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, for giving me the Floor to speak to this very important Bill.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, before I start, I was actually trying to understand the procedures in which we are submitting Bills for discussion, because this Bill has gone through the Cabinet Committee on Legislation, again through Cabinet, I suppose, thus this is a document that Cabinet wants us to approve, this is the Law that they want to see in this country. Therefore, it is not a question of a Bill submitted by the Minister, it is a document approved by the Cabinet and we are discussing a policy or document of the Ruling Party that was submitted to this House through the Cabinet for us to approve and, for that matter, for the Nation to approve.

I am saying this, Honourable Deputy Speaker, because I am very much concerned and I will deal with the Bill page by page.

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PUBLIC PROCUREMENT BILL
HON SHIXWAMENI

HON SHIXWAMENI: May I ask my Colleague a question? I do not see the Minister of Finance here, are we not going to be speaking to ourselves if she is not listening to what we is saying?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Maybe you are late but the Chief Whip has moved an unopposed Motion that leave of absence be granted to the Minister of Finance until the 16th of October. The Debate can just continue in terms of the tradition, I am sure there is somebody who will report to her and then she will respond to that.

HON SHIXWAMENI: This Ministry does not have a Deputy Minister, in the first instance, unless we are told who the acting Minister of Finance is. It is not appropriate that people talk in the air without the concerned person listening to what is being said. It is better to have the Bill discussed in the presence of the Minister and unless we are informed who the acting Minister of Finance is, I would have serious problems discussing it.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can I respond in the form of a question to you, Honourable Shixwameni? You are not new, you are one of the senior Members of Parliament and I should think this is not the first time where a Debate is allowed to continue in the absence of the concerned Minister. Do you agree with me that it is not the first time?

HON SHIXWAMENI: Honourable Deputy Speaker, all that I am saying is that the *Public Procurement Bill* is a very important Bill for this country. To talk about it in the absence of the Minister or at least the acting Minister will serve no purpose. I do not know why we cannot be told if there is an acting Minister, let us hear who the acting Minister is.

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**PUBLIC PROCUREMENT BILL
HON DR KAMWI / HON TJIHUIKO**

This Bill is so important that we cannot discuss it without the principal stakeholder being in the House, listening to the whole Debate so that she understands what exactly the concerns of the people are and she attends to it. I do not even see officials of the Ministry of Finance here and it is going to create a problem for me. I have a problem debating this Bill in the absence of the Minister of Finance.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Who is the acting Minister of Finance? Are you the acting Minister?

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am not the acting Minister of Finance, but given the importance of this Bill, I tend to agree with Honourable Shixwameni that we may consider deferring this until next week Wednesday. I so submit.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: So agreed, I will now give the Floor to Honourable Tjihuiko if he wants to adjourn the Debate.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, common sense prevailed and I, therefore, with your permission, adjourn the Debate until next week Wednesday. Thank you.

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

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ADJOURNMENT

**CONSIDERATION: REPORT ON FAMILIARISATION VISIT BY
THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE TO
OTJOZONDJUPA REGION**

SECRETARY: Consideration of Report on the Familiarisation Visit by the Parliamentary Standing Committee to Otjozondjupa Region.

HON AMATHILA: Honourable Speaker, I Move that the introduction of this Report be postponed until tomorrow afternoon.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Honourable Deputy Speaker, in the absence of substantive matters on the Order Paper, I Move that the House adjourns until tomorrow at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:34 UNTIL 2013.10.09 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
09 OCTOBER 2013**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Business of the House is called to order. Any Petitions? Reports of Standing of Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers?

TABLING: REPORTS OF AUDITOR-GENERAL

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I lay on the Table on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Reports of the Auditor-General on the Accounts of:

- (i) Ministry of Education for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2012;
- (ii) National Assembly for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2012;
- (iii) National Planning Commission for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2012;
- (iv) Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2012;
- (v) Anti-Corruption Commission for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2012;

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HON VON WIETERSHEIM**

- (vi) Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2012;
- (vii) Ministry of Defence for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2012;
- (viii) Department of Prisons and Correctional Services of the Ministry of Safety and Security for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2012;
- (ix) Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2012;
- (x) Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2012.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Report, Honourable Minister.

Any further Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Honourable Von Wietersheim.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 38:

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 17th of October, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Justice the following questions:

Whereas the next round of elections are probably to be held in just over a year's time;

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HON ULENGA**

And whereas the Namibian High Court has pronounced itself in no uncertain terms about the urgent need to reform and improve the Electoral Law before the next round of elections;

Whereas both Electoral Commission of Namibia and the Law Reform and Development Commission had pointed to the need for a complete overhaul of the Electoral Law to restore the trust of the Namibian people in the electoral system;

And whereas the first draft had reportedly been completed by March this year and the draft legislation was actually expected to be ready by the end of May this year;

Therefore I wish to know from the Honourable Minister of Justice:

- The progress achieved with the completion of the drafting process;
- The timeframe envisaged for tabling the draft legislation in this Assembly; and
- The assurances of the Honourable Minister that the electoral legislation will be finalised in time to allow for proper preparation of the elections.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the question. Any further Notice of Questions? Honourable Ulenga.

QUESTION 39:

HON ULENGA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 24 October 2013, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Education the following questions:

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON ULENGA**

1. Is the Minister of Education aware of the fact that since the attempted implementation of Article 10 of the Namibian Constitution by the Government by providing primary education free of charge, there has been a loud clamour of voices, namely that schools can apparently no longer afford sufficient necessary resources to run their educational programmes?
2. How much would Government need in terms of dollars to satisfy the National Annual Educational Programme in full?
3. Has the Government already started to prepare for the provision of adequate and sufficient support of the National Educational Programme for 2014/2015 so as to avert the chaos and disarray that prevailed at the beginning of 2013?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please Table the Question. Any further Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Honourable Ulenga.

NOTICE OF MOTION

HON ULENGA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on Tuesday, 22nd of October 2013, I shall Move –

That this Assembly –

Concerned about the well-being, health and dignity of the Nation's senior and very senior citizens;

Mindful of the current non-existence or near non-existence of properly equipped and publicly run old-age homes in our country;

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HON HERUNGA**

Mindful that there is no professionally skilled caregivers in Namibia to satisfy the demand in this regard;

Conscious of the urgent need to provide health, physical relief, dignity and comfort to the old and very old citizens of Namibia wherever they may find themselves, whether in town or in the rural areas of Namibia;

Debates the deplorable state of health and care of the senior and very senior citizens in our society, the absence of quality dignified Home-Based Care and the absence of old-aged homes across the country.

Seek more information and insight into the above state through the services and consultations by the relevant Parliament Standing Committee and through public hearings and direct the Government through the Ministry of Health and Social Services to act to improve the state of health and care of the old and to provide sufficient dignity, comfort and relief to the senior and very senior citizens in their old-age. I so Move, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you please table the Motion? Message from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? Minister Herunga.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. I am very much delighted to announce that in less than two weeks over seven hundred members of the Adventure Travel Community will arrive here in Namibia for the 10th Annual Adventure Travel World Summit. This is the first time this prestigious event is held in Africa - affirmation of our country's growing recognition as an outstanding tourism destination and

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HON HERUNGA**

our unprecedented work and innovation in the Conservation Sector.

At this juncture, I would like to inform the august House that four days ago, I opened the Lüderitz Speed Challenge, an International Tourism Sporting event in which 19 Nations including Australia, Germany, Russia and Namibia among others are battling for the World Championships and records in kite-surfing and windsurfing. They will be in Luderitz for the next three weeks. The injection of this event into the economy of Lüderitz and its surroundings will be to the tune N\$1.5 million. Kite-surfing and windsurfing are only two of the many activities that our country offers to visitors.

The Adventure Travel World Summit will introduce a range of adventures in Namibia as well as our conservation story to leaders and influencers in this growing and lucrative Industry. The Adventure Travel World Summit delegates will be touring Namibia to gain a deeper understanding of what our country has to offer and our Tourism Industry throughout the country is prepared and excited to host these special guests. The delegates will be travelling on over 120 itineraries, visiting 28 conservancies and 18 joint venture lodges. We project that the benefits from the Adventure Travel World Summit will total N\$51 million into the Namibian economy.

In the information packet before you, you will see that my staff have detailed the total sales and the value of the extensive media and public relations we anticipate. This is the first time that this prestigious event is held in Africa, as I said earlier. More accredited media than ever before have registered and they are from influential publications such as CNN and National Geographic Channel.

The team of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism comprising of 72 members of Public and Private Sector, has worked hard to leverage this event by organising “excitement events,” including city wide clean-up campaigns, a Women-in-Tourism event, Adventure Connect events and a Special Indigenous Tourism Workshop for 250 people on the 25th of October. This will include representatives from all 79 communal conservancies as well as indigenous delegates from Canada, Australia, USA, Sweden and Papua New Guinea. These events are organised to

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HON HERUNGA**

provide as much inclusiveness to Namibians as possible in the run up to the Summit.

During the opening ceremony on the 29th of October, to which you are all invited, Honourable Members, the Gift to Earth Award will be presented to His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba by Chief Ameke Anyakou, a good friend of Namibia. This Gift is awarded by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to Presidents and Nations in recognition of conservation successes and empowerment of rural people. Namibia received this Gift fifteen years ago when it was awarded to President Sam Nujoma for the establishment of our first four communal conservancies.

On this day communal game guards in all over 79 conservancies will be recipients of major equipment donation valued at over N\$1 million in recognition of their contribution to conservation. Truly our game guards are the first line of defence for conservation in this country.

On the 1st of October, I publicly thanked the Namibian Private Sector the way and manner in which they have supported this partnership. Since the announcement that Namibia would host the Summit, Team Destination Namibia has received over N\$5 million in corporate sponsorships towards the Summit. If we factor in in-kind donations, time spent by the Private Sector and Civil Society, I estimate that the total Private Sector contribution amounts to N\$6 million.

The Namibian Tourism Sector does not stand alone; collaboration between the Public and Private Sector has reached new heights as we are working closely together to make the Adventure Travel World Summit an amazing success. I must say that I am humbled to see that in Namibia tourism is truly everyone's business. As a Nation we have resolved to deliver a Summit never to be forgotten.

In addition, in my statement I am leaving with you a fact sheet on the overall Summit and benefits that Namibia will receive from hosting this particular Summit. I thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Speaker.

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HON DR KAMWI**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for the vital information. Next is the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. Our Government, through the Ministry of Health and Social Services is primarily responsible for providing quality health and social services to all Namibians. It is, however, encouraging and worth noting that there are some companies out there in the Private Sector who do not leave health care to government alone, but have taken a decision to complement Government's efforts through the programmes such as Wellness Month as part of the Employee Wellness Programme to cater for the needs of their employees.

I am a patron of the FNB Namibia Wellness Programme and I have the pleasure to inform the Honourable Members about wellness initiatives for 2013 which will again benefit Honourable Members of Parliament. October is naturally known as Wellness Month at FNB Namibia, which aims at celebrating employee wellness and well-being. The Wellness Month was launched by me on the 1st of October 2010 here in Windhoek. I have had some consultations with the Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly, Dr Theo-Ben Gurirab and advised that Wellness Day during the course of this month takes place on the 10th of October 2013 here at Parliament.

Honourable Members may remember some media reports stating that some Members of Parliament were overweight. I trust that since then they may have been living a healthy lifestyle, which includes, amongst others, exercising, working hard and may even have gone on a diet. It is a known fact that lifestyle diseases are generally caused by unhealthy diet, amongst others lack of exercise and stress. The good news, however, is that most of these diseases are preventable by eliminating the risk factors, such as smoking. By the way, on this, may I inform the Honourable Members that I have received the final regulations in order for us to implement the *Tobacco Act 2010*.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR KAMWI**

It is, therefore, important that we educate and inform people about the causes of these diseases so that they can prevent them by living a healthy lifestyle.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, a healthy lifestyle wellness is much more than getting enough exercise, proper nutrition or screening for well-being, it is a decision to move towards optimal health. Wellness is a way of life, a lifestyle you adopt to achieve your highest potential for well-being and it is a journey that continues throughout our lives in the small choices we make as human beings on a daily basis. In this regard you may wish to have your own role models. In my own case I have my own role models who are true to the statement that I have just made. The Founding President, Dr Sam Nujoma is a living testimony to that. He exercises, walks long distances, especially if he is at his farm in an open area and does physical work through gardening, etcetera.

Similarly, I have had a talk with the President, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba on non-communicable diseases and what his advice is. He believes in his axe at his farm during de-bushing, which keeps him physically active on a regular basis. He does not see the clock ticking but sweat. When he retires, he gets to bed rested and feeling less stressed.

The third is the Right Honourable Hage Geingob, a farmer and a sport enthusiast, a coach and motivator. He is one of the best dancers on a platform. The other, Honourable Ben Amathila, a farmer and a sportsman and Dr Libertine Amathila, also a farmer and a sportswoman, are also some of the leaders leading healthy lives by exercising and eating a balanced diet. All these men and women are following lifestyles worth emulating.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, there are several of them out there but I thought I should just mention a few to illustrate the point that we can do it.

Regular health screening is an important component of employee wellness. Health screening can determine the possible presence of a disease or other health problems. Early detection of certain health problems can be addressed on time, which may lead to lower disease rates

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HON DR KAMWI**

and reduce absenteeism at work, reduce health care costs and increased productivity.

FNB has made a choice to again encourage Wellness in the Workplace because people remain the greatest asset in any organisation. It is because of this crucial nature of people that they are lately referred to as human capital, a clear recognition of employees' contribution to the value of an organisation. One of FNB's values is *passion* and this is demonstrated through the wellness initiative of willingly nurturing and caring for relationships not only with the FNB employees, but with Members of Parliament as well.

As a Patron of the FNB Namibia Wellness Programme I will endeavour to spread the core objectives of the FNB Wellness Programme and encourage other players to emulate FNB's exemplary approach to the well-being of their employees and political leaders.

Given all this, the FNB Wellness Initiative adds enormous value. I, therefore, commend the efforts of the FNB Group for their pro-activeness aimed at educating and raising awareness on wellness.

At this point in time, I would like to invite the Honourable Members to partake in the FNB Wellness Initiative. The following is the programme for the Wellness Day, which will take place tomorrow here at Parliament, 10 October 2013:

- **08:00 to 15:30:** Screening, Assessment of Blood Pressure, Cholesterol, Gluco-tests, BioMass Index (BMI), HIV and Prostate Cancer Screening, which is optional to my male Colleagues. For Cervical Cancer, we are doing it at the hospital.
- **08:30 to 15:00:** Walk-in massages (Indian/neck & head)
- **08:30 to 15:00:** They will supply sustenance, that is a Healthy Breakfast/Fruit Platters for participants who would by then have completed screening as health screening is preferred on an empty stomach. Remember, if you are to go for a gluco-test, the sugar level,

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HON BEZUIDENHOUDT**

you do not need to have your breakfast, first get your test.

Finally, I wish to encourage Honourable Members and staff to please make use of tomorrow's exercise. This is simply in your best interest. Thank you very much for your kind attention.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hope all of us will be able to come. Any further Ministerial Statements? I will allow Honourable Bezuidenhoudt to make a statement.

HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I want to react to the statement by the Honourable Minister of Environment and Tourism on the Adventure Travel Expo this month.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I think it is important that we as a country value and appreciate this pillar of our economy, namely tourism. We have many pillars, but tourism is one which has a lot of potential and needs a lot of respect, protection and promotion.

Namibia is undoubtedly a leader in the field of conservation. The Expo is something we can afford and manage. We cannot bid for the Olympics, the Soccer World Cup and similar events, but as a country we can get involved in areas within our strength. That is why I want to encourage the Minister to make the best of this promotional activity in partnership with the Private Sector.

Education and participation in tourism is crucial and critical for empowerment of our people. If we want to create jobs and create entrepreneurs, we need to lay down the rules, train them and let them operate. From my side, I would like to encourage that as well as the diversification of ownership within Industries of the Tourism Sector.

We have many animals, some problematic, others not, but we need to

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value them. We need to understand the value of our elephants, rhinos and kudus and I am saying this because lately we have seen a worrisome trend of people not respecting and valuing our animals. Poaching of rhinos is taking place even in Okavango, which is not a good thing for our image in the world. On that note, I would like to encourage the Minister to pursue strategies and tactics to minimise poaching. I would want to dare making the statement that once South Africa's rhinos have been annihilated, they will turn to Namibia as a result of our close proximity and we already now need to make provision to avoid that.

Finally, I would like to encourage Namibians never to harm our visitors as this will create a huge problem for the image of our country and for this Parliament to seriously consider a Parliamentary Conservation Caucus Group which would try to promote and supplement conservation efforts in this country.

I want to congratulate the Minister and wish him well for the weeks to come and would also want to welcome the visitors to our country. I thank you very much for the opportunity, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Uleunga.

HON ULENGA: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. While I would like to echo the words of the immediately preceding speaker in the House with regard to the ATWS 2013 that will happen in our country, and while I would also like to congratulate the Minister and basically the Government in this direction that we are going where we are in the end hosting some of these very important World Tourism Summit meetings, I would actually like to urge the Government to deal with one specific aspect that can be an obstacle in bringing Namibia to the fore as the chosen and beloved tourism country and this is the lack of information

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with regard to some of the important assets of the country, especially in the rural areas, and the lack of information and isolation that is going on, especially in the north and north-east of the country.

Recently there was an incident concerning the Tourism Industry which was very disturbing. Apparently there were people who came from neighbouring countries by plane who wanted to come and have a look around and prepare for that kind of happening, however, because of the lack of information and the isolation in which some of our communities live and the complete ignorance about what is happening elsewhere in the country, this very harmless incident led to serious fear, it led to a lot of rumours and it brought unnecessary disturbance, not only with one particular community, but in the whole country and the reason why it happened is that the people just did not know what is happening. So, let us not live in Windhoek and think when Windhoek is informed the whole country is informed. Sometimes when you keep your communities in ignorance and lack of information, we may risk harming the very efforts that we as a country and a Nation are trying to facilitate and achieve.

Therefore, Honourable Minister, please make sure that everybody is on the bandwagon and everybody knows what is happening and what will come out of that for all of us. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Notice of Motion is by Honourable Von Wietersheim. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion?

**AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION ON ELECTORAL
LEGISLATION**

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Yes, I do Honourable Deputy Speaker.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Who seconds the Motion? Any objection? Agreed to. The Honourable Member has the Floor to motivate the Motion.

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. As agreed amongst the Chief Whip and myself, there is an Amendment to the Motion. You already heard me asking a question to the Honourable Minister of Justice flowing out of this process. Now, I would like to table the Amendment. If the Honourable Members look at their Order Paper, the second part of the Motion reads: “*Therefore, this Assembly requests the Minister of Justice*” and from there that whole part is deleted and is amended as follows: “*Therefore, I Move that this Assembly:*

- 1. Pronounces itself on the importance and urgency of a thorough overhaul of all electoral legislation;*
- 2. Calls on all stakeholders involved in and responsible for the reform and renewal of the electoral legislation to ensure with all means at their disposal the timely finalisation of the process, allowing for sound and proper preparation of the elections in order to achieve a smooth and frictionless polling process with credible and unambiguous election results.”*

That is the Amendment I am proposing.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Motion as amended. The Honourable Member will motivate his Motion tomorrow. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**CONSIDERATION REPORT ON FAMILIARISATION
VISIT TO OTJOZONDJUPA REGION**

SECRETARY: Consideration of Report on the Familiarisation Visit by the Parliamentary Standing Committee to the Otjozondjupa Region.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does Honourable Amathila Move that the Report be considered?

HON AMATHILA: I so Move, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Amathila has the Floor.

HON AMATHILA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Colleagues, in motivating this Report, let me apologise to the House for the late tabling of this Report. Some of the issues contained herein might have been superseded by events. I notice that one of the items contained therein is the discussion we had with the Governor of the Otjozondjupa Region who is no longer with us, so many things will possibly occur from time to time which are no longer relevant. However, I have to introduce this Report because quite a number of things are very relevant and need our attention in order to be considered and recommendations to be made to the various Ministries to take action to meet the aspirations of our people.

The Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration undertook this familiarisation visit to the Otjozondjupa Region and on that occasion had the privilege of talking to the Governor of the Otjozondjupa Region and to explain itself as to why this trip was undertaken. The Governor shared with the Committee a number of issues, one which is contained on Page 4, Paragraph 5, namely that the Governor felt so strongly that the socio-economic situation in the region was very dire.

The Governor shared with the Committee the question of the water debts owed to NamWater by the communal farmers in the country and also that the electricity distribution in some of the areas, including Tsumkwe, was

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not adequate.

The Committee did explain to the Governor that the Prime Minister's Office has a special arrangement for the benefit of the San group of people, especially in Tsumkwe and that they be given the first priority in the distribution of electricity in Tsumkwe. However, there was a misunderstanding that preference was to be given to the San people to the exclusion of the other citizens of our country.

The Governor shared with the Committee the request to write off the water debts because most of the communal people will not be able to pay for these debts and this is one of the issues that have been superseded by events because this House discussed the water debts and recommended to the Minister to take care of this matter in the various Regions of our country.

The Governor also indicated that electricity distribution was becoming expensive because of the intervention of some of the REDS that we have introduced in the country and that the electricity in Tsumkwe was not adequate and the situation was made worse by the shebeen owners and newcomers to the area.

The Committee then visited the dying town of Kalkfeld and learned first-hand from the people of Kalkfeld about their problems. They have a serious water problem and as a result water is being rationed between 05:00 to 08:00 and from 17:00 to 20:00. This causes a lot of problems to the people who do not have enough containers to take enough water to look after themselves during the rationing period. This information was shared with the Committee by Mrs Endjala who is the person in charge of the village of Kalkfeld.

She shared with the Committee the dire situation of sanitation in the Region, that some people who live on one side of the road are still using the bucket system of toilets, which is something the Government has tried to address and we feel that we need to look seriously into this situation of the bucket system for a small town like Kalkfeld.

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The Committee found the main challenges in Kalkfeld to be overstocking of the village by the cattle owners. There is no grazing and as a result people do all kinds of funny things to get to the grazing on private farms.

Another great challenge to the people of Kalkfeld is the gravel roads, inclusive of the service roads, which are being washed away during the rainy season. These need attention from time to time in order to make those roads passable.

Mrs Endjala shared the high rate of unemployment with the Committee, that of the 2,000 inhabitants only 35 are working at the school, private businesses, the Village Council and the Ministry of Safety and Security. Thus, unemployment has resulted in people turning to the misuse of drugs and liquor. We feel that jobs have to be created and people have to be helped to create their own jobs from time to time.

In Kalkfeld, we came across a situation that people were trying to help themselves in setting up projects like clothing and the Village Council has planned to put up a tourist centre where shops and filling stations will be create in the hope that life will return to Kalkfeld.

The Committee visited Otjiwarongo again after Kalkfeld and visited a certain Mr Peter Arndt who is the manager of a company called “Otji-Toilet Project” in Otjiwarongo. While the intention to provide people with a toilet system which does not use a lot of water is lauded, the citizenry has a different view because of the odour that escapes from this system especially during summer and that it is not the best for usage in the sprawling location of Otjiwarongo.

The Committee had a meeting with the Municipality of Otjiwarongo and they informed the Committee that Otjiwarongo had a very fast-growing population of 40,000, most of which come from adjacent farms. One is amazed by how big these townships have become and how people are struggling to make ends meet. Every Member of Parliament should visit these areas to realise the stress the Municipality of Otjiwarongo is experiencing to provide housing, water and serviced plots for the people of Otjiwarongo.

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The Municipality shared with the Committee that whereas Otjiwarongo does not qualify for a subsidy from the Government because it is regarded as a Part 2 Municipality, the Municipality does not have enough income to look after these people requiring services. They informed the Committee that their most important source of income is the reselling of water and electricity to the citizenry, but now that the electricity is being resold by NORED, the municipality has been denied an income and they cannot cope with looking after their citizens. They feel that they should be provided with a subsidy in order to meet the challenges.

They also have a problem with servicing the land as it takes so long for them to get the land proclaimed and as a result they appeal to the Government to look into the possibility to equip the municipality to service the land faster.

As for the Ministry of Health and Social Services, there is a local company producing pharmaceuticals in the area, but they do not meet the requirements of the World Health Organisation and they feel that the Ministry should look into the possibility of acquiring its medicine from this company acquire the capacity in order to help it meet the World Health standards. That is the information shared with us by the community.

We had a meeting with the community and one issue raised is the fact that NamWater and NamPower are being run on a commercial basis and because of that they are not in a position to provide cheaper water and electricity to the residents of Otjiwarongo. They want this issue to be looked into so that our pensioners are provided with cheaper water and electricity.

The community also shared with the Committee that there are no old-aged homes in Otjiwarongo, the nearest being in Okahandja.

They also claimed that auctioning of residential land is making land very expensive, whereas here in Windhoek, Government has stopped the auctioning of land. At the time the Committee was in Otjiwarongo this practice was apparently still continuing.

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The community meetings revealed that the Ministry of Finance is not fully decentralised. For instance, people experience difficulties with medical aid as enquiries are always dealt with from Windhoek.

The meetings also revealed the alarming rate of school drop-outs, which leads to hopelessness and alcohol abuse in Otjiwarongo. The situation calls for Government's intervention in terms of Special Programmes and Activities to create employment opportunities for those young unemployed.

The Committee had an opportunity to visit Okoruso Mine and learned that it is running at a loss because of the price of the metal that they are exporting. However, I guess there is very little we can do at this stage to help them overcome their problems.

The Committee had a meeting with the community of Otavi and was informed that a new gold mine will possibly be established, but the people of Otavi feel that they are not taken into account when land is being distribution. Therefore, their animals are roaming the town and causing accidents.

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare rendered support to some women to start craft workshops in Otavi, which is being used to raise money.

The Committee had a meeting at Gam and we came across a situation which really warrants attention. Most of the people of Gam are from Botswana and they feel marginalised. They complained about the poisonous plant which is the main killer of their animals in the area. This poisonous plant has been with us for quite some time and the Committee feels that maybe it is time for us to do research on how to deal with this poisonous plant or educate people how to avoid this poisonous plant.

The people of Gam feel that the period of 21 days their animals have to be kept in quarantine is too long, as some of their animals die during this period or their condition deteriorate. Therefore, there is a request that we look into the possibility of addressing the question of quarantine camps.

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They feel that the long distance from the Botswana border does not justify the quarantine camps in Gam.

Another challenge the community faces is that they only have one borehole for the entire community, while another one is for the exclusive use of Government employees. We do not know the reason for this discrimination, but this is something that needs to be looked into. They claim that most of the boreholes drilled in Gam are dry; therefore, the Government needs to drill more boreholes in order to provide water for the people in Gam.

Another problem which the Small and Medium Enterprises are encountering in Gam is the lack of electricity.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, is it possible to summarise and come to the recommendations? I believe the Members have a copy of the Report.

HON AMATHILA: Yes, I can summarise. I thought I would give background to the Report in the hope that the recommendations will be clearer, but if Honourable Members have read the Report, let me just skip everything else and come to the recommendation.

One of the problems that the people of Tsumkwe have is the untarred road between Tsumkwe and Grootfontein. There is no clinic and people have to travel long distances. The ambulances sometimes do not cope and it is a very dangerous road in the rainy season, therefore, they need a tarred road urgently.

Grootfontein is the recipient of most of the school children from the neighbouring reserves and farms and they do not have a place to stay. The Grootfontein wants to demolish the old compound there and we were advising them to transform these compounds into a residential area for

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school children who do not have a place to stay.

In Otjituuo, the people strongly recommended that the Government's policy of having Special Programmes for the San children is not healthy because the San children have grown up with the people in the community and to segregate them is not a good solution. We tend to agree and that we need to look afresh at the Special Programmes for the San children in those areas.

Coming to the recommendations:

1. The Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development should deal with the complaint that the Municipality of Otjiwarongo loses income through sale of electricity as a result of the establishment of CENORED.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I think the Members have read most of the recommendations and maybe I should just recommend that all these recommendations to the respective Ministries be taken note of and endorsed and I call on all the respective Ministries to carry out the recommendations if possible.

I seek your support for this Report and I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Report contains some elements which need our attention. Obviously, we are facing a drought situation in the country at this moment, we have seen the condition of our people on the ground and given the fact that as we are talking now, we are still waiting for the rain, I believe that the relevant Ministries should take up the recommendations in the Report and act on

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them immediately because our people need assistance.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, some of the issues raised in the Report touch on issues we have raised and discussed in the past. The Report deals with the conditions of the people in Gam and I have personally raised this issue so many times, to the extent that I even called on Government to have a tailor-made Programme to assist the people in that refugee camp called Gam. Up to now nothing has happened. These people came back to this country in 1993, but no single intervention Programme has been developed by Government to help those Namibian sons and daughters of those who have suffered at the hands of Von Trotha. They are sitting in Gam, nothing has happened ever since they came here. There is no specific Government Programme that has been developed to address the issue of those people. I challenge anybody to stand up and say this is the Programme. It is very clear that these people have been neglected over time.

I was in Gam recently and I have seen with my own eyes a number of boreholes which were supposed to have been drilled through the German Special Initiative Programme. The Report here is saying that there are only two and to make matters worse, Government has their own borehole and the people have their own borehole. What does it mean? The same is happening in Tsumkwe. The people who took their cattle to Tsumkwe were denied access to water. In Gam, Government officials are more special, they must have their own borehole and the rest of the community another borehole. What does that mean? Where are we on the issue of Gam, Colleagues? Do we regard these people as part of Namibia? Why is it that we are doing these things? I do not understand because it is not the first time that we are raising this issue.

People have to wait for an ambulance coming from Mangetti to pick up somebody in Gam and take the person to Grootfontein.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you very much. I have listen to the young man there. On a Point of Information, after our brothers and

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sisters came from Botswana, I went there and we were saying it will not be a wise thing for people to come back home and be in a group in one space, they should reintegrate into the rest of the other Namibians. After so many years the people are still in one place as an identifiable group of people who have come back from Botswana. Is that a good thing in the long run for integration?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, these people have been living in that part of the country since 1993 and not everybody may be prepared to move.

HON DINGARA: Honourable Tjiuiko said that since 1993 when the people arrived in Gam nothing has happened and the Government has done nothing. I was also in Gam last year and they showed us a school which was built in 2006. Honourable Tjiuiko also said the boreholes drilled for the people have dried up, therefore I do not understand when he says nothing has been done. It means a school is nothing, a borehole is nothing. I have also seen a clinic which has been constructed for the people in Gam. Is a clinic nothing? I am trying to understand what Honourable Tjiuiko means. I understand the challenge of Gam and they are many, but many things have happened in Gam although not sufficient. I feel he is just exaggerating issue, we know the challenges in Gam.

HON TJIHUIKO: That is his own opinion, Honourable Deputy Speaker. What I am saying and I repeat, when you look at what happened when we returned to this country and when the veterans returned, there were specific tailor-made Programmes developed to assist those people.

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I have no intention to play down the plight of any sector of the Namibian community. I am listening to what Honourable Tjiuiko

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is telling us, but is it not also true that when the government came up with the proposal that our Right Honourable Prime Minister alluded to just now, that those who wanted to have a block of people that they believed would be supporting them did not want that group of people to become part of the broader Namibian society and wanted to keep them there for purposes that were known to them then? Is that not true?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, the people of Gam are open-minded people, they belong to all the Political Parties in this country. How many people in Gam have been resettled? Are you trying to tell me that a person who belongs to a certain Political Party will listen to Tjihiuko when the Government is saying that “*we have bought ten farms for people of Gam, come and resettle there*” and refuse? I want somebody to stand up and tell me when that has happened? It is not correct.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, since it is not the first time you are making these insinuations that the Government does not care about some sections of our population and you have raised these issues before and whenever you attempted to raise these issues in the past, Honourable Kazenambo has always shot your arguments down? Now you are taking advantage of his absence here and exploiting the ignorance of the people. Why do you not wait for those who are in the know and who have been visiting Gam more than you did, to be in the House?

HON TJIHUIKO: The Honourable Deputy Minister is saying there is nobody in this Chamber from the Executive who knows anything about Gam except for Kazenambo, therefore the Debate must be postponement until Kazenambo is present. That is an admission of what I am saying, that there is something very serious about the situation in Gam, because

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we have not even been to Gam, we do not take it seriously and that is the problem. Honourable Kazenambo is not here but I am here and I will provide that information. (Intervention).

HON MWANINGANGE: Honourable Tjihiuko, I want to give you information about Gam which is less than 48 hours old. I went up to the border of Botswana last weekend with a working Committee and we were talking to people where we saw animals seeking water and grazing. We started from Gobabis in Omaheke up to the border of Botswana and I asked some people, “*whose cattle are these?*” I was told they belong to those people who came back from Botswana who decided to graze their cattle there. They are going to other places as well; they do not only find themselves in Gam. Your mind-set is Gam, but we were there, we can tell you many things about those people because you have not gone there for some time.

HON TJIHUIKO: The point I am trying to make is that the Report is telling us that there were only two boreholes at that place.

HON DR NDJOZE-OJO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I really want us to handle this Report the way it was presented. It is very comprehensive, it did not talk about Gam alone, it talks about Otjiwarongo, Kalkfeld, Otavi and Grootfontein. It is a very comprehensive presentation of what the challenges are in these different places and I do not want Honourable Tjihiuko to single out the Gam people. It is also a very comprehensive Report in terms of the recommendations that were made concerning these different aspects and challenges in the different areas of our country. I have been to Gam many times, I have been to Gam School when I was in the office, I know the challenges there, so please let us not take it out of context, let us look at it as a comprehensive Report that tackles challenges of all the different people in these different areas so that the

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recommendations will be made by the different Ministries and tackle the problems as comprehensive as it has been presented by Honourable Amathila.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Member, but the problem is that you start with one and move to another one. Now I am not being given a chance to move out of Gam. Let me finish what I am saying about Gam, then I will move on to Otjiwarongo and the other places. If people can just keep their guns, prepare their own contributions and let me finish what I have started.

To conclude on Gam, I will continue to say...(Intervention)

HON MAAMBERUA: On a Point of Information. As we all know, the people of Gam are descendants of the genocide victims. They happened to be born in Botswana and came back in the year 1993 after our Independence. Our very own Government, having full knowledge of the conditions of these people coming from exile, has not designed any Special Programme to reintegrate these people who otherwise cannot reintegrate themselves without Government assistance and without deliberate efforts by Government to integrate them, because they have nowhere else to go except the area that was allocated to them, the so-called Gam. The same applies to the people of Eiseb.

If we have to look at the resettlement statistics, I personally have been to Gam and Eiseb and I do not know of any single individual or family from those two areas who have benefited under the Resettlement Programme.

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Have they applied? They need to apply, they cannot just be resettled.

HON MAAMBERUA: You see, the Minister is confirming that. These are people who have come under very difficult circumstances and who with deliberate Government efforts should have been integrated differently. This has not happened.

The worst thing that happened after Independence in this, our very beautiful country to a people who had already suffered so much, is what happened in Gam. The expropriation of assets in the form of livestock of the Gam people by our own very Government has deprived and impoverished those citizens of our country completely. (Interjections). That is for your information.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Maamberua, you probably have more information, why do you not just take the Floor?

HON MAAMBERUA: Let me just say my last words. Therefore, the people of Gam and the people of Eiseb, including those who are still in the Diaspora, need special attention and Programmes by our own Government.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information, since they want to politicise the whole issue. Firstly, information: When our brothers from Gam, ancestors of those who fled during the war, wanted to come back, the two Governments of Namibia and Botswana had to negotiate. The Botswana Government was saying these are their citizens in whom they have invested, given them education and everything, so they were not coming back as refugees, they were citizens in an independent country who have developed their lives there and were coming back. That is why there were no Special Programmes, because they were coming back and we were saying *“let them come and integrate, go all over the country and settle.”* You people refused.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am trying to conclude on the issue of Gam and just touch on one or two other issues in finalising my contribution. Let me thank Honourable Maamberua for providing that information. The only intervention...(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: On a Point of Information. We should listen to ourselves when we say certain things in this House. The records will reflect that we are condemning the Government of Botswana for having repressed the people who are now settled in Gam. The statement of Honourable Maamberua said that this Government did not put up a Special Programme for these people who are coming from a very serious background. What does that mean? They were oppressed by Botswana.

HON TJIHUIKO: I did not say that.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: I am saying what I understood from him, because the people who were repressed here, who fled from Namibia because of the oppression are not this generation. These are the offspring of those who fled from Namibia and I do not think we are making reference to those one who do no longer exist. If we are not listening to what we are saying, tomorrow we will be misinterpreted to be condemning the Government of Botswana for things they probably did not do. As the Prime Minister rightly said, when these citizens came they were not stateless people, they were citizens of Botswana and they were treated just like any other Batswanas in independent Botswana. That is my understanding.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to call the House to order. Honestly speaking, we are going on and on, we are using a Report that was adequately presented and Honourable Dr Ndjoze-Ojo made it extremely clear when she said we should not pick on one particular aspect of the Report, but look at it holistically. It will not help us to go on and on. I am going to call upon the Honourable Tjihiuko to conclude his remarks so that we can make progress.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, I will try to do that. Just one sentence before I move on to something else.

The issue of the situation in Gam, I want to repeat...(Intervention).

HON MAAMBERUA: I have to make a correction on the misrepresentation of my statement and my intention and that is that I have implied that the people were oppressed in Botswana. I said the people of Gam are descendants of people who suffered and were subjected to genocide. That is why they were born outside their own motherland. It was not by choice that they went to Botswana, it was as a result of genocide and when they came back, they had no villages to go to. I was in exile, I left the country in 1978, I was in Botswana, Germany, Zimbabwe, Cameroon and many other countries, but when I came back I had my own village to go back to. Those people had none of their villages to return to. The villages have become these farms that we are talking about, that are now owned by the Germans and other people. We are not saying these people were being oppressed in Botswana. That is why we are calling for special reintegration of these people.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us have a separate Debate on that issue, but let us not try and introduce issues under this Report. Let us have a clear well-articulated Debate on that and not delay the discussion

of this Report.

HON TJIHUIKO: Let me move away from the Gam issue, let me touch on two issues before I conclude.

The second point that I want to touch on is the separate development of the San people in areas like Grootfontein, Katjoruu and Koplens, where these kids and these communities have been living together for years. I think it was clearly identified that it is a problem and something that should not be encouraged. You do not encourage communities that have been living together for years to come and say you look like this, therefore there will be a Special Programme for this community, the other community will be excluded from that. That is not the best way to go about it and that policy of divide and rule does not fit into the new environment.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Actually, Honourable Tjihuiko, it is not a policy of dividing communities and I think you put it wrongly. If the community requests that they should be treated together as a community, nobody is going to object to that. I do not think we should debate that one.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I could be wrong because as I was growing up in this country, we were using the phrase “*one Namibia, one Nation.*” (Intervention)

HON NYAMU: On a Point of Order. When we visited Gam and Tsumkwe, it was made clear that the San have a separate Development Programmes which have nothing to do with other residents of the same

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place. This is a separate development. The schools are separate. What are we trying to create? We have the right to ask this question directly to the Government. How is this separate development in Namibia justified? Is it by Law, is it by the Constitution? In practice this is taking place. They have special privileges while everybody in Namibia is suffering.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thought you were going to ask a question. Honourable Tjihuiko is on the Floor and I thought you were taking issue. (Intervention)

HON NYAMU: I just wanted to give information and with due respect, when I visited Gam I was getting hallucinations, I did not think that such a development can happen in Namibia and I think this House here must move to investigate deeper what is going on in Gam. It is going to be a disaster.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thought you were speaking on a Pint of Information, but you are now making your own intervention. The Report is very clear, it is directed to Government, Ministries and Agencies and it will be dealt with. Can I ask Honourable Tjihuiko to please conclude?

HON TJIHUIKO: I am trying my level best. I was saying that I grew up in this country and as a youngster I knew Honourable !Naruseb, Honourable Ngatjizeko and Honourable Esau. The phrase we were using was simply "*one Namibia, one Nation.*" Government can develop specific Intervention Programmes to address a specific concern and this is what we are looking at in Tsumkwe. This is what can happen to anybody, but to have a situation where a specific area belongs to a specific group of people is practising separate development of Verwoerd and that is not

correct. This cannot be tolerated.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Those were your concluding remarks because I want to make some progress. Thank you very much. I now call upon Honourable Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: I am not going to make a row; I want you to calm down. I am quite happy to hear Gam being discussed here as it was something extraneous which could not be mentioned here. We tried going to the radio which we do not control and they tried by all means to shut us out. That is the habit.

What I have seen in Gam is separate development. I have sons on the farms, I take them to school myself.

HON KAPIA: Honourable Acting Deputy Speaker, we must stick to discussing the Report, because if we want to make political statements here for the campaign, some of the leaders and even NBC can retaliate by saying that some leaders went to Gam and told the Gam people not to move from that particular place. We cannot leave some of the statements unchallenged, we have to correct them!

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Chair, if you want to see a proper kind of treatment, come to my area and see. We are the same people and you are dividing us. It is a shame to ourselves. You are my brother, go and see with your own eyes. What we want is a very peaceful and harmonious country, but you are creating a chaotic situation in Namibia. We cannot tolerate that, we live together and we have to harness whatever we have together. We cannot allow ourselves to be divided by anyone.

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HON LIMBO

Honourable Deputy Speaker, he must visit Gam himself and what we have seen is what is happening there. There are 18 boreholes without water and these people were given permission to take money out of the Government coffers without being challenged. Eighteen boreholes and the money is gone already. There must be control, they cannot do what they want, the money belongs to us and it cannot be given away as a present. Are you now going to say anything about it?

The water is running freely, there has to be control and that water has to be stored somewhere in reservoirs. Have you seen that control and management? It is unfair. It is not that water is scarce, it is there, but being misused.

I am quite happy that this topic is being discussed here as we do not want to be divided by certain people from Government institutions who have their own way of doing things. It must be discussed here in this House which must bring us together and not divide us. That division must not be allowed.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I would like to make it very clear that this Report speaks louder. It is to the point in terms of the issues that are covered in that Report and we do not need to deviate from that. Let us simply commend the Report and expect the Ministries and Agencies to take it up and do justice to that Report. Honourable Limbo.

HON LIMBO: All of us listened very carefully to Honourable Amathila when he was reading his Report and what is now needed from all of us here is not to argue but to look at the recommendations contained in the Report and if there is a need for this House to appoint a body to do follow-up, let us do so. However, we must ensure that the Ministries act on the Report and arguing amongst ourselves here will not help the Nation out there.

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The Report deals with different parts of the Region, but now we are only reflecting only on Gam and Tsumkwe. What about Kalkfeld where we told there are problems? As leaders we should say yes, we do have problems, but how do we move forward from here so that these issues which were identified are dealt with rather than going around in circles? Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Maamberua.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you. I was a member of the mission that was undertaken by the Committee and a signatory to the Report. I fully concur with the Report and wish to urge my fellow MPs to take this Report very seriously in its entirety so that the recommendations that emanate from that Report are implemented by the respective Ministries to the letter and spirit. I also urge our Committee that we should continue the implementation of our recommendations because that is part of our oversight responsibility. Many people have spoken, there was no objection to any of our recommendations and I want to concur with the Chairman's recommendation that the Report be adopted by this House.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Lucas.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I would like to request the indulgence of the House to postpone the Debate on this Report which deals with very serious issues. Therefore, it would only be appropriate to postpone the Debate so that I provide factual and accurate information on some of the issues, for us to be on the same page. I Move, Honourable Deputy Speaker, that the Debate be adjourned until 15th

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HON AMATHILA**

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Any objection? So decided. We move on to the next Report. Honourable Amathila, you have the Floor.

HON AMATHILA: Honourable Colleagues, this time I promise to be very brief. I am going to deal with this matter by taking on the recommendations.

The Committee undertook a very quick trip at the height of a situation that reminds us that our country is a dry country. The President addressed us and informed us that no Namibian should be allowed to die because of the drought conditions. This has propelled the Committee to visit five selected areas after the Office of the Prime Minister identified which of those areas were more urgent than the others. The areas that the Committee identified were Ohangwena, Omusati, Kunene and Erongo. The fifth one was supposed to be Omaheke which, because of time, did not actually materialise.

The reason for the visits was to try and determine the impact of the assistance that Government was giving on this particular aspect, because when we realised that an emergency situation existed, Government assistance came in full force, sending food supplies and all kinds of items to relieve the pressure on those who needed help. The Committee, therefore, tried to establish whether this food relief was reaching each and every one of the affected people.

Just to come to the conclusion and recommendation, I wish to refer to Page 31, Paragraph 7.1 which reads: *“Although the visit to the Regions appeared to be equally affected with the exception of Kunene by the drought, the emergency drought relief food has not been uniformly distributed. For example, in Ohangwena and Omusati Regions only one 12.5 kg bag of maize meal was given per household. In the other part of*

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Omusati one bag of 12.5 kg was given per household plus a bag of mahangu. Whereas in Kunene Region one 12.5 kg bag of maize-meal was given per person, whereas in Erongo Region, particularly in Okombahe, two 12.5 kg bags of maize meal were distributed per beneficiary.”

We wanted to point this out in order to standardise the whole situation. For instance, in Erongo there were reports of people selling this maize-meal because they had such a lot of it.

In Paragraph 7.2 we deal with the Water Provision: *“Despite reported instructions by the Prime Minister to open all closed water points, including troughs for large stock drinking, most of these points remained closed at the time of the visit. The reason given was that there were no written instructions from either the Office of the Prime Minister or the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry to open them. It was also not clear whether existing debts would be forgiven or not.”*

Dear Colleagues, water is life and without water it is very difficult for the citizenry to make a living. When we were in those areas, some areas had brackish water, saline and in other areas there was simply no water. In Otamanzi, one area we visited in Omusati, the cattle have to walk twenty kilometres in order to get to the water and twenty kilometres to go back. In-between there is no grazing and obviously by the time the cattle get to the grazing, it is time to return to the water. Therefore, water is a very serious problem during this drought and we have to really try and pay attention to see that in future we find a solution for the situation we have at the moment.

Another situation that we found in Ohangwena was that people in Namibia used to take their cattle for grazing to Angola, but because there is no water in Angola, the people of Angola are now bringing their cattle to Namibia for water. Thus a situation has developed, that whilst Government is trying to get rid of the redline between the Police Zone and the North, there is a continuous movement of animals between Namibia and Angola in an area where vaccination is possibly not even taking place. This is a serious issue that we need to look at and see how best we can

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help with information and reopening of water points in our own areas so that the problem of water is relieved.

7.3 deals with the livestock marketing scheme: *“The livestock marketing scheme has not been well received in the four Regions. Farmers cited low prices offered by Meatco as the reason for reluctance to sell their livestock. The additional amount per animal sold offered by Government appears to have requirements which communities regard as stringent and cumbersome and farmers find difficult to meet.”*

In Opuwo we were told that people were offered N\$200 to N\$300 per cattle and it is so pathetic that people opted to watch their cattle die rather than giving their cattle for that kind of price to Meatco. I do not know how we are going to handle this, but Meatco is exploiting the situation and people are resisting, they say it is better to let them die than giving them away for N\$200.

8: Conclusion and Recommendation: *“In view of the information gathered during the visit, the Committee concluded that the emergency drought relief food aid did not always reach the affected communities timely and it was wholly inadequate. As mentioned in the Report, the Committee also found that there were a number of problems and constraints hampering the smooth implementation of drought relief measures.”* That was the time when the Committee actually visited the area, but in the meantime Government has issued instructions, defining who the recipients are and affected people and also that providing relish, because in the past people were only getting maize-meal, there was no fish, no beans, no cooking oil, nothing. So, the Government did respond to this situation so that the people are now provided with fresh fish and game meat. Tinned meat and fish is now being distributed among the people and we feel that Government did take note of our recommendation and started implementing it.

However, the Committee has noted with satisfaction the recent development in which the Government has decided to increase the volume of food and expedite the distribution in order to further improve the

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implementation of drought relief measures and the Committee would like to submit the following recommendations:

1. That the Office of the Prime Minister should apply uniformity in food distribution so that beneficiaries in all Regions are given the same amount of food.

This is something that has already been taken care of.

2. That the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry should given clear written instructions on what to do with closed water points.

We have dealt with this matter in a Motion which was in the House, that these debts be written off. Some people are paying up to N\$100 to people who have access to water and it is really very pressing on the people who do not have access to clean water. It is a situation that can be repeated over and over again, water is so scarce and, obviously, most people have to walk long distances to get to the water.

3. That the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry should deal with the bottle-neck which delays the drilling and rehabilitation of boreholes.
4. The Ministry should develop a prototype water catchment system so that people could harvest and store more water during the rainy season.
5. The Ministry, in collaboration with the tertiary institution, should look at the possibility of desalination of underground water. For example, a research fund could be created to enable researchers and research institutions to develop technologies and to source available technology worldwide to treat saline water and brackish water. The funds could also finance research to find out whether there was truth in the claim that too many earth dams in one area will cause salinity.
6. That the Ministry should facilitate the research of cheap ways to

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desalinate seawater, which could be used to change the face of our desert. Namibia is a dry country and obviously what we have encountered now as the driest season in thirty years could be repeated possibly more often because of climate change. So we have to look to the sea in order to get our water from the sea.

7. The Ministry should create a subsidiary fund to support pioneers or volunteers who may like to work and live in the desert to grow vegetables and fruits without destroying life in the desert.

I will be the first one to volunteer to go and live in the desert if you can provide water.

8. The Ministry should also consider supplying water to communities by water tanks. In Opuwo it was so difficult appreciate that people have moved out of their residential area, the children have left school, following their parents who are running after grazing and where the grazing is there is no water. It was a very difficult situation at the time when we visited that we feel something should be done to provide water tanks to provide water where the people find themselves because the drilling of boreholes has not proven successful hitherto.

9. The Ministry should review the Livestock Marketing Scheme to make it attractive to all farmers.

Maybe this is an area where we need to get away from the situation where we keep a lot of animals of low quality and possibly encourage people to keep less animals of good quality. Maybe that will be one of the solutions for the future.

I thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Prime Minister.

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you very much, and I thank the Honourable Amathila. Maybe to enlighten the House and to update you, I would like to adjourn and give an updated Report on the drought relief, which may help the progress.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think that is a timely suggestion. Any objection?

HON MAAMBERUA: As much as I agree to the updated information to supplement the Report, I wanted to make a comment or two and then I will not speak on the Report again because I was part of the mission who came up with the Report. What prompted the Report is partly the Presidential Statement and also the Motion on Drought that I tabled here. Maybe we forgot to just mention that. I also wanted to say that drought could pass any time after the rains have started, but the effects of drought will definitely continue because many people have lost livestock, others have lost their crops and therefore, I would urge Government to continue assisting those households that may have suffered as a result.

I was actually taken aback and totally disappointed to have noted that in some areas in Namibia people are still watering their animals and themselves from what used to be known as *ozombu*, *omizema* in most of our languages we know what it means, these dark waterholes and things like that. We have to do something about this in either our Water Policy or the way in which we manage our water resources and distribute water to our rural-based communities. That is all that I wanted to say.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I do not see any one who would like to take the Floor. Honourable Tjihuiko.

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ADJOURNMENT

HON TJIHUIKO: I thought that we will go by what the Right Honourable Prime Minister has said.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I think that is where we are now. With that understanding, can I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House until tomorrow?

HON PRIME MINISTER I Move that the House be adjourned until tomorrow at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:13 UNTIL 2013.10.10 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
10 OCTOBER 2013**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House is called to order. Any Petition? None. Reports of Standing or Select Committee? None. Other Reports and Papers? None. Notice of questions? None. Notice of Motions? I recognise Honourable Ulenka.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON ULENGA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, on Thursday the 23rd of October 2013, I shall Move-

That this Assembly –

Whereas the struggle for freedom and National Independence was waged primarily for the return of the land and other national assets and their redistribution amongst the landless and the needy;

Whereas this same cornerstone of the National Liberation Struggle was also at the heart of the wars of resistance fought by our forefathers, namely Maherero, Mandume and Witbooi, prominent amongst others;

Noting that an acceptable solution to the land question has remained elusive despite the supreme sacrifices rendered by the brave sons and daughters of this soil;

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON NGHIMTINA**

Noting further the deplorable social state and living conditions of former freedom fighters, political prisoners, war exiles like the Botswana returnees whose forefathers and mothers had to flee the country in the face of genocide and land expropriation; and the poor social state of the country's landless; some of whom still live in reception centres such as Gam, 20 years since their return to the land of their forefathers:

Therefore; that this House –

- (i) *Debates* incisively, the deplorable socio-economic state of the various categories of the above landless groups and the feasible solutions to the land question;
- (ii) *Familiarises* itself with the issue through site visits to communities and through consultations; and
- (iii) *Advises* Government about practical ways to bring social and economic relief to the various affected groups. I so Move.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Motion. Any other Notice of Motion? None. Message from the Head of State? None. Ministerial Statements? Minister of Works and Transport.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. I have a message that I wish to convey to the Parliament and the Nation.

Today, Thursday, the 10th of October 2013, at around 09:00, for the first time in the history of Namibia a horrific accident of scale and magnitude

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took place when a truck carrying 200 grape farm workers overturned at Aussenkehr Farm when the driver lost control while negotiating a curve.

As a result 139 workers sustained injuries, two endured head injuries and two others are suspected of sustaining spinal cord injuries. This accident reminds all of us, particularly both large and small scale employers that the Law and its regulatory framework with respect to circumstances under which passengers may be carried are not being adhered to on our national roads. Regulation 266 of the Road Traffic and Transport Regulations of 2001 reads, **“Circumstances Under Which Persons May be Carried on Good Vehicles:** *A person may not operate a goods vehicle conveying persons on a public road unless that portion of the vehicle in which such persons are being conveyed is enclosed to a height of at least 350 millimetres above the surface upon which such person is seated, or at least 900 millimetres above the surface on which such person is standing, in a manner and with a material of sufficient strength to prevent such person from falling from that vehicle when it is in motion”*.

The Road Traffic and Transportation Regulations prohibit that even if it is being done here in Namibia and it should come to an end. I, therefore, call upon Law Enforcement Officers; the Namibian Police, Municipal Traffic Police and the Road Authority Inspectors to enforce the full wrath of the *Road Traffic and Transport Act*.

I hereby express our sincere sympathy to those that are currently being treated in hospitals, clinics and related medical establishments and wish them all a speedy recovery, thanks to the vigilant and quick response of the MVA Fund. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Any other Ministerial Statements?

Today is Thursday and as per the arrangement of the Standing Rules and Orders is the response to questions day. Question 27 is by Honourable Moongo to the Minister of Veteran Affairs. Honourable Moongo is not

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here, is there anyone who would like to put the question on his behalf? The question is deferred to next week Thursday.

Question 28 is also by Honourable Moongo to the Minister of Safety and Security. None of them is here; therefore, the question is deferred to next week Thursday.

Question 29 is by Honourable Bezuidenhoudt to the Right Honourable Prime Minister. Would you like to put the question?

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: Yes, I put the Question, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Would the Right Honourable Prime Minister like to respond?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. It is clear from the extensive nature of the questions posed by Honourable Bezuidenhoudt that he has a genuine interest in the progress of e-governance policy and practise in Namibia. Such well thought-out questions on a technical issue of this nature rarely feature in the regular parliamentary menu of politicians. I, therefore, thank Honourable Bezuidenhoudt, who through his questions equally obliged me to provide well researched answers to the Members of this House and the Namibian people at large on the state of e-governance in the Public Sector.

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Honourable Bezuidenhoudt, as you can see in the Order Paper, is asking, and I am not going to read the questions but maybe just answer them immediately.

Question 1: The Status of the E-Governance Policy as a Project: The basis for Namibia's e-Government policy is derived from Vision 2030 which aims to make Namibia and I quote; *"A prosperous and industrialised Nation developed by her human resources, enjoying peace, harmony and political stability"* and envisioning a knowledge-based economy and a technology driven Nation".

Namibia's National Development Plans running over five years serve as main instruments to execute the strategies identified to realise the Vision 2030 objectives. Under the NDP4 information, Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are identified as key tools in helping Government to realise its e-Government goals.

In this regard, e-Government is conceptualised by the World Bank and I quote, *"As the use by Government Agencies of ICTs that have the ability to transform relations of citizens, businesses, and other arms of Government"*. The OECD on the other hand refers to e-Government as, and I quote; *"The use of ICTs by Governments as applied to the full range of Government functions, particularly the networking potential offered by the internet and related technologies that has the potential to transform the structures and operations of Government"*.

Namibia's e-Governance Policy was gazetted during 2005, following which, Government institutions started official websites to inform the public about their services and programmes. In addition, a tender F1/2-19/2008 for the 'Designing and Implementation of the e-Government Action Plan for the Public Service of Namibia' was awarded to the Namibian-Mauritius Joint Venture Company, SILNAM IT Solutions (Pty) Ltd.

Furthermore, the recent e-Readiness assessment by Government established a degree to which stakeholders are prepared to use e-

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Government services at an overall e-Readiness index of 2.2 out of a score of 4 for Namibia. This compared well with the United Nations e-Readiness index of 2012 and the World Economic Forum Index of 2013, ranging from 40% to 45% respectively for Namibia.

The United Nation's e-Readiness index of 2012 ranks Namibia 6th in Africa behind Seychelles (1), Mauritius (2), South Africa (3), Kenya (4) and Botswana (5). This is the only index showing e-Government development in the world and shows that while South Africa and Botswana have gone down four places in Global Ranking, from 97 to 101 and from 117 to 121 respectively, Namibia has improved two places moving from 125 to 123.

Following stakeholders' consultations, four Expert Committees comprising of Government, Private Sectors and Tertiary Institutions were established to advise Government on various ICT components. Subsequently, a five-year e-Government Strategic Action Plan (eGSAP) 2013-2018 which is the blue print for a comprehensive ICT implementation in Public Sector was formulated. This plan is in the final stages of adoption.

The development of Public Service Information Technology and Management (DPSITM) in the Office of Prime Minister is coordinating the eGSAP project, in liaison with the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology. This is the current status of our e-Governance Policy Framework.

Question 2: The Government's Network Infrastructure Readiness for the E-Governance Implementation: In this regard, Government together with Telecom Namibia has rolled out thirteen (13) Points of Presences (POPs) as they are referred to, in 13 Regions. The newly created Kavango West Region will constitute the 14 Region or 14th point.

All these connection points in the 14 Regions will be linked via high speed broadband fibre optics, to provide citizens with high speed internet access at the speed of lightning. As you are aware such high speed

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internet access, greater bandwidth and value added Internet Protocol services were made possible by the Government's co-investment of US\$75 million with the Botswana Government in the West Africa Cable System known also as WACS, which President Hifikepunye Pohamba and President Ian Seretse Khama inaugurated in June 2012, in Swakopmund. This investment gives the two countries a combined 10% share ownership of the WACS Project.

This cable system with a 25 year life-span, covering a distance of 14,000 kilometres with 15 established landing stations along the route, was constructed at the cost of US\$650 million and completed in 2011 within three years time, to connect the West Coast of Africa into the high-speed global telecommunications network. It brings benefits such as reduced internet and mobile phone costs, a multitude of mobile applications like cell-phones money transfers, e-wallets, e-health, e-learning and enhanced business interactions and increased investments in the ICT Sector.

Most importantly, with this network infrastructure in place, e-Government services will be provided online to bring Government services closer to the people, a process which according to eGSAP will take five years from now for full implementation.

Question 3: The Implementation Strategy of the e-Governance Project: The e-Governance Strategic Action Plan (eGSAP) 2013 to 2018 is the main vehicle or implementation strategy for e-Government, and is premised on the following vision of e-Government:

Citizen, business and institution friendly, Transparency, Efficiency, Affordability and Accessible delivery of information and services to ALL through a professional, responsive and networked Government. eGSAP further provides for a roadmap for ICT implementation in GRN, incorporation of best practises, coordination and collaboration with all Government and Private Sector stakeholders and establishment of supporting institutions. To realise the e-Government Vision under eGSAP, **five Strategic Thrust Areas (STAs)** have been identified as follows:

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- 1) Impact and Visibility;
- 2) Collaboration and Networking;
- 3) Consistence and Standardisation;
- 4) Training, Education and Research; and
- 5) Foundational Research.

These are elaborated upon in detail as follows:

THRUST AREA	DESCRIPTION
Impact and Visibility	Impact and visibility with the aim achieving Streamlined and Efficient Operations of Government and improved online Citizen, Business and Government Institutions friendly services by 2018.
Collaboration and Networking	Collaboration and Networking with the aim for having Networked OMAs, sharing Government resources (data, infrastructure, services and solutions) through a collaborative approach by 2018.
Consistence and Standardisation	Consistence and Standardisation to establish homogeneous, standardised and consistent approach, interfaces and interactions for developing and implementing solutions and rendering of services by Government by 2014.
Training, Education and Research	Training, Education and Research aiming at: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Skilled and able workforce for rendering of services.• Skilled and able citizens, communities, and business

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	to partake in services through e-Government:
Foundational Support	Foundational Support with the aim of establishing Laws, Policies and institutions to drive the e-Government reform by 2014

Around these five Strategic Thrust Areas, 15 strategic objectives were identified and aligned to 15 programmes for implementation. Each programme would within a predefined timeframe implement a strategy on a one-to-one basis. Programmes are defined as group of projects.

Additionally, 10 Ministries have been identified, with corresponding services e.g. online business legislations, to be implemented online under eGSAP during the next five years. These institutions are; Office of the Prime Minister, Ministries of- Home Affairs and Immigration, Trade and Industry, Lands and Resettlement, Education, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Ministry of Health and Social Services, Ministry of Mines and Energy and Ministry of Environment and Tourism. They will also form part of Government Programme Coordinating Committee together with MICT, the Efficiency Charter Unit of the Office of the Prime Minister, and representatives from the academia and Civil Society. The Committee will set up a Programme Task Force, to oversee the implementation process.

Also, a Technical Cooperation Agreement has been drafted and this is currently at the Attorney-General's Office for verification and to be signed with Government of Estonia on the e-Government Solutions Interoperability Framework referred to as **X-ROAD**. This is a data exchange layer, a technical and operational organisational environment which enables harmonious and secure internet-based data exchange between various e-Service databases, both in the Public and Private Sector.

In conclusion, eGSAP, is a major Public Service reform effort to achieve

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citizen-centric service delivery and higher effectiveness and efficiency of Government operations involving the entire Central, Regional and Local Governments, communities, businesses and citizens. It has comprehensive indicators for monitoring and evaluation, and also requires from political leadership from the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology. Therefore, let us all support its aim of bringing Government services closer to the people and to usher all Namibians into the ICT age, to share in the resultant economic and social prosperity.

Question 4: For Potential or Possibility of Local Namibian ICT Companies Involvement in Rendering Services to e-Governance Projects: e-GSAP has identified many Programmes and Projects which would require the participation and involvement of local Namibian ICT companies. Yes, the responsibility of local Namibian ICT companies' involvement is definitely there. In actual fact, they have been involved in the drafting of eGSAP. Projects will be advertised locally to enable companies of relevant competencies to be involved by rendering the necessary services. Overall, we will also need to pursue options of Public/Private Partnerships to ensure the effective implementation of all eGSAP components within the next five years.

Question 5: The Legal Framework/Laws Required for the Implementation of the e-Governance Policy: The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) is the overall ICT policy maker and has been working on several Electronic Laws to ensure that a secure legal framework and environment for the implementation of the e-Government reform initiatives is created. As such several stakeholders' consultative workshops have already taken place to finalise the Electronic Transaction Law, Data Protection; and the Model Law on Computer Crime and Cyber crime. The MICT is in a position to shed more light on this question because it is their baby.

Additionally, under eGSAP, we will also need to refine the e-Government Policy of 2005, and develop new legislation dealing with, for example, inappropriate web content and online safety amongst others. With these

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elaborate answers, I hope I have answered Honourable Bezuidenhoudt's very interesting questions. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for the very elaborate response. Any follow up?

HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would sincerely like to thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister for a very comprehensive and detailed response and I hope that the Nation has taken note of, and support this initiative. It is also for the Parliament to note that they must approve the necessary funds for that Project as and when so required. I thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister. Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question 30 is by Honourable Moongo to the Minister of Trade and Industry, none of them is here, therefore, the question is deferred to next week Thursday.

Question 31 is by Honourable Tjihuiko to the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, would you like to put the question?

HON TJIHUIKO: Yes, I put the question.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Would the Honourable Minister like to respond? Honourable Deputy Minister?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. May I request the indulgence of the Honourable Members that Questions 31, 32 and 35 stand over until next week Thursday.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Agreed to. Question 33 is by Honourable Von Wietersheim to the Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture. Would you like to put the question?

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Yes, I put the question.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, would you want to respond?

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you Comrade Deputy Speaker. Honourable Deputy Speaker, before I respond, I just want to ask, is the Honourable Member serious with his question? Are you serious?

Comrade Deputy Speaker, the main question of the Honourable Member is number 2, when I was asked by the Namibian Newspaper regarding the statute that was unveiled in Ongulumbashe on the 26th. My response was, “*whether it is N\$10 million or N\$10 billion it does not matter*”. I said much but the Namibian Newspaper just wrote a few things.

The Member’s question is; I wish to know from the Minister how he explains his frivolous remark that “*it does not matter whether it costs 10 million or 10 billion*” to those who scrape a living from the dumpsites or to that majority of our people who struggle to make ends meet and for whose social conditions this Assembly is responsible and accountable for.

Let me put it this way, for the Namibian people, when it comes to Sam Nujoma, Sam Nujoma is their hero, he is the first. Comrade Deputy Speaker, I was not in the country when the Honourable Member commented on the statement made by the President, when he said the

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horse rider must be removed. (Intervention)

HON VON WITERSHEIM: Reiderdenkmal.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: The Honourable Member was one of those who were against, he is against the statue. This horse was inaugurated on the 27th of January 1912, it is now 101 years old. The whole holocaust is here and I am just quoting from it.

“That morning, men of Windhoek wore their best white linen suits, and the ladies who accompanied them dressed in long ornate frocks of white lace. The new colonial elite were prosperous, proud, and acutely aware of the rank and status. To emphasise their position, many had added the prefix ‘von’ to their surnames”. All the ‘vons’ were added. (Intervention).

HON MEMBER: Von Wietersheim!

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Let me go forward; *“implying a lost aristocratic heritage. In front of the fortress, a 16-foot tall bronze statue of a mounted Schutztruppe towered above the growing crowds”. It further they says; “The Statute was intended as a memorial to the soldiers and settlers who lost their lives in the wars against the Hereros and the Namas”. That was the purpose.*

I quote further; *“The keynote speaker was Theodor Seitz, the new Governor. Seitz began by reminding the assembled crowd of the many sacrifices that had been made by the colonial army in the name of their Fatherland during the wars begun in 1904, but he ended with a simple*

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statement of fact: The principle behind this monument is to honour the dead and to encourage the living to propagate and build up what was achieved in a hard war, fought selflessly for the love of the Fatherland... The venerated colonial soldier that looks out over the land from here announces to the world that we are the masters of this place, now and forever". I am told as it is there, they used a compass and it is facing Berlin. We will remove it, put it inside and it will face south. Therefore, either it looks south or we place it there and we remove the head so it stands like a chicken without a head. *"The Germans were masters not only of South West Africa's future but of its past. Their version of the war had been set in stone and was now cast in bronze. Part of the motivation behind the commissioning of the Rider Statue had been a determination to remember the Germans who had died in the war".* It is a long story and I am not going into that.

Our Founding Father, Former President Nujoma represented even the majority of those people who scrape a living from the dumpsites then. If you go to their shacks you will see the photo of Former President Nujoma and the SWAPO flag there. If you continue with that, we can mobilise the PLAN Fighters who were injured in the war to march from the Simon De Wet Bridge up to the *Snyman Circle*. Some will be in wheelchairs, others without limbs and without eyes. Those people who sacrificed are there in the villages without legs, they walk on crutches.

Even here in the Government if we let them take off their shirts, you will see the bullets wounds, you will see them! If we organise a march on the 26th of August of the PLAN Fighters, the people who were at the front, to show that they struggled, you will cry. You will see them walking without legs, some on wheelchairs and others without eyes. I joined SWAPO on 27th of May 1969, so I have been a full time member of SWAPO for 44 years. We tried reconciliation, we invited you in 1988/1989 to go to Kabwe and negotiate with SWAPO when you were in the National Party. After joining SWAPO, we appointed you first as the Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry and thereafter as the Minister of Agriculture. You resigned and joined CoD (*sic*), now you are asking questions about the *Statute*. I have pictures depicting cruelty and

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atrocities committed against our people by the Germans, please circulate to the Members of the Opposition.

I will read further where they say; (intervention).

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry Honourable Minister, can we finalise the respond before we go for tea break?

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Yes. I am talking to the Rider and I am comparing the Rider with the Statue of Former President Nujoma. *“Its location on the lawn outside the old fortress represent an equally determined effort to forget the suffering of the Hereros and the Namas. The Statue has been erected on the side of Windhoek’s main concentration camp where only four years earlier, perhaps as many as four thousand Hereros, mainly women and children had been starved, beaten and whipped to death. The site of the former camp was now a centre piece of the German version of the war. A history in which genocide was transformed into a heroic struggle for civilisation and progress”.* The way you hanged our people there, is it now civilisation and progress? A few Nama rebels who had survived the concentration camp were treated differently. (Interjections)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please!

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICES, SPORT AND CULTURE: Although the war had ended and the concentration camps had been commissioned, the survivors of Shark Island were still incarcerated in 1920. They were held by the German Army in a converted

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military stables and they were allowed to die slowly, one by one. (Intervention).

HON MEMBER: Please answer the question!

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just listen now. Please listen.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: To round off, that is why I said, whether it is N\$10 million or N\$10 billion for the Statue to be build for the Namibian people, just like it were for the German people when they looked at the Statue of their hero, for the Namibian people, our Founding Father, Nujoma, is the hero! Former President Nujoma is a jewel for the Namibian Nation. Those people who scrape a living at the dumpsite, the unemployed, those people admire Former President Nujoma. As an example, in 1996 when we were still at the Ministry of Home Affairs, the PLAN Combatants demonstrated but when the Founding Father, Nujoma spoke, even now when he speaks (intervention).

HON RIRUAKO: Point of Order.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Under which Rule because he is still responding to the question. Can you please sit down? Can we listen to one another please Honourable Members? Honourable Shixwameni can we allow the Minister to wind up so that he can give the chance to the person who has a follow up question

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HON SHIXWAMENI: No, he is wasting our time here! The questions are straight forward, he is wasting our time. We can read the history, we know the history ourselves. Please, no.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister can you wrap up and relate your preamble to the question.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Those who are against the Statue of Former President Nujoma are those who support the killing of the people shown in pictures that were circulated. This is the history of Namibia. Comrade Deputy Speaker, I rest my case.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any follow up questions?

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Yes, Honourable Deputy Speaker I wondered why you were not disciplining the Honourable Minister for contempt because we are getting used to his answers of a political nature. (Intervention).

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, can you just follow up on the question you?.

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Yes. There was nothing answered on this question. I am asking for particular figures, I asked for an explanation

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and he explained my history and our history to us. I think all of us who are sitting here know our history. To tell me that I am against the Statute has nothing to do with the questions, so basically this question still stands. The facts of these questions are still totally unanswered, each one of them. Therefore, the only thing is to ask the same figures again and I think he should be disciplined for contempt of this House.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The last question is question 34 by Honourable Nyamu to the Minister of Lands and Resettlement. Would you like to put the question, Honourable Member?

HON NYAMU: Yes, I put the question.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, would you like to respond?

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I rise this afternoon to respond to questions so put in this House during this month of October by Honourable Jesiah Nyamu.

Although I appreciate the contribution being made to the House by the Honourable Member through the Notice of Questions, I hasten to point out that the issues he has raised are known to the Ministry and by implication the Government. They are being discussed with various stakeholders and they have been already brought to the attention of the Government.

At the onset, I would like to inform the House that the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement takes the plight of our people seriously and thus assist with a lot of the issues raised with a view of finding lasting solutions that

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are in line with the mandate of the Ministry under the current Legal and Policy Framework as agreed at the 1991 National Lands Conference.

Question 1: While, like I said, appreciate this question from you Honourable Nyamu, I would like to first and foremost state that the objectives of our Land Reform Programme as outlined in the *Agricultural Commercial Land Reform Act* (Act 6 of 1995), is to address the imbalance in land ownership through acquisition of commercial Agricultural land and allocation of such land to Namibian citizens who do not own or otherwise have the use of any or adequate agricultural land and most to those Namibian citizens who have been socially, economically or educationally disadvantaged by the past discriminatory Laws or practises.

It should be noted therefore, that the above stated objective is squarely in line with Article 10 of our Namibian Constitution which states that and if you allow me Deputy Speaker, I shall quote, “*No persons may be discriminated against on the grounds of sex, race, colour, ethnic origin, religion, creed or social or economic status*”. Having highlighted the above, allow me to inform you that the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement’s data on resettlement beneficiaries is not disaggregated per Region of origin but rather we have data disaggregated by gender of the beneficiaries and the geographic location where such beneficiaries are resettled.

We are painfully mindful of the past that we come from and we are, as a Government entity, trying to stay clear from reintroducing the balkanisation of our people where they are hailing from. We are at pains to avoid that.

What I can therefore, share with you Honourable Member and this august House, are figures on the number of beneficiaries that we have so far allocated land to in various Regions where commercial agricultural land was acquired countrywide. It is thus my pleasure to inform you that since the inception of the Land Reform Programme, a total of 4,981 previously disadvantaged landless Namibians from various geographic location of this country have benefitted from the National Resettlement Programmes.

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The break down per Region is as follows:

A cursory glance tells me that it is indeed true that many people have benefitted from the Land Reform Programme. If you look at the #Karas Region, we have acquired 77 farms, a total hectares thereof is 678,983 and the number of citizens of this country who gained access to land through these acquisitions is 179 in the //Karas Region. In the Hardap Region, we bought 64 farms, the total hectares is in excess of 374,000 and the landless Namibians who benefitted 293. In the Omaheke Region we acquired, since the inception of the programme, 63 farms. The hectares in total more than 306,000 and the landless Namibians who benefitted are 1,331. Khomas Region; 11 farms, total hectares, more than 54,000 and we were able to give land to 114 Namibians. In the Otjozondjupa Region, 50 farms which translate into more than 181,000 hectares and 383 Namibians were resettled. In the Erongo Region the Government bought 18 farms that translates into more than 134,000 hectares and 67 Namibians were given access to land, who otherwise would not have access to land. In the Kunene Region we bought, as the Government 42 farms, total hectares close to 210,000 and 1,124 landless Namibians benefitted from gaining access to land. In the Oshikoto Region, bought 20 farms with almost close to 73,000 hectares and 1,490 landless Namibians were able to gain access to land.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the above figures exclude a total of 49 farms measuring more than 334,000 hectares which were transferred from the then Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development.

Question 2: A total amount of N\$768,000,050.00 has so far been spent on the Land Acquisition and Development Programme where a total of 345 farms with a total of more than 2,000,000 hectares have been acquired. In an effect to augment support to the programme, the Ministry also entered into an agreed and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Agricultural Bank of Namibia regarding the provision of post settlement support to all resettled farmers. This support is accessed by the farmers through the established Post Settlement Support Fund. At least N\$30,000,000.00 has been set aside by the Government to provide loans

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to resettled farmers under this fund and they are very aggressively making use of the funds so availed.

Question 3: Yes and no, a resettlement audit was undertaken to determine the uptake, ownership and infrastructure on most of the resettlement farms, however, this audit did not determine the impact of the Programme on the economy and how the resettled farmers benefit from the Programme. The Government has identified the need to carry out this study on the impact of the Resettlement Programme. Before the study is done, we are unable to tell if resettlement farms contributed significantly to national agricultural production. Despite the lack of the study our impact is clear in that the Ministry has resettlement 4,981 beneficiaries on 2,400,000 hectares of farm land so far.

Question 4: I strongly want to register my disagreement with the statement posed by the Honourable Member, where he ascribed failure to the current Resettlement Programme. I would like to put the record straight on this matter as follows; the Ministry has purchased land amounting to more than 2,400,000 hectares and 4,981 previously disadvantaged, landless Namibians across the country have benefitted from the National Resettlement Programme. These achievements were posted despite the limited budgetary allocations that initially saw the Ministry receiving an appropriation of N\$20 million and N\$50 million much later per annum. The Ministry has utilised every amount that was appropriated to acquire land that commensurate with the said budgetary allocations, because we understand the competing demands on the Treasury but if we had access to more financial resources, the picture would have definitely been reading much differently.

The Ministry has also set up a fund of N\$30 million through the Agricultural Bank of Namibia to benefit resettlement farmers to purchase farm implements enabling them to farm productively and an advisory service to help transform resettled farmers into commercial farming oriented individuals. Yes, there are challenges that the Ministry is grappling with such as limited budgetary allocations to purchase all available land and the quality of land offered. The price of land has

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increased to such an extent that N\$50 million will only purchase more or less five farms per annum. Most of the farms offered to the Government are the ones with the most difficult terrains, low rainfall and bush encroachments were very little farm infrastructure such that the Ministry has to invest a lot of money to bring such farms into productions and generally farms end up being waived as they are found unsuitable for resettlements.

We cannot view the impact that the Resettlement Programme had on our communities from just one perspective but from a multi dimensional socio-economic and political level. As I stated, to date a total of more than 4,980 previously disadvantaged landless Namibians across the country have benefitted from the National Resettlement Programme and more than 50% of them depend on farming for their livelihood. This Programme has placed communities and families who were farming in corridors on land and the landless have a place to farm and a place that they can rightfully call “*this is home*”. Otherwise they would not have had such an occasion. The impact of this Programme has to be viewed from where we as a country are coming from and not in isolation. A total picture that takes into consideration the deprivation suffered by our people as a result of colonial policies and today where our Government has adopted policies to empower them. Yes, Honourable Members I dispute the assertion being made to brand our current Resettlement Programme as a failure. It is not.

Question 5: Allow me Honourable Deputy Speaker to inform Honourable Nyamu that the subleasing of resettlement farms is provided for under the *Agricultural Commercial Land Reform Act* (Act 5 of 1995) thus it is not illegal for farmers to lease out portions of farming units when it is done in terms of the Act. The procedure is such that before a farm unit is subleased the lessee needs to apply to the Minister in terms of the law not because I say so but that is the law providing. Mentioning the name of the proposed sub-lessee for approved. This process puts the Ministry in the know on who is subleasing from whom and what type of compensation the person receives and for how long the farming unit will be subleased. It is from this point of view that I can inform this House that I have not

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approved subleasing to a former farm owner after purchasing it. If it is happening it is outside the laws and procedures.

You might ask why we have allowed subleasing, our resettlement criteria also considers marginalised communities and former farm workers who usually do not have land have no source of income and no livestock. The land is the only valuable assets that these groups have naturally. They will need to sublease their farm as an empowerment tool and to get a source of income for an approved duration. I mean we cannot give something to someone and restrict the person to use that resource the way that individual would deem relevant as long as the process is controlled. The process of subleasing is also carried out in terms of various technical considerations that comprises issues surrounding carrying capacities an amount of grazing among others.

Question 6, no, the definition of resettlement does not include the expansion of communal areas. In the Namibian context resettlement entails the voluntary movement of an individual or family from a place or area due to poor social conditions to an area of place designated by the Government where land and other social amenities of life can be provided. The expansion of communal areas is provided for under the Communal *Land Reform Act* (Act 5 of 2002). The National Land Conference of 1991 and mind you whatever we do as a nation in terms of land administration is premised on that what I said conference of 1991 until we as a nation would again reconvene the next conference what we do. What we do is in terms of the 1991 Land Conference, noted that communal areas sustain the great majority of Namibian farmers especially poor farmers. The conferences therefore concluded that communal areas should be retained, developed and expanded where necessary this was due to the fact that the majority of the Namibian people living in overcrowded communal areas which are not even developed in terms of water infrastructure and that is the reality. The expansion of communal areas (interruptions), this does not mean it is part of the resettlement programme but a special programme aimed at supplementing the Resettlement Programme by reviewing grazing pressure and generally decongesting communal areas.

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Honourable Deputy Speaker, if you allow, me in conclusion I would like the House to take note that in an effort to deal with the quack for land by the majority of our people the Ministry is also addressing a range of other issues arising from our historical experiences through policies meant to dismantle our historical legacy. It is a tall order but eventually we are quite positive that we shall overcome that challenge. The current land reform policies and legislation are earmarking at responding to various forms of socio economic inequalities in our communities especially towards enhanced access to land where poverty is inevitably exacerbated.

I would like to inform Honourable Members that the process of land reform programme is unique and be searched with involving challenges. The Ministry is challenged to constantly revise its operational strategies and approaches in implementing the programme within the constitutional framework of our land of the brave.

The current Government policy on land remains a priority as inequalities accessed and ownership are still prominent in our country. On this note I would like to assure the House that the Ministry is cognisant of the diverse and differing economic needs of our people and especially the poor in the various economic enhancing programmes. I want to thank you for the opportunity to have been able to respond to the notice of questions by Honourable Nyamu and I thank you most sincerely.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Nyamu, any follow up questions?

HON NYAMU: No further questions, but I would like to state that the Minister had tried to answer my questions from the honest point of view and I think it is very important for the House to be given appropriate, correct information whenever they pose questions. I hope that other Ministers and the rest of you will learn from him. Thank you.

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ADJOURNMENT

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question 35 is standing over to next Thursday. With that can we break for tea up to 16:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:00

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:30

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Should we re-adjourn, because there is no quorum? I appeal to the Colleagues that our duty here is to ensure that you return. There is break for tea and you return. Not for recording, it is no excuse to say we are supposed not to break for tea, no. It is okay there are also underlined factors but all in all the House is adjourned in terms of Rule 17(b). The issues will stand over up to next Tuesday 14:30 thank you, so adjourned.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:35 UNTIL 2013.10.15 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
15 OCTOBER 2013**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House is called to order. Any Petition, Reports of Standing or Select Committees? I recognise Honourable Witbooi.

**TABLING: REPORT ON THE AU PARLIAMENTARIANS
WORKSHOP ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**

HON WITBOOI: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I lay upon the Table for information, the Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information and Communication Technology on the AU Parliamentarians Workshop on Science, Technology and Innovation held at the Inter Continental Hotel in Cairo, Egypt, from the 16th to the 17th of October 2012.

**TABLING: REPORT ON THE STUDY VISIT TO THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ZAMBIA**

HON WITBOOI: Secondly the Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information and Communication Technology on the Study Visit to the National Assembly of Zambia from the 14th to the 21st of July 2012. I so Move, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON KAAPANDA**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Reports. Are the Reports for discussion or note taking?

HON WITBOOI: They are for note taking.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any other Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? None. Notice of Motions? None. Message from the Head of State? None. Ministerial Statement? I am informed that the Minister of Information would like to say something.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Honourable Deputy Speaker, thank you for the Floor. Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to inform you that the NBC is moving towards introducing parliamentary live coverage.

As you see today we have four cameras in Parliament, just look around. We normally have cameras of that number when we broadcast live. However, today we will not have a live broadcast. We will still record the proceedings of Parliament. However, the proceedings of today covered by the four cameras will still be recorded but once the recording has been finalised, the cameramen will go back and work out one combined broadcast that would be broadcast tomorrow and once this broadcast comes on, it comes on as a live broadcast.

(Interjection) please listen. When the broadcast comes on tomorrow evening, it will show as live because that broadcast will reveal all the

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movements, all the activities in Parliament. Therefore, we need to be well behaved. We need to be sure that we adhere to the Rules and Procedures guiding the Parliamentary Sessions so that we can avoid unnecessary inconvenience as far as individual Members of Parliament are concerned when the broadcast comes on. It will not be edited.

We should appreciate and thank NBC for moving towards live broadcasting. This is indeed a commendable development and, therefore, I would like to request the Honourable Members to show this appreciation with a big round of applause. I rest my case, Honourable deputy Speaker.

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TO THE MINISTRIAL STATEMENT**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Minister for that development, any brief reaction to that? I recognise Honourable Nyamu followed by Dr Ankama and then Honourable Moongo.

HON NYAMU: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I listened to the Minister's submission with great interest because this is a very important development in our democratic process. I could however, want the Minister to give us the guarantee. He made a statement that there would be no editing, would the Minister swear that what he said would be the case and not otherwise?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise Honourable Ankama.

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HON DR ANKAMA / HON MOONGO / HON PROF KATJAVIVI

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE

RESOURCES: Honourable Deputy Speaker, yes, this is a very practical and proactive gesture from the Minister of Information and Communication Technology.

My question is while we appreciate this, is there a dedicated channel for this broadcast and perhaps would there be some announcements to be made with regard to the ordinary channels that people usually view on the NBC TV? How would this be done, just an elaboration perhaps? Indeed, it is a very, very good gesture from the ICT Minister. Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. I would also like to thank the Minister for a step forward if it is not done in a spirit of promoting one Party, especially the Ruling Party. If it is really for all Parties, we will salute it. It is unfavourable for the Minister to command the House on behalf of Deputy Speaker. He is not the Speaker to silence and control us. With this, I thank you very much for the step forward.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Chief Whip of the SWAPO Party.

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I just wish to welcome the statement by the Honourable Minister and to simply say that that is a commendable step. It is very much welcome on the part of NBC and NBC should be congratulated for this important initiative. I do not

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think there is a question of controlling information. Honourable Members of this House are free to express themselves in a very responsible manner and I think there is no question of dictating us as to what should be shown and what should not be shown. Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Kazenambo Kazenambo.

HON KAZENAMBO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I welcome the live broadcasting and that this practice that I hope is well intended, will be accompanied by all necessary mechanisms, guidelines, procedures and standards because in live broadcasting in a world of technological advancement there are measures that we can equally employ in order to delay the process of live broadcasting. Advanced technology is there to prevent broadcasting certain things that are out of tune. Although this material is not being edited, we can equally employ certain mechanisms.

I am sure that the cameramen who are here are journalistically trained to employ those techniques to guard against this important gesture not being turned into targeting certain individuals because we live in this country and we know one another. We know how we can use the medium of communication to abuse and target one another. We live here and nowhere else, we have enough experience of how we treat one another. In this live broadcast, some people will be shown as if they are sleeping on duty in order to target them and to embarrass them. Let us do these things professionally, ethically according to international norms of journalism and standards. I thank you and I support the gesture.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The last person on this is Honourable Nambahu.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, very much Comrade Deputy Speaker. I also want to join my Colleagues in congratulating the Minister for introducing this advanced way of broadcasting.

I wish to just put one question and maybe a suggestion. I can see that it has added to employment creation because I see a lot of cameramen around now. Is there maybe, going to be some department within the NBC that is working specifically on this because in a way when you look at other channels, you get impressed by in-depth discussion of issues, investigative journalism taking place but when you follow our broadcasting you tend to get this boredom. Is there any officiation at the inauguration of this or a speech will be made here and it ends up there, without any follow up on issues discussed?

Is there going to be a department that is going to go into details and even take us on task? Like, *what is it that the Honourable Member has said that day and when are you going to carry out this?* Because our people deserve much better than rather just a formality of saying, *I have been covered and I am very happy?* Is there going to be investigative journalism or something like maybe up close with the Parliament, where people have to question and actually follow up on issues? I would like to see that. Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for those interventions. Can I give the Floor to the Minister to response in just one minute because it is not really a Debate but because of the importance, I will allow the intervention from the Members of Parliament?

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I want to thank the Honourable Members for their intervention and questions.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON KAAPANDA**

Honourable Nyamu asked whether it is true that the live broadcast will broadcast unedited material. I would just request the indulgence of Honourable Member to wait and see and then he can express his views on this. Thank you.

Honourable Ankama wish to know whether there will be a dedicated Parliament channel. Yes, there will be. However, at the moment we have the begun with the testing of such channel. Before you introduce a channel, you cannot just introduce it and start broadcasting, you have to test it in order to see how it works. We are now at a testing period. Thank you.

On control, *Honourable Moongo*, I do not know who will control who if we are in Parliament, wait and see whether there would be any control mechanism in place to control certain sections of Parliament or Members from other Political Parties. Please wait and see. We are all here as lawmakers and we will be treated equally by the media. Thank you.

Chief Whip, thank you very much for your comment.

Honourable Kazenambo Kazenambo, you raised a very technical question. I do not know whether there would be any abuse of power by those who would be covering the Parliament Sessions by using the content to defame some and glorify others. I do not think that would happen but if that would happen, we will task our Chief Whips from all the Political Parties to take up this issue. Thank you very much.

Honourable Nambahu raised a very critical issue. We do not have commentators yet, people who could and analyse and comment on issues, but I think until such time we have such experts on the establishment of NBC, what you would be seeing on this channel is just what has been covered as is. Comrade Speaker, I think I will rest my case. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Any Ministerial statement? I recognise the Minister of Education.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR NAMWANDI**

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I would like to inform the Nation that there are some unethical activities by some of our nationals. At around 16:00 Sunday, the 15th of October 2013, the Minister of Education was alerted to something that could resemble an exam scam and leakages of examination papers with the City Police nothing too suspecting to be selling 2013 examination papers. Now being a Minister that takes the lives and future of our children seriously, we immediately put our machinery in place to get to the bottom of the matter. National examinations are critical in that it is the determination of the future of the children and national identity.

The interaction with the City Police revealed that two suspects were arrested allegedly found in possession of live question papers of 2013. The subjects that were alleged to have been sold are History Ordinary Level Paper 1 and 2 sat on the 24th of September 2013; Biology Ordinary Level Paper 1, 2 and 3, written on the 27th of September 2013; Mathematics Paper 3 that is to be written on the 18th of October 2013; Development Studies Ordinary Level paper 1, 2 and 3.

The above mentioned subjects were immediately assessed and evaluated by expert subject specialists in the Ministry through comparing the question papers that were discovered with the live question papers for 2013.

In a nutshell, the verification revealed that the question papers of all four subjects were sourced from all the examination papers that are normally given out after examinations have been written and become part of school paper banks for revision and research and are normally kept at resource centres and schools or in individual hands. These papers also help learners and teachers in teaching, learning and doing revision works and preparations for the upcoming examinations.

Therefore, on this basis it is concluded that the question papers in question are fake papers that do not form part of the authentic 2013 examination arrangements. This is dirty work of those unscrupulous elements in our society who have agendas to tarnish the image of the Government of the Republic of Namibia, the Ministry of Education and in particular our

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON KAAPANDA**

examination system by defaulting and cheating the desperate and innocent Namibians through the love of money. Examinations are our national pride, national documents that are used to benchmark ourselves with the international communities and all those around us and cannot be used as instruments for opportunism, fraud or cheating.

This practice is dangerous and as a Ministry, we do not take it slightly. If this information lands in the areas of those seriously minded learners, they may become despondent, demoralised and will ultimately regard themselves as losers and not winners. Learners have fought a battle to prepare themselves for the examinations through untold support of their teachers, parents and for somebody to wake up one day and erase that, that we shall not accept as a Ministry.

There are always forces at work that each time when this country engages in national activities be they elections, national examinations or that we need to take note is for serious minded Namibians and citizens to be vigilant and at all times report anybody who intentionally wants to destabilise this country. The Ministry of Education equally commends the City Police and the Namibian Police for always being on alert and having taken these suspects to jail until the verification was done.

We extend our stern warning to all those who harbour intentions of planning to do the same thing now and in future, we shall never tolerate anybody playing with the future of a Namibian child. I stress that both the seller as well as the buyer of examination material are equally guilty and if apprehended, they will both face the full wrath of the Namibian Law. The Ministry has since the incident in 2012 tightened its grip on its examination security, processors, modalities and procedures.

Let me allay the fears of all those Namibian children who are still to sit for their examinations that the examinations are safe and secure. I wish you all the best. I have confidence that this year will be a different year in terms of the pass rate. Power to you the future leaders and creators of our wealth and work of our Nation. Thank you.

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**MOTION ON ELECTORAL LEGISLATION
HON VON WIETERSHEIM / HON NAMOLOH**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further Ministerial Statement? None. Today we have one Notice of Motion by Honourable Von Wietersheim. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion?

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: I do, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Who seconds the Motion? Any objection? Honourable Wietersheim, you have the Floor to motivate the Motion.

MOTION ON ELECTORAL LEGISLATION

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. (Intervention).

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Von Wietersheim, can you sit down? Any objection? You can have the Floor and state your objection.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am very worried because it seems as if we are doing nothing. I mentioned that we are busy working on this legislation in this very August House. Why is it brought before this House again? Does the Mover want to say he has prompted us to work on this legislation?

We are busy working on it and we will bring it to this Parliament. I said it

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**MOTION ON ELECTORAL LEGISLATION
HON PROF KASINGO / HON VON WIETERSHEIM**

earlier. I do not see any reason why should find extra work for ourselves and waste our time rather than doing other things which have not been attended to. I have a serious concern because we are working on it already. That is why I have a serious objection to this, Honourable Deputy Speaker. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, I am in a dilemma because you were not here last week when this question was put and it was deferred for consultation between the Ministry of Justice and the Honourable Member who put the question and he separated the two issues. Now there is another objection. I would like to humbly request that the Honourable Member be allowed to motivate and thereafter you can come with your objection (interjections). The House is divided? No, it is not your Motion, I am just following procedures.

Can I please repeat the process as it is again? I said today we have Notice of Motion by Honourable Von Wietersheim and I asked if the Honourable Member Moves the Motion, upon which he answered in affirmative. I thereafter asked who seconds and it was seconded and then if there was any objection. I did not notice the objection from the other side and an objection was made procedurally and legally. If there is an objection, I have to divide the House.

I am just going to give the Mover an opportunity to say but I am still going to divide the House.

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I do not think that this development is in order. It was not only the Minister of Justice but the Chief Whip and myself. I also agreed to the proposals of both the Minister and the Chief Whip, and we had the things in front of us in writing and we agreed on this thing. Honourable Deputy Speaker, I thought that your proposal would allow me to Move the Motion so that you can see what is the basis of the Motion, I am even quoting the

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Honourable Minister, only then can this Motion be postponed or anything be done about it. You do not even know what is in the Motion.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I repeat, the House does not even know what is in the motivation of the Motion. On what basis do you reject the Motion? That is against any democratic development? They do not even know what I am going to say.

HON MEMBER: Divide the House!

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: There has been objection.

House divided.

In favour of the Motion 6.

Against 33.

Abstaining 3.

The Motion has been rejected.

The Secretary will read the First Order of the day.

**RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION OF REPORT
ON THE VISIT BY THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING
COMMITTEE TO THE DROUGHT STRICKEN AREAS OF
OHANGWENA, OMUSATI, KUNENE AND ERONGO REGIONS**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Consideration of Report on the Visit by the Parliamentary Standing Committee to the Drought Stricken Areas of

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**CONSIDERATION: REPORT ON VISITS TO
DROUGHT STRICKEN AREAS
RT HON DR GEINGOB / HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

Ohangwena, Omusati, Kunene and Erongo Regions

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, the 9th of October 2013, the question before the Assembly was the consideration of the Report by Honourable Amathila that the Report be adopted. The Right Honourable Prime Minister adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor. Right Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I just came straight from Cabinet this morning to the House. May I please adjourn the Debate until tomorrow? I am just coming from the State House straight, since this morning I did not reach my office. May I adjourn until tomorrow afternoon?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is there anyone who would like to take the Floor? I recognise Professor Katjavivi.

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I wish to join Honourable Ben Amathila, the Chairperson of the Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration in supporting the Report of the Committee's visit to the drought stricken areas of our country.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the Report speaks loud and clear on the challenges faced by various communities in the Regions visited by the Committee. It is a well acknowledged and concerted effort made by our Government and through the Office of the

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HON KAURA**

Prime Minister.

I would want to bring it to the attention of the House that last week I did present the Report in terms of the main highlights in a meeting of the Economic Association of Namibia hosted by the Frederick Erbert Stiftung Foundation. The meeting revealed the drought situation in Namibia with specific focus on its social economic impact on the Namibian society. Honourable Deputy Speaker, I recommend the Report as a very useful basis in terms of assessing the impact of the current situation inflicted upon our people by the current drought.

With these few remark, I commend the Report to the House and I hope that the relevant Agencies and Ministries will acquaint themselves with the issues that are raised in the Report. Honourable Deputy Speaker, I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I recognise Honourable Kaura.

HON KAURA: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I was hoping that the Right Honourable Prime Minister would make a contribution now but I hope he will take it in to cognisance in particular what I saw on television last night when the Honourable Governor of Omusati Region, Honourable Shaningwa came on television about what we saw and what we reported when the Committee of Honourable Ben Amathila visited the Omusati Region.

When we were there, we were told that water will be pumped from the Calueque Dam to refurbish what is referred to as *Etaka* and the Honourable Prime Minister gave instructions for that to be done. NamWater has shutdown the water taps that provide people water to the local communities and we were also informed that the Right Honourable Prime Minister also gave an instruction that those water taps must be opened but based on what we saw yesterday on television from the

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Governor of the Omusati Region, Honourable Shaningwa is that the Etaka is still dry for three months now and the water taps are not yet opened.

I was hoping that the Right Honourable Prime Minister will say something about this because he was there before us and we were informed that when the Right Honourable Prime Minister visited those areas, he gave those instructions but those instructions are not executed up to now. Unfortunately, as we were visiting the Regions, NBC was following us and our trip was well covered as we covered Ohangwena and even Omusati. Was it at Onesi where the Councillor took us to a sewage pond where cattle; donkeys and goats were drinking water from the sewage pond because there was no water?

That was also covered by NBC and given the fact that this is an emergency situation, one expected that by now these problems are solved and the Report that was tabled by the Prime Minister here in Parliament allayed our fears that everything is now taken care of but what we saw on television last night was again surprising. I hope when the Right Honourable Prime Minister comes to us tomorrow, he will tell us what is going on. Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I only have one or two points that I just want to advice on. The Report is worth looking at but the thing that has prompted me to stand up is that I am not seeing anything new in the Report.

The problems that have been highlighted in the Report are the problems that we know. These are problems that we discussed here. One is a problem of proper planning before you act and the Report indicates where house are 65 kilometres away from where the beneficiaries are supposed

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to be. It is a complete problem of planning. We act before we plan. That is a known fact. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it a Point of Order, Honourable Member?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Order. We do not know what we are talking about today. Are we talking because of the 2014 elections or what are we talking about. You are talking about the water from Calueque Dam. Calueque is close to the Epupa Project but advised the people to refused development. What poor planning are you talking about Mr Tjihuiko? Tell the Nation that now you have changed your mind so that the people can start planning since the Prime Minister is the one who proposed the Epupa Project. You have made demonstrations in the Kunene Region and today you are complaining about things. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, proceed.

HON TJIHUIKO: Before I move on, on Page 5, one of the problems that were highlighted here is water. Regarding water, the Constituency is well supplied with pipeline networks but people cannot afford to pay for water. In addition, most taps used to provide drinking water to livestock have been closed.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we had the Motion in this Honourable House on water debt. A decision was taken in the interest of the Namibian people that these debts must be written off. We are in the middle of the drought, food should be provided and given to people to cook and eat.

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One Ministry would provide the food while the other Ministry will close the water. How do you expect these to benefit the people? (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you very much, Honourable Tjihuiko for allowing me to ask a question. I am in support of the debt to be written off as you are proposing but now what will happen to the culprits, those that instigated people not to pay in the first place? What will happen to them? What are you proposing should be done to them and you are actually also in that league?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Kaura, can you allow him to respond to the question?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, this is the lawmaking House. We have taken a decision. We passed a Motion that was referred for implementation. For one to argue the way the Deputy Minister of Justice is arguing...(intervention). Goodness me!

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order.

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HON KAURA: Can I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Tjiuiko, in view of the fact that so many Ministries, including the Ministry of Education are sending money back to the Treasury, unable to spend it, can they not take that money and write off the water debts because there is plenty of money out there. They cannot even use the money; they are sending it back to the Treasury, why can they not use that money to write off the water debts?

HON TJIHUIKO: If people have the ability to listen to good ideas, this could have happened long time ago. Honourable Kaura, the fact of the matter is that when we are talking, those Honourable Members who are shouting do not even know that money have gone back because in the Ruling Party, the right hand does not know what the left hand is doing.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: What are you saying?

HON TJIHUIKO: It is obvious. Let me come back to the point. Honourable Deputy Speaker, on Page 6, my point is a question of us trying to help our people. We are now running around providing food to the people. The food must be cooked and the people must use water to cook. Water is life. The Government that has been elected by the people for the people cuts the water. They give them maize meal but how on earth are they going to eat to it? Let me come back to my point on water that is on Page 6. (Intervention).

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Give me a moment, Honourable Member. It is now time for tea break. We have got two items, the third one is likely to take more time, should we break for tea? We break for tea. The House

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is adjourned for tea but let us have self-discipline and to come back.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:43

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:14

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House is called to order. Honourable Tjihuiko you have the Floor.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Before I conclude let me touch on two small issues or critical issues rather, that is, to finalise on the water on Page 7.

I am still trying to plead with Government to seriously look at this issue of water in the spirit that His Excellency the President has conceded to declare drought an emergency. It is expected of all of us to play the ball and if one of us is not playing the ball, then we have a problem that our people will not benefit from the good intentions of Government. (Intervention).

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: On the Point of Order, is the Honourable Member aware that through the office of the Prime Minister, Government has allocated something like N\$50 million to respond to the water situation. Are you aware of that?

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HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I have heard about it. I am not talking about statements; I am talking about actual implementation of the President's intention. You have the N\$50 million and I am sure that that N\$50 million will be returned to Treasury because it will be treated like any other money that has been allocated for specific important issues and it was not spend.

Let us come to the actual point. Please understand me. We have a situation where we are in the middle of the drought. On Page 7, water again. There is a pipeline network but most communal water points have been closed because of none payment. We have not even considered opening these taps during the drought. (Intervention).

HON SHIXWAMENI: Can I ask my Honourable Colleague and neighbour maybe a small question? In the light of what the Honourable Minister of Defence just said, are you aware that there was a Report that was just issued, stating that, out of the more than hundred boreholes that were supposed to be drilled; only a handful had been drilled so far leaving communities still in desperation? (Interjections)

HON MEMBER: How many have been drilled?

HON SHIXWAMENI: Less than 20 out of 100.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Member, I am also aware that through these Germans Special Initiative Programme. (Intervention).

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order. Honourable Minister, are you asking a question or providing information?

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

I am providing Information. Our leader, the leader of Government business in this House has postponed his contribution for tomorrow and he will give information but I just want to state that when we talk about the issue of water, more so in this Honourable House and considering Namibia, dry as we are, I think we should not just throw statements like that.

In terms of Article 41 of the Namibian Constitution, we talk about Ministerial Accountability. There is nothing that the Line Minister responsible for water even in terms of the N\$50 million, I would come to this House and provide the factual information about what is happening in various Regions. I can state that we have challenges yes, but I think we should not belittle the efforts that Government is making. I do not want to say much, we will wait and tomorrow the Prime Minister will make a statement (interjection), do not be emotional about nothing. I just felt and this thing of personalising things will not help. I think that is all that I wanted to say at this stage.

HON TJIHUIKO: I am trying to come to my conclusion, if I can be allowed. The point that I want to make is that, yes indeed, we will get information tomorrow and I am sure (intervention).

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order. Are standing up on a Point of Information or to ask a question?

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HON KAURA: Can I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Tjihuiko, a school to close due to water shortage, Kaparara Senior Primary School in Kavango West could close due to a shortage of water and the Honourable Minister is coming from Kavango. This school is closing because of lack of water.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, let us be (intervention).

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:
On a Point of Information. Honourable Deputy Speaker, if the Honourable Members on the other side want to play to the gallery, we can also equally play to the gallery.

On the situation that you have mentioned, you did not also mention the real problem that is there. There has been a borehole and that borehole has dried up, and therefore, another borehole has to be drilled.

HON MEMBER: When!

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:
Now you are asking when but you jumped already, it will not help. I think we should not just be selective, this is a very Honourable House and the information that goes out of here should not just go as cheap information. That will not help us. (Interjections), no it is not factual.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Honourable Members, order please.
You have the Floor.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, whatever issues and whatever questions you are going to ask here, fortunately the Right Prime Minister will answer those questions tomorrow.

It is critically important for us to raise those issues so that the Right Honourable Prime Minister can provide that factual information. (Intervention).

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Information.

HON KAZENAMBO: On a Point of Information, the Comrade, the economist from Okahitua cannot play propaganda here.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Who is the economist from Okahitua?

HON KAZENAMBO: The Honourable Member from the University of Okahitua who was on the Floor cannot play cheap politics here. The reality of the truth when we are dealing with provision of goods and services to this country is that, it is sad that people come here and start propagandeering.

There are various stakeholders according to the Laws of the provision of goods and services in this country. There is Government and when

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Government even gives this N\$50 million, it is not a Government Departments which go and dig for the water. According to the Laws in this country, they have to open tenders to private companies, some of them do not turn up on time while others have hidden agendas to frustrate Government projects.

My fellow economist, there are three ways of dealing with scarcity. (Interjections) no, it is not propaganda; it is the reality of dealing with economic goods and services provision. It is here. How do you address scarcity, what is the behaviour of the firm? You address the behaviour of one stakeholder here. What about the behaviour of the firms that are contracted to provide those goods and services on the basis of the Laws of this country? Therefore these are cheap rumours to blame Government here.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Tjiuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Can we just come back to the point? Honourable Deputy Speaker, I want to conclude this topic so that I can make my concluding remark.

Let me try to say what I want to say. On the issue of water, obviously this Report is coming from the people. The Committee went to the villages where the Mercedes Benz cannot reach and it spoke to the people on the ground. That is why the Committee is requesting this Parliament to please use money that has been put aside for drought to be used to pay NamWater debt. This is what the Report is saying on Page 7. This is a pipeline network but most of the communal water points have been closed because of none payment and mounting debts.

“Some communities organised themselves and paid off half of the debt hoping that NamWater will reopen water points to no avail. Livestock

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also drink pipe water, which has negative financial implication for farmers. Hereto, the community felt that some of the farms allocated for drilling of new boreholes could be used to offset NamWater debt.” This is what they are saying that please let us listen to the community and give the money to NamWater because NamWater is more important to you than the lives of the people.

Therefore, let us use this money and pay off the debt owed to NamWater so that our poor people, the villagers can also have access to water. You have tap water in your houses and your family is drinking tap water. The community there does not even have dirty water. Pay this water please. In conclusion, if you want me to go down on my knees to beg Government to do that, I will do that.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: In conclusion?

HON TJIHUIKO: In conclusion, the other point that was also is that we were advised and I am speaking under correction, Honourable Deputy Speaker because I think it was after the SWAPO Central Committee meeting where a call was made that people should sell cattle to reduce the animals on the ground so that the money that is available can be used to feed the few. That is the statement that was made. What happened?

A number of people sold their cattle, including myself. As I am talking to you now, since that time, the Minister is here, the people have not received their money. What happened was, say for instance you have 50 cattle and you sell 25 in order to save 25. You did not receive the money for the cattle you sold neither did you receive the money to keep the 25 alive. Therefore, you lost all 50 cattle.

Up to now, I am waiting for my money. I do not know what I am going to do with the money. That is the way Government is impoverishing people.

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It makes promises and people expect Government to act but nothing happens. Please Honourable Minister, people are waiting for their money, including myself, and start with me please. (Intervention).

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order. Now you are provoking.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:
The Honourable Member is dramatising. On the issue of the livestock incentive, you sell your cattle then you fill in forms. Those forms are processed and I am sure if there is a delay, you are supposed to follow up and definitely you will get a response on how far the process is. For you to wait and now to come here and jump around and tell us that you are waiting is insincere from your part as a Parliamentarian.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you now conclude, please?

HON TJIHUIKO: I just want to rest my case. The Honourable Minister, with due respect, has admitted and he is saying if there is a delay. Honourable Minister, there is an outcry in the communal area of course. I do not know when the Minister last visited the communal area. There is a serious outcry in communal areas because the people have no money.

Honourable Minister, if you do not know, the people's representative is telling you now that there is an outcry. Please make a follow up and the people are in need of their money. Honourable Minister, if you can just say come to Ministry so that you can get the money, I will follow you.

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Honourable Deputy Speaker, in conclusion, thank you very much and I rest my case.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next is Honourable Moongo

HON MOONGO: Thank you very much Honourable Colleague. I would only like to thank the Chairperson, the staff and all Members of the Committee who did their best for the Committee to go around the Regions to estimate and practically saw how the communities are suffering. I am happy with the Report.

Before the Prime Minister address the House tomorrow I would like to give my points. One point is that I also live in a community area where there are villagers. I live in a village and I wonder whether the Prime Minister is aware that there are members in various communities who are mentally disturbed. Do not laugh. There are people who run away when the Committee members try to locate them and give them food. There are also many conditions that they must have a *Kop Kaart* and Identity Documents (IDs), I humbly request that the Committee should be selective when it comes to these people.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: On a Point of Order, can I ask Honourable Moongo a question? Honourable Moongo is the senior Headman somewhere from Omaalala. As a Headman, it is your responsibility to mobilise resources to feed people in your area. Start from there before the Government comes.

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HON MOONGO: Alright. Now for those of us who live among the community, we witness these mentally disturbed people running away from their houses, where there are children when the Committee that is distributing *drought aids (sic)* arrives and demand *Kop Kaart* and IDs. You have to make special exceptions for those people and provide food without many conditions.

HON MEMBER: Where is your *Kop Kaart*.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order, Honourable Moongo.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Point of Order, Honourable Deputy Speaker. The former President of DTA.

HON MOONGO: *Og man*, that is not a question. We want you to be straightforward.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Information, the former Vice President of the DTA is aware that we all drive in this country. We know that your workers at Omaalala are complaining about you. You are not paying them. Now you want to tell us. What about your workers there? Thank you.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, proceed.

HON MOONGO: Anyway, I do not want us to waste time listening to what she is saying but what I want the Prime Minister to understand is that there are mentally disturbed people in the village communities who should be exempted from presenting Identity Documents as a requirement to received food aid. Therefore, they need to be given food, unconditionally.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON KAPIA: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I just want to ask Honourable Moongo if he can give us statistics of the mentally disturbed people in those villages. How many are they in a village? What do you mean when you say that they are distributing *drought aids*? Honourable Moongo, you said the people who are distributing *drought aids*. We are confused. Is it *drought aid* or *drought aids* and what is *Kop Kaart*?

HON MOONGO: I think you are wasting time. What I want the Prime Minister to understand is that you can demand documents from healthy people as a requirement to received food but exempt sick people from presenting a *Kop Kaart* and all those documents because it is impossible. People are now left without food in the villages.

I bought some food for them this week because your Ministry failed to provide food because you demand documents.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:
Point of Order, Honourable Deputy Speaker. Honourable Moongo may have a point but the way he is trying to dramatise the situation is not helping because sick people are in hospitals.

HON MOONGO: Not all of them my dear, some people get tablets and return to their respective communities.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I still have the Floor, Honourable Moongo. There can never be a sick community, no. There might be individual members in a community who are not feeling well but to tell us that the whole community is sick, put your facts in a proper context. We are listening. I just came from the village yesterday and we live more or less around there, probably not at Omaalala but not far from Omaalala either. We know about the situation, you are not preaching to the strangers. Therefore, just put your facts in a proper perspective so that we can listen to what you are saying. Thank you.

HON MOONGO: I think those who are realistic, do understand what I mean that there are people who are receiving tablets from the hospital monthly for their illnesses and there are quite a number of them. The Committee that is distributing food requests them to provide documents and they are not in a position to do that. They are not healthy enough to produce all the relevant documents. I want the Prime Minister to reconsider this and allow the distribution of food to these mentally disturbed people without demanding Identity Documents. (Intervention).

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point or Order.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Moongo, on Point of Information and a question. Honourable Moongo, I think those that do not know the culture and tradition around there might be misled by what you just said. Honourable Moongo, you want to be applauded by having provided a little bit of drought relief to the community you are leading but what is the meaning and what is the work of what is called *eembare, ombare*? These kind of contributions that you get from the community is it not really the work of it to be distributed during the drought or to drought stricken communities? If you want us to applaud you for what you are constitutionally supposed to be doing, I think it is little bit farfetched.

When you are talking about a mental disturbed community, I was looking at my map here and trying to localise where that whole community is that is mentally disturbed and even the people from Omaalala area would be having a problem, if you say that there is an entire community that is mentally sick. I am unable to localise it on my map here. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: In conclusion?

HON MOONGO: I do not want to mention names of people here because that is a secret, you cannot mention people's names.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, Honourable Moongo, the Members are just worried when you said the whole community is mentally disturbed *vis*

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a vis individuals within that community. It is a bone of contention from the other side.

HON MOONGO: The Committee dealing with the distribution of food are having a problem and they came to me and I went and made an investigation. I found that it is true that the people are hungry, they are dying there in the villages because of the lack of documents while you are only laughing and enjoying here. They have no documents and it is a true fact, you do understand but because your stomachs are full, you do not worry!

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Oh no, can you now summarise? Point of Order.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Can I ask my neighbour a small question? Honourable Moongo, are you able to challenge the Prime Minister and the other side that they can accompany you to this villages so that they can see for themselves, are you able to do that?

HON MOONGO: No, I think they are not serious with people. You can be voted by the people but you are not for the people. You are doing *vice versa* now.

It is serious when I listened to Honourable Tjiuiko when he said the decision was taken that the debts be written off. That was a Parliament decision here and who turned it down? If it is turned down by the concerned Minister or by the Government, I want to declare that the Government be suspended now because this was a majority decision in the

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House. Why continue? They must be suspended because we took a decision and you overruled it!

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Yes, thank you very much Honourable Moongo. Honourable Moongo, I know that you come from Omaalala and Omaalala is known to be a community hosting many people from all four corners of the world. Are you saying that those who are here from elsewhere who do not have necessary national documents should be given this food without providing the necessary documents? Will you not in the same vein, turn around and condemn the Government for corruption by giving food to just everybody and anybody, anyhow without accountability because this food is going to be accounted for one way or the other, are you not going to do the same thing?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: In answering this question, can you now try to summarise and wind up?

HON MOONGO: As I said, the Committee members came to me as a Headman and informed me that the people are dying in villages because they did not receive food. They did not get food because they are not happy and they ran away when the Committee came to them and when I went there I found that it was true, that is why I provided them with food because they know me. (Intervention).

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, you can now try to wind up. Point of Order.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Chief a small question? Honourable Chief, the question by the Minister of Home Affairs is very important. Do you really believe that after coming from where we are coming from, supported by the people of Angola during the struggle and having been so kind to the people that helped us so much so that we are busy shipping animals to Cuba, is it really wrong for the Namibian Government to give food to an Angola woman with a child who has been living in Namibia and does not have an ID. Is it really such a crime that we should complain about it, because the Minister is saying that we should not give these people food irrespective of (intervention).

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Please, do not put words into my mouth.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry, before you answer, the element of the Angolan citizen was not mentioned.

HON MOONGO: Of course they are included, there are a lot of Angolan people who stay in Namibia for over thirty years but they do not have documents and they are suffering because they do not get food. They are drying in our villages.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: In conclusion?

HON MOONGO: They were patriotic to us, they helped us a lot but you do not want to even give them food now, just because of documents.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order. You can now try to summarise after this Point of Order.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:
Honourable Deputy Speaker, if Honourable Moongo will agree, I just want to post a question to get some specific clarity on some of the issues that he has raised.

Now Honourable Moongo, as the Minister of Home Affairs has stated, you are raising a very fundamental issue but the way you are presenting it (interjection). No, wait I am asking a question now, because you are saying when the Committee members visited this specific village the people of that community ran away. (Interjection) no, wait because this is where I want to get clarity. They ran away and the Committee members returned, they came to you and then you went to investigate but they did not run away (interjections).

Can you just clarify a little bit there because here we have Parliamentarians elected by the same people, they come to listen to their problem in order to offer some solutions and they run away because they are sick?

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, can you now try to round off, please?

HON MOONGO: When I went there to investigate those who ran away came back because they know me, I am their leader.

HON MEMBER: The leader of the mentally disturbed people?

HON MOONGO: I am the leader of them all, healthy people like you and sick people. Therefore, they kept quiet and they listened to me and I went and bought food, distributed to them and they accepted. (Intervention).

HON VAN DER WALT: I have listened to this Debate and I also think that the Opposition are busy campaigning because this is a specific situation. I do not see our Government being irresponsible.

I truly believe that the reason why the people run away is because they do not have the right documents as they are not from Namibia. Now they say yes, we must be patriotic towards Angolans, I also believe so but on the other hand we must make sure that we look after our own people before we can look after other countries' people.

Honourable Moongo, I think they run away because they do not have the right documents and then they came back because you will not tell us that they do not have the right documents.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Moongo, you have the Floor but try to wind up now.

HON MOONGO: No, I would like to say that those people who ran away are born Namibians, they are not Angolans. That is not the reason why they ran away, it is because they do not know the Committee members.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: They do not know?

HON MOONGO: I am telling me. You can join me, I do not want unnecessary argument with you. Honourable Minister you failed completely.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, there is another Deputy Minister before you. Honourable Uutoni Nujoma.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I just want to provide some little information because the way Honourable Moongo speaks is like there are no structures in place at the villages when it comes to the drought situation. There are structures and these structures are the ones responsible for registering people before the food is distributed. Even under that tree nearby Omaalala, I used to be there and the way you speak is like, during the specific day when food was distributed the Committee members demanded to see documents.

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It is not the case, people already possess documents. They are already registered and known. When food is being distributed they only call the names because people gather under that tree that is in your village so do not tell people that documents are being demanded and if they do not have they are sent away. It is not true and it is not true that people ran away to see you. Under that tree which is near a school that is in the vicinity of Ziimo's, house people are given food fairly and there are lists of recorded names. There are structures in place, please.

HON MOONGO: I would like to say that (incomplete). You see now he wants to continue again. I want to provide the telephone numbers of the Committee members (interjections). Just listen! I do not want to accept your intervention. I want to provide telephone numbers of the Committee members. People are suffering; people are dying (intervention).

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I have to stop you.

HON MOONGO: They need food, while you are only talking nonsense here.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Deputy Speaker, some of us and I think the majority of us are leaders here and the subject matter that we are discussing emanates from a report of leaders of this House. Now if you make a statement to say that these leaders, elected by the people, and I know the composition of this Committee, almost all the leaders of the different Parties are there, now you make a statement to say when they visit the people to hear their problems, they run away?

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HON MOONGO: Not from the Committee, you are confused.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you proceed with your intervention?
Can you wind up?

HON MOONGO: You are misinterpreting the topic. Now he wants to say the leaders here are the ones, I said the Village Committees who distribute food. You do not understand yourselves. You have enough food, therefore you do not worry.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Moongo, can you now try to summarise?

HON MOONGO: I would also like to appeal to the Prime Minister to consider those Village Committees to be remunerated because they are doing a good job without payment. With this few words, I thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Next is Honourable Dr Ankama.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I am not going to follow the way Honourable Moongo argues because in fact he was my student and he was a very difficult student who was unable to

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learn. That you should understand, sorry about that but yes that is what he is all about.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, this Report is a very important Report. The Report addresses the issues that are in actual fact at hand within the society or the communities around there. Indeed the Committee has done a great job to discover what they have just discovered. Of course many of these things that they have discovered have been known to Government, I know it is just a matter of time.

However, there is a need for us to interrogate some of these issues because, definitely, we need to combine ideas. I know that Government is quite seized with many of these ideas, particularly of water. I want us to underline and separate tap water from the ordinary water that is untreated, rain water. Tap water may be different because it may not necessarily be accessible to animals at all times, maybe borehole water too. Now imagine if one was maybe a rainmaker, say for instance if I was a rainmaker and I give floods at a point in time and the people did not use this water wisely meaning contain the water for future use or maybe devise mechanisms to harvest this water. As a rainmaker, I would not provide this water abundantly again.

We receive a lot of floods, our areas are invaded by floods and we complain about water. Six months later then you hear about rations, dry taps or *do not misuse water, do not wash your cars, do not water your garden every time*, meaning that there is a scarcity of water. If one of us was a rainmaker would he/she keep on providing water when people get the water and then they do not keep that water? That is the subject that I would like to bring to us.

However, this Committee has done a good job indeed regardless of the tap water, the boreholes, I think we have a responsibility to move a bit further and say, with these natural lakes, natural lakes normally accumulate water. These natural lakes have been there perhaps ever since creation, a million years ago and now they have been tilted with sand. They have been tilted with sand and they became shallow so they can no longer contain

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sufficient water for over a year or for over years as they used to. Perhaps we do not have sufficient data to show that Lake So and So or Lake B or Lake X has had water many years. (Intervention).

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON KAURA: May I ask Honourable Ankama a question?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you accept the question Honourable Ankama?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Yes.

HON KAURA: Honourable Ankama, in view of the fact that you are not a rainmaker, can you find a way of encouraging NamWater to open up the taps? You are not a rainmaker, there are no floods now, the pens are dry but people are dying of thirst. NamWater's water is available but yet the taps are closed, is there a possibility that you can encourage NamWater to open up the taps?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Honourable Member, I am not a rainmaker indeed but if

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you talk about NamWater's water, it means this is water that is treated by NamWater and distributed to people not necessarily free of charge because NamWater has got resources that it uses to purify this water and also to ensure that the water reach the various points where people would be able to access water from. Now if you are saying NamWater should provide this water to people free of charge, would you be in a position to pay the damage to NamWater because NamWater will now be providing everyone or whoever with water free of charge? That is the difference, rain water is different. Honourable Member, do you want to ask me another question? Please go ahead.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Point of Order.

HON KAURA: On a Point of Information. When the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Dr Hage Geingob, visited the North, given the emergency and the situation as it was unfolding, he instructed that NamWater must open up the taps.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Thank you for your explanation but you should understand that with that statement, if that was the situation, there is always somebody who is footing the bill and that should be the Government at an agreed situation. I think there is always a Bill to be taken care of by someone else. Now coming back (intervention).

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order.

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HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question?

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE
RESOURCES:** Go ahead.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Minister, knowing the fact that you are such an influential person, would it be possible for you to use your influence within the system to ask Government to use some of the drought money to pay NamWater so that NamWater can provide people with water as it was recommended, so it will not be free. All that we are saying is that, can Government, using the funds that are available, pay NamWater so that NamWater can open water for the community during the drought time, would it be possible?

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE
RESOURCES:** Comrade Deputy Speaker, even if you are a good teacher and you decide to go and teach, say for example, maybe a cow to write I think the result (incomplete), anything you decide, I am just giving you an example, even if you decide to teach a cow how to write, it will never materialise. What I am trying to say is that sometimes we should try to understand issues in context. We should contextualise issues and I do not want to dwell much on that issue.

Let me come back to the rain water that I was referring to. Yes, as Namibians we need to move a bit further by saying; *yes we received droughts and we also receive floods at times*. We must make use of floods to our advantage, how? Looking at the lakes that I have talked about, we can dredge them, let us deepen them. If we deepen them, take one lake to another lake maybe for one or two years (interjections) no, it

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has worked somewhere else.

There are natural lakes, if you dredge natural lakes, even Oshana, Oshana has got nothing it is just a shallow pan that has sort of tilted. You can dredge it for a couple of months maybe one year, two years it depends. There are people who have got knowhow on how to do this and we can keep water there and that water...(intervention).

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Sorry Honourable Ankama, you are making an excellent presentation, I just have a small question. You are saying that *Lake Oponono* should be dredged, are you sure that once you dredge the water will not be salty, are you sure about that?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: *Comrade Katusha*, thank you very much for a good question. *Oponono* is just one of them that I have mentioned, but there are so many in abundance in that part of the world, and if we go back into history, I wish we could make some research by interviewing some of the elder people. When you ask the elder people, you will understand, they will tell you clearly where the animals used to go and drink water from, even currently. I do not understand why it should become salty when it is stretched and I also remember when the Missionaries came to the North, there are earth dams. You go along the mission stations, all over whatever you know around the North and until recently people have been using that water before NamWater or *Water Wese* at that time. The people used that water even for their own consumption in their houses nearby the mission stations so what I am saying is the *Oshanas* depends (intervention).

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON DR NDJOZE-OJO: Yes, on the Point of order. Honourable Ankama, do you not think that since the Right Honourable Prime Minister adjourned this discussion till tomorrow and it is a discussion of a Report rather than a Motion, we should wait until we get the answers tomorrow and then react to what he has to offer? I just want to propose. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: I understand the Colleague but we are discussing and reaching this very important Report. It is a very important Report and we are enriching it. When the Prime Minister reacts on this tomorrow, I believe, he will definitely be considerate on what we have said.

The issue of water definitely will liberate everyone in terms of food production and also in terms of grazing. What I am saying here is that, should we have sufficient rain water, even the ordinaries, nowadays in this modern time we have got these generators, you just stretch a pipe to the field and then they tap water from the *Oshana*, *Oponono* or from *Olushanda* wherever it is to their garden. What would they do? Spinach. (Intervention).

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order?

HON KAZENAMBO: Thank you. On a Point of Information, Honourable Dr Ankama, I am sorry to interrupt you my best friend and Comrade. Comrade, if you are saying that we are enriching this document and I agree with you that we must do that. In that spirit, I think the truth

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must also be said because some time ago I was a former member of the Executive or former Deputy Minister/Minister and it really used to pain me from the bottom of my heart and it is still does, that poor Ministers, and I am not saying that they are poor in terms of material possessions but in terms of the position in which they find themselves. You come here you defend behaviours of institutions that are also doing things that are making you feel pain. This is the most painful thing.

You know, we come here and defend these Parastatals; NamPower, NamWater, name them but the things that they are doing there, if the truth is to be said, some of the things puts Government unnecessarily on the spot, embarrassing the Government and so on and these Colleagues are just there.

The truth of the system is also that some of these have got nothing to do with those institutions, they subcontract. It is a chain of behaviour and this chain is impacting on the end users, the beneficiaries, so really as you are enriching this system that truth is there and it needs somehow, somewhere to be addressed because you will defend people who are driving top of the range cars and you were talking about the black Mercedes Benz, the black Mercedes is nothing! People are driving the top of the range X5. A poor Minister is driving a Mercedes so the system needs to be revisited so that it can communicate to each other. I am really pitying my Colleagues and Comrades because they have to defend the indefensible sometimes while the Colleagues there are just enjoying Christmas.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, proceed.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Thank you. Maybe to sort of looking towards rounding up, Comrade Deputy Speaker, the most crucial thing is that we should

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harvest rain water so that when we talk about *Olushandja*, remember I visited Ruacana round about March and I met a number of Colleagues just to alert them that indeed when I went there, there was no water.

My concern was more on the water that flows down to *Olushandja* and because we had fisheries on the other side like at Onavivi and the other places, we do not have sufficient water. The reason was simply, just to look at how the water comes in from Angola down to our side and I was concerned about NamPower because definitely few water would result that NamPower starts rationing power and also for our own consumption. One was very scared but the thing is, if we had sufficient water in those places like *Olushandja* and other lakes around there, animals would go and drink for themselves, they do not necessarily need tap water. People would also produce their own food. How do they go about this, planting spinach, tomatoes and all the other kinds of vegetables, then again (intervention)?

HON TJIHUIKO: Point of Information. Honourable Deputy Speaker, we are looking at a Report that would address the issue of (interjection). On a Point of Information, we are considering a Report that is calling on Government to immediately do something about the current situation. We are not talking about the Government intentions. However, it is good what the Honourable Deputy Minister is talking about. The situation as it is now is that the Nation is calling on us as lawmakers to do something about their lives now and among others is to try and make sure that they have got access to water, especially during the drought time.

The issue of Government intentions was well documented. Let us now look at this instead trying to divert people from discussing the real issue of getting out of here. The Honourable Minister should do something about the lives of those people who are need. The money is there with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry because Government has put money aside. People are asking the Government to pay off debts with that money so the Minister must just write off the debts. That is all.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, please sit down because he is on a Point of Order, I will give you a chance immediately when he is done. Did you finalise your intervention Honourable Tjihuiko? Honourable Ankama.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Comrade Deputy Speaker, I think the intervention of Honourable Tjihuiko is misdirected and I think what he is trying to do is to campaign at the wrong time. Campaigning now would not help you out in any way my good friend. He is talking more on getting water without payment, that is uncalled for and that cannot be accepted. I am very sorry about that. You should see what to do, if you want water of your own, dig your borehole.

Just to conclude, what I would say is that to create a much more conducive situation and to avert a similar situation where people would depend (intervention).

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order. Honourable Nyamu, can you kindly sit down because your Colleague stood up first.

HON KAURA: On a Point of Information. Honourable Dr Ankama, on the Report we are discussing now, the Committee that went on an investigation and tabled that Report is chaired by Honourable Ben Amathila and not by Honourable Tjihuiko.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE
RESOURCES:** Are you done?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Nyamu, please sit down so that he can respond, you will get a chance. It is just a matter of procedure. Yes, Honourable Ankama, you may respond and then he can continue with his intervention.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE
RESOURCES:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Kaura's point has got no sense at all because regardless of who tabled the Report, the Report is very clear, it has got nothing to do with (intervention).

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON NYAMU: With all due respect, I would like to think that we do not have a quorum.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you providing Information or asking a question?

HON NYAMU: No, I am referring to the Rules of the quorum.

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**CONSIDERATION: REPORT ON VISITS TO
DROUGHT STRICKEN AREAS
HON DR ANKAMA**

HON MEMBER: Which Rule is that?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Nyamu, you can say what you want to say.

HON NYAMU: I want you to reassure me that we have a quorum otherwise the meeting is invalid.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: In terms of which Rule?

HON NYAMU: A set of numbers (*laughter*).

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Thank you. Honourable Deputy Speaker, just to conclude, the issue that I am currently looking at is that, for us to avert similar situations where the drought is going to hit us hard, let us look and concentrate more on the rain water harvesting and create (intervention).

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Chief, a Point of Order.

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HON KAZENAMBO: Can I ask Comrade Ankama a question?

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE
RESOURCES:** Please go ahead Honourable Kazenambo.

HON KAZENAMBO: Thank you, Comrade Ankama for accepting my question. Comrade Ankama, are you aware that Comrade Nyamu's notes of causing division in SWAPO is now working more in RDP because RDP is has more infighting and because of that infighting it is only himself with his notes who is available here and others have left (laughter).

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: That question is Out of Order, please do not answer it. Stick to your concluding remarks.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE
RESOURCES:** Comrade Deputy Speaker, I will reserve my answer on that one, yes.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order. Yes, Honourable Bezuidenhout.

HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: Thank you. I want to point out to the Presiding Officer that there was a specific question about the quorum.

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ADJOURNMENT

There is a procedure to follow when that call is made, and I want to draw your attention to the fact that we do not have a quorum.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: In terms of which Rule?

HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: Rule 17 of the Rules and Orders, and there is a specific procedure.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can we call for counting? Can the Parliament Officials ring the bell three times? Can the Chief Whips of other Political Parties try to locate their Members?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: The people are not there.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Chief Whips of other Political Parties, can you try to locate your Members. I am made to understand that there are only 33 Members and since we do not have a quorum in terms of Rule 17(b), the House is adjourned till tomorrow at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:28 UNTIL 2013.10.16 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
16 OCTOBER 2013**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I acknowledge the presence of the Management Students from the Polytechnic of Namibia in the public gallery.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Reports of Standing or Select Committees? I recognise Honourable Witbooi.

**TABLING: REPORT ON THE REGIONAL
CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON THE AFRICAN
GOVERNANCE ARCHITECTURE (AGA)**

HON WITBOOI: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. I lay upon the Table the Report of the Regional Consultative Meeting on the African Governance Architecture (AGA) and Ratification of African Union Legal Instruments that was held in Maputo, Mozambique, from the 18th to the 19th September 2013, for information. I so Move, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Report. I recognise Honourable Professor Katjavivi.

**TABLING: REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SECOND
ORDINARY SESSION OF THE THIRD PARLIAMENT**

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. Honourable Members, on behalf of the Namibian Parliamentarian Delegation to the Pan African Parliament, I have the pleasure to lay on the Table the Report of the Activities of the Second Ordinary Session of the Third Parliament prepared by the Secretariat of the Pan African Parliament. Honourable Deputy Speaker, we are presenting this Report for the purposes of informing the Honourable Members of this House on the activities undertaken during the month of May 2013.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Report. Any Other Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? I recognise Honourable Moongo.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 40:

HON MOONGO: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 24th of October 2013, I shall ask the Minister of Defence the following questions:

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ORAL QUESTIONS
HON MOONGO / HON SHIXWAMNEI

1. Is it true that N\$15.00 is deducted from every member's salary on a monthly basis for luxurious services such as TV and sport activities in the Defence Force?
2. Is it true that if a Member retires after 50 years the accumulated amount is forfeited to the Namibian Defence Force?
3. Can the Minister explain why their officials are tempering with the salaries of the workers while it is prohibited in the Labour Law?

ORAL QUESTIONS

HON MOONGO: I have an Oral Question to the Minister of Local Government, Housing and Rural Development. Before that, I would like to thank the Ministry for providing double cab vehicles to Traditional Authorities. Thank you very much, we are happy with it. We are also thankful for N\$120,000.00 which was given for administration purposes.

My question is; when will the Sub-headmen also be given a salary because they are overworked by the villagers and by the community? They are doing a good job?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table your questions. Any other Notice of Questions. I recognise Honourable Shixwameni.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Thank You, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Education an Oral Question:

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**ORAL QUESTIONS
HON SHIXWAMNEI**

Given the reports that are in the newspapers and also the practical experience of parents that there is no space for Grade 1s in public schools for the next year around the Khomas Region and I believe it is also replicated in other Regions.

There is also shortage of space for those ones who are going to Senior Secondary School, thus Grade 8, for next year. We are talking about toddlers and children aged 13 and 14 years.

I would like to know what plan is the Ministry having to resolve this recurrent crisis year in and year out and whether the Government is prepared to throw 13 year olds in the streets because they cannot find a school in the Region of their residence? Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Education, are you ready to respond?

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker of this august House. I want to thank the Honourable Member for the Oral Question.

I want to assure the Honourable Member as well as the entire Nation that the Namibian Government is a caring Government. The money which was put aside and approved by this Honourable House will definitely be put to good use. No Namibian child from zero to eighteen years will be thrown onto the streets.

I want Honourable Member to ignore some of this misleading information. We are not denying the fact that there are challenges and challenges are there to be tackled head on. (Intervention)

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**RESPONSE TO ORAL QUESTIONS
HON DR NAMWANDI**

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I stand in terms of Rule No. 82(a), Oral Questions and it reads as follows: *“After answers to the questions on Notice, the Speaker shall allow time for Oral Questions to Ministers”*.

Now Honourable Deputy Speaker, I have not seen questions on Notice being answered before the Oral Questions posed have been asked. In terms of our Rules, Oral Questions are not just asked any time, it is after the questions on Notice have been responded to. Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I take note of that Rule but we created the tradition that at times Oral Questions were just asked afresh. I do not know, am I right? On that basis I will allow that. Yes, can you proceed?

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you. From this Budget 2012/2013, we have as a Ministry allocated funds to construct schools and class rooms to cater for our children.

What I am saying is that we are not denying the fact that there might be challenges here and there. However, challenges are everywhere, developed Nations also face challenges but as a Nation we are determined to make a difference. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Any other questions? Oral Questions should be urgent in nature.

HON MOONGO: Yes, this is very urgent. We are serving the people and we need an answer from the Minister.

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ORAL QUESTIONS
HON SHIXWAMNEI / HON RIRUAKO

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you have a follow up question, Honourable Shixwameni? Please, quickly follow up and that will be the last time you follow up.

HON SHIXWAMNEI: Thank you for your short reply. I just want the Minister to assure us because parents are stampeding at the Teachers' Resource Centre in Katutura for their Grade 8 children. The circular from the Ministry says that they will be placed anywhere where there are empty spaces around the country.

I am still insisting, will the Minister assure the Nation that no kid just going to Grade 8 would not have to go somewhere else to find schools when there are schools within the parameters of their Region?

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you very much. Let us differentiate things here. There is a difference between shortage and preference. If a parent prefers his/her child to study in a specific school, ignoring the other schools that are available elsewhere, then the Ministry of Education will remain silent. However, what I assure the Nation is that the caring Government of the Republic of Namibia will ensure that no child would be left on the street. That is the bottom of the matter. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further Notice of Questions.

HON RIRUAKO: I have an Oral Question.

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**RESPONSE TO ORAL QUESTIONS
HON MUTORWA**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Provided that it is of an urgent nature, Honourable Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would like to know about the cattle in Tsumkwe, are they going to remain there permanently or not? What are they doing there? People from Gam's cattle were confiscated by the very same Government. I would therefore like to know for how long they will be there?

I would like to hear from the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Honourable Mutorwa. Please respond and tell me how long they are going to stay there?

I had to repeat the question several times but you do not want to answer. It is embarrassing the whole Nation. We want to know about those cattle in the Omatako Region, in Tsumkwe, what are they doing there?

The others were confiscated by you while these ones are there without any questions. For how are they going to be where they are? Please, answer the question.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Riruako, may I advise you to put it formally in writing.

HON RIRUAKO: I said it is an Oral Question and I need the answer now because they have been there quite long. How long are they still going to be there? The entire Nation wants to know. Others were confiscated by the same Government.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER & FORESTRY: Honourable Deputy Speaker, this is a very serious House and the subject

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MOTION OF CONDOLENCES
RT HON DR GEINGOB / HON PROF KASINGO

matter is a also serious subject matter that is why there is provision in terms of our Rules that Thursdays are reserved for the Opposition to pose questions to the Government.

I would prefer that a weighty, important question like that one which I also think is not only for the Ministry of Agriculture only, should be asked during the Notice of Questions and be answered on Thursday. Only then will we do justice to that question and it must be a written question Honourable Deputy Speaker. That is the response.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Notice of Motions? Message from the Head of State? I recognise Right Honourable Prime Minister, would you like to say something?

MOTION OF CONDOLENCES

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Yes. Comrade Deputy Speaker, while the House was so jovial, I am standing up on a sombre note to announce the passing away of the mother of our Member, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Honourable Peya Mushelenga whose mother unfortunately left us. With that I will leave it to the Deputy Speaker to ask us to do the right thing. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Right Honourable Prime Minister, if you may allow me to add to that, we also have a second loss of Honourable Clara //Gowases' mother who also passed on. Can we rise in the silence of memory of the two mothers?

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS
HON MUTORWA**

THE HOUSE OBSERVES A MINUTE OF SILENCE

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. May their souls rest in eternal peace.

Any Ministerial Statements? I recognise the Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, for giving me the Floor to make a Ministerial Statement on the subject of exportation of breeding animals during the prevailing drought situation in our country.

The importation and exportation of animals or livestock into and out of Namibia is legally governed and regulated by the provisions of the *Livestock Improvements Act* of 1977 (Act 25 of 1977) as amended. The *Livestock Improvement Act* of 1977 prohibits any person to, amongst others, import or export from Namibia any animal, unless so authorised in writing by the Registrar of Livestock Improvement in the person of Mr Erick Petrus and official employed in the Directorate of Extension and Engineering Services of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry at the present moment.

Honourable Members, for some time now, the Ministry has been inundated with a lot of applications for the exportation of breeding animals to other countries. The Ministry has therefore, taken a principled policy decision already during 2010 to strictly control the exportation of breeding animals to other countries within the SADC Region inclusive of Angola and the DRC due to the uncontrolled manner at which such breeding animals were initially leaving the country.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS
HON MUTORWA**

This decision was taken to protect the Livestock Industry from collapse as we all must have learnt from the past experience of the sudden collapse of the then prosperous Ostrich Industry in our country.

As we all know, Namibia is currently experiencing a real drought situation and the prospects for good rains are still minimal and that we may still experience a prolongation of the drought situation. It is based on the above facts and truth that the Ministry has a few months ago in line with the declaration of a drought situation in the country by the President of our country, publicly announced that it has temporarily lifted the export control measures and opened up the exportation of an approved number of breeding animals to foreign markets, upon an acquisition of legal permits to reduce pressure on the land and further to reduce livestock losses. These measures will be revised by the Registrar of Livestock Improvement when the drought situation normalises.

The temporary lifting of the export measures is thus strictly speaking applicable during the duration of the current prevailing drought emergency situation in our country. The process of issuing livestock permits has thus also accordingly being decentralised and the Regions are issuing the permits on their own but under the strict supervision of the Registrar of Livestock Improvement and the Directorate of Veterinary Services within the Ministry.

The Office of the Registrar conducts monthly inspections to the borders and regional offices entrusted temporarily issue the Livestock Improvement Permits in order to monitor and check that the paper work is correctly and properly done.

For any further enquiries please contact Mr Erik Petrus, the Registrar of Livestock Improvement at telephone 061-2087461 at the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry Head Office in Windhoek. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any other Ministerial Statements?
Attorney-General, do you have something for us?

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: WATER
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BILL
HON MUTORWA**

The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**COMMITTEE STAGE: CONSIDERATION OF THE WATER
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BILL [B.5 – 2013]**

SECRETARY: Consideration of the *Water Resources Management Bill* [B.5 -2013].

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister Move that the Assembly now reconsider the Bill?

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:
I so Move, Comrade Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is moved that the Assembly goes into Committee Stage and that I will leave the Chair. Any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to.

Honourable Professor Katjavivi will take the Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: WATER
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BILL
HON MOONGO**

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Committee has to reconsider the *Water Resources Management Bill* [B.5 - 2013].

Clause 8 as amended by the National Council put. Any discussions? Minister you have the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. in Clause No. 8, and after a very fruitful, constructive consultations, the National Council has proposed some Amendments to which we have agreed to and which then upon your directives, I am able to table.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Any further discussions? May I ask the Honourable Minister to table Amendments? Thank you. Any further discussions? I recognise Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. On Clause 8, the National Council has done well and I realise it is necessary to amend it but I wanted to give my input to the Minister. Why did we omit some other organisations such as the Church Council, also to be nominated and be part of it? Water is a resource for all people and again the Council of Traditional Leaders in Namibia are dealing with the community that is suffering and have salt water. Why are we omitting them, why do we not include them?

The last point is: I would also like to make an outcry of the Community Committees who are serving voluntarily all the years; they collect large sums of money and take it to the Department of Water Affairs. If possible

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RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BILL
HON KAZENAMBO**

those Committees have to be remunerated please. That is my point for consideration. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Kazenambo, please.

HON KAZENAMBO: Thank you Honourable Chairperson. I do not know whether it is permissible to seek clarity or not.

Firstly, I rise to support the Bill with the Amendment, and then I will seek clarity on the nomination of the Members, especially the difference between, where one is to be nominated by interested organisations in the Agricultural Sector (e) and (f) says; one is to be nominated by, again interested organisations in the Commercial Sector and it goes on to say that one is to be nominated by interested organisations in the Industrial Sector. One is to be nominated by an Engineering Council of Namibia.

Comrade Minister, these dichotomies in languages and from an economic and business point of view where I am coming from (interjections). Not from Gam. I am not from Gam, anyway I am from Botswana, born in exile and I am from Windhoek here because I arrived at Dobra, here.

Do not associate me with Gam, it has got nothing to do with me, it is a colonial mentality, backwardness of *reserves* that I have fought against in the bush. I am not associating myself with backwardness, primitiveness, and Bantustans. You may keep your *reserves*, they have got nothing to do with me. I am from Windhoek here and my grandparents were uprooted from here, do not associate me with Gam it has got nothing to do with me. It is a *reserve*, a colonial mentality of the blacks being put in pockets of *reserves*, I fought against that.

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HON KAZENAMBO**

HON SHIXWAMENI: Cool down, cool down.

HON KAZENAMBO: From today on it must be known that I am not from Gam, I have never lived in Gam. The point is that *ovinambi vitu hihamisa*.

From an economic point of view, one is to be nominated from commercial (intervention).

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Let us make progress. I think you are just about to conclude anyway.

HON KAZENAMBO: Yes. From an economic point of view, the Agricultural Sector is part of the commercial entity, Industrial Sector; all Industries are commercial entities from an economic, technical point of view. Industrial is a commercial activity. In the Agricultural Sector, some of the activities can be commercial. Now what do we mean and which are these organisations from the industrial, commercial, etcetera. Since this year, from the current status of the legal instrument in this country, if you are talking about someone to be nominated from the Commercial Sector, I will assume that we are carrying on with the previous colonial discriminatory practises of commercial farmers versus communal farmers and where are the communal farmers represented here?

Is it other organisations, and how do we continue with this dichotomy because this is the representation of these people sitting in those boards, coming up with Laws that are very discriminatory in nature and are passed here? I would like an elaborate definition of these entities from a technical point of view. What is the difference between Engineering, Industrial, Commercial and other organisations? That is my question?

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: WATER
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BILL
HON T MUSHELENGA**

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Kazenambo. I think if I take the contributions from the two Honourable Members, the idea or purpose of looking at these lists is to improve upon what we have here. You have to say if something is missing. Do I have another Member who wants to take the Floor? Yes, Honourable Mushelenga, please.

HON T MUSHELENGA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support the Amendment.

I know it is water under the bridge now, but I just want to raise my concern. Water is a resource that is mostly needed by the rural population, the needy people of which the majority are women. We have a paper here with the Law that we are making with the nomination of Council Members having one person from an institution and I know the SWAPO Party Constitution is not yet a Law of the State because we need a Law of the State to have gender balance. However, if we are to take that as an example that is leading us forward then I think I do not know whether we will be able to do justice to have water management being managed by individuals from any institution and I expect, knowing the tradition of this country, most of these people will be men and the Minister responsible will not be able to say bring us a woman or bring us a man to replace the other one who was brought in by the other institution and therefore, I have a problem of accepting this to be our Law because I have an experience and I want to take what Honourable Moongo has just mentioned about the Church institution. I know we are to refer to what is here but what is missing has also to be considered.

We have experience in a certain Region where water management is under a church and there was a certain Pastor, I would not want to mention the name because that person is not a member of this august House. However, that Pastor has closed water for the community for years and people had to suffer and that Pastor, for the information of the House, is a man. I do not want to mention the name. I just want to raise the concern

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RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BILL
HON SHIXWAMENI**

because these are things that are happening in rural communities there.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Honourable Member, I think your point is very clear. Let us not repeat it.

HON T MUSHELENGA: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I just want us to have that in mind that in future we have to consider the gender issue because we do not want people to be represented by the minorities which are men. Women are in the majority when it comes to the population of this country but end up suffering because of the Laws and decisions that are made by men because they are represented in the majority in some of the most crucial Committees that are to assist the communities.

Therefore, Honourable Chairperson, we must have to consider that in the future. I know it is water under the bridge now. Thank you, Honourable Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Shixwameni, please.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I concur with Honourable Mushelenga there about there being gender balance. We must not only talk about it, we must live it in practical life. I think that point must be emphasised at the end of the day.

I welcome the Amendment that was made by the National Council but I have a problem with the use of words, probably as also alluded to by my

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Honourable brother and friend there, Honourable Kazenambo Kazenambo, though he does not want to speak the Gam language (interjection). He has a lodge there and I slept there one day.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Order, Order!

HON SHIXWAMENI: Do not explode my brother. One is under (c). One is to be nominated by water service providers. How many water serviced providers do we have in this country? Apart from NamWater and the Local Authorities, who are the other service providers that we are talking about here that are going to be nominating, is it NamWater because the Local Authorities are already provided for under (b), the Association of Local Authorities but I would still think that two people from Local Authorities and two people from the Regional Councils are basically few.

This country has got a variety of sieves in terms of water provision. You find the Northern Regions, and when I talk about the Northern Region it is from Caprivi up to Kunene.

HON MOONGO: Caprivi does not exist, it is from Zambezi.

HON SHIXWAMENI: My brothers are reminding that they do not want to secede. No it is fine, we must not secede, it is the Zambezi Region. From the Zambezi Region up to Kunene, the water there is something different, therefore for a person that might represent that belt up the Region on this association might be talking about some other issues on the

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HON SHIXWAMENI**

Council.

Then you have the *desertic* Namibia, it has also got its own challenges and all these kinds of things. I do not know whether we should not increase the number of representatives both for the Regional Councils and the Local Councils to at least have more people representing so that they reflect the views of the different stakeholders in the other Regions, that is one.

(e), (f) and (g), I am asking myself should we really say interested organisation or should we name those organisations? I mean interested organisations, it is like putting an advert in the newspaper and then only now we happen to see that the Namibia Agricultural Union which provides for the Commercial farmers will be able to put up. The other poor farmers or other interested people in the Agricultural Sector or the Commercial Sector also have a vested interest but how are they going to nominate this one person? We now know about the Communal Farmers Union, we know that there are almost four Farmers Unions in this country. Are these four Farmers Unions going to sit and nominate one representative? I think we really need to be very specific on these issues because at the end of the day the interest of the down trodden and exploited in our society would not be reflected in these institutions.

I would like us to be specific that now NAU nominates one, what is the other Farmers Union? (interjection). Yes, NNFU also nominates one so that we do not have these quarrels of; *Yes, now NNFU has nominated but the other Union has not nominated.* I think we need to correct that particular thing and be very much specific. The academic institutions are also a problem as far as I am concerned. We have UNAM, we have IUM, we have the Polytechnic and we have many other private Universities and institutions around here.

HON MEMBER: Where?

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HON SHIXWAMENI: Around here, I mean in Namibia. Do you not know? There is Monitronix and there are all kinds of institutions that are offering degrees, diplomas and all these kinds of things. You must do a little bit of research. How are these institutions going to nominate this one person? Are they going to come together and suggest one name or how? Maybe the Ministers can be able to provide an answer to that but otherwise I think the stipulation of who is to nominate what, apart from not being specific, I support this Bill. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Kavetuna, please.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would firstly like to welcome the Amendment and I would like to just mention something regarding the mismatch about the providers and the consumers. I really feel that the representation of the consumers is missing in this composition of the Council. I believe that maybe we can look at it and try to put up the consumers in many numbers so that they can have a voice. I thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Dr Ndjoze-Ojo, please.

HON DR NDJOZE-OJO: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support the Honourable Minister. An Amendment it is a very complicated process,

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we have just talked about bills that are not being paid and so on, and it is good to amend in relation to tackle some of the problems that we might have noticed during that time.

Honourable Members, my intervention is very short and I concur with my sister Honourable Mushelenga that women should be presented, we are 51% of the Namibian population we are the majority and every system that ignores majority is not a good system because this is a democratic country.

I just want clarification from the Honourable Minister on how the process of nomination will work. Does it mean that once you are nominated, you are already appointed by the Minister or will the organisation hopefully identified, not interested, necessarily. I think we should look at the knowledge and capacity of certain organisations which will go out to nominate. Maybe not necessarily nominating only one person, but nominating two possible people with CVs so that we tap on the knowledge, rather than having to sit up with one person nominated, and therefore, you are obliged to appoint that person, as the Minister.

Sometimes we say, they are providers and they are consumers, there are Local Authorities, there are Regional Councils and so on. The Regional Councils and Local Authorities are supposed to be representative of the people in the Regions and of the people in the Local Authorities. Therefore, they should be automatically representative of the providers and consumers. Having said that I am concerned about the numbers because I remember that at one time we talked about very large Councils that cost a lot of money that should actually go to other things and people are (incomplete), is that now a Point of Order?

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Yes
Honourable Member.

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HON BEZUIDENHOUDT**

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Honourable Chairperson, I am sorry to intervene but I just have a question. My understanding is that, what we are doing now is, we are reconsidering a Bill that has been approved here and we are only considering proposed Amendments by the National Council. What we are doing now is we are engaging in a general discussion of the Bill, so I am in your hands, I just want to know where we are so that we can make progress. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I think we should be concentrating on the Amendment before us. Now I get the impression we are already widening the discussion.

HON DR NDJOZE-OJO: Yes, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, it is reconsideration I thought, and that is how it is appearing on the Order Paper and when you are reconsidering you are also infusing some ideas. That may not necessarily change the Bill but eventually inform the Minister in such a way that he will take all these issues that are being raised into consideration when finalising the Bill and I think basically my concern is the large number of people and the process of nomination so that the Minister will actually have authority to select from a number of nominations rather than one nomination from one institution and that is it.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Bezuidenhoudt.

HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also stand on the issue of guidance and procedure.

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We have considered the *Water Resources Management Bill* in this Chamber. We finished it and we passed it on to the National Council. And the National Council said we recommend these changes. The Ministry has considered and I am just thinking what is the role of the Whole House Committee, is it the reconsideration in terms of discussions or can you guide us on that or take the question to Standing Rules to guide the House for future Amendments on how we should go about it? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honestly speaking we need to concentrate on the item before us in Clause 8, not to widen the Debate because we really have to narrow our discussions to the subject matter before us. With all the given comments and inputs, I would now like to call upon the Honourable Minister to respond to some of those specific issues.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson. As some Honourable Members have stated some time ago this particular Bill came to this House and we dealt with the Bill as we normally do with any other Bill that comes here. The Bill went through all the stages, the First Reading, the Motivation, the Second Reading and eventually the Committee Stage.

During the Committee Stage we passed the Bill here and then it went as it should be, to the National Council. Now our Colleagues in the National Council when they considered the Bill, specifically Clause 8, they only proposed Amendments to the number of people on the council because in the original Bill Honourable Members it was stated that eight Members will constitute the Council but the Honourable Members of the National Council felt, and I agreed with them. They invited me and I went there. They said that Members to represent the Association of Regional Councils should be increased from one to two because they look at their own

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interest which is correct. Then they also said, equally the Members to represent the Local Authorities should also be increased to two and I concurred with them and eventually it brings the total number to eleven. Those are the only proposed Amendments that they made.

Now, I do not have a problem but our Rules will catch us because what we are doing now as *Honourable Schlettwein* has said is to review the Bill in terms of Article 75 of the Constitution, meaning we have not objected to the Amendment proposed by the National Council. I could also not have objected to the very good proposals that are being made here in terms of being specific as *Honourable Kazenambo* has stated, for example, what exactly do we mean with the Commercial Sector or the Agricultural Sector but is it the right stage for us to do this?

For me as *Honourable Mushelenga* has stated, I think under the circumstances what we should do is to agree to the Amendments as proposed by the National Council and let the Bill goes to the Head of State and definitely when it is enacted probably we will have to find time because we will have realised that there are maybe still some Amendments and then at that stage we can propose those Amendment. That is the only thing that we can do in terms of the procedures.

In terms of gender, I fully agree. In fact as a matter of policy at the level of Government we encourage gender balance and when invitations are extended to organisations, we do put it there that at least your nominations, even if it is one person eventually that is to be appointed on the Council, the invitation to that sponsoring organisation, the Minister, whether it is this Minister or any other Minister, would probably say I want you to nominate four, three or two people out of which the Minister will then consider appointing one. However, Comrade Deputy Speaker, it is really a procedural problem. We cannot make Amendments now, we should have done it at the time when we dealt with the Bill, particularly during the Committee Stage. It was here. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I think with that clarification honestly speaking we cannot reopen a Debate. The subject before us is the Amendment as presented under Clause 8 and I think with that clarification we should basically go forward not backwards. Can I then ask the House whether we agree with the Amendment? Honourable Kazenambo.

HON KAZENAMBO: Yes, with all due respect, Comrade Professor and Chairperson of this Whole House Committee.

Respecting and understanding what my Honourable friend and Comrade has said, if that would be the way to go, it is a bad way of lawmaking. It is not only rubberstamping, it is a bad way of lawmaking, and there are no two ways about that. Let me justify my point here.

The document was brought to this House and that is why I am saying that it is a bad way of lawmaking, it was submitted here for reconsideration by this House, by another equal arm of Parliament in this country and we are saying that we have dealt with the Bill that has to go to the President. I have got no problem with that.

I may suggest that a good way of governance will surely do that, I may be wrong or may be correct but we have got no arguments and quarrels with the Bill but these proposals are not emanating from this House, Comrade Professor allow me one minute.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: No, no let me explain, let me explain. I think you are now drifting away completely.

We are saying, the issues that you have raised are appreciated. Nobody has got an objection but we are governed by Rules. In terms of our

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procedures we have passed that stage, we cannot amend this document on the basis of what you are proposing but we have taken note of that, whether it is a question of gender issues or whether it is a question of all the other issues that you have raised, they are important but they can only be taken on board after we have actually adopted this Bill and we can actually revisit the Bill later on, not at this stage, otherwise we are going against our own Rules and Procedures. That is what we are saying.

HON KAZENAMBO: How will the President deal with these Amendments because they are not part of the original document? Did this House agree with these proposals or how will it be done?

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: No, honestly speaking this is a simple issue. You are trying to take us back to revisit the very Bill that went through this House before it went to the National Council. It came back from the National Council with an Amendment as we have seen under Clause 8 and that is what we are dealing with.

To go beyond that, it is totally out of order, so I am going to proceed on the basis of what we have before us. Any further discussion? We have done that? Agreed to? Any objection to the Amendments? Are we objecting to the Amendments as proposed under Clause 8? (Interjections). No, I want to stick to the Rules. I am not going to deviate from that. Yes?

HON SHIXWAMENI: The way that I understand the Rules is that we send the Bill when it is passed here to the National Council, the National Council reviews the Bill. They send their Amendments or they concur with what was passed in this House. When they send their Amendments back to this House, it is for this House to either approve it or reject it. We

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have that option, so under rejection, it means that we basically look at the Amendments that have been made and this House must agree to those Amendments in order to approve it. If we have problems with the Amendments, we can also amend their Amendments. That is my understanding of the Rules.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: You are absolutely right, we are together. Honourable Members, we are together on that. I thought we are taking the Amendment under Clause 8 on board. What we are now trying to prevent is for us to revisit the Bill on other aspects. Yes, Honourable Kawana, please.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I take note of what Honourable Shixwameni said but it is different from what we are faced with here because as the good friend, the Honourable Minister has explained here, there were only two issues that were added; that is the representation by the Regional Councils and representations by the Local Authority, only these two. The rest were passed here and there is no change.

If you had a problem, if the Honourable Member had what we call an opportunity that objection should have been raised or that recommendation to amend should have been raised during the Committee stage here but the only two items that were added is the Regional Council representation and the Local Authority representation. That is all.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I think we should go forward. Agreed to?

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Committee has reconsidered the Bill as

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set forth in the accompanying copy and it is agreed to with Amendments.

I shall report the Bill with Amendments.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED

Bill reported with Amendments

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Members, having considered the Amendments, the Assembly has now finally passed the Bill and therefore, concluded the Business on this item.

I shall now in terms of Article 75(3) refer the Bill to the President to deal with it in terms of Article 56 and 64 of our Constitution. So agreed.

I think by implication we agreed that we shall skip the tea break and just proceed. So agreed.

The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND READING:
PUBLIC PROCUREMENT BILL [B.7 – 2013]**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading: *Public Procurement Bill* [B.7 – 2013].

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HON DR KAWANA / RT HON DR GEINGOB**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, the 1st of October 2014, the question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Minister of Finance that the Bill be read a Second time. The Honourable Minister of Presidential Affairs and Attorney-General adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor. Honourable Dr Kawana.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I rise to support the Bill and my intervention will be basically (intervention).

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before you proceed, something cropped up in my mind. I did not give you the Floor, Honourable Kazenambo. I was still going to give you the Floor, if you can just listen to what I am trying to say. Earlier on it was agreed that because of the importance of this Bill it cannot be debated in the absence of the Minister and it was agreed and the Minister (interjection) no, I am just following what was agreed upon earlier on and everybody was nodding their heads. Yes, Right Honourable Prime Minister, do you have something to say?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. I failed last time to convey what I had discussed with the Honourable Minister of Finance. We had a discussion whereby I told her that there are many people or some people who raised serious issues on this Bill and it may be good that we have more time to discuss it outside this House. Therefore, I was supposed to have proposed that we postpone the discussion of this Bill, so that we are going to call some more workshops or whatever it is outside the House.

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That is what we agreed on because there are still some serious issues that many people have issues with. Therefore, for wider consultations we would like to pull it out from here and bring it back later on, when she comes back.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: In other words this Bill is temporarily withdrawn for further consultations.

The Secretary will read the Third Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT
ON THE VISIT BY THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING
COMMITTEE TO THE DROUGHT STRICKEN AREAS OF
OHANGWENA, OMUSATI, KUNENE AND ERONGO REGIONS**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Consideration of the Report on the Visit by the Parliamentary Standing Committee to the Drought Stricken Areas of Ohangwena, Omusati, Kunene and Erongo Regions.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, the 9th of October 2014, the question before the Assembly was the consideration of the Report by Honourable Amathila. That the Report be adopted. The Honourable Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources now has the Floor. Honourable Dr Ankama.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE
RESOURCES:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I just want to

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round up because I understand that the Right Honourable Prime Minister has to respond.

Yesterday I spoke about the need for us to preserve the water that abundantly we get at times during floods so that we will probably stop complaining more about the drought. When we have water, we have everything because as I said, water in the pans would provide food production that would create economic activities and then it would have some kind of job creation and then animal feed would be abundant also because everybody would be able to access water and be in a position to plant the animal feed.

I want to say that maybe from now on and looking at the years to come, we have to plan in such a way that we dredge some of these natural lakes and that we expand the containment of water when it is flooding so that many people have got access to water, particularly animals because they do not necessarily need to have water that is treated.

With these few words, I would then like to conclude and allow the Right Honourable Prime Minister to say what he has to tell us, he has a lot to say.

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

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members.

As you are all aware, on May 17, 2013, His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba declared a drought emergency where he issued a directive that all measures should be taken to ensure that no Namibian should lose his or her life as a result of drought.

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In order to ensure that the lives and food security of all Namibians would be protected during the drought, the Government took swift and effective actions, setting up structures at the national level and cascading these structures all the way down to the regional and local levels to ensure that the drought relief effort would be a nationally coordinated and action driven process.

The overall structure is headed by the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister who provide the oversight for the overall policy. There is also a National Disaster Risk Management Committee, that a Technical Committee headed by the Secretary to Cabinet, Mr Frans Kapofi and this includes officials from Offices, Ministries and Agencies, all 13 Governors, they will be fourteen very soon, the Chairpersons of Regional Councils and Councillors. To emphasise my earlier mention that this process is action driven, I am in a regular contact with all our Governors whom I have provided my direct contact details so that at any time there should be crisis, they can call me. I also took all their numbers so that where I should need to react on certain newspaper claims that I can get an answer from them or explanation from them.

At this juncture, I would also like to thank the Members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration which is headed by Honourable Ben Amathila. The Committee undertook a very useful exercise and the Report provided valuable insight in the drought situation in several Regions across Namibia. However, I should caution that the Report is dated since it was drafted in July 2013 and much has transpired since then, meaning that some issues mentioned in the Report have been identified and attended to and mitigation measures have been taken by Government. I must also point out that much has been said with regards to malnutrition and hunger. Several Reports have attempted to link reported deaths due to malnutrition and hunger to the drought. This is despite the fact that we have had these unfortunate occurrences even before the declaration of the drought emergency by the President.

I, therefore, would like to state that we should make a distinction between

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malnourishment and hunger caused by poverty and malnourishment and hunger that is caused as a result of lack of rain due to drought. Yes, I want to repeat that, we seem to be making a mistake forgetting that our people have been hungry, have been dying all these years. Our Committee and the President's declaration is to address the hunger that is caused by the lack of rain that is why the emergency is about drought not about hunger and malnourishment. That must be clear.

We are obviously aware that there are a number of our citizens, 14% of our Nation who are living in abject poverty. I hope that some of us have not discovered this fact only now during the drought. I must emphasise though that those of our citizens who are suffering from these poverty cannot be ignored. For instance Governors or Chairpersons cannot go to a Regions, where there is one person who is suffering or hungry because of what I call chronic hunger caused by poverty and there is one here who is hungry because of lack of rain. As a leader he/she cannot give food to this one and say since you are perpetually hungry I am not going to give you the food. Obviously common sense should dictate that he or she will also take care of that other person too although outside the mandate of the Committee's duty. Because the prevailing poverty, Government has specific programmes designed to assist these people and cater for their needs. As far as the citizens affected by drought are concerned, the Office of the Prime Minister in collaboration with UNICEF and the World Food Programme undertook the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) during April 2030. The objective of this exercise was to evaluate the current drought conditions on various Sectors including Crop and Livestock Production, Water Quality and Access, Health and Nutrition Status, Markets and Trade Conditions, and the general food security condition at household level. The exercise identified 330,925 across the entire country being food insecure. Unfortunately, since a Report was published that that number has gone up as people have decided either to add their relatives or friends to list or good work was done and new ones who were left out were added. Therefore the list is now grown bigger, the current number is now bigger than original number.

The identification of Namibians who are food insecure has necessitated a

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multi-pronged approach to ensuring that food reaches these people as soon as possible. The drought relief is delivered to the warehouses and temporarily sold there until the food is transported by trucks to specified offload areas where those who are food insecure can collect the food.

It is true that there are problems with transport. Some truck operators in the Regions voiced their unhappiness of the prices offered by the Government. This can be attributed to the fact that there are many people who want to benefit from the drought situation even after we have stated on many occasions that greed and selfishness should not hinder the efforts of the drought relief programme. A number of regional committees have also been enlisted, we have also enlisted the help of our Churches, Councillors, the Red Cross, Chairpersons of Regional Councils and Governors in order to galvanise all citizens. We have also enlisted the help of our Defence Forces and I should thank the Minister of Defence, Honourable Nahas Angula for expected swift response that he has given us.

Let me state that as of now, no person has died as a result of the drought. Yes, some might have died because they were already sick, they were malnourished whether there was drought or not but from what we are monitoring so far no person has died as a result of the drought. Yes, malnourishment as I said is there since those of our citizens who are poor are unable to have a balanced diet. It is for this reason that we decided to add relish to the drought relief food as this was not done before.

We appealed to our various Industries including the Fishing Industries who responded fantastically by availing fish and fish products in substantial quantities. I commend the Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Honourable Bernard Esau for a job well done. Yes *omake!* We also asked our citizens to contribute where they can and I must say they have responded. Some made their donations directly to the Red Cross and many of them, as you can see, have been receiving these donations. Not only that, because the appeal was made publicly, there were some international friends who responded, like Algeria far away in the north, came with a plane, big plane loaded with emergency assistance.

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What was surprising is when I went to receive that, I thought that they were just dumping or sending their food that they, themselves produced, and therefore, had enough supply but when I went there and asked, I found that they were buying the food from some sources and sending it to us and that I think we should appreciate.

Also Russians, Europe far away, sent a plane load with of all kind assistance, *omake!* The Red Cross, we have our Red Cross because we realised that it is malnutrition. We also said we have game parks here and we have kudus, why do we not cull them because it is meat that is available and we are looking for relish and we agreed in the Cabinet and decided to have limited culling of these animals and giving them to MeatCo to put them in cans so that they can be distributed. We also got *matangaras* and they were also canned and they are helping people in the areas that they are being distributed. In this regard Red Cross was specifically asked to set up the soup kitchens. They have done that apparently in Zambezi, Kavango, Ohangwena and Kunene. We also asked the churches to assist because churches and Headmen, we figured, know the people very well. They will know where the poor people are and we also think there will be more honesty, there will be just in giving food to those who need it, therefore, we ask the churches (interjection) I said we assumed. Do you go to church? I go to church so I must trust the church. They are human beings too but I trust that they know where the poor people are and the Headmen, Honourable Moongo is gone. The Headmen will also know their subjects and we also asked them to participate or to be consulted. We have seen individuals also contributing but I did not see Honourable Members who are sitting here doing that, to also contribute is the little they can do (intervention).

HON RIRUAKO: I invited them to my farm.

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Well I do understand what the Chief is saying but all of us who have farms must feed our own workers.

Now I move on to the Situation Report: As I mentioned before, I want to emphasise this point, nobody has died as a result of drought and I would like to thank all those who have been in charge; firstly the staff from the Office of Prime Minister and I would like to thank Honourable Marko Hausiku who, in his capacity as the Deputy Prime Minister has displayed his selfless nature in ensuring that all relief efforts are going as planned, *omake* for him! I also thank Mr Frans Kapofi as well as all the Governors and Chairpersons of Regional Councils. Wherever there have been problems or reports or problems, I have called the Government or Chairpersons. Over the past two days since I knew I was going to talk to you, I have spoken to 10 Governors and 2 or 3 were not available but I talked to others who are there either SWAPO coordinators, where we are very powerful and others. I spoke to the Governor of Omusati with whom I am nearly in daily touch. Even the statements he was making, that you saw on TV were discussed with me but if you look at today's *New Era*, it is clear in saying what she has said there, that the Chairman of the Omusati Regional Council said that the problem of distribution has now been solved because they have got 10 trucks plus 2 trucks from the Ministry of Defence, and therefore, they will, as the Governor said, now be able to reach people who were not reachable and that will answer the question of Omusati when it comes to food distribution. The problem there is the question of water and I was there with Comrade Mutorwa and experts and the problem we have is that the canal is completely drying up, and therefore, the Governor proactively realised, I took a decision to visit Calueque Dam because water from there is now also low and we suspect that either somebody is diverting it or Kunene has also drought on the Angolan side, and therefore, they are going on the 29th of October this month. I have requested the Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office, the Permanent Secretary from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and some other experts to accompany her so that they can be on the spot, talk to their counterparts there, and therefore, see what solution we can achieve. However, nobody is creating the drought. If there is also drought in Angola and that part of Angola very severe, then

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we are going to face a very serious problem.

There was repeated mention made by Honourable Kaura that I gave instructions and they were not obeyed. Honourable Kaura, I do not give instructions, I do not direct, I request and I requested them but what happened is not defiance, there were technical problems that NamPower had a problem of setting up bigger generators, which were about \$3 million and they did not have money for that and then they sat together and said, instead of setting up permanent ones, they are going to set up smaller ones which they are currently working so that they can deliver the water in a temporary way while they are waiting to install the bigger generators on that side which can pump water in a strong way. That is what is happening. However, it is true since you are not always going to press buttons maybe in some countries where there is no democracy you can order and people are going to run but when we are requesting and say let us do this it takes time as we are all doing here. Look at how much time we wasted on these Amendments; it is democracy so that is happening. Democracy is very patient and slow.

Firstly just to quote *New Era* and I think you read it; *“the burden of transporting food has been eased because the Region has now 12 vehicles at its disposal and 2 NDF trucks to take the food to all recipients.”* That is now today’s *New Era*.

I also spoke to the Governor of Omaheke who informed me that everything is under control. Aminius has received water supply but the problem is still with Otjinene and I was there at those places by the way. Otjinene still needs to receive since the drilling equipment is few, they could not do both Aminius and Otjinene. Now they will be moved to Otjinene.

I talked to the Otjozondjupa Governor, he also reported good progress and the same the Governor of Kunene, I called him and he also said food distribution is going on well. However, there is a serious problem that we all should appreciate. People moved back to the mountains and right now we have people who are on mountains that we are worried about and we

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may have to look for helicopters to reach them. That is a serious matter because you cannot go there with any truck and so on. One effort is to bring them down but they run away according to what Honourable Moongo was saying but I am surprised because in his case it is in a town and these people are in the bush, how comes they run away when they see the other people? When I even went there the other day, people went to the mountain, they did. I had two people when I went open the schools there, so people do run away. First we came with a helicopter and so on, that is frightening, so that is why people go back to the mountains. We have to find a way to get educate them to come as we did with the others so that we can also help them. That is the problem right now in Kunene.

Then I talked to the Governor of Zambezi Region who has reported no problem since they are managing the situation because they have hands on approach and the food is reaching those who need it. The Ohangwena Governor also informed me that when it comes to food distribution there is no problem. The reported deaths of about twenty-eight people or whatever is an old story. We are talking about what happened in April/May Honourable Kaura, and he is also saying in the border areas like that many of our brothers from Angola are coming and they come with people who are sometimes already malnourished and when they come it is too late already so that was the situation we are talking about but we could not distinguish who is who so that is what he told me. It is true some people died but before the drought relief kicked off so that is the situation about Ohangwena. That is the situation yes, but at the moment no person has died, he said.

I also spoke to Governor of the Oshana Region who reported that water supply problems are being solved. However, when it comes to food there is no problem he says, they are hands on and it is going very smoothly. On the water problem, they have got a pipe that they are laying and very soon that will be solved too, to reach *Oponono Lake*, so progress has been made. From the Hardap Region the Governor informed me that she is in touch and there is no problem in providing food. Two weeks ago there was a delay of delivering food and she took over and that food was delivered, she reported.

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RT HON DR GEINGOB**

The Governor of //Karas also reported that everything is going smoothly and now there are some cases of malnutrition but everything is under control. I would, therefore, like to state that no Governor has reported that anybody died as a result of the drought and it is true we have problems when we are delivering food. There are some people who would like to give more to some friends and family members. We issued instructions, that is why I am saying we are hands-on. When we hear that, I will order or he and others will go there and preaching that food must reach those who need it. The President has to preach that message and I hope you all as leader ought to preach that. I think when you go there you are joining as leaders not to say Government, Government but you go and say as a leader *do not waste the food, do this*. I hope you are doing that and I expect that you are doing that as fellow leaders. (Interjection) Chief you are a leader, a great leader and if you are doing it, it is good you must keep on doing it. You must be a leader do not only wait for this side and the Minister, you must help too. I am saying it must be the Prime Minister, the President, the Deputy Prime Minister, fellow Cabinet Colleagues, the Governors, the officials, Traditional Leaders, Councillors and Members of Parliament, they must all join as leaders for people look up to you as a leader, and therefore, help to save the lives of our people.

I think all of us must really thank stakeholders like the Red Cross and the Chairman of the Namibian Red Cross. Today we just received a cheque from the EU before I came here of N\$4 million and that is used by the Red Cross, yes *omake, omake!* That is used by the Red Cross to set up these soup kitchens. Soup kitchens are now becoming very important because of malnutrition and they, therefore, provide some kind of a balanced diet to those who are in need. We also thank the international community and supporters who came to join us in this.

Honourable Members, we are not perfect, we are human beings but we are doing our best and so far, I will keep on repeating, nobody has died during the drought. We trust that God willing, with all the local and international goodwill and collaboration, we will see the country through this tough time until the arrival of the long awaited raining season. I just hope you all will go to church and pray. I thank you.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, any further discussions? In the absence of any, I would like to know whether Honourable Amathila wish to reply. Honourable Amathila.

HON AMATHILA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would like to say in the light of the information provided and all the issues discussed for the past two weeks or so, I would like to request that I give my reply tomorrow afternoon, if that suits the House. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Debate is adjourned till tomorrow for the reply by Honourable Amathila.

The Secretary will read the Fourth Order of the Day.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT ON
THE FOURTH CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT**

SECRETARY: Consideration of the Report on the Fourth Children's Parliament.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does Honourable Agnes Tjongarero Move that the Report be now considered?

HON A TJONGARERO: I so Move, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have now the Floor.

HON A TJONGARERO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, it gives me an immense pleasure and honour to be granted this opportunity to motivate the Report of the Fourth Session of the Children's Parliament which took place in Windhoek from the 6th to the 10th of May 2013.

The Committee on Human Resources, Social and Community Development, first and foremost, wishes to express its gratitude to the National Assembly for making the resources available to host the event.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I would also like to extend a special word of thanks to our partners UNICEF, MTC, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture and Ministry of Education for their generous support. It was due to their invaluable financial assistance and logistical support that made the Fourth Session of the Children's Parliament a huge success.

The Fourth Session of the Children's Parliament took place under the theme, *Children's Parliament - Ensuring that the voices of tomorrow's leaders are heard*. Fifty five (55) learners, four (4) from each of the thirteen (13) Regions and three (3) Members from the Junior Town Council of the City of Windhoek, as well as three (3) former young Parliamentarians participated in the Session.

During the five days, ninety eight (98) Motions were tabled of which thirty four (34) were adopted. Nine (9) Motions were rejected while nineteen (19) were withdrawn and a further thirty six (36) were also withdrawn as the Assembly felt that the issues raised were adequately and comprehensively covered by the Ministry of Education, in his address.

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However, among the Motions adopted, there is a Motion on *‘How it can be ensured that the feedback is obtained on Motions adopted by the Children’s Parliament after the adoption of the Report by the National Assembly’*. This is an indirect appeal to us to thoroughly and carefully go through this Report.

Honourable Members, the Members of the Fourth Session of the Children’s Parliament expressed a concern that the Motions adopted in their House do not enjoy the necessary attention they deserve in this House. I sincerely appeal that this time around we should not disappoint them. The Motions adopted in the Children’s Parliament address some of the basic socio-economic issues that we are all grappling with, issues that are aimed at improving the living standards of our people.

Honourable Members, it is against this backdrop that I urge you all, to kindly go through the Report and discuss the issues raised there, and recommend for implementation by the Line Ministries; and ensure that those recommendations are implementable in the shortest possible time. I thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for that brief motivation. Any further discussions on this Motion? I recognise Honourable Kavetuna.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to support the Report and to emphasise the importance of this Report because this is the Fourth Session (intervention).

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, no one is campaigning. You have the Floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: It is for the Fourth Session that these young dynamic leaders of our country are meeting and I am telling you that when they are discussing these issues it is from the bottom of their hearts. It has the value that it deserves and they discussed very important issues that we need to take seriously. From the 38 Motions that have been discussed and passed, I believe that Parliament, through the Table Office, have to make sure that these Motions and their recommendations will reach the various stakeholders, especially the Line Ministries and that a feedback session should be arranged where we have to come and report back on what we have said because people spend a lot of money for Sessions of this nature.

It is a motivational Session for young people, it also gives them the recognition, I do not know about my other Colleagues but when we travel around the country and attend various youth functions, we meet with these Honourable Members who are given the respect they deserve in their respective community. Therefore, for them to have a talk show and return to their Regions is not really worth it.

We must have a mechanism that ensures that the recommendations taken through deliberations of the Motions are considered seriously and we provide feedback in one way or the other, whether in the Chamber or through some other form of communication with these Colleagues of ours.

Recommendations: The children have requested that this Children's Parliament Sessions should be a continuous and I believe Namibia has made its mark by keeping these Sessions alive because not many countries have Children's Parliament. We are, therefore, very fortunate to have these young people coming together and express their feeling in their own ways.

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With these few words, I would like to wholeheartedly support the Report and hope that it will be treated with the seriousness it deserves. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I recognise Honourable Witbooi.

HON WITBOOI: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, I also rise to make a contribution to the Motion of discipline as outlined in the Report of the Fourth Children's Parliament, in Paragraph 5.1.23.

In this Report many people emphasised the importance of discipline in the lives of our children. I also want to put emphasis on the fact that discipline is the root of education and success for one's future. A disciplined learner tends to perform better in school compared to an undisciplined learner. Discipline should, therefore, be enforced by all stakeholders. If you want to have a stable moral value, you need to be disciplined. A disciplined person has a vision, a mission and knows exactly what he or she wants to be in life.

Honourable Members, disciplinary programmes were previously only observed at Secondary schools but today primary schools are encountering them also. There is nothing to hide and we must be honest with ourselves and as we are moving around, we can observe from the way the gate is closed that there is no discipline at that school. There is a lack of discipline in our schools and this is one of the contributing factors to school dropouts, teenage pregnancies and poor performance. I, therefore, believe that our young Parliamentarians have at least taken that one word, *discipline*, seriously. It is now in their hands to take it further to their peers and to work on the Motion with all of us together.

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In conclusion, let us join hands and bring back discipline to our schools and communities. Only then shall we be able to deliver automatically.

Finally, on the Motion that requests to increase the OVC grants, I already spoke about it during our Budget Debate and fully agree with them that an increase be effected. With those few words, I thank you and I support the Report.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I recognise Honourable Nahas Angula, the Minister of Defence.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. Let me start by conveying my condolences to you and to your brothers and sisters on the passing away of your dear sister.

May I thank Honourable Tjongarero for introducing this Report. This Parliament, the Children's Parliament, is a Parliament for the citizens of the future. It serves one essential purpose and that is education. As an educationalist, I believe this is one way of teaching our children about the institutions of governance in our country. One of those institutions is the lawmaking institution. That is also one way of educating them about democracy.

I know that there are some complaints here and there about who comes here and the process followed for a person to be selected come here. I know that there is a problem because I heard that complaint when I was the Prime Minister. I hope that those who are responsible will create a mechanism which is credible in terms of selecting people to come to the Children's Parliament. I think that is important.

Through Debate, they are also able to exercise their minds by way of reasoning and articulation of their views. I think that is also very

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important. I am not quite sure whether the Children Parliamentarians were properly educated about the processes which take place in Parliament. I suspect that they might assume that when you Move a Motion, the Motion becomes a Law. It is not exactly like that. A Motion is just a moral message and not a Law, even when it comes to a normal Motion here; Motions have been passed here just for expression of a moral opinion about a particular issue.

However, I would suggest that the Clerks of Parliament might wish to systematically compile these Motions according to the Sectors so that the Speaker can formally direct them or request the Office of the Prime Minister to actually make a submission to Cabinet so that Cabinet can perhaps look at that and direct the specific Sectors to provide answers to some of those Motions, that will perhaps help. As it is now, if we just talk here and there, it will just be another Motion like other Motions we pass here, they are not Laws. I think we should explain that to the young people but I suggest that the Sectoral Ministries should be made aware of these resolutions.

Resourcing permitting, I would also suggest that this institution be extended to Regions so that we have Regional Assemblies there, the National Council type of thing. That will offer more opportunity for children in each Region to participate fully because as Members of Parliament, how many are we? We are a hundred and something, and if you go to the Regions, how many regions do we have now, fifteen?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Fourteen.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Each Region might probably just be able to provide two people. If resources can permit, Regions should be encouraged to have their own Children Assemblies to discuss their regional concerns and I think that will make it even more meaningful to

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the participants because those are real problems affecting them in their own communities.

With these few words, let me congratulate the Speaker and the leadership of Parliament for instituting this Institution called the Children's Parliament. I think it is part of nation- building by preparing these young people to appreciate the institutions of governance. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. There is a very good proposal there. In the absence of any further discussions, I would like to revert the Floor to Honourable Tjongarero to respond.

HON A TJONGARERO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, and the Honourable Members who listened so carefully. Not all of them participated but I am sure they do agree that is why they did not say anything.

Honourable Kavetuna, thank you very much for the support and I really hope that what you have said has been taken seriously.

Honourable Witbooi, thank you very much. Discipline is another problem and I think the teachers and everybody else will help us to do something about discipline. You also mentioned about discipline in primary schools but I understand that even at the university level some lecturers are also complaining so I do not know what to say about that. We all have to do something about it and discipline actually starts at home.

Honourable Nahas Angula, thank you very much. We spoke about how they were selected and that various Regions had different methods. Some of them said, *I was just called by the Principal and I was told to come to Windhoek*. At others, there was some sort of a process but it is not perfect at all and we are aware of that. The point about Regional Assemblies, I

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would say, is a very good one but I do not know about the financial implications. However, we have to work towards that because that will actually empower and prepare them for the future. It may be the case that some of the children come to participate in the Children's Parliament here do not even provide feedback to their respective Regions while others do. Therefore, Regional Assemblies will afford all of them, in the different Regions with an opportunity to participate.

When I had a discussion about the Children's Parliament with the Speaker, he proposed that before the next Session commence and if finances permit, we should bring Members from all four Sessions together at some place, to learn about their experiences and how the Children's Parliament enriched their knowledge. There are thus, many plans in the pipeline. Honourable Members, thank you very much for your valuable contributions.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I now put the question that the Report be adopted. Any objection? Agreed to. The Report is, therefore, adopted.

The Secretary will read the Fifth Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION OF REPORT ON THE
FAMILIARISATION VISIT BY THE PARLIAMENTARY
COMMITTEE TO OTJOZONDJUPA REGION**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Consideration of Report on the Familiarisation Visit by the Parliamentary Committee to Otjozondjupa Region.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, the 9th of October 2014, the question before the Assembly was the consideration of the Report by Honourable Amathila that the Report be adopted.

The Honourable Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry adjourned the Debate and she is not here. Is there anyone who would like to take the Floor? Did you not take part?

HON KAZENAMBO: I was not here and I want to take part now.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Kazenambo, you have the Floor.

HON KAZENAMBO: Thank you very much. I would like to commend the Parliamentary team headed by Comrade Amathila that visited the Otjozondjupa Region.

I want to comment on Page 10 and Page 13 but I will start with Page 13 for strategic reasons. **Committee Meetings With Tsumkwe:** In that meeting, I would like to refer to the issue where the community is also very unhappy that during elections, since 1990 only people from other Regions are brought in to work as election officials while the inhabitants were left out. I quote, *"They feel that the local people should be given first priority to reduce unemployment in the area."* Since 1990 and 1993, I was fully assigned in various capacities by my SWAPO Party to work in the Tsumkwe Constituency. I am familiar with what has been there until last year December or sometime this year when I was moved from Omatako or when changes took place. Therefore, I have been assigned to that area from 1993 and I would like to agree 100% or 150% with this

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point that people are brought in from other Regions and, I am in no way saying this to purport or to cement regionalism. However, it is really unfair that this thing should continue this way and some of us from a political or partisan point of view, I can also go be a partisan and say that we know and we have been at the receiving end and I can tell my Colleagues who have been assigned there that that is a complex area. We know, and I unfortunately call a spade a spade, that the people who are in the Tsumkwe area, and I am seeing the Chief becoming uneasy, without dwelling on tribalism, are predominantly from the San community. They are the majority.

We like to talk selectively in this country, *majority here and majority there* but when it is majority somewhere, you keep quiet or ignore. If we are talking about majority we must be consistent. Minority *versus* majority has got a connotation; it can be political, economical or demographic. However, from a democratic point of view the San community are the majority there and we know their background. The majority of them have not been privileged to go to school and they are hit by unemployment and so on. The time I was there, I witness that when it comes to elections these people are totally marginalised or sidelined. The elections are driven by a public institution and I was assigned from by Political Party so it was a bit complex for me to interfere but I agree with this observation.

The practical realisation of the situation on the ground is that 99% of these people who are said to be working in that Region are Otjiherero speaking. Some of them are from Gam but the fact remains that 99% of them will be predominately Otjiherero speaking. We need to ask the question why because when we deal with national issues, and I am a Otjiherero speaking for that matter, this is my nature, I will not blind myself to condone Hereros because I am a Herero. If the Hereros are involved in the evil things, it is their problem and I am not part of the evil.

We can examine the statistics of elections because these documents are still there, these people were predominantly Hereros, they are may be from Gam or from anywhere else, Hereros are not only from Gam.

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Anyway Gamu is just a resettlement area, Hereros are from here, Central Namibia, Windhoek and Okahandja, how did they come from Gam? I am not from Gam. Hereros are from Central Namibia, this is their ancestral land although you do not want to talk about ancestral land, we are from here! I am personally from here and you must note and live with it. I am no longer from anywhere else; I am from Ongeyama not from Gam (intervention).

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: No dialogue, please.

HON KAZENAMBO: (Interjections) we are predominantly Hereros and we have been at the receiving from these Hereros because some of these Hereros are also predominantly NUDO people and they are partisan people. They are very partisan.

HON MEMBER: Page?

HON KAZENAMBO: It is page, this page. They are predominantly partisan and the things that they say at those elections, you cannot believe that we live in this country. Therefore, whoever is coming from the elections and whoever is dealing with this, that area is demographically inhabited by many Namibians, small as it is, to your surprise Tsumkwe is a rainbow of this country. You will find everybody there, Oshiwambo, Damara speaking, even whites from Tsumkwe, they are there. That is Tsumkwe for you. It is a demographic area that reflects Namibia, therefore, whoever is conducting this, please let us be fair. Where there is domination, in building this Nation, let us rectify domination and have a true representation in all socio-economic and political representation.

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That is on that.

Lastly, on Page 13 they are talking about telecommunication here.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON MINISTER FOR VETERAN AFFAIRS: Honourable Deputy Speaker I would like to ask Honourable Kazenambo a question.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, proceed.

HON MINISTER FOR VETERAN AFFAIRS: Honourable Kazenambo, thank you very much. I agree with you on the question of marginalisation and along the line domination. The other day, there was a question here where Government was being criticised of trying to help the marginalised people to give them specific programmes, tailor made for them so that in the future they also come up. Now you are confirming that indeed there are marginalised people. Do you think it is wrong for Government to have come up with Affirmative Action, particularly for these people so that one day too they also become like other Namibians, what do you say to that? Thank you.

HON KAZENAMBO: Thank you, Comrade Minister, my senior leader. This is a very technical, serious and complex question that you have posed which I think all of us need to honestly look into with an objective approach. I am standing here as a person from a marginal background and

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I was literally, systematically built up from nothing by opportunities that were deliberately tailor made for me, not in this country but starting from exile by the SWAPO Party and here I was identified by leaders sitting here and I always refer to this man, *H.H* - Honourable Hamutenya. I did not even know how to write anything, he built up. He used to sit with me at night. It was him and one gentleman we used to called Mr Wolfe something, from Britain. He built me up to a point and then the Right Honourable Prime Minister here, he built on, there are so many, I can go on. The Founding President, many of them, including the current President who used to sit with me and groom me. I was groomed and I will give that credit to them for picking this boy while some want to reduce me to a village. I am not from a village sorry, keep your village mentality. I was born in exile, groomed up somewhere but it takes somebody to admit. There are two ways to your question Comrade Minister, and it is a very complex question. We do not need to deny in this country that there are marginalised communities. We need to accept that there are marginalised communities and we specifically tailor-made a programme for them to improve their lot and educate and promote awareness.

It is also a question of mind shift and the approaches to these things is very systematic. I am concluding on the question, sometimes some of those who are beneficiaries, due to the approach, they also need to come along. If they do not accept these tailor-made programmes and come along, they will remain behind, so it takes two. Our system should be designed that we have these people and these people should be prepared systematically. Therefore, it is a challenge for Government and all of us but it is really a need for those communities.

Going to my Page on telecommunication, along with the question that was asked, Comrade, if you take the Hansards of this Parliament, I have spoken several times. Just as I expressed concern about the issue of the elections and so on and so forth, there are two critical issues in this Region or District where I was assigned and one is telecommunication. Telecommunication is an infrastructure for empowerment in many words and we needed (intervention).

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order. Honourable Chief, please switch on the microphone so that you can be heard.

HON KAZENAMBO: On the issue of telecommunication, again as per the geographical set up of this country, community set up and so on, telecommunication is a very critical, basic infrastructure. If you refer to the Hansard of this Parliament of this great august House, I have expressed myself. I have pleaded and I have said that from Omatako, from Rooidak up to, maybe some 20 kilometres into Tsumkwe, there is totally a blackout, there is no communication. At Rooidak, which is near some commercial farms there is some network and during the evening you will find women and children going to the road trying to catch some network for communication.

These things have been said and this country must start using telecommunication technology to empower our people, deliberately tailor-made to say that these people have got no means of transport and they are economically left behind, but in terms of telecommunication for Government to empower these people it can deliberately go and set up telecommunication infrastructure.

We discuss it here, it ends here on the Budget and I keep repeating it until I die. I will keep repeating it without targeting anybody but because it is a problem, set up telecommunication infrastructure to empower these people by putting up satellites and if they cannot afford to pay show your social responsibility that is expected of you. Let us do it to empower these people and I can assure you that, this area, being rich in terms of tourism, you will recoup your money from those tourists who are roaming, ultimately it will subsidise itself. That is my proposal. Lastly, on Gam (intervention).

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order.

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HON RIRUAKO: It is not a Point of Order it is my time, he cannot speak alone until dawn. That is unfair. You must control your House.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I control my House, Honourable Chief you have already spoken unless you want to intervene through a Point of Order.

HON RIRUAKO: I did not speak about this.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: About what?

HON RIRUAKO: Did I? I did not take part in this.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. The records show that Honourable Chief has already participated.

HON RIRUAKO: No? You better ask your question here, all this limitations.

HON KAZENAMBO: I am still having the Floor.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you please sit down, he still has the Floor unless you (intervention).

HON RIRUAKO: No, you do it every day deliberately, please control yourself. Look at that, I did not speak on these issues. Never!

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am controlling myself, Honourable Chief.

HON RIRUAKO: No, you do not.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Did the Honourable Member participate and when did he participate? Just tell us.

HON RIRUAKO: He did, they camouflage everything every day.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please tell the House whether the Honourable Chief has spoken on this point or not. Can you please stand up and tell us whether he has spoken or not?

HON MOONGO: He can speak it is his right!

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Did he speak?

SECRETARY: The Honourable Member spoke on the 9th of October 2013 (intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On what?

SECRETARY: On this item from, 16:04 until 16:45.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: On this Report? So he did. Honourable Kazenambo, you have the Floor.

HON KAZENAMBO: I was now going to Page 10 and then I will sit down. I under that the issue of Gam was a hot issue, I wish I was here.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Deputy Speaker, why is this Chamber so cold, we will get sick here.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Have you heard? It will be taken care of. You have the Floor, Honourable Kazenambo.

HON KAVETUNA: Thank you Honourable Speaker. On Page 10, on Gam, I was saying that I wish I was here when the Debate was hot. When the Debate (intervention).

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you rising on the Point of Order?

HON RIRUAKO: No, it is a habit in this House and this guy is getting use to it.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have the Floor, Honourable Kazenambo.

HON KAZENAMBO: On the issue affecting the residents of Gam, the returnees from Botswana and some other residents (intervention).

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have the Floor, just proceed.

HON KAZENAMBO: On the issue of Gam, I must honestly say from the bottom of my heart, because I have been around there without any

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assignment, the Government of the Republic of Namibia has done a lot, that one I will underline. I can have three choices here; I can choose to be technical, objective and I can choose to be partisan, political and so on. I will try to be in the middle and be objective.

Regarding the returnees from Botswana, I have seen many leaders from that side, starting from the Founding President, the Right Honourable Prime Minister, when he was still Prime Minister and now the Minister of Defence, Comrade Nahas Angula, Comrade Hausiku, Comrade Katali, Honourable Nghidinwa, many leaders. I may leave some of them and then they will say that I am blackmailing them, I do not want to do that. Honourable Utoni Nujoma, but Honourable Kavetuna is a resident maybe for some other reasons, I do not know. There are so many of them sitting that side, Members of Parliament and former Ministers from this side, I have seen them.

It is maybe new to some people, they have never seen how the place was, there was a *twee spoor* at Gam and not even a gravel road, I used to travel there. This boy that you call names, there is nowhere SWAPO has never taken him; he has been to the worst places. This Party has used me, it sent me to most corners where I was short with arms and countered the dirtiest propaganda and we used to counter it with him while the other people were sleeping in their rooms and today they think that they are better SWAPOs than me. There is nothing that I have not done for this Party. I used to travel to that area with Comrade, late Moses //Garoeb, there was no road, nothing! Today there is a gravel road going there.

I will summarise because I have seen it all. Today there is quarantine there. People used to bring their cattle from *Omuondo ua Hiyazeu, opazerandere mbo*, driving cattle for more than 300 km. His Excellency, President Hifikepunye Pohamba said; *no ways, these people cannot drive cattle more than 300 kilometres, a quarantine must be set up there with immediate effect and these cattle must be quarantined and transported to the abattoirs*. That is how the quarantine came about. Today there is a clinic; there is a school and so on. Therefore, this Government has done a lot. Even the Police Station is being considered to be constructed there.

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HON KAZENAMBO**

I have travelled with Honourable Minister Kaapanda. People, this boy will go to his grave as innocent as I am. I travelled hours with him, at night. There was no telecommunication in Eiseb nor was there telecommunication in Gam. In short telecommunication is there, he upgraded that.

These are Government services but to be honest, on the other hand everything is not enough. The place is remote and it looks badly neglected so the Government still needs to do more. We have heard that there is a plan to build an electrical plant there. The people are still waiting and they are asking question, electrify the place and again, I know that it is expensive; I have acknowledged things that I have acknowledged here. However, before I conclude and sit down, let us look at these remote areas of Namibia and I am going back to what Honourable Dr Iyambo has said, create tailor-made programmes that will uplift these people.

If you are in Gam you will think that this is the poorest place on earth but those people know how to survive, they are children of the war. They arrived in Botswana where there are also other people as refugees but today they are big players in the economy of Botswana and it is because of infrastructure development. There are many business people who want to invest in that place, there is money that flows in that place but it may sound like a farfetched dream for that place to kick start because of its remoteness.

If you can upgrade that road to a bitumen road, these people will access the market with their cattle. MeatCo is making money there and other business people will come in, like myself. Comrade Nyamu is now saying that I am betraying the Gam community and he also consulted me saying that Gam is neglected. At first, I agreed with him, I am the only person who has built something there but now I am saying, Comrade Nyamu you have been a Minister, why are you realising it only? I am not betraying him and I am sympathising with him. Sympathy is never late. However, you have been a Minister and when you are a Minister, please see negligence also and do not only start seeing it when you are out. You

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should negligence when you are still comfortable; see the wrongs in the system while you are still part of it.

The appeal to improve the life at Gam can be to create a deliberate tailor-made programme and upgrade the road. Tourism will bring development and I am concluding please. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order. Are you concluding?

HON KAZENAMBO: Yes.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you please put your question?

HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: On a Point of Information and suggestion or privilege. I think the Honourable Member is very right about the communication situation in Gam. I will very strongly suggest that the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information and Communication Technology take that piece and see what they can do because this Parliament has approved the Universal Services Access Fund in 2012, Honourable Deputy Speaker. Procedures still need to be followed and so on so that communication companies and operators pay into that fund so that that fund can be used for under serviced areas.

I think on Monday, the Committee had a meeting with CRAN, the Regulator that is managing the fund, it was however, not specifically on the fund but I would recommend that the Committee starts to engage itself on this very specific issue and my Chairperson is listening. Thank you. .

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ADJOURNMENT

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, the Chairperson Honourable Dr Amweelo is listening. Honourable Kazenambo, in conclusion?

HON KAZENAMBO: In conclusion, I will also agree with these people where it appears that the people are being neglected, like the issues raised by Honourable Ulenga and Comrade Nyamu. These people have been there for more than fifteen years now but up to now there is no single person resettled in Gam under Resettlement Programme while they are applying. The Minister was also there recently. Therefore, let them deliberate and the Minister said he will look into the matter, this is what I was informed rather than to have your people and calling them nationals but for fifteen years none of them have benefitted from Government Programmes. Things like this as well as other issues, I could have continued, but cannot for the sake of time, are among the things that need to be revisited. I rest my case.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Nambahu, can you maybe adjourn the Debate till tomorrow?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: If there are no other contributions, I am proposing for an adjournment until tomorrow.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: With this, it is exactly 17:45. The House is adjourned until tomorrow, 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2013.10:17 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
29 OCTOBER 2013**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: We start with Petitions. Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers. Honourable Prime Minister.

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

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon Table the Annual Report of the Public Service Commission from the 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Prime Minister please table the Report? Minister of Education.

**TABLING: REPORTS OF NAMIBIA
COLLEGE OF OPEN LEARNING**

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TABLING OF REPORTS
HON DR NAMWANDI / HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table: -

- (i) Annual Report of the Namibian College of Open Learning (NAMCOL) for the ended 2012/2013; and
- (ii) Annual Financial Statements of the Namibian College of Open Learning (NAMCOL) for the year ended 31 March 2013.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister please table the Reports? Next is the Minister of Finance.

**TABLING: AUDITED ANNUAL
FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF NAMFISA**

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table the Audited Financial Statements of NAMFISA, for the year ended 31 March 2013.

TABLING: REPORTS OF AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

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- (i) Municipality of Swakopmund for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2012;
- (ii) Municipality of Gobabis for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2012;
- (iii) Regional Council of the Oshikoto Region for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2011;
- (iv) Regional Council of the Ohangwena Region for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2010 and 2011;
- (v) Village Council of Kamanjab for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2012;
- (vi) Village Council of Tses for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2011 and 2012; and
- (vii) Village Council Koës for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2009 and 2010. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister please table the Reports. Any further Reports and Papers. None. Notice of Questions? Honourable Moongo.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 41:

HON. MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 7th of November 2013; I shall ask the Minister of

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Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development the following:

In 1923, Mr Nicanor Hoveka led his followers from Orumbo to Epukiro when Epukiro communal area was set aside by the South African colonial Government. Mr Nicanor Hoveka became the Headman (*Hoof man*) of that Traditional Authority. He was succeeded by his son and with the promulgation of the *Traditional Authority Act* (Act 17 of 1995), his son Uiue Hoveka was not recognised and that travesty continued up to today.

For how long is the SWAPO Government going to perpetuate this injustice against many of our Traditional Leaders and the Hovekas, in particular.

QUESTION 42:

HON. MOONGO: I further give Notice that on Thursday, the 7th November 2013, I shall ask the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development:

Is it appreciated that the Central Government gave double cab Toyota to the Traditional Authority and are also being provided with N\$120,000.00 per year for administration purposes?

1. What is the good reason that Lower Traditional Authority in villages was ignored?
2. Is the Minister aware that top Traditional Authority cannot function if the Lower Administration at the villages' level is paralyzed?
3. When will the Minister budget for villages administration and give allowances to sub-Headman, or will the SWAPO Party Government only cater for the top Traditional Leaders and give them vehicles and houses, like the second tier Authorities which also ignored the Lower Traditional Administration?

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HON NAHOLO**

4. When will they benefit in order to give effective administration? I thank you very much?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member, would you please table the questions.

HON SPEAKER: Any further Notice of Questions? Honourable Naholo.

QUESTION 43:

HON NAHOLO: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, 7th OF November 2013, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following:

Honourable Prime Minister, I am referring to your Progress Report in this august House last week or two weeks ago on the current status of Government's drought measures. In your statement, you urged the Nation to make a distinction between malnutrition and hunger caused by poverty, and malnutrition and hunger that is caused as a result of drought due to lack of rain.

1. What is the material difference between a citizen who dies due to poverty related chronic hunger or malnutrition, on the one hand, and a citizen who dies due to drought related hunger on the other?
2. Does the Right Honourable Prime Minister imply that, since 14% of the population lives under object poverty, it is somehow acceptable or tolerable that citizens die from poverty related chronic hunger?

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HON !NARUSEB**

3. What is the strategy, if any, of the Government to address poverty related chronic hunger and malnutrition in this country? I thank you and I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please table the question. Any Notice of Motion? Honourable Minister of Lands and Resettlement.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker and welcome back, we missed you.

Honourable Speaker Sir, I have two Motions to Move. I give Notice that on Wednesday, the 6th of November 2013, I shall Move that leave be given to introduce a Bill to amend the *Communal Land Reform Act*, (Act 5 of 2002), so as to insert certain definitions; to restrict foreign nationals from acquiring customary land rights in communal areas; to provide for granting of occupational land rights in respect of portions of communal land institutions providing Public Services and to provide for incidental matters. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: I further give Notice that on Wednesday, the 6th of November 2013, I shall Move that leave be given to introduce a Bill to amend the *Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act*, (Act 6 of 1995), so as to insert a certain definition; to provide for further situations where the State has the right of preference to purchase land; to provide for a negotiating Committee on purchase prices; and to provide for incidental matters. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister please table the Motion? Any further Notices of Motions? I have a request for Ministerial Statements. Honourable Minister of Mines.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, early this month a local daily carried reports about NamPower, claiming that the utility's management was divided on the Power Purchase Agreement which NamPower entered into recently with Aggreko Mozambique. The report claimed that the deal was concluded at the expense of a cheaper option offered by GigaWatt, a South African based company also operating in Mozambique.

The daily further reported that before NamPower signed the contract with Aggreko, discussions were held in 2011 with GigaWatt, at which a cheaper power purchase offer was apparently made as opposed to the Aggreko deal.

The daily further claimed that some managers who were part of the discussions misled NamPower's, Managing Director Paulinus Shilamba, by apparently informing him that ESKOM would not grant Gigawatt the necessary wheeling path thus rendering the Gigawatt offer uneconomical.

The articles by the local daily, highlighted in brief above, were extremely misleading and lacked factual truth. NamPower's business of power generation and supply is important to the economy and social development of Namibia and the spreading of such incorrect information can be very harmful.

Namibia's energy security is critical for the country's growth and prosperity. The full implications to NamPower of a failure to meet Namibia's electricity demand, go well beyond direct cost to the utility.

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The risks are high; failure to get this right threatens NamPower's cooperate integrity and can shake Namibia's investor confidence and severely impact on the Namibian economy.

Comrade Speaker, that is why I would like to take this opportunity today to set the record straight. Let me first explain the factors that motivated the Aggreko deal, which resulted in the signing of the Power Purchase Agreement with that supplier. The agreement with Aggreko was concluded after due consideration of the risks involved relating to the current power supply options available to NamPower that can be described as follows:

- The drought situation currently affecting some parts of the country has a severe negative impact on the water flow of the Kunene River resulting in the reduced output at Ruacana. The comparison of the output of Ruacana in 2012 and 2013 shows that the month of January 2013, the output at Ruacana declined with approximately 10% versus the same period in 2012. This situation worsened to such an extent that for the month of February 2013, the decline increased to approximately 30%;
- The Van Eck Power Station is completely unavailable due to a rehabilitation programme currently under way to extend the lifetime of the power station for 10 years. The first unit is expected to be handed back for testing and commissioning during the month of February next year.
- Due to the warranty repairs, only two generating units were available at the Anixas Power Station during the months July/August this year.
- The generating units at Paratus Power Station had been degraded from 6 to 3 MW with availability of less than 6% due to the age of the power plant.

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- ESKOM informed NamPower through a letter in April last year that it had embarked on a concerted effort to reduce its generation maintenance backlog, noting that the process involved extensive maintenance work. ESKOM requested NamPower to use and to source energy from it as conservatively as possible, and advice that any non-firm sales emanating from them maybe subjected to possible curtailment.
- The ESKOM Special Assistance Agreement has been extended for another three years but, with ESKOM struggling to meet its own demand in the next few years, supply conditions under this agreement has been made non-firm and it became undesirable to rely on this specific supply agreement only to meet energy shortfalls as was evident under the instruction on the 12th of August this year from ESKOM to reduce the supply under the Special Assistance Agreement to zero imports.
- Although ZESA from Zimbabwe and ZESCO from Zambia supply agreements were reasonable performing well, they are subject to transmission wheeling path, which is sometimes not available, and which could affect security of supply to the country especially during winter and drought periods.

Under the circumstances, as explained above, NamPower was left with no other alternative but to act very fast and to resort to the power supply source that was immediately available to address the power supply shortage as from the winter of 2013.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, with that ground information, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the differences between the Aggreko and GIGAWATS options, and to explain as to why the Aggreko deal was found to be more viable offer under the circumstances.

Aggreko and NamPower started discussing the RESSANO GARCIA PHASE II Project in November 2012. NamPower thereafter carried out a due diligence on Aggreko. Following this process, the Power Purchase

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Terms were agreed upon in December 2012 while the final Power Purchase Agreement was signed in March this year.

At the time of the RESSANO GARCIA PHASE II Project the status was as follows:

- The location for the plan in Mozambique was confirmed;
- Much of the project infrastructure required was already expensed and installed;
- The Environmental Impact Assessment Study was already completed;
- Gas allocation was committed;
- Transmission stability studies were completed;
- A solid partnership was established in Mozambique;
- There was full support from both the Mozambique Ministry of Energy and EDM, their power utility;
- Gas off-take land and sub-contractor agreements were already drafted and ready to be signed;
- A guaranteed energy price for 27 months with only the fuel component linked to the US Dollars inflation index was in place;
- All equipment is owned by Aggreko. No capital expenditure or investment was required from NamPower.

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On the other hand, the GigaWatt Project entailed the development, design, construction, financing and operation of a 100 MW gas-fired power station near Ressano Garcia in Mozambique. The total project costs were estimated at around US\$235 million, to be financed on a non-recourse project finance basis, with approximately 70% of the project funded through debts, meaning that the project sponsors and other interested parties would then have to be subscribing for all the equity in the project.

The project revenue was to be secured by a long-term Power Purchase Agreement with a utility or a major industrial user within the Southern African grid. Gas supplied for the project would then be secured through a 20 years Gas Sales Agreement with the gas suppliers.

Based on the information provided to NamPower in February 2013 on GigaWatt, it was envisaged that this power plant would only be available at the beginning of 2014. According to the latest information however, EDM of Mozambique has signed a Power Purchase Agreement with GigaWatt and the plant will now only be available by 2015/2016. By way of comparisons Aggreko's power would be available by June 2013 while GigaWatt's would be available in 2014 or latest 2015/2016.

The capacity for Aggreko is 90 MW as opposed to 100 MW for GigaWatt and the terms were two and half years for Aggreko and 20 years for GigaWatt. Aggreko's agreement is mid merit while GigaWatt's is a light load.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, NamPower is currently in the process of developing Kudu as a priority flagship national project for the country. Kudu will be a base-load Power Station with approximately 400 MW to be exported to regional markets. With due consideration of the fact that Namibia will have more than it can consume base-load power by 2018, a conscious decision was made to avoid long-term base-load Power Purchase Agreements and rather to focus on short-term Power Purchase Agreements only. It is important that all new supply agreements must enhance and/or sustain the viability of the Kudu Power Project, and hence the short-term nature of all new supply agreements, as far as possible, henceforth.

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As maybe concluded from the above, the explanation and comparisons of the GigaWatt offer would have promised the viability of the Kudu Power Project as it was based on a 20 year long- term base-load Power Purchase Agreement and hence it was not supported at that point in time. On the other hand, the Aggreko mid merit supply agreement fitted the requirements perfectly, and the cost thereof was found to be comparable with similar agreements in the region.

Contrary to the allegations in the article that this is the most expensive power in our history, this is incorrect and devoid of any truth, as there are a number of occasions in the past where NamPower was subjected to higher prices from the region, especially during peaking hours, then the agreed supply tariff from Aggreko.

It should be pointed out that at the time of the Aggreko mid merit supply negotiations, the GigaWatt Project was no longer an option to be compared with Aggreko as the commissioning timelines were different, with the Aggreko power supply to be commissioned by June 2013, while the GigaWatt Project was only expected to reach commercial operation by 2014. Therefore, this option was never compared to that of Aggreko as it was not seen as an option by NamPower's Energy Trading Division that could reduce our supply risk during the current 2013 winter period and the dry spells near the end of this year.

Thus the only other option meeting this timeline that Aggreko could be compared to was installation of emergency diesel generators at Walvis Bay, an option that prove to be more expensive than the Aggreko offer.

Due to the fact that the GigaWatt offer was not finalised by the NamPower team, it would be inaccurate to do a detailed financial evaluation of the two options at this point in time.

NamPower has in the meantime received major many power supply offers from the regional suppliers and Independent Power Producers to deal with the power supply situation at least up to 2017. This includes the new additional offer by Aggreko to set up a temporary 150 MW diesel power station at Walvis Bay to supply the local and regional markets.

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I have been assured by NamPower that they would put a tender in the market in due course to enable them to select the most competitive service provider in this regard.

The power plan to be procured will operate in a base-load mode until 2017 and in peaking/standby mode after the commissioning of Kudu in 2017/2018.

Honourable Speaker, in conclusion, I would once more like to point out that the article by the local daily on this matter was misleading and could therefore, not be left unchallenged considering the strategic importance of electricity supply to the national economy. It is very important that the investors and the people of Namibia are provided with the correct and well balanced information about the power supply situation in the country at all times. I have been properly briefed by the NamPower management about the power supply options available and I am in agreement with them that the short-term mid merit Aggreko deal was the best deal under the circumstances. I also support NamPower in their effort to procure new supply capacity for the country to take care of the power supply situation at least up to 2017 through a transparent bidding process. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Minister. Honourable Minister of Education.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. It is with an element of alarm that I arise to inform the Honourable Members of this august House that we have an elephant in the kraal. This elephant is massive, gigantic and enormous. This elephant grows larger by the day. It is called substance abuse. Our nation is faced with a very serious problem of drug and alcohol abuse. Drugs and alcohol has made its indelible marks on our society and these marks only get

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bigger and uglier. Society has indeed become diseased while substance abuse gains ground in every sphere of life of Namibians. When societies face a crisis, education always become the victim. Yes, the Namibian child becomes a victim and is affected and effected by substance abuse. Schools become environments in which, and through which the abuse of alcohol and drugs flourish.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in talking about substance abuse, I fully recognise that, while the use of drugs is illegal in Namibia and the use of alcohol is legal. Yet, the effect of both on society can be devastating. The effects of substance abuse hold our society hostage and turned parts of society into violent and uncontrollable environments. When society is eroded, schools are not spared. Schools and hostels become breeding grounds and markets for drugs and alcohol and this became readily available even without any limitations. In neighbouring countries many schools are on the verge of being closed and Police presence at school is a familiar sight. Namibia has not yet reached this point.

The recent happenings in schools illustrated clearly how serious indulging in drugs and alcohol among the youths in schools has become. In some schools we have observed violent behaviour of learners towards teachers or school authorities. We have had incidences of violent between learners; and we have witness uncontrolled levels of indisciplined learners. We have detected gangsterism, fighting between learners, stabbings and even killings. Recently, we lost lives of several youth learners at the prime of their lives after they have gone out to celebrate the end of the examinations.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, many a time when drugs are confiscated by Law Enforcement Agencies, we as a Nation, regard the incident as isolated. Often we are told that drugs are in transit to neighbouring countries. Therefore, we are not too concerned that it will find its evil way into our own societies. It is unthinkable for many of us that Namibia could be or is a producer and consumer of drugs. However, the brutal truth is that large quantities of the confiscated drugs are destined for the Namibian market. The stark reality is that many different kinds of

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drugs are available on the streets; drugs are available on school premises and in hostels; and drugs are available in our houses. The harsh fact is that many of our youth are casual or very serious users and abusers of drugs.

Incidents of drug abuse are rampant in urban schools although schools in the rural area are not exempted. The Khomas Region for example, has seen an increasing number of learners excessively indulging in drugs like dagga and cocaine, indeed a worrisome scenario. Such learners are normally noticeable as they regularly display violent behaviour towards fellow learners and teachers. Worst of all, while some learners will bring drugs to schools, many of those obtain the drugs during school hours.

Random tests carried at schools by the NAMPOL Khomas Regional Criminal Investigation revealed that a number of learners tested positive for drugs. Tests carried out in classroom of 30 learners at one school, and I want to withhold the name of the school, revealed that 24 of these learners tested positive for drugs. The Ministry of Education applauds the efforts of the Police for taking this matter seriously and pledges its cooperation in getting to the bottom of the matter.

Honourable Speaker, we have deduced that some learners purchase drugs with money given to them by their parents though the money was not meant for drugs. In such cases, parents have become unknowingly supporters of unbecoming habits and behaviour of their children. Even sadder is reality that many of the learners steal money from their parents to buy drugs and some even resort to violence inside and outside their homes to sustain their habit or addiction.

The effect of drug abuse are clear. *Inter alia*, children develop direct disregard for the Law, develop negative attitude towards schoolwork or ultimately drop out of school. If they do not necessarily commit crime, these children are permanently, psychologically affected and some do commit suicide.

Honourable Speaker, for many years Namibians politicians, the civil society, Non-Governmental Organisations and Faith-Based Organisations

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have raised concerns on the staggering figures of alcohol abuse in the country. The abuse of alcohol is feared to be slowly turning the country into a “*Nation of drunkards*”. The scourge of alcohol abuse in Namibia has long been cited as one of Namibia’s biggest development hurdles and has been closely linked to domestic violence, poverty and the spread of HIV and AIDS.

Honourable Speaker, it is abundantly clear that action has to be taken to remedy the situation. The number of deaths, accident on roads and cases of Gender-Based Violence is a clear testimony that drugs and alcohol have taken root in the Namibian society and also in our schools. It affects all levels of the school environment: teaching, learning, management, extra-curricular activities and intellectual and social development of our leaders of tomorrow.

The Ministry of Education, fully understanding the gravity of this problem, commits to cooperate with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Non-Governmental Organisations and other stakeholders to develop sensitisation programmes to be taught in schools through the life skills subjects.

I appeal to our Government to establish Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Centres to provide an avenue for Namibians who have been caught in this misfortune to turn their backs on their addiction.

At the same time I appeal to the Namibian society as a whole, each parent, each grandparent, each friend, each relative, and each neighbour to become part of the fight against drug abuse by our learners. Report the wrong-doings. Report drug dealers selling their evil wares through the fences and the gates of the school in YOUR community. Report the drug dealers who gather innocent young people on the street corners and enclose them in the net of addition. Report your children’s peer when they try to lead an innocent child astray. Make sure you know where your children are and with whom your children spend time. Ask for help from your religious and Traditional Leaders if you are a victim of violent abuse or robbery by your own children. Speak up! Form support groups and uproot this evil from our society. Let each one of us be vigilant and

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safeguard the Namibian children against the evils of drugs and alcohol abuse. Let us, together, brothers and sisters, get this elephant out of the kraal before it brings our entire lives to a standstill. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Minister. Honourable Minister of Finance, please take the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, I just want to make a short announcement in regard to the *Procurement Bill* on which we have agreed that we need to hold further consultation, to inform the Members of the House that the next round of consultation is scheduled for the 1st of November. We had initially intended to have that tomorrow but due to other pressing national commitments which would require me to be out of the office, it is not possible to hold these consultations tomorrow.

We are, therefore, rescheduling that for the 1st of November. We would like to request the Members that in addition to any queries or comments that they may have on the provisions of the Bill, they preferably prepare alternative proposals to the formulations that are offered under the Bill in written form and if possible to forward these to us on the 31st, the day before the workshop, but it is also fine if they bring them along on the day of the workshop to enable us to reflect on the proposals that are being put forward.

The venue is being finalised. NamPower have indicated that they could accommodate us at the Convention Centre. We would verify whether that venue will still be available on the 1st and forward this information to the Secretariat for transmission to the Members. Thank you.

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HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Before I proceed to read my statement, I would like to express my gratitude and that of my family for the support rendered to us by the Colleagues on the occasion of the passing away of my beloved mother whom we laid to rest recently.

Let me now proceed to read the statement on behalf of my Minister.
Ministerial Statement on the Outcome of the Extra-ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held on the 12th of October 2013, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, an Extra-ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union took place on the 12th of October 2013, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to discuss the relationship between Africa and the International Criminal Court (ICC). Subsequently, I find it appropriate to inform this Honourable House the outcome of that Assembly.

As you may be aware the ICC is governed by the Rome Statute which entered into force on the 14th of May 2010. There are 122 States that are parties to the Rome Statute of which 34 are from Africa, including Namibia.

In discussing the matter the Assembly was guided by the *Constitutive Act* of the EU that clearly articulates Africa's commitment to fight impunity, promote Human Rights, democracy and the Rule of Law. Furthermore, the deliberations pointed to the urgent need to strengthen Africa's continental Institutions in that regard, the Assembly resolve that the African Court of Human and People's Rights be expanded and accorded jurisdiction to try international crimes such as genocide, crime against humanity and war crimes.

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The discussions were held in an atmosphere that fostered unity and solidarity and reaffirmed the principles of our national Laws and International Customary Law by which sitting Heads of State or Government and other Senior State officials are granted immunity during their tenure of office.

At its 21st Ordinary Session the AU Assembly, adopted a decision Assembly /AU/Dec.482 (XX1) on international Jurisdiction, Justice and International Criminal Court (ICC). Among others the decision supports and endorsed the Eastern African Regions request for a referral of the ICC investigations and prosecutions in relation to the 2007 post-election violence in Kenya, to allow for a national mechanism to investigate and prosecute cases under the reform judiciary provided for new in the Constitution of Kenya.

It must be pointed out that, Article 16 of the Rome Statute allows referral of cases before the ICC. It is also to be accepted that when the investigations of 2007 violent incident in Kenya were referred to the ICC, it was felt that there were no mechanisms in Kenya to deal with the matter. However, during the period of Government of National Unity, mechanisms were put in place including the new Constitution as well as the legal framework. Subsequently, elections were held in Kenya in December 2012, which resulted in Mr Uhuru Kenyata and Mr William Ruto to be elected as President and Deputy President respectively. At the time of their election, the ICC indicted both Mr Kenyata and Mr Ruto on the ground of the ground of the violent incident in Kenya in 2007.

The Assembly then directed the African Union Commission to follow-up on this matter and to report regularly on the implementation of the various Assembly decisions on the ICC. Against that background, an AU delegation led by Honourable Tedros, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia and Chairperson of the AU Executive Council, accompanied Madam Nkhozana Dlamini-Zuma, Chairperson of the AU Commission among others went to the Hague to present to the ICC the Assembly decision on the matter. With particular reference to the referral of proceedings initiated against the President and the Deputy President of Kenya, in accordance with the Article 16 of the Rome Statute.

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The Extra-ordinary Session of the Assembly was presented with the progress report on the implementation of the decision mentioned above. The report expresses dissatisfaction on the manner in which the ICC was responding to the AU request on the issue of deferring the Kenyan case.

The Kenyan delegation also informed the AU that when the list of indicted Kenyan people was produced including President Uhuru Kenyata and his Deputy Mr William Ruto forced Mr Kenyata and Mr Ruto, whom at that time were ordinary citizens accepted to cooperate with the ICC. When the elections were held, Mr Kenyata and Mr Ruto were elected as President and Vice President respectively; it then became difficult for them to perform their national responsibilities while attending Court cases at the Hague.

Determined to show their continued willingness to cooperate with the ICC, President Kenyata and Vice President Ruto put two proposals on the table that did not receive kind attentions. These proposals are:

1. To defer the cases until they have completed their term of office as President and Vice President; and
2. To allow their lawyers to represent them as opposed to them attending all Court sessions.

Subsequently, the Assembly underscored that the indictment of His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyata of the Republic of Kenya and his Deputy could undermine the country's sovereignty, stability and peace. The proceedings will distract and prevent the President and his Deputy from performing and fulfilling their constitutional responsibilities entrusted to them by the people of Kenya.

It was made clear that while reaffirming Africa's unflinching commitment to fight impunity, promote Human Rights and democracy as well as the Rule of Law and good governance throughout the continent, Africa is cognisant of the fact that justice should go hand-in-hand with the promotion of peace, security, stability and prosperity. That is to say, in any effort for peaceful resolution of conflict one must recognise and accept that while searching for justice, the process has to be done in a way

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that does not impede or jeopardise efforts aimed at bringing about lasting peace.

Accordingly, the Assembly agreed that no charges should be commenced or continued before any international court of tribunal against any serving Head of African State or Government or anybody acting in that capacity during his or her term of office. As President Kenyatta is expected to appear in Court at The Hague on the 12th of November 2013 and while court proceedings for the Vice President have commenced, the Republic of Kenya was to submit an appeal for the deferral of the case to the United Nations Security Council, as a matter of urgency.

To reinforce Kenya's application to the United Nations Security Council, the Assembly has set up a Task Team of the Executive Council to be led by its Chairperson, Ethiopia's Minister of Foreign Affairs and composed of five (5) members, one from each region to undertake consultations with members of the United Nations Security Council, in particular its five permanent members with a view to engaging them on all concerns of the AU in its relation with the ICC, including the deferral of the Kenyan and Sudanese cases in order to obtain their feedback before the trial, on the 12th of November 2013.

The composition of the Task Team is as follows:

- Southern African is to be represented by Namibia;
- Eastern Africa by Uganda;
- Northern Africa - Algeria;
- Central Africa – Burundi; and
- Western Africa - Senegal.

The Assembly decided to call for an Extra-ordinary Session by the end of November 2013, to decide on the next course of action, based on the reaction of the United Nation Security Council.

Finally, allow space to deal with international crimes in accordance with the principle of complementarity, the Assembly has requested African

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States Parties to the Rome Statute to introduce Amendments to the Rome Statute. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Minister. We are into the tea break slot now but the Rules allow that after Ministerial Statements, Members are allowed to put what we say in another language *kort en bondig*, very short and very direct questions. Honourable Maamberua.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Allow me in the first place to subscribe to the remarks through the Statement of the Honourable Minister of Education regarding what he describes as an elephant in the kraal of education, perhaps. Since I have to be short and to the point, the question is the Minister lamented that issue, appealed to society in general, parents, etc and other Institutions. My questions is, are there specific modalities, strategies, disciplinary codes within the Ministry of Education that are actually in place within the Ministry itself or within the educational system, before we start appealing to the broader society? What actually is lacking within the education system itself to allow this sort of behaviour that you are lamenting? Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I will take both of them. Chief Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Speaker, I listened to the Minister but it is like the death of someone we love. You cannot continue like that forever.

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HON MEMBER: Which page is that?

HON RIRUAKO: I am speaking to you. I am not speaking to anyone who wants to speak.

HON SPEAKER: I am listening.

HON RIRUAKO: This kind of thing happens every day and we know where the problem comes from. We are just not aware of what is happening. We have the so-called communications technology that is likely to be said and to be known without taking any action. That is absolutely unfair. Technology is there to identify the problem. Where it comes from and how it happens, but nothing, nil. These people are highly protected by the Law and highly untouchable. This is what happened. For that matter, we are not going to confuse ourselves because this thing is not new to us. It is not news.

HON SPEAKER: Is it about the Minister's Statement or your own idea?

HON RIRUAKO: Yes of course, we know what happened behind the scene and we are aware of it. Why? Because we have communications technology. We listen to everything. We allow this to happen. Who hides this truth from being known? Who is behind this? Who protect who? There you are now, are you playing games or is it fiction or what? That is all that I have to say. Thank you.

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HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Bezuidenhoudt.

HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I first want to say welcome back. I think the statement of the Minister is very crucial, very important as it grabs our minds and hearts about our future as a Nation. I want to support the Minister on his Statement that this thing must be rooted out; it must be addressed and brought to order by everybody in society. I would ask the Minister if there is a fundamental and a strategic policy that must either be re-launched or re-advertised so that we all become aware of it so that it can be enforced?

The second question would be the role, if any, of school psychologists and guidance teachers in the prevention of substance abuse within schools that can be expanded to save our kids, to save our Nation and to save our future. Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Kazenambo.

HON KAZENAMBO: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Firstly, my condolences Comrade Mushelenga.

Honourable Speaker, I would like to ask my brother, Comrade Mushelenga to clarify whether the indictment of President Uhuru of Kenya on the 12th of November is still on as we are talking now or not. I heard you saying that Kenya is going to appeal to the Security Council of the United Nations. This is what I get and this is what I am seeking further clarity on, if that is the case, whether we are going to the United Nations Security Council for an appeal. I wanted that clarity and I am standing here to also throw my weight behind our President who took a position and we should throw our weight behind that position. We all

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know what is the United Nations Security Council, who dominates the Security Council and the undemocratic nature of it. That is why I want to know because for me, if it is the current set up, it is already a foregone conclusion because we know their vito power. We know how criminal they are.

It was there when Iraq was attacked. America decided to ignore it and go ahead and attack Afghanistan for oil. I wanted have clarity whether it is still the very same Security Council and whether it will have any sense but if it is for genocide, genocide was committed here. They are even ignoring it. Now they are saying that skulls of the people who were massacred here must even be collected privately. That is how criminal some of these Institutions are. I wanted to seek clarity and request that we really throw our weight behind our President because international justice cannot be done on the basis of selecting morality and hypocrisy. Riots and everything are even taking place in London and New York.

HON SPEAKER: I think your question has been made. Honourable Deputy Minister.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. To respond to the queries by Honourable Kazenambo; firstly, the Rome Statute that established the ICC makes provision for the referral of the cases to the ICC. These are that cases can either be referred by Member States of the ICC for offences committed against the citizens of the Member States or that cases can be referred by the United Nations Security Council to the ICC. It is for that reason that the Kenyan Government was going to request the United Nations Security Council for the deferment of the case. The Security Council would then if agree to notify the ICC that they would want to have the case deferred until these two office bearers, the President and Vice President serve their offices. As of now, we are still waiting to hear

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from the Government of Kenya as to whether they have approached the Security Council yet and what their response is, before we could know whether the case is still on or not. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. May I also add my own name together with my family, I take it that this Assembly had done so in respect of your mother's passing on. Our condolences. Honourable Minister of Education.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. I am going to be very brief. *Honourable Maamberua*, yes of course we have specific modality disciplinary codes. We have declared zero tolerance on indiscipline. It is not allowed for learners to use drugs in schools and they are not allowed to drink. They are supposed to be decent future leaders. You have asked whether there is something lacking, of course, there is something lacking. What is lacking is your involvement as politicians, as religious leaders, as Traditional Leaders and more specifically as parents.

The parents feel that it is the duty of the teachers and principals to discipline learners. It should not be that way. Another thing perhaps, is the misunderstanding from some of our citizens, including the children, of independence and the misunderstanding of the removal of corporal punishment. They feel that now that it has been removed, it has to be replaced with something else, which is indiscipline and it is very unfortunate. We are coming here to appeal to the politicians to talk to their people irrespective of their political affiliation so that we can have a perfect society.

As for the old man, my uncle, *Honourable Riruako*, I agree with you hundred percent.

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Technology can also be blamed because our children are learning some of these things from somewhere else. You cannot compare the digital generation with our generation because these people are learning things through internet, through televisions but then we also have to formulate strategies as parents and as politicians to see how best we can counter this type of indiscipline in our society. We have a disciplined society as Africans and we cannot afford to let go. Yes, of course, they are protected by Law, by our Constitution but it does not necessarily mean that when they are protected by our Constitution, they must misbehave.

Thank you very much, *Honourable Bezuidenhout*. I agree with you and thank you very much for supporting the Ministry of Education that this should be everyone's business. As for your question whether there is any fundamental strategic policy, well, I will come to you here so that we can together come up with something but we are in the process of formulating something which needs your presence. However, in the meantime, let us report all this and protect the future of our Nation. Yes, we have some teachers who are called life skills teachers in our schools, appointed specifically to take care of these types of misbehaviours in our schools but that is not enough because this thing has reached the highest proportion. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. What is the pleasure of the House, shall we continue or shall we break for tea and I keep my fingers cross that you will all return? The consensus is that we continue. We will continue.

The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT ON THE
VIST BY THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE TO
THE DROUGHT STRICKEN AREAS OF OHANGWENA,
OMUSATI, KUNENE AND ERONGO REGIONS**

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**CONSIDERATION: REPORT ON VISITS TO
DROUGHT STRICKEN AREAS
HON AMATHILA**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Consideration of Report on the Visit by the Parliamentary Standing Committee to the Drought Stricken Areas in Ohangwena, Omusati, Kunene and Erongo Regions.

HON SPEAKER: When the Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, the 16th of October, the question before the Assembly was the consideration of the Report by Honourable Amathila, that the Report be adopted. Does the Honourable Member wish to reply?

HON AMATHILA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker and Honourable Colleagues in the House. First of all, let me thank each and every one of the Honourable Members who took the Floor and made valuable contribution of the Debate of this Report. Let me also give special thanks to the Prime Minister for his comprehensive update on the situation. As I indicated in my motivation statement, this Report contains and reflected the views and opinion of the people we visited. There is no denying that the situation improved after our visit and indeed, the situation has changed for the better. The Government, through the Office of the Prime Minister has done a lot and continue to do so.

I think we have to pride ourselves that no death has occurred during the period of time when this Report was compiled and also from the Prime Minister's Statement. That notwithstanding, a lot still need to be done to reduce the effect of drought on our people, particularly in the area of water provision. In other words, there is room for improvement as far as water supply is concerned. This is the reason why we put emphasis on water and the majority of recommendations in this Report are on water supply.

Honourable Members, I took leave yesterday to attend a Conference taking place here in Windhoek on water reuse. I do not want to go into the nitty-gritty of what type of water we are drinking but it is very clear that Namibia's underground water is being challenged and Namibia is

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being lauded for having managed its water reuse programme since 1968 so effectively. All those who gathered yesterday in that meeting I attended, are people who came from afar afield to learn from the Namibian experience.

We have to pride ourselves but take cognisance that water is a serious problem in our country. In addition, the recent pronouncement, on national television by the Governor of Omusati Region is a further demonstration that additional concrete actions need to be taken. All of us are being told that this is the hardest year of drought in 30 years and this should serve as a reminder to us all not to wait until the next drought but to start putting our house in order in preparation for the next drought.

Finally, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, let me once again thank the Honourable Members for their active participation during the Debate and I Move for the Report to be adopted by this House. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. With that I now put the question that the Report be adopted. Any objection?

The Secretary will read the Second Order.

**RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERTION OF THE REPORT ON THE
FAMILIARISATION VISIT BY THE PARLIAMENTARY
STANDING COMMITTEE TO THE OTJOZONDJUPA REGION**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Consideration of the Report on the Familiarisation Visit by the Parliamentary Standing Committee to the Otjozondjupa Region.

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HON AMATHILA / HON NUJOMA / HON LUCAS**

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Amathila, once again I give you the Floor.

HON AMATHILA: I was under the impression that Honourable Lucas adjourned the discussion. That was my impression, I do not know.

HON SPEAKER: Indeed, the Honourable Deputy Minister of Justice adjourned the Debate. I just came back from abroad. Honourable Deputy Minister or the Minister himself. Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. On behalf of my Deputy Minister, Comrade Nambahu, I would like to postpone this Debate to next week Tuesday.

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? Honourable Deputy Minister do you want to speak to the Report? You have the Floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Speaker, I rise to contribute to the Report under discussion. Firstly, I would like to thank you, Honourable Speaker for affording me this opportunity to address some of the issues raised by the Members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration during their various visits to the drought stricken areas of Ohangwena.

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HON SPEAKER: I do not know, the Speaker is in the dark as to what you might have said but it is steering around in the House. Maybe you know.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Speaker, I was looking for your protection as the Presiding Officer.

HON SPEAKER: I am rising to the occasion.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: I adjourned the Debate some time and I was not available at a time. Therefore, I seek the Honourable Speaker's protection.

Honourable Speaker, since the two Reports; the one that we have adopted and the one we are currently speaking to are cousin and niece and they both touch on issues that relates to Sector that I am leading, I thought it is appropriate that you can allow me to make a contribution.

HON SPEAKER: I allow you to continue making your contribution.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker for that understanding.

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HON MEMBER: Which Report are you contributing to?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: The Report on the Otjozondjupa Region, which was undertaken by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration.

Honourable Members, thank you for your understanding. I will address the issues that fall under the Sector of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. If I can start with the Green Scheme Project at Quarry, Honourable Speaker, there was a serious concern that was raised by the Committee and I just want to allay the fears of the Committee Members by indicating that the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry has set aside funds for the development of the Quarry Irrigation Project. The development of the Project is expected to commence during this Financial Year.

The Ministry is intending to upgrade the water reservoir pipeline and install a new irrigation system at the Quarry Green Scheme Project. Furthermore, the Ministry is planning to construct small-scale farmhouses. On the issue of livestock the marketing scheme; following the Cabinet announcement and declaration by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia that the whole country was drought stricken, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry implemented the livestock marketing incentive schemes.

The scheme has benefited all farmers who have sold livestock from the 1st of March 2013. Farmers qualify for a marketing incentive of N\$300 per livestock unit, that means per cattle, and N\$70 per small stock unit, that means, goat and sheep until the said condition has recovered or the Budget is exhausted whichever comes first. To date a total of 3,438 applications for marketing incentives for small stock and livestock unit, 86 applications for grazing and 74 applications for transport subsidies valued at N\$43.2 million were processed for payment. It is very important to inform the Honourable Members and the public out there that in order to qualify for as a beneficiary it is required to submit a number of relevant documents

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issued by relevant authorities together with the claim form for marketing incentives to be paid.

Of course, there has been an outcry from the public that the system has been cumbersome. Yes, Honourable Speaker, the measures that are put in place by the Ministry are to control and monitor the situation as it goes so that the system cannot be abused unnecessarily. Honourable Speaker, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry is looking at making the livestock the marketing subsidy attractive because one of the findings or concerns from the Committee is that this scheme was not valued as attractive.

In this regard, the Ministry will engage all relevant stakeholders in order to solicit more inputs on how to make the scheme more attractive to all the farmers. However, the implementation of the scheme depends on the availability of funds. That should not be forgotten. As much as we are saying the scheme is not attractive, we should not forget that we can only make it more attractive when we have funds available. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry would like to point out that the scheme can accommodate other channels of marketing apart from Meatco, auction abattoirs, individuals, etc.

The scheme is inclusive, and farmers can sell their livestock to whoever they want to sell to, provided that they prove that the animals are sold because I know there is little understanding out there that cattle are only sold to abattoirs, auctions and Meatco, which is not the case. Therefore, it needs to be explained beyond the national chamber. Honourable Speaker, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry concurs with the statement made in the Report that traditional beliefs and practices also play a role when it comes to the marketing of livestock.

The majority of farmers in communal areas still believe that the more livestock they have, the richer they are, hence they rather keep livestock as prestige.

In this regard, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry extension

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services will continue to train and sensitise farmers to move away from traditional beliefs and practices and to start farming as a business. With regard to grazing it is important to note that the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry is looking into a possibility of establishing irrigation schemes, similar to the Green Schemes that produce crops but the one we are proposing will be specifically dedicated to fodder production for instance, a Green Scheme (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Point of Information. Yes.

HON KAZENAMBO: Point of Information. While I agree with you Comrade Minister, in the traditional way, it is not entirely true that people keep cattle for prestige, no. These cattle are kept for a number of reasons. They are kept as an insurance, as the bank and as a saving. Yes, let us modernise but many of us, including myself standing here, have no savings in the bank, it is empty, zero. The bank may be empty but you keep these cattle for times when you have problems.

While I am aware that we are teaching our people to reduce those numbers, we should also teach them how to keep money at the bank otherwise, many people will be totally bankrupt. It is business and values. It is a way of saving for tomorrow. Let us modernise but let us provide information. It is not necessarily for prestige.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you for that information. Comrade Minister, continue.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. It is the responsibility of all of us to sensitise our farmers to move away from the traditional way of doing business.

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON MOONGO: Thank you very much. Of course, we understand when the Deputy Minister says we should plan. Maybe she can give us additional ideas, however, I must keep and survive with cattle that I inherit from my oldest family member. I must try to keep it by all means, and that is a norm. You just do not know that.

HON SPEAKER: Deputy Minister.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Speaker, I thought I am offering my genuine advice to the farmers who wish to benefit from our work experience. This scenario does not compare any farmer (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: I think it will very soon be an overload of information for the Deputy Minister.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Yes. Point of Information

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HON SPEAKER: Depending from which direction she is being guided.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Point of Information.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Defence.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Speaker, just to give information to the Honourable Member, Yes, you are the Deputy Minister of Agriculture but I am not quite sure whether you practice agriculture. Those of us who do are faced with problems. In the communal set up, my one cow does not only belong to me, it also belongs to my extended family. Should the extended family discover that I am selling continuously and when somebody dies there is not even an ox to be slaughter, I will be in trouble. The idea is that, if it dies naturally, everybody can see it was natural. It is not really because you just want to look at the big horns or anything like that.

The other thing about selling and putting money in the bank is that these banks are riding on our backs. You put in your money there, if you go to borrow one dollar, they will ask you to pay 7 cents on your one dollar but when you give them your money, on your one dollar you perhaps earn half a cent or something like that. You are caught between a rock and a hard place. Putting your money in these institutions, you are just enriching them and keeping your cattle, the drought is coming. We are also in a dilemma and how best we can deal with this.

Then there is the problem of selling cattle in communal areas; the big buyers in communal areas are these ladies who are running butcheries. Some of them do not even have a stamp to stamp your thing. Then you have to go to the Police and the Police ask you for the letter from the

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Headman. You are asked all sorts of documents. You cannot qualify for this subsidy unless you make special efforts in selling your cattle in the communal land. We must understand the problems people are facing. They are real. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Continue, Honourable Minister.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Speaker, I was saying, I thought our technical experts are better positioned to provide the necessary advice before it gets too late. When the scheme was officially declared, we thought we as Government and we as the Ministry of Agriculture have offered a relief to our farmers so that they can utilise this scheme maximally but because of the traditional way of doing business among ourselves, we did not utilise the benefit that could be derived from the scheme. As a result, when you travel around this country particularly in the communal area, the animals are dying in front of our own eyes. They are dying in numbers. It does not matter whether these animals were inherited from one grandfather to the next generation but if we could make use of the advices which were offered at an appropriate time, we could have benefited. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Moongo, I gave you an opportunity earlier on, can you allow the Deputy Minister to complete? I had given him the Floor earlier. Honourable Minister of Mines maybe you can assist the Deputy Minister.

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Honourable Speaker, may I please ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question?

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Yes, Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: You are talking of people to use the scheme, well and good but then there is now a statement or a requirement in the scheme that there must be a contract, an agreement that has been drawn up by a lawyer. You are trying to help people to save money but now you are now forcing people to go out and pay money for services of the lawyer. One has to pay in order for to go and claim.

What is the difference of the money that you pay the lawyer and the money that you are going to claim? Why can we not make it easy in such a way that it suffice to have a permit with the list of livestock that you transported and the statement or the receipt showing how much you paid? Just to make things simple. Honourable Deputy Minister, is it necessary to go and look for a lawyer and pay? Can you not make it a little bit easier? Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Deputy Minister.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Speaker, I know for sure that this aspect is a bone of contention for all the farmers that are sitting in this House but I thought we were in a better position to offer that advice and farmers are not compelled to make use of the system if they feel disadvantaged. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Yes?

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HON KAPIA: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question?

HON SPEAKER: I believe so, yes.

HON KAPIA: Honourable Deputy Minister, the N\$300.00 you are talking about, is it when for a farmer sells a head of cattle, a donkey, a goat, a sheep, a pig or a chicken? Can you clarify this so that we understand?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Speaker, that is why I am saying I know this issue is touching the nerves of all of us. The N\$300 is for a large stock unit, in simple terms, a head of cattle and N\$70 for a small stock unit; a sheep or a goat. It ends up there. Nothing more or less, that is the definition. Honourable Speaker, I was saying we were offering our advice (intervention).

HON KAURA: Can I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister, a question?

HON SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Kaura.

HON KAURA: Honourable Deputy Minister, can you tell this House, how many of those people who have applied for assistance or utilised that

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scheme have received money or are being paid? So far, how many of those people who have applied, have received money? Because many people, including myself, are still complaining that they have not received a cent and maybe you are waiting for the rain to come before you can assist.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Deputy Minister, Honourable Kaura says he is still on the queue.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Speaker, I thought that I have made it very clear from the beginning by informing and quoting the amounts that was earmarked for that programme and the number of applicants that are in a queue to receive their money, including those that have received.

As we speak, the farmers at their own will continue to submit applications at the nearest offices of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.

For the benefit of Honourable Kaura, I can provide the exact figure maybe after this Chamber but I recall very well that at the onset, I have made reference to the figure that I shared with this House and you are also at liberty to inquire how far the officials are with regard to your application. Where are you? Are you still at the entrance or somewhere in the middle? (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: Point of Order.

HON SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Moongo.

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HON MOONGO: Thank you very much. The Deputy Minister is trying to give us some good ideas but can she apologise right now that so late in the year, after so many cattle has died, the Ministry of Agriculture is giving five bales of grass to every communal farmer.

Can you make the cattle survive with five bales of grass? You should apologise to the Nation for being late. You were supposed to import grass from other countries and give to the communal people so that they can sustain the lives of their cattle. You are only giving five bales of grass to the farmers after a disaster, what is the use of those five bales? Thank you.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Moongo, listen very carefully. I have nothing to apologise for. I did not commit a crime. From the beginning, when the drought was declared, the Government made it very clear that it will not be in a position to provide fodder to the animals. (Interjection).

HON MOONGO: But the money is there!

HON SPEAKER: You asked a question and she is busy responding.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: The Government is not under any obligation to provide fodder to individual farmers. It is the responsibility of individual farmers to make sure that they maintain their animals. That was made very clear, that the Government has an obligation to provide (intervention).

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Comrade Speaker on a point of Order.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Ilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: On a Point of Information, I think Honourable Moongo just jumped to something which is completely new. Comrade Lucas said, the Government made it clear that they cannot provide fodder. However, what Honourable Moongo is saying is that the Ministry of Agriculture made provision for collecting grass but some greedy people with money do not even have cattle and if one cannot limit the maximum allocation, they can just come and buy bales of grass and resell.

I think this was announced today and it is applicable to all the offices of the Ministry of Agriculture in the Regions that you bring the immunisation booklet of your cattle and you receive a maximum of five bales of grass at a time. You are not prohibited to come once in a week because these are big bales.

You just want to go and take one at the cost of N\$50 and you are not even going to take to your cattle but resell again at N\$150. That is the information, Comrade Speaker. I am saying that it is something new because of the mercy because the Ministry sees that people are facing problems. The Government went to its farms and started rolling these big bales of grass. Five of these big bales are supposed last a little longer. You do not take this to give to every cattle but to the needy ones because there are some cattle that are very thin. Ask some of us who are farming.

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HON SPEAKER: Please let us make progress.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Speaker, I was touching on a very important subject when I was deviated from saying it by Honourable Moongo. Just listen to this one. The Ministry of Agriculture is looking into the possibility of establishing irrigation scheme similar to the Green Scheme that produces crops and that would be specifically dedicated.

HON SPEAKER: Can we allow the Deputy Minister to reply to standing questions?

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you very much. Information is very important. Honourable Speaker, I was trying to follow the Honourable Member's contribution, I am also a Member of this Committee but in the Otjozondjupa Region, there is no Green Scheme. The Green Scheme the Honourable Member is talking about is in Sesfontein. Is that the Green Scheme she is talking about? However, that one is has been completed. I just want to provide information. I do not know what she is talking about.

HON SPEAKER: The challenge to you Deputy Minister. Yes?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Speaker, I just thought that information is power and I would be guilty if I do not share this information with the House. I am talking about the proposal to establish the Green Scheme

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dedicated to produce fodder for animals. I think it is very important and it does not only affect the Otjozondjupa Region but everybody that is why I thought it is very important for me to share information concerning lucerne and other types of fodder we may think of, which would be harvested, baled and sold to the farmers. In the meantime, our extension staff will continue to raise awareness and sensitise communal farmers about the negative effects of over stocking that is resulting in overgrazing.

Honourable Speaker, with regard to the assistance of small scale farmers at resettlement farms with respect to the process of accelerating repair of agricultural equipment in resettlement farms, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry would like to advise that a Committee consisting of officials from the Ministry Agriculture, Water and Forestry and the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement should be established to assess all broken and obsolete agricultural equipments and make recommendations to the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry officials will, however, continue to provide technical agricultural training to resettlement farmers.

On conservation agriculture, the Ministry of Agriculture is in the process of developing a comprehensive conservation agriculture programme for Namibia. For the current cropping season, five farming household were identified per crop growing Region to participate in conservation agricultural demonstrations. As soon as the programme is fully developed, it would be rolled out to all crop-growing Regions as part of the dry land crop production programme.

Honourable Speaker, the Report that I am speaking to, highlights the bottleneck with regard to the water supply programme. Of course, I know the Report is mainly focusing on Otjozondjupa, but I think it is important if I can be allowed to give an update with regard to the water situation in the country.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry with regard to the construction earth dams, is in the process of tendering for the rehabilitation of existing earth dams in the Karas, Hardap and Omaheke

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Regions. The construction of new earth dams, one per Region, for Otjozondjupa, Erongo and Kunene is at the tender evaluation and awarding stage. The construction of new earth dams, one per Region, for Ohangwena, Omusati, Kavango West and East, Oshikoto, Omusati and Zambezi Region were advertised and the tender will close on the 5th of November 2015.

Water Point Closed Due to Non-payment by the End Users:

Honourable Speaker, the *Water Resource Management Bill* which was passed by the National Assembly, highlighted among others:

1. The scarcity and vulnerability of Namibia's water resources which require that the economic value of water be recognised;
2. It further advocate for the efficient and cost effective management, conservation and use of water resources; and
3. This means that water resources cannot, therefore be rendered for free.

In addition, the water supply and sanitation policy of 2008 recognised and recommended the water supply subsidy for the poor households.

The Cabinet has approved the implementation of the water supply subsidy strategy and operational plan to cater for those who cannot afford to pay in accordance with the recommendations of the study to be finalised during the course of 2014. The issue of non-payment of water services by the end users has resulted in the accumulation of outstanding bills due to NamWater. In accordance with the community based management strategy that led to the establishment of water point Committees, a water point would be closed if the water point Committee default on payment. This is not only targeting (intervention).

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HON KAZENAMBO: Point of Information.

HON SPEAKER: Yes, Information.

HON KAZENAMBO: On a Point of Information, Comrade Minister, I think there were incidents perhaps of, if one may say, political instigation of end users not to pay water in some places but while we agree with the Law of this country, as you have quoted them here, and while you are speaking on behalf of water utility companies, the truth of the matter is that this country is vast. The pipes of some of utility companies on whose behalf you are speaking leak due to old age. Water is just running there and they will appear two weeks later but that bill will go the end users. They will have to take responsibility. With technological advancement, these people must also account, rather than just to say that; people live in this village and the water pipeline has burst and been reported to their irresponsible staff who just drink in Okakarara and arrive there after two weeks and ultimately they charge end users for that.

These profit-making companies must account for their lack of non-performance and incompetence rather than just to accuse end users. If you go to the rural areas, you will find that some of these canals and pipes are broken and they have been reported. The people are just enjoying and the Minister will come here and talk on their behalf.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Speaker, I am not protecting those who are enjoying themselves but I take note of the concern raised by Honourable Kazenambo. If there are culprits in the Water Sector, they should be brought to book but what I am saying is that the water point can only be closed when they are in default and I must emphasise that this is not

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targeting only some water points Committee or Regions but it is a practice countrywide. If a water Committee is in default, it does not matter whether that water Committee is in the area where I come from, if they are in default, they should just be brought to order. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Angula.

HON MIN. OF DEFENCE: I am sorry, Honourable Lucas. May I ask you a small question?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Yes, Honourable Minister.

HON MIN. OF DEFENCE: As you are speaking now, how many water points are still open?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you very much. With regards to how many, I think I will not be in a position to give the exact figure but what I can say is that it is interesting to note that 70% (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Ulenga.

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HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, speaking on a Point of Order, it looks like we do not have a quorum.

HON SPEAKER: Let us establish if we have no quorum. How many Members do we still have? It was propaganda? Shall we continue with the quorum? I know my namesake wanted to leave but he must stay.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I was saying I would not be in a position to give the exact figure with regard to the exact numbers.

HON SPEAKER: Let us not lose the quorum now. We have the quorum. Let us sit down. Continue Deputy Minister.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I was saying, percentage wise, 70% of the water Committees are up to date with their payments. I was replying to the concern raised by the Minister of Defence.

Honourable Speaker, if I may continue, the Committee raised the issue of water tankers to be allocated to various Regions. I wish to indicate that the Ministry has tried to allocate water tankers to the Omaheke Region on a large scale due to the intensity of the drought situation in that Region and because of the unreliable ground water resources in most of the Constituencies.

However, with the Budget at our disposal, we have managed as a Ministry, to acquire some new water tankers that will be distributed to the

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remaining Regions but Omaheke was firstly attended to because of the situation that I have highlighted. Of course, the maintenance of the water tankers is also very expensive. That should be taken note of by the House but we are trying our level best to make sure that we address the situation as it comes.

Honourable Speaker, of course the Committee directed the Ministry of Agriculture, the Directorate of Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Coordination to address the phase of the water pipeline extension as well as the drilling of boreholes. (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Ulenga.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker may I ask the Deputy Minister a question?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Yes.

HON ULENGA: On this very important item of the availability of water, Deputy Minister, we read so much from the media of repeated discoveries of water resources underground. About six months ago or so, there was a report in the local media for example, of a discovery of a large underground lake that covers south eastern Angola, eastern Ohangwena Region, northern Oshikoto and western Kavango. What is the status of these discoveries and how useful is it to the Ministry? Of course we know about the so-called Otavi/Kombat underground lake. Apparently, there is again one in Kavango east, western Zambezi Region, the Isle Block. Why

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are these water resources not utilised and when is the Ministry or the Government going to develop ways of accessing this water? Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Deputy Minister.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I am not here to respond to issues that come to Honourable Ulenga through the media but (intervention).

HON ULENGA: Even your Report has gone through the media.

HON SPEAKER: That is good news. Lot of things we read in newspapers turn out to be true but the Minister is speaking. Can you listen?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Speaker, with your permission, if I may just assist my Colleague in a way, the question posed by Honourable Ulenga is very, very important.

I can stand here and confirm that it is true that that underground lake was discovered. There is potential there but then at the Executive level of Government, we as a Line Ministry are now preparing for a proper presentation to be done to the Cabinet where the experts that were working on that very important project and that will continue to work on

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that project will provide the information first to the Cabinet and then thereafter, we will get some policy guidance and policy directives from Cabinet and I am sure we can undertake that we will come to this Honourable House to provide that information at that particular point in time. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Good news, our Deputy Minister is on the Floor. You have good news from the Minister. Continue, Deputy Minister.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: I was saying, with regard to the drilling and extension of water pipes. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: I agree with the Minister.

HON SPEAKER: I did not give you the Floor.

HON RIRUAKO: Give me the Floor.

HON SPEAKER: I am listening to Deputy Minister, she is responding. You were outside and I am sitting here since I came. Deputy Minister, continue.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I was saying the issue of the drilling of boreholes is a long process and the delays are not necessarily caused by us but the process itself.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Deputy Minister, I really think that after the Minister has spoken, you should pass that phase and answer another question. What the Minister has said includes what you are trying to answer. Go to another question that does not deal with that.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. In conclusion, it is the commitment of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry to address the plight of the farmers wherever they find themselves and I would like to urge all communal farmers in their respective Constituencies to continue utilising the offices, the infrastructures of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. They are there to provide services to you. I thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. That is it. Seeing there are no other questions, that is that. Any further discussions? Minister of Finance.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I would to remark in regard to the subject on the Table. My contribution is not directly to the Report but it is prompted by the comments on some issues that are important and I feel that I should share some information in regard to the role of some of the Institutions that resort under the Ministry of Finance, specifically with regard to providing relief to farmers affected

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by the drought, being it that we host Agribank which is the financier for the Agricultural Sector.

I want to announce that, to supplement the efforts that are being made through the drought relief programme under the Emergency Management Unit at the Office of the Prime Minister, the Agricultural Bank has also announced some relief measures by way of loan restructuring for farmers for the production loans especially, but also for those farmers that source funding from bank to acquire commercial farms in order to enable them to cope with the reduced income as a result of the drought situation.

I would like to encourage farmers, both those that are in the Chamber and outside there, to familiarise themselves with the scheme that is put in place by Agribank and try to optimise their benefits from it in order that we can mitigate the losses to our economy as a result of the unfortunate situation that is brought about by the drought. That is the one point that I wanted to make but I also wanted to comment on the aspect of the bank charges and how they affect savings. I announced in this House some months ago that we have launched a financial literacy programme and I indicated that it aimed to create awareness amongst members of the public on a range of financial issues one of which is for them to manage their finances and indebtedness. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: It is good news. Honourable Minister of Defence.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Sorry to disturb the Honourable Minister of liquid assets. Can I ask you a question Honourable Minister? Are you aware that despite the financial inclusion education, the charges on cheques have recently gone up hundred percent. Are you aware of that?

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HON MININISTER OF FINANCE: The what?

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: The charge on the use of cheques, that is, if you pay by cheque.

HON SPEAKER: Is that so? We are poor people.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Minister, that is a very important point. I would respond to it this way: In the first instance, we only commemorated the first year of the education programme, and during the year that the programme has been running, we have not reached all corners of the country. We are still planning to reach the remaining Regions of the country, which means there are still people out there that have not been reached with this programme but even where we have reached people, I think learning is the process that is ongoing. I do not think that you change a person's attitude by providing them with information just once. You provide them with information, they absorb the information, they tried to practice what they have learned and they adjust until they are able to effectively use this information to improve their lot.

Obviously, in a free market system we are advised by those that are learned in Law that as a Government we do not have the flexibility to fix prices for commodities, be they goods or services.

I have always invited my learned Colleagues to say that, if I am misinformed in this regard, I may willing to learn. If they can really provide advice to the Minister of Finance on how much you can charge for deposit and how much you can charge for a cheque, I would be very happy to do that but I understand that I am not able to do that. Therefore,

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there are two things we are trying to do.

Firstly, to educate people because we think that one of the reasons why people are taken advantage of is because they do not have a full understanding of how things work; what their rights are; what recourse they can have if their rights are violated. Secondly, is to provide information about the available product in order for people to use their knowledge with regard to the rights that they have and the choices they have, to choose correctly.

We believe that, where you have more than one player and a well educated public, one of the players would be tempted to increase their share in the market by trying to outperform others by making better offers to the members of the public and to the extent that the members of the public are able to access this product and choose the better product, the others who are overcharging or offering sub-standards products would be motivated to improve their products.

I am answering a question, Honourable Kapia. You can all pose your question after I have answered this question.

The third issue that we are dealing with is in terms of the financial inclusion programme which we have advised this House about, to make sure that we encourage the entry of as many stakeholders in the market as possible so as to increase competition because we feel that the market players are somehow comfortable because they are in a small group and act like a club that collude in setting prices instead of competing with one another.

Of course, the benefits to all these efforts that we are making will come over time. It would not come immediately. However, the most important point to make here is to say that the initiative with regard to encouraging the Banking Sector to be more efficient with their pricing has been done in terms of the Amendment to the *Banking Institution Act* that was approved by Parliament.

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To the extent where we feel that these Amendments are inadequate, I am, as I have indicated, available to learn about additional options that are available in order for us to effectively encourage the banking institutions to price their products efficiently. Chief all the other three people were implored to hold (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: I have also told the others to sit down. I will also extend that too. Honourable Chief, please sit down.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: In fact I am kind of losing the train of thoughts because I was making two points. I answered the question of Honourable Nahas Angula and now the other point I was trying to make is kind of escaping my mind but maybe the other Members can ask the questions they wanted to intervene with while I am still trying to recollect my thoughts.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kazenambo.

HON KAZENAMBO: Thank you Comrade Minister. On the issue of the pricing that you advised that you cannot, it is not true. The people are misleading you, hundred percent. This is a free market system and you know banks are not holy cults and especially the majority of these apartheid banks and I can qualify why I am calling them apartheid banks. They are robbing us. Let me qualify that.

In my view, 23 years into independence, the majority of the financial institutions operating in Independence Avenue are purely apartheid institutions. They are extensions, what they are doing here, they are not

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doing it in South Africa because our Colleagues have walked a step. Ask yourselves why many of the window dressers, with due respect to them, the Namibian Managing Directors are going one by one. If you go on their management, they are South African whites. Up to today the majority of them, with the exception of Standard Bank, they stand here.

This is treated like a cattle post economy. We cannot accept it but that was not my point. I am going to address it at an appropriate time because you do not get your overdraft here. It is not easy. What we all need to do is to pull out and go to the SME bank and leave these South African banks alone or they must start treating us decently. Not even Namibian whites are considered there. These are extensions of the cattle post economy that we are running.

Now let me go into my point. To start with, in the economy of this country we have an anti-competition Commission all that we have in place is to regulate, to look how companies are competing unfairly and firms can operate in a free market as oligopoly or monopoly. These banks here are colluding. Banks can collude to set up prices, be it in the Meat Sector, Agricultural Sector or the Financial Sector. What they are doing is colluding in setting up the prices, and it has a role as an institution empowered by the Laws of this country to control pricing without you intervening and it is in the free market system. It is economics not apartheid economics.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: We are barred from expressing ourselves to the point.

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HON SPEAKER: We are actually on the Floor dealing with the Deputy Minister of Agriculture. That is the issue. There is additional information that we got from the Minister of Finance.

HON RIRUAKO: You took my time. Let me tell you this Mr Speaker, whether you want or not; there is no price control here. The apartheid Government had a price control system here. They have price control in South Africa today but they do not have price control here. They do things as they want. We are not given any protection to air our view. We are barred to speak and silenced when we want to say something. That is unfairness of our own Government. The point I want to make is that companies operate under price control in everything they do there. There is nothing independent in an independent country but you are told to end here. *This is our place and who told you to do that?* That is insult to injury and you come to a point where our cattle prices are determined by a foreigner saying *come over here I got to pay you this and that is our price.* They tell you that but you cannot go to the white cattle farmers and find them waiting for their prices to be determined by the sellers. What is that? Is that right? However, this continuing and nobody is challenging it. I can ask the Minister of Trade why there is no price control here but he is silent. Right it down, there is nothing to tempt, provoke or block you. This is a fact! You are supposed to bear it in mind.

There are a lot of things I wanted to say ahead of the time. We have the Kavango Basin operating from Eiseb to Gam and all these are coming from the Kavango Basin and you did not mention it, Honourable Minister. Why did you leave this aside, for what purpose? He knows the where the Kavango Basin comes from. That water comes from there and it is there. They know this. You cannot go around and go to sleep as you want. Sometimes I tell you the facts. You are hiding from the facts that are said.

HON SPEAKER: Just for your information, the Kavango Basin.

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HON RIRUAKO: Yes, the Basin. There is underground water coming from there. You cannot pump that water out. You cannot run away from that.

HON SPEAKER: I want to return the Floor back to Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

HON RIRUAKO: Before you return the Floor, I will say to the Minister of Finance that we are really disappointed by your stand, some people advice you illegally without going through us and you have been misled without us being there to protect you.

HON SPEAKER: I do not want to have a bad first day back in Parliament after some extended work programme abroad and I do not want us to become disorderly in the Assembly. This was the information that the Minister of Finance wanted to add to the ongoing discussion, which we have not wrapped up yet. Can we become orderly? Yes, do you want to finish?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I want to say something in clarification, considering additional comments that were made subsequent to my intervention, to indicate that I know that pricing is a very sensitive issue and I have a very strong feeling about it. We have had several rounds of discussions about this issue, not only involving myself, individually, Parliamentary Committees that have investigated some of these issues and conducted public hearings involving members of the public and stakeholders were also there.

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In the end, the recommendations that came from the hearing did not incorporate some of these recommendations which we will all agree would have been ideal but were not found possible within the context of the legislative framework. I want to highlight again what we have done with the Amendment to the *Banking Institutions Act* that he brought here I think it was two years ago. What we did was to require transparency in the pricing structure of financial institutions and to require that information about pricing should be displayed openly to enable members of the public to determine what are the charges that come with the provision of a product by these financial institutions, and to be able to make comparison so that they can take their decisions on informed basis. Ultimately to empower the Central Bank to require any financial institution to justify its pricing, to provide explanation to the Central Bank and to provide sanctions in situations where financial institutions would fail to comply with the requirement to be transparent in terms of their pricing structure and in terms of responding to the queries of the Central Bank but that was as far as we went.

We would have liked to go a step further and say if the structure is like this, it should not be justified for you to price above the certain level but we recently followed through with additional initiatives where we established further guidelines in terms of pricing as a result of which a number of financial institutions have decided to have what they call a minimum basic bank account, where depositors below a certain threshold of income would be exempted from bank fees and charges both individually and as a corporate entities.

Obviously, there would still be many that are above that threshold that we would have liked to benefit from this relief but we are at least encouraged by the fact that there is a movement from the financial institutions to this end. What I would like to see is that financial institutions are doing something about deposit fees for all depositors.

HON SPEAKER: I will first give the Floor to the Minister of Trade and

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Industry. You asked for the Floor, I saw your hand.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Maybe in order for me not to lose my train of thoughts, let me first provide you with some explanations and if there are further questions, I would be happy to receive them.

I was saying that, what we would like to see is a situation where our banking institutions could emulate the practice in some parts of the world where deposits are not charged. That is, you are not charged when you deposit your money. There are certain countries around the world that do that and we encourage these financial institutions to try and move towards that. Now with regards to whether we could tolerate collusion, whether it is in the Financial Sector or outside of the Financial Sector; no, it cannot be tolerated but the power to regulate that is given to another institution. I think you have mentioned the Competition Commission and to the extent that any behaviour of any corporate entity, whether it is the banking institution or any other institution that come to the attention of the Commission, either because somebody reported that or because the Commission noticed it, they will deal with it appropriately. That provision is there but sometimes where there is no competition there can be that implicit collusion where you have a situation like what you would have in taxation that we call tax avoidance, it is not tax evasion, if it is taxation evasion you can have that person prosecuted. However, when it is tax avoidance, that person have not committed a crime and you cannot have that person prosecuted and so what you have to do is to continually try to review the legislation and make sure that you close any loopholes that these people try to find in the system. With regard to the collusion, the only effective cure, even in more developed systems, has been (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Yes. Point of Order.

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HON MAAMBERUA: On a Point of Order, may I ask the Honourable Minister of Finance two small questions?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Yes.

HON MAAMBERUA: One is, since the Minister recognises that there are actually collusions in the Banking Sector, would the Minister agree that collusion is illegal and therefore, must be done away with immediately? That is one, the second one is, the Minister is talking about the free market economy. (Interjection)

HON SPEAKER: You had the opportunity. He is speaking now. You are not the Speaker, I am.

HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Minister, you are talking about the free market economy in Namibia. In which Law or in which document or what is the source of the free market economy in Namibia? I know our Constitution is talking about a mixed economy in which the pendulum can swing to the far right or to the far left or to the middle of anywhere. The free market economy, where is it coming from, is there such a principle in Namibia?

HON SPEAKER: Yes, question.

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HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I think the first one was a comment and the Honourable Member could have just waited to make his own contribution but as I have indicated, and I am sure that he fully understand this, I have explained that collusion to the extent that it is a violation in terms of our Law is dealt with by the Competition Commission. It is not for the Minister of Finance to deal with but I have indicated that, as is the case with taxation, you can have implicit conducts which negate the objective but are not explicit violations.

I am sure that if there was an implicit collusion that violates the Law, the Competition Commission could have dealt with that and I think the Honourable Member knows that where there is a small group of people who know each other who can discuss issues over breakfast without saying let us price deposits at this amount, somehow they can end up with policies that are aligned and you cannot prosecute them for having breakfast together and discuss issues. You can only prosecute them if you find that they sat down and say on a cheque transaction, this is how much we charge. There they will have committed a violation and the Competition Commission, not the Ministry of Finance, will deal with that issue and if we the Members of Parliament know of any such instances, I am sure that the Colleagues that are there would be happy to receive that information.

With regard to the free market economy, free market simply means not a centrally planned economy. It can be a mixed economy, it is not a contradiction. I think this is tautology. I am not trying to insist that there is a different system than that which is contained in our Laws. It is only to say that people conduct private businesses and they determine their policies and the prices that they charge for their products. The Honourable Member can disagree. He can take the Floor and make his contribution but not disagree by asking me questions.

The last point that I want to make is on an important point that was raised about remote controlled decision making beyond the borders and this is not only with regard to the Financial Sector but with regard to many of our corporations that are actually branches of companies beyond our borders.

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Within the Financial Sector, we have made the initiative to put a Financial Sector Development Strategy in place about which I have briefed Parliament. In terms of that strategy, we have established benchmarks to provide milestones that we should aspire towards, in regard to a number of issues but including localisation of the management of the corporate institutions in the Financial Sector.

We would want to have a situation where we have local managers and not managers that are deployed from across the borders, where decision making is localised so that people who are familiar with the local situation and somehow have loyalty to the state of Namibia would be able to take decisions that would be supportive and also have ownership of the financial decision. Comrade Minister, that is the Financial Sector Development Strategy of which a number of Sectors still have to develop theirs. I, therefore, acknowledge that there are a number of challenges to the Financial Sectors but it is also important for us to acknowledge that these problems are shared across a number of very important Sectors of our economy and that the restructuring in terms of ownership and management of this institution is a need that exists beyond the Financial Sector. I think that is very important.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. I just wanted to share (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: If everything has been said, just add on.

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HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Most of it has been shared but not all. What I wanted to react on is that there is a difference between what one says price regulation and price fixing.

Price regulation is happening in this country. We have a number of regulated commodities where prices are regulated for raw materials. We regulate the price of maize, *mahangu* and a number of regulated products but that is not price fixing. Price fixing is what the Honourable Minister of Finance has talked to when the Private Sector either through dominance, collusion or through whatever means fixes the price and that is what is not legal. It can happen in any Sector. It can happen in the Live Stock Sector, Financial Sector and Motor Car Sector. There are a number of Sectors where these things have happened worldwide, where prices were fixed. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Point of Information.

HON KAZENAMBO: On a Point of Information. We are aware of the terminology of price fixing and regulations but the Minister of Finance explained in a satisfactory manner. The Laws and Regulations are there but she has explained it through avoidance an evasion as an example, but what is happening here because there are no Namibians, and I am saying no Namibians in many of these Financial Institutions whether they are whites or black or yellow or brown or short and tall. They are not there.

Currently these institutions are controlled from Pretoria, from Tswane, and this is what they are saying and what you are saying here is a question of awareness that we need to go and campaign. What we need is to go and campaign with our South African counterparts that their agents here are causing havoc in this economy with their activities. They are not allowing this economy to grow. They are still operating on outdated principles which they are not even practicing back home. We are saying

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that we are aware of those terminologies of price fixing, tax avoidance and regulation, etc. The reality is there.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, let us just be brief so that we allow the Honourable Deputy Minister to finish.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: I am very happy that you are aware and maybe you jumped the gun because what I wanted to say is that the Competition Commission is busy with the investigation on (incomplete).

HON SPEAKER: Can somebody come with a Motion so that you can have the opportunity to discuss things.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: There was, however, one aspect that I think we need to look at and of course, I agree. Financing has been indicated to be the main problem for small businesses, medium size businesses and large business to get started. Whatever the reason, financing these businesses to start up is the biggest problem that they have but I do think the Minister of Finance said in her interventions that she is addressing it or an aspect of it.

Comrade Speaker, there is one issue that I think one can regulate and I would support a regulation for that in the Financial Sector and that is the principle that anyone who puts money into an institution must at least get out what was put in. I have some examples of LifeStart accounts for young people and students, which are saving accounts that are getting less and less every month because of deductions of fees and all sorts of things.

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I think it is a very strong principle to say there must be a principle that can be regulated that you may not get out less than what you put in.

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order. Honourable Angula.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: The item under discussion is called consideration of Report on the Familiarisation Visit by the Parliamentary Standing Committee to the Otjozondupa Region. That is the item we are discussing and I do not know now how this item turned out to be (incomplete).

HON SPEAKER: I really want the Honourable Deputy Minister to be able to respond. Let us complete the item unless somebody wants to adjourn it.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I think I rest my case, I said what I wanted to say so I will sit down.

HON SPEAKER: I give the Floor back to the Deputy Minister. Are you finished? If that is the case, does Honourable Amathila wish to reply?

HON AMATHILA: Honourable Speaker my understanding was that there was request on the Floor by Comrade Nujoma that this discussion be

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ADJOURNMENT

adjourned to next week Tuesday or so.

HON SPEAKER: Yes, further discussion of this Report stands adjourn until Tuesday next week.

On that happy ending and I can repeat, bring an appropriate Motion to the Floor so that we would devote all our time and all our collective intelligence on that particular Motion. Parliament is for hijacking but I do not think we are doing justice to what we are discussing. We are being recorded outside. On that note, the House stands adjourn until tomorrow 14:30 hours.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:48 UNTIL 2014.10.30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
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The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Are the two Members finished? The Business of the House shall now commence in earnest. Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Honourable Dingara.

**TABLING: COMMUNIQUE ON THE 34TH PLENARY SESSION
OF THE SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM, ARUSHA,
TANZANIA, 14TH -21TH OCTOBER 2013**

HON DINGARA: I lay upon the Table, the SADC Parliamentary Forum Communiqué on the meeting that was held in Arusha Tanzania from the 14th to the 24th of October 2013.

Before that, I want just to make one or two comments. This meeting was attended by all SADC Parliaments except the Parliament of Botswana and Swaziland that have tabled apologies. During the meeting we discussed among others two very important documents:

1. The barometer governing the natural resources of the SADC countries. Since SADC is blessed with a lot of natural resources, a barometer was developed to unify how the countries in the SADC region should go about managing the natural resources. However, the document on this barometer is on its way to Parliament. The Honourable Speaker is still busy to consulting other stakeholders before it will be brought here. I think when we were discussing this document it was very much interesting because it cater. We have had very interesting

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HON DINGARA**

deliberations and are satisfied that if Namibia follows that uniformed route of managing its natural resources with other SADC countries we will be following the right direction. This document will soon be tabled here for discussion.

2. Another impressive document that was also discussed is the refined benchmarks on the democratic elections in SADC countries. It will have much relevance for us who are busy refining our Electoral Law as a country. This document could enrich our discussions and may even lead us to being the first country meeting the comprehensive benchmark for democratic elections among the SADC countries. We are very fortunate that it is just coming the right time. The document will probably reach the House next week for Members to peruse and the Speaker is currently consulting to find the best way of properly informing the Members about this document.

**TABLING: SADC PF STANDING COMMITTEE
ON DEMOCRATISATION, GOVERNANCE
AND GENDER EQUALITY**

HON DINGARA: I further lay upon the Table the Resolutions of the SADC Parliamentary Standing Committee on Democratisation, Governance and Gender Equality.

Although some of the countries have already gone a step further, it was clear that the decision that the Ruling Party in Namibia – the SWAPO Party have taken was making us proud in the conference because there is hope that the outcome of the 2014 Presidential and National Assembly Elections will be in line with the decision of the SWAPO Party.

Come 2015, we believe that more than half of the Parliamentarians will be women. It is our wish that when the time comes to talk about a success story in Namibia, SWAPO Party will be walking tall and high. I so Move,

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HON DR GURIRAB / HON DR NAMWANDI**

Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member. Please table the Report. While the Honourable Member is on his way tabling the Reports, I want to echo what he is saying. This was a very successful conference; it did a lot of homework for all of us as SADC Parliaments. The outcome of this last SADC Parliamentary Forum Conference in Arusha, one of my favourite places, was extraordinary in many respects and as the Reports that will be tabled here soon will indicate, a lot of work has been done for our Electoral Commission. It is an instance of copy and apply and it would expedite the process of preparing for elections that will come next year.

On what Honourable Dingara was saying, great attention was paid to what the SWAPO Party has done but the question is whether the goods will be delivered, we will need to meet half or more representation of women in the National Assembly. The document shall come here, I just wanted to amplify what the Honourable Member has said.

This was just a prelude to the Report that will come and you will have an opportunity to discuss it. Any Other Reports and Papers? Honourable Minister of Education.

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA**

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I lay upon the Table the Annual Report of the University of Namibia (UNAM) for the year ended 2012. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please table the Report. Any other Reports and Papers? Honourable Minister of Finance.

TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

- (i) Regional Council of the Erongo Region for the Financial Year Ended 31 March 2011;
- (ii) Village Council of Leonardville for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2012; and
- (iii) Village Council of Maltahohe for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2012. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Please table the Reports, Honourable Minister. Any further Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Honourable Kaura.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 44:

HON KAURA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on November the 7th 2013, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Education the following:

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MOONGO**

Honourable Minister, it was reported last week in one of our Daily Newspapers that Namibian girls studying in Zimbabwe have resorted to prostitution to make ends meet. Today it is reported in the Namibian that and I quote; “*Nam Students have brought fear deportation over fees. These students are studying in the United States of America, Russia and Zimbabwe*”.

The following is further stated in today's the Namibian that students who are on Government study loans paid through the Namibian Student Financial Assistance say that the loan disbursement take too long although the loans have been reduced despite having been promised full scholarships.

Honourable Minister, what kind of remedial steps do you intent to take to avoid this embarrassing situation, given the fact that there is no shortage of money because last year you returned N\$150 million to the Treasury?

HON SPEAKER: Can the Honourable Member table the question?
Honourable Moongo?

QUESTION 45:

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 7th of November 2013, I shall ask the Minister of Health and Social Services the following questions:

It is a fact that the State and the Private Physiotherapists contributed to the national and comprehensive health services in Namibia. Some of the patients who could not walk, like some of us here, are now walking, thank you very much for the job well done.

1. Is the Minister aware that some long serving physiotherapists at Oshakati and other towns are not registered and still have temporary

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HON MOONGO**

work permits after twenty years on duty?

2. Their work permits have expired and it is difficult to renew them. What is the good reason that State and Private Physiotherapists are working without valid working permits?
3. Is it because there is favouritisms and nepotisms practise at the Registrar's Office in Windhoek?
4. Does it hamper the work of the Health Services, can the Minister explain?

We have cell phone contact numbers of the concerned people on top here, it is not to victimise them but to solicit more information. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Can the Honourable Member please table the question?

Any further Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? None.

I am informed that the Honourable Prime Minister is to enlighten the House on one or two things.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Comrade Speaker and esteemed Members of this House.

We can all be in agreement today that Namibia has a long way in the fight against slavery and the restoration of human dignity amongst our citizens. Our fight for Independence was a fight against subjugation of our masses

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by the oppressive regime of South Africa which had unlawfully inherited our country from another similar regime, that of Germany.

The origins of the SWAPO Party stem from the fight against slavery. The Ovamboland People's Congress which later on became known as the Ovamboland People's Organisation (OPO), was formed by the Namibian workers who were subjected to inhuman treatment under the brutal contract labour system under which workers were only identified by number.

In order to fight this dehumanising system, all Namibian workers were mobilised and SWAPO was formed. The claim of only SWANU being old must now be buried. It must be buried (interjection), I am talking about SWANU not the CoD. When it was realised that the pursuit of peaceful methods to attain our Independence had failed, many Namibian took up the armed struggle to deal an argument blow to slavery and slavery like practices of bondage and forced labour.

At Independence we ensured that fundamental human rights and freedoms enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia would be upheld by the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary. Our Constitution guarantees the protection of life, protection of liberty, respect of human dignity and forbids any practices of slavery and forced labour. It therefore, comes as a shock to us when we learn through the local media that a group which calls itself The Walk Free Foundation had published a damning report claiming that Namibia is amongst the worst countries in the world when it comes to practices of modern day slavery.

I am sure you all will agree that this leaves a bitter taste in our mouths since those who fought tooth and nail to banish slavery are now being accused of enslaving others.

The claims in this report seem to imply Government complicity and that is completely outrageous. We fought for human dignity and ensured that the dehumanising methods practiced by the apartheid regime would be eradicated for good. Yes, we are aware that we are still battling the lingering effects of that regime such as economic exclusion, but to imply

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that close to 16,000 Namibians are under some form of slavery is completely dubious and false.

When the International Monetary Fund or World Bank plan to undertake their study missions to Namibia, they follow a standard procedure of approach in which they inform the Minister of Finance of their intended dates of visit at the various Offices, Ministries and Agencies. After having met all the relevant officials, they proceed to hold a final meeting with the Minister of Finance to review their findings during the mission.

Last week, I met with a large contingency of Economists from the IMF where I engaged in an open and friendly discussion with them in the presence of our Media. Now, if certain organisations would like to come to Namibia secretly or sit somewhere in Australia gathering third party data and coming up with estimates for slavery indicators in Namibia, then the research ability, capacity and general integrity of such an organisation must be questioned.

The definition of slavery accepted in International Law is found in Article 1 of the 1926 Slavery Convention negotiated under the auspices of the League of Nations. It states that, and I quote, “*Slavery is the status or condition of a person over whom any or all powers attaching to the right of ownership are exercised.*” That person does not have free choice since somebody else has control over him/her. According to the so called Walk Free Foundation, they define modern slavery as follows: Slavery like practices such as ***Debt Bondage, Forced Marriage and Sale or Exploitation of Children, Human Trafficking and Forced Labour.*** What is clear is that both the old and new definitions of slavery are similar since they both state that a person cannot be held against his/her free will. I would now like to look deeper into this definition of modern day slavery and whether these practices are happening in Namibia.

Debt Bondage: What some western experts do not understand is that most Namibians are still suffering from apartheid financial exclusion and are therefore, not credit worthy. How can they be under debt bondage? Maybe the Walk Free Foundation can take a look at the recent economic

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meltdowns in the United States and Europe and tell us about debt bondage.

Forced Marriages: Sale or Exploitation of Children: Namibia is a modern State with a 94 % Christian population. It is a country that has fought for the rights of all women and children. SWAPO is a trailblazer in advocating for a 50/50 representation and I hope Parliament will have the same situation. Therefore, we do not engage in, or promote practices of forced marriages.

Sale or Exploitation of Children: Culturally, our children in Namibia, are loved. Yes, we are aware of certain recent acts such as baby dumping which are certainly worrying. Therefore, we will host a conference next year to address issues of baby dumping and passion killings which blight our society. Another thing that should be understood of the Namibian culture is that there is a common practice in which young girls and boys perform certain chores in and around the household. This is not slavery but is a practice which instills discipline in our children and prepares them both physically and mentally for their future transition into adulthood.

Human Trafficking: There are instances where citizens from neighbouring countries Angola and Zambia enter Namibia in search of jobs. However, this is not human trafficking since these people are free to come and go at will. One example, just recently, in Ohio, US, a man locked up and chained two women and kept them in the basement of his house for a decade. On the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) website it states the following about human trafficking: It is sad but true, “here in this country (USA), people are being bought, sold and smuggled like modern-day slaves.” I, therefore, think these researchers are looking at the wrong country.

Forced Labour: SWAPO was formed to combat the contract labour system. Subsequently, the Namibian Government has made Amendments to the *Labour Act* to severely limit or prevent labour hire companies from operating in the country. Government, in collaboration with Labour Unions has ensured that the rights of workers are protected.

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HON MAAMBERUA**

Given what I have stated, I would like to invite the members of the Walk Free Foundation to pay a visit to Namibia. I will gladly meet with them, before they can take me on a tour to all the areas where slavery exists in this country, I will escort them so that they can point out those slaves. In the absence of that, I would like to out rightly condemn the Global Slavery Index and reject it with the contempt it deserves.

We are trying to build a Nation here, so if the Walk Free Foundation has no work to do then I will talk to the Australian Government to give them work. Your ratings and so-called indexes will not change any views on this country and the progress that we have made to fight for human rights. We will continue to build on the strong foundation we have set and we will continue to defend our reputation as a peaceful and progressive Sovereign State. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. *Alluta Continua.* Honourable Maamberua.

**QUESTIONS, CONTRIBUTION AND COMMENTS
TO THE MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Speaker, thank you very much for granting me the Floor. Allow me to subscribe to what the Honourable Prime Minister said, more specifically that, as Patriotic Namibians, we need to send our strongest objections to anybody, any Party, any country, any organisation, any institution that attempts to taint the good name of our Republic and anybody who attempts to derail the gains of our revolution after Independence. By the same token, I would also want to register my strong feeling that there can never be any attempt to bury SWANU alive whilst I am here.

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HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

The first Executive of SWANU that was formed on the 27th of September 1959, had as Executive Members, the then President of OPO in the name of Comrade Dr Sam Nujoma, the Father of the Nation. Therefore, the history of Namibia, more specifically the history of SWANU, cannot be done away with. SWANU is the first political formation in this country. The ideals of OPO, the ideals of the Namibian people, were all incorporated in the programme of the liberation of SWANU.

The successor to our forefather's and foremother's revolution that resisted against German, Portuguese and British Colonialism was then taken up by a revolutionary formation in the name of SWANU. Therefore, let us please keep history as it is, SWANU is the first Political Party or Political Formation in this country.

Otherwise, with those facts, let us unite as Namibians and fight against any foreign invasion or intruders. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Minister of Home Affairs.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I instantly requested for the Floor to thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister for taking the opportunity to nip this story in the bud at the right time. Some countries and some races on earth arrogate to themselves the right to enslave, to eliminate and to dehumanise and after they have finished doing that precisely, they will stand on the other side and start accusing the innocent.

I think certain people on earth should be introspective enough to assume the responsibility and harm they have caused to human race. Certain countries have become to be what they are on account of the fact that they have eliminated the indigenous people of those countries.

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HON KAURA**

Not only did they enslave them, they have physically eliminated them and I thought these people will be the least to raise issues completely out of context just because they want to clear the conscience. If we talk of genocide, there is really no other race on earth that has caused mass murder of Tribes and Nations like them. There is none, it is them alone! Today they stand on the other side and start accusing others innocently.

I do not want to dilute what the Right Honourable Prime Minister has said, he has put the issue in context and I will also appeal that we should not dilute this matter by bringing in strenuous issues that can be discussed separately, otherwise we will really reduce this discussion into some minor laughable issues. Comrade Speaker, that is what I wanted to say. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I hope that we will have a special conference on SWANU. Honourable Kaura.

HON KAURA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Before I come to what the Honourable Prime Minister has just said because I thought he was referring to another country and not Namibia.

I was looking at the 4th Session of the Children's Parliament on Page 11, and I was struck by what I just read here, let me read it to you; *"Namibia was among the first countries to Sign and Ratify the Convention of the Rights of the Child and has signed several Key International Agreements aimed at Protecting Children's Rights."* However, America is among the only three countries that have not ratified the United Nations' 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, which UNICEF calls the first Legally Binding International Instrument to Incorporate the Full Range of Human Rights, Civil, Cultural, Economic, Political and Social Rights."

Now, apparently when President Obama was asked the question about this

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non-ratification, he said; *“it is important that the United States return to its position as a respected global leader and promoter of Human Rights. It is embarrassing to find ourselves in the company of Somalia a lawless land and I will review this and other Treaties and ensure that the United State resumes its global leadership in Human Rights.”*

These people are not talking about the United States which has not yet ratified this Convention since 1989 but they are talking about Namibia that has already ratified that. However, when the Honourable Prime Minister stood up, I thought he was going to speak about the incident which took place on a farm near Ovitoto, where someone looking for his goats walking next to a farm, was held at gunpoint, bound, bitten and held captive for three days without food or water, and ultimately thrown back into the Ovitoto Communal Area. That is Mr Hanaseb, he is still suffering from pain and this was meted out by a white farmer.

HON RIRUAKO: Who is his helper?

HON KAURA: Two weeks ago, in Hochfeld, someone was shot, killed and buried with his three dogs in one grave by a young white person in Namibia. While we are preaching reconciliation in this country, these cruelties are meted out against our people but there has not been any vendetta against the people who are doing this while we are reconciled as much as possible over the last 23 years.

While these things are happening to our people, someone in Australia is writing this rubbish. It is unacceptable and very unfortunate. Thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Riruako.

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HON RIRUAKO: I thought that our kith and kin was hopefully, going react on those two incidences. It disturbs, (interjections) I do not want to play like you who play on the graveyard as I do not have that kind of joy.

I am talking to the Speaker who can listen to me with sorrow. There are those who gain support out of matters like these because you salute them, that is why you are acting that way.

Honourable Speaker, I am not saluting anything which really jeopardise the love of this country and I do not want to be in a very harmonious state while I think about serious matters. That is something that can educate on your background in terms of who you are and where you come from.

Comrade Speaker, I am not here to disturb other people but I am disturbed by the character that is taking place in this country. This is a third or fourth day for us to react to Australia, we have to react for our own sake. This disobedient character is imposed against us, it shows us how strong it is, 23 years after Independence. They are still doing what they want and nobody opens his mouth to say stop there.

My query is; how long are we still to take? We are here to protect ourselves not to wait for other people to protect us. That is insult to injury and we cannot tolerate that. There should be these kinds of queries for such people. That is bad news and we do not want to hear that kind of bad news again. A very stern warning has to go to those people who perpetrate this.

The Australian people who were here in Namibia at the Country club told us about how they were treated; how they were subjected to beatings and dismay. We have this kind of information in our hands, about how they were treated and how fought back to uplift themselves the modern era where they are today as respected and dignified people. They were not given these on a silver platter

I read in the *Sun* Newspaper that Germany have stolen all the skulls from the scene and hid them in Perth. I do not want to say anything now, I am

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going to come with something tangible as this is not the House now.
Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you. A Ministerial Statement cannot be a Debate. I would like to thank those who participated in this serious matter. I thank the *Minister of Home Affairs, Honourable Kaura*.

I was about to thank the SWANU leader. When you started, I was looking at him with my mouth open until he went to his tricks. Let me just tell him one thing; there is no SWANU in my speech, I was talking about the serious matter but when I was in the United States during the war between blacks and whites, it was a war.

The blacks were saying they came from Africa, they came from Kingdoms and Empires, they are black and proud. A 30 year old white man looked at that them and said; *listen I am only 30 years old, I never owned any slave but today as I am standing here, I am doctor. What are you with your history?* Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Health.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:
Honourable Speaker, thank you for giving me the Floor.

Honourable Members, yesterday *the Namibian* Newspaper carried an

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article entitled, quote, “**2 More Hunger Deaths**”, written by Nomhle Kangootui. The Article read in part and I quote, “*The latest baby deaths bring the number of children aged below five who have died at the hospital to 30 between September and now.*”

We obviously became concerned and consulted when we read this Article because these deaths have not been reported to my office. I subsequently, informed the Right Honourable Prime Minister just before closure of Parliament yesterday that I had to leave for Grootfontein to get to the bottom of the allegations on the loss of lives due to hunger.

Honourable Speaker, Sir, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Health and Social Services is entrusted with the diagnosis, identification of diseases and finding treatment or cure. If a person is not cured or healed the end result is obviously death, thus, in the same vein, the declaration of death is pronounced by the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

This morning, the senior staff of Grootfontein District Hospital and I were joined by Her Worship the Mayor of Grootfontein and the Chief Regional Officer of the Otjozondjupa Region. We had a grant ward round. I must report in a nutshell that we have a competent team capable of dealing with incidences of malnutrition in the Grootfontein District Hospital.

I demanded amongst others, malnutrition statistics from the Paediatric Ward of the Grootfontein District Hospital from July to September 2013 and I, therefore, have the following information:

The total number of all admitted cases between July and September are 126, with the following breakdown; July - 38, August- 40 and September - 48. Meanwhile the total number of malnutrition cases admitted were July - 11, August - 6 and September – 8, totalling 25.

The total numbers of mortalities for all illnesses were July - 2, August - 2 and September – 3, thus the total is 7.

Total mortalities due to malnutrition were as follows; July - 1, August - 0 and September – 2. Altogether 3 died as a result of malnutrition from July

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to September and not 30 as alleged by *the Namibian* Newspaper of yesterday.

Given this background, I would like to ask *the Namibian* Newspaper through their reporter Nomhle Kangootui, to inform the Nation about the source of their data because I found the story to be misleading, disturbing, and scary and devoid of any factual truth. As a Ministry, we are very transparent and as I said earlier, declaration of death has to be pronounced by us.

Whilst acknowledging the fact that a person may die from starvation, as a Minister, I am yet to be informed of a disease called hunger and the resultant death thereof.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, whilst drought may contribute to food insecurity, one should have a holistic approach to malnutrition.

Let me share with you a synopsis on malnutrition. It predominantly affects children between the ages of 6 months and 5 years. Malnutrition is part of a complex, a bigger picture, for example, insufficient carbohydrates, proteins, fat and other micro nutrients in the diet and chronic illnesses; for example, diarrhoea are some of the major contributing factors to malnutrition.

Other factors include:

- Poverty: When a family can only afford carbohydrates rich and low protein food it results in malnutrition;
- Low Level of Education: This entails limited access to good jobs and less knowledge about correct food preparation practices;
- Early cessation of breastfeeding: Some mothers return to work early, leaving babies with grandmothers;
- Migration from rural to urban areas results in informal settlements

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with limited access to safe, portable water, poor sanitation as well as inadequate food. This can lead to diarrhoeal disease and eventually to malnutrition. An infant who contracts two or more diarrhoeal diseases per year, particularly when persistent, runs a high risk of developing malnutrition.

- An increase in teenage pregnancy results mostly in premature babies, who are prone to malnutrition. This morning, we came across a 16 year old who is highly pregnant and the boyfriend is nowhere to be found. Obviously, the baby to be born stands a risk of malnutrition. An experience of a dumped baby was another example. Just there in Grootfontein, a young woman and her unemployed boyfriend dumped a baby who was only saved by an aunt who, fortunately, brought the baby to the Grootfontein Hospital. The baby is now recovering.
- HIV epidemic: Parents who are weak to feed the child may die and leave Child Headed Households.
- Alcoholism with its devastating effects particularly when women are involved; and
- Lack of arable land to grow food, especially for farm workers living on commercial farms with no access to land, poor sanitation, low immunisation coverage. All these are contributing factors to malnutrition.

Honourable Speaker Sir, Honourable Members, Namibia has been experiencing a worrisome increase in the number of children suffering from malnutrition in recent years. I was privileged to attend a meeting called by His Excellency, the President, to address the Honourable Regional Governors on the state of drought in the country, that was before he declared drought as an emergency. I called on all Regional Health Directors to inform me on the status of malnutrition in their respective Regions. At the time, most Regions were experiencing far less cases of malnutrition compared to the same time last year.

The current drought has merely aggravated the situation. There was also a

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lack of coordination within Government to address the problem of nutritional disorders. This has resulted in almost vertical and at times poorly coordinated nutrition programmes. As you may be aware by now, this is being address through the Namibia Alliance for Improved Nutrition (NAFIN) in the Office of the Prime Minister. It is currently being coordinated by the Former Prime Minister, Honourable Nahas Angula.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, finally my emphasis is; we have not declared any death as a result of drought in Namibia, however, malnutrition is prevalent. I prepared a printout for your information, a handout on what malnutrition is all about. It centres on poverty. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. On that note the House shall adjourn for tea and we come back as soon as possible.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:56

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:28

HON SPEAKER: The Business of the House resumes. The First Notice of a Motion is one of Honourable Ulena. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion?

HON ULENGA: I do, Honourable Speaker.

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HON SPEAKER: Who seconds? Any objections? Agreed to.
Honourable Ulena has the Floor.

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HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, I was going to be shocked to death if there was going to be nobody to second my Motion, especially just for the mere sense of solidarity.

Honourable Speaker, to pursue the matter a little longer, with many of the Comrades on the other side of the House, we have struggled together through thick and thin. We fought in the same trenches with the Comrades on the other side and nobody wants to stand up and second a mere Motion that I Move in this House.

HON MEMBER: You run away!

HON ULENGA: Run away from where? You are suffering from small little things, what is the run away that you are talking about? You get hurt by small things. We are Comrades, we fought for this country. We fought for multi-party democracy. Do not throw away what you gained. (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Ulena you have the Floor and I want you to motivate the Motion.

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HON MEMBER: This is why you are a lone ranger.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Ulena is the only one having the Floor now?

HON ULENGA: I want to manoeuvre and manipulate this machine so that I can see whether I can deal with this Motion from the advanced technology point of view.

Honourable Speaker, now that the House has returned to its usual respectful mood, I am glad because I want to refer to the issue that the Minister of Education raised yesterday, it touched my heart and when I was putting down the notes regarding this Motion, I decided to refer to what Honourable Dr Namwandi talked about yesterday. I, therefore, motivate this Motion against that sombre background that he painted yesterday as Minister of Education through his eloquent speech that he made in the House addressing the critical situation regarding substance abuse, especially among the youth in our country.

It may as well be that there are more than one large elephant in our very small kraal, if I may continue to use the befitting, though alarming metaphor employed by the Minister. Mr Speaker, the abject and pathetically unhealthy, physical and social conditions of our senior citizens as well as their wretched mental and spiritual state is indeed lamentable. It amounts to a very large dark blot on our cultural and socio-political page.

Honourable Speaker, the sheer lack of physical infrastructure of care in terms of proper institutions and facilities such as properly equipped and properly staffed old age homes, the non-availability of quality Home-Based Care for senior and very senior citizens, is extremely lamentable and it puts a huge question mark over our commitment to Article 95 of our

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Constitution and the oath that we take every day when we assemble at this Parliament namely; that we shall be faithful to the Republic of Namibia and its people and that we solemnly promise to defend and uphold the Constitution and the Laws of the Republic and so on.

Honourable Speaker, with regard to the caring for senior citizens, the situation on the ground is briefly as follows: There is no level of Government that provides anywhere near enough public old age facilities for the use of the general public. As a matter fact, the number of old age facilities open to the general public in the country, at a cost of course, amounts to less than 200 beds in the whole country. These facilities however, do not take in clients who cannot cater for themselves with regard to personal hygiene. They do not take in people who cannot bath themselves, use the toilet and feed themselves. Those very old, whose personal hygiene has to be looked after by a nurse, do therefore, not qualify for these facilities. That means their own families have to shoulder these arduous and strenuous assignment even though the families themselves do not have anyone equipped with this necessary nursing skills to undertake these tasks.

Honourable Speaker, this means that the vast majority of the country is very old, especially when those who are past the age where they could look after themselves in matters of personal hygiene must rely on private Home-Based Care. Even though I do not have the statistics from the National Census with me that was carried out two years ago, Mr Speaker, I guess that the figures of the very senior citizens, runs into tens of thousands if not hundreds of thousands. I came to this assessment because according to the latest statistics, 5% of the population amounts to about 120,000 and I suspect that there will be more than 5% of those of us who are very senior or very old.

Honourable Speaker, the condition of old age can be compared to a disease, a progressively deteriorating and continuously debilitating physical condition that cannot be reversed despite some valiant attempts by some of the most enterprising amongst us of course. Old age cannot be reversed and in the end it just leads to the grave. In other words, Mr

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Speaker, we may manage many minor ailments, we may even beat malaria and keep tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, cancer at bay but with old age, it continuously weakens our physical state, it breaks down our mental fortitude and everyone succumbs in the end.

Honourable Speaker, the senior citizens in our communities, towns, cities and at our villages suffer poor physical and mental health at this very moment that comes with this malady of old age. Many have to bear it alone and unattended, others have only the untrained and unreliable hand of younger members of their family. In the vast majority of situations, there are no basic facilities for satisfactory care for the old; no toilets and bathrooms except the obliging bush. There is no running tap water near enough, no nappies in sufficient numbers, no readily available disinfectants, nobody to look after and treat those ugly painful bed sores. Mr Speaker, I know about the painfulness of bed sores because when I lay wounded in a hospital bed somewhere in this country I developed bed sores in the end that were very difficult to heal.

Many, therefore, suffer the social indignities that come with old age, especially when one bears in mind that many of our senior citizens are very poor, they lack the bare physical and social necessities that could otherwise bring relief, that could minimise physical pain and that could preserve their human dignity even in dying.

Honourable Speaker, maybe human dignity should have been in the heading of this Motion because the most important thing in old age is the preservation of human dignity but human dignity is tied to personal freedom and is tied to one's physical autonomy. It goes together with physical and spiritual self reliance. Disabled or not, one will feel dignified when you can do things on your own, when you can rely on your own head, when you can rely on your own hands.

Physically speaking, when you are in old age, first of all the body loses its usefulness and elasticity, the joints wear out, the bones become brittle to the point of breaking. There is a diseases called *osteonecrosis*. The body's metabolic patterns changes and various foodstuff and drinks are no longer commendable. The skin dries up as it loses fat, it becomes

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wrinkled and one suffers progressive hearing loss and that is also the problem with me personally. I think it is, especially if you had to fire Bazooka missiles from your shoulders in your youth, this hearing loss will catch up with you faster. Your eyesight is no longer its former self. You sometimes even start smiling at the puppy thinking that it is your grandson.

Honourable Speaker, finally, you can hardly get up from your bed and that is if you have one, because for many in our community it is getting up from the floor of their quarters, therefore you need help going to the bathroom, whether to take a bath or to relieve yourself. Somebody has to take your hand like you are a little baby. In the end you cannot even turn around in the bed or on the floor, depending on what you have and that is how the sores come around.

Many suffer the indignities of being shouted at and sworn at by people even less than one quarter of their age. The indignities of being screamed at, being insulted, many have to endure filth, dirt and rot, really squeaky and smelly conditions that come with the inability of removing oneself from the misery. Mr Speaker, perhaps the worst of all is the steadily worsening mental state and there is a disease called *Alzheimer* diseases. This is called the *Alzheimer* disease in sarcastic honour of a German physician Alois Alzheimer who discovered this disease in 1905. One wonders why a disease will be named after you if you discover it, like you are the one who is causing it. *Alzheimer Syndrome* is characterised by wandering, not knowing where you are, memory loss, physical aggression, verbal outbursts, like I see some of the Colleagues on the other side of the House, physical outburst, depression, psychosis and generally speaking, dementia.

These problems associated with old age need care, constant care delivered by trained care professionals, which breed, unfortunately do not generally exist in Namibia. As a matter of fact, many families have to look after their senior and very senior citizens from their meagre resources and without professional assistance.

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Honourable Speaker, there is another threatening phenomenon in this country and that is the changing family structures that are caused by the breakdown of the..., wait where are we now?

HON MEMBER: Alzheimer! (laughter)

HON ULENGA: I tell you it is encroaching upon everybody. I was talking about the changing family structures which are caused amongst others, by the breakdown of the old large extended families through the process of organisation, this means that there are fewer people in the core family to assist with caring for the elderly.

Many caregivers are very old themselves because you find a situation where a grandmother who is 70 years old, is a caregiver to her mother who is 95 years old.

HON ULENGA: That is another problem, division of labour gets where it should not be getting because you were told that it is not for a man to look after the elderly, it is for women. That is another problem that we have to struggle against.

However, Mr Speaker, as I was saying, these old caregivers who are themselves suffering from these problems of old age. Because they have so much work, they suffer mental and physical fatigue and there is something called mental burn out, where you work for 6 months in this kind of condition and after that you just can no longer and some people commit suicide or they threaten to do so.

Meanwhile, senior citizens feel treated shoddily and un-respectfully, they feel humiliated, which they do not deserve and they feel dehumanised

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instead of being treated with dignity, for they themselves wish they were dead.

HON SPEAKER: Can the other Comrades please listen? I do not know but I feel the seriousness of the Motion that is why Honourable Ben Ulenga should have received the entire Assembly seconding the Motion. That is how serious it is. Let us listen to him, he is talking about us. Yes, continue.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, apart from the obvious lack of facilities, there is no awareness amongst us as the country's leaders and decision makers of the problems and difficulties that disturbs the senior community and their caregivers. We, as elected representatives of the people in this country, are required to work out and change these attitude and realities as soon as possible. It can no longer continue to be business as usual. We need to take action that must really result in a sweeping improvement of the situation.

After broadening awareness amongst ourselves, especially amongst the Executive and the political profession generally, and among the professional caregivers and deliverers of services and after we have stimulated good views through Debate, we must provoke action all around so that there is a veritable revolution in the health services with regard to care giving for the old and very old citizens.

Honourable Speaker, I spoke about human dignity. There must be dignity and there must be respect in old age. There must be facilities to help relieve hardship and suffering. There must be trained caregivers on hand, at the side of every senior citizen. There must also be a spiritual council that foster acceptance, humility and wisdom, even in old age. I hear, Mr Speaker, that there are different ways of getting old; with some of us, the older we get, the more desperate we get in trying to achieve. With others; the older they get, they get old in serenity, they know that they are getting

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old but they feel that what they have done is enough so they go down with self-respect and that is where acceptance and wisdom comes from.

Honourable Speaker, I, therefore, ask this House to critically Debate and assess the current conditions and the resources that we avail or that the State avails towards the care for the senior citizens, and I am talking about those who are 60 years and older. Make sure that these resources are increased in the nearest future but first of all, we need to familiarise ourselves more fully with the situation in the country with regard to the old and very old people and we must also familiarise ourselves with the best practices in Southern Africa and the world at large.

I believe, Honourable Speaker, that the best way of doing this, after we have debated, would be to refer this Motion to the relevant Parliamentary Standing Committee and I think in this case the Standing Committee on Human Resources.

Honourable Speaker, the problem of proper care to the senior citizens and the very senior citizens is not a problem facing Namibia only, it is a worldwide phenomenon, I recently saw a documentary on how the conditions are perhaps even worse in the United States of America, where old people are taken from this bed and thrown, flying in the air, landing on the other bed there. People do not have time to work with care because there is so much work, nurses snatch legs here and arms there, just like that. It was happening everywhere. It is a concern with many Governments, perhaps worldwide. As a matter of fact, there is a document that is called **Acceptable Standards for the Treatment of the Old and the Very Old** that emanates from the Republic of Ireland.

Honourable Speaker, I think we in Namibia should eventually have a document like that, that spells out acceptable national standards for the treatment of the old and the very old. I went to the Old Age Home in Katutura that is run by the Municipality or is under the auspices of the Municipality of Windhoek, the City Council. It is a very good facility in the hands of capable nurses who are very friendly and caring people. I was happily surprised to meet one of the daughters of Mac Namara. I was

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happy to see that some of the Struggle Kids are busy working and not just marching on the streets.

However, the one dismaying thing is that there were only about twenty beds available for a City such as Windhoek. One gladdening thing that I found there is that the people were fairly mixed, as white and black in a public Old Age Home in Katutura. However, if you go from town to town in Namibia, these places are very few.

It is also not accepted that people go to these homes amongst our people but if you go into the huts all over the villages in Namibia where the old and very old are hidden, you will be shocked. They do not come out because people tend to be ashamed or embarrassed by their people when they get too old. However, the filthy conditions under which our old people are kept and treated, we need to open up and this thing must be exposed. People who are old must be a public concern, they must be our business as the State and not the business of some embarrassed people there in the villages who want to look nice and not old and not have these skeletons in the cupboard, as they are apparently perceived to be.

Honourable Speaker, on this note, I hope that in the end when we have debated we really come out with a proper acceptable and worthy position that we take as a National Assembly and that we can finally take as a State and as a Government. Thank you very much. I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you for the very sincere, very eloquently delivered Motion. The Floor is open and I give the Floor, first to Minister of Home Affairs.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:
Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Comrade Speaker, I grew up with Honourable Ben Ulenga. I think we have known each other for a period

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of more than 40 years and hearing him, made me to think of so many things and it is not the first time that I hear him addressing an issue on the Floor of Parliament but I must confess that I have never agreed with him like I do now, on this one only.

HON SPEAKER: It is good for a start.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Do not generalise, on this one only. Comrade Speaker, I am not completely prepared to address the issue as eloquently as he did but I felt I must make my contribution today, if not, probably I may not do so due to other commitments.

The Motion, Comrade Speaker, maybe touched us or probably it is so important that all of us really paid serious attention to it, maybe because of the fact that he is talking about us. The journey on which we have embarked, irrespective of where you are standing today, that is the journey you will have to follow unless you pray otherwise and that otherwise cannot be contemplated. All of us want to see ourselves old, to see our grandchildren, to live a life to its fullest and even in the biblical teaching, as children we are taught to respect the old so that we get the blessing and longevity. Everybody prays for that.

Comrade Speaker, nowadays, old age has become a curse. I have also observed that, old people in our country, because probably of the softness of their hearts, we have turned them into the dumping ground for our social problems, for when we have issues that are difficult to handle we go to them and deliver them there. If they are in a position to give us advice, they do so, otherwise we dump those problems there. For those who are of child bearing age, we have made our old people's homes kindergarten homes and them, the caregivers. I am particularly talking about the situation of old people in the rural areas. Their homes are full of children,

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babies and toddlers. Young people are no longer willing to look after their own children and since they cannot afford to take them to the kindergartens, they dump them with either their mothers or grandmother. This, I think has added to the already debilitating situation that Honourable Ulenga has just described.

Old age is also being affected by so many things in our society, not only that people get old and therefore, reach that stage of helplessness, but there are many contributing factors. Firstly, I listened to the Minister of Health as he was giving us his Ministerial Statement on the alleged death of a child in Grootfontein due to hunger. The causes of malnutrition, malnutrition is not only a disease that can affect children, malnutrition is a disease that is affecting our old aged as well. You can literally see a person whose body is worn out on account of inadequate food or deprived nutrients. A person with a body like mine, if you do not give me enough food for a year, if I do not eat enough, you will see how my body will go wobbly, my skin will be hanging. That is how we see the majority of our old people living now. The skin is hanging on the bones because they do not have assistance as Honourable Ulenga talked about it and they are busy looking after the young ones whom we have dropped around their homes. Some old people have also tended to taking alcohol because life has become very unaccommodating for them. Therefore, in order to kill the worries and whatever else, they turn to the bottle.

As I was growing up in the village, I used to see old people smoking a pipe and the belief was that they were killing thoughts and I was asking myself *what thoughts, what do they think about, they are old*. They sip that pipe while thinking. For example, in the North, and I am talking about the North because I know the situation there better, do not just take it that it is only happening in the North. In the North, nowadays you do not see any old person smoking because smoking has been overtaken by tombo. They go to *cuca* shops, get nicely intoxicated and forget about their troubles and suffering. That is where the company is, it is true, they meet there because at their homes they are only with the children and there they chat and talk about the past and all those things.

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I am saying all these things just to show that there is a gap in our society that the old people themselves are trying to fill and I have been asking myself the question, when will we talk about the issue of dumping children with the old? When will that time come, because I have realised that to be a politician apparently is to choose nice topics for discussion that will not anger the voters. (Interjection) no, I did not say that. If we cannot, as politicians, address hard issues affecting our society, whom do we expect to talk about this? Young people in our communities have gone wild. The Honourable Minister here was talking about a 16 year old pregnant girl, if that child, when it is born is not dumped in the toilet or if it survives, whom do you think is going to look after this baby? Not this 16 year old, it is the grandparents. Comrade Speaker, our society is disintegrating in front of our eyes. When you have a pregnant 16 year old who is supposed to be in secondary school to proceed to a university or college and become a professional one day, this 16 year old is sentenced to either selling tombo or just running around the location. From DRC in Swakopmund to Evelyn Street, to Okahandja Park because these youngsters have run away from the parental control, they are now just on their own running up and down meanwhile getting pregnant and dropping these children with the parents or flashing them in the toilets. This issue has been going on for a long time and we are quiet. We are quiet.

One day I attended church service after which the Pastor asked me to say a few words and after my speech the congregation felt they should ask me questions. I allowed them, and one lady posed a question to me, *Madam Minister, when is the Government going to talk to our children who are running around this country and dropping children with us?* I asked, is that the Government responsibility? These are your children, we have nowhere to find them. They are gone, they are there where you are coming from, *we thought you can talk to them we cannot reach them any longer.* They send these babies in boxes, in Kombis. If they see somebody coming from a similar village where their parents are, they ask, *can you take my child to my parents?* The child is dropped there with no penny, nothing, it is for the old person to see to it that the child is baptised because when they come from there, they are not baptised, nothing. The father is not known, leave alone the birth certificate. The old person must

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see to it that this child is given everything including a name, truly. I am putting too many important issues in this Motion and what I am trying to highlight is the fact that what Honourable Ulenga has motivated here is just one aspect of what is happening in our society. There is this issue of young people no longer able to look after their own children, leave alone their parents.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kazenambo.

HON KAZENAMBO: Thank you. Can I ask Comrade Minister a question? Comrade Minister, are you aware that some of those babies who are sent in boxes have no mothers? They have got no mother because the baby is given to the gentleman after being threatened and since he is a man and he is aware that the baby is his, he takes the baby and sends it to his grandmother.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Well that does not mean that the child does not have a mother, it means there is a mother and a father but both of them are in denial, they do not want responsibility. The lack of responsibility in our young people, either to look after their parent or to look after their own offspring is really contributing to the situation that Honourable Ulenga just described. However, one asks oneself, when we look at the host of problems facing Namibia, and I think we want to please ourselves that the only solution lies with the Government. I do not know whether we truly believe in that or we are trying to escape. We rather blame the Government. Who is the Government? Government must have money to educate the children, Government must have money to pay pension to the elderly, Government must have money to create infrastructure, Government must have money to construct hospitals, employ all of us and yet we talk about

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unemployment in the country. When we talk about Government doing this, that and the other, do we also look at the cake itself? Is that cake large enough? Large enough to solve all our problems, is that so? If it is not, then I think we can look at some of these issues differently. The problem caused by children making children is serious and it is core to the worm that is eating on the society as a whole.

Namibia now is known for all kinds of things, heartlessness, somebody giving birth to her own child and put it alive in a plastic bag and throw it away, really. What society is this? How can we instil a sense of responsibility in the minds of our youngsters? I think we have failed at family level. We are failing, our daughters and sons have just taken off, they are gone and I ask myself when are we going to recover them, when? If we can talk about what is eating on our society other than just to jump to the conclusion that Government must provide money and infrastructure and train the people to do a, b, c, d and therefore, solve all the problems, I think we are fooling ourselves. In as much as that I support this Motion, I do not support the recommendations, I do not. Let us address the key problems why the society has disintegrated to this extent. Our people must hear us talking about it here. They are listening but most of the time we come here with Motions just because we want to be heard on the television or something like that. Let us talk about issues that are affecting the society and not just that money should be a solution.

Money cannot be the panacea of everything, no. Let us get the society back where it is supposed to be. Even in America or wherever there are Old Age Homes, I do not think families have broken down the way ours are breaking down. We have alcoholism, we have drug abuse. We used to say Namibia is a transit country for drugs, it is not true, we consume it here. Our children are consuming it, it is here. Let us talk about that, find a solution and then Government which of course has a responsibility over everything else, can come in to support those measures.

The Ministry of Education has a huge responsibility in its curriculum development to address these issues that are affecting the young people. Not all of us are in contact with them. My children are gone, they are big,

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in as much as I want to give, I can maybe just give here and no longer at family level. Children who are in school must be taught some civic duties, civic behaviour, other than just to make provision that when they are pregnant they must be given whatever period to go and look after the children, they do not even look after the children any longer. They dump them and go and finish all the locations (intervention).

HON KAZENAMBO: And boys!

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:

Boys of course, I should not finish without addressing the issue about the role of our men in society.

Comrade Speaker, our men have relinquished any responsibility whatsoever. The only thing remaining with them is the pride, the pride that they are born men. I asked a question (intervention).

HON MOONGO: Not all of them.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Yes, not all of them but some of them. During my upbringing, when people are talking about a man in the family, they do not talk about masculinity but about the value of that person in the family and in the society. Nowadays our men are only proud because they wear trousers.

HON SPEAKER: It is a French expression.

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask a question? Firstly, you are doing very well. Men are only wearing trousers and many of them do apparently not care, they have disappeared.

In the age of equality where we men were, not forced, but convinced by women to be 50/50 in SWAPO because of that kind of thing, how can a man still be a man when we are talking about that?

HON SPEAKER: Continue with what you were saying.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Yes, Comrade Speaker. I was addressing the issue of how I perceived the value of a man when I was growing up. I talked about how I understood the word ‘*man*’ that time. I am quite matured and that era is probably gone when men truly meant a lot to their families and that is why they were even given the title, **Heads of Household**. They were because they were providers; they were the protectors and everything, women felt secured in their presence. Today women feel so insecure in the presence of many of the men in our society. I do not know whether that has come with 50/50 as the Prime Minister is asking me. If it has not, we have moved away so much from who we are supposed to be. I do now know whether it is (intervention).

HON MWANINGANGE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question or maybe guide her in a form of question? Honourable Minister, are you only addressing women as being the elderly and leave out men because the questions are now only comes to men, is this a topic of men? I do not see you addressing old age from the perspectives of both men and women, however, men and women need care when they are aged. Thank you.

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HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: I was moving towards that, just give me time. I talked about ladies, how they behave and the impact of their behaviour on the old aged, now I am addressing the other part to the issue of old age.

When men are now in the age of productivity, when they are supposed to protect, provide and deliver, it is when they live a loose life and when old age comes, it finds them and it makes them so vulnerable. Imagine if they have impregnated so many ladies and they took no responsibility whatsoever, (interjections) I am talking about some, I am not generalising. It is unfortunately a large percentage. They do not have homes. Do you realise how many men in our society are not willing to form families, a phenomenon that was not there before. Today we have many men who just do not want to form families. Today they squat with this one, tomorrow they are with the *kamboroto* that side and another *kamboroto* here.

HON MOONGO: On a serious note, we have been listening carefully but Honourable Ulenga did not bring things which can tarnish images. The reason men do not want to get married is because women of today are not trustworthy. You marry her and she is already involved with three or four other boyfriends. Therefore, they are not honest, they do not stick to one man and they do not serve men properly. That is why men are not eager to marry anymore.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Ithana.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: I am not denying that, I am just leading you to the consequences of this type of behaviour. This man who does not form a family, who has no children

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attached to him as his own offspring, imagine if the day he becomes old, who is going to give him the social support? If he becomes disabled where does he fall? Families are formed to give that sense of security that in the event of disability, in the event of old age, there is social support somewhere, nearby. These are the type of people you find hidden in the homes Honourable Ulenga talked about.

HON MEMBER: In the huts.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: In the huts, they were working but never provided for anybody in their lives, they drank money and ate their money, they womanised until they reached that age. Now what do you expect? What do you expect that person to look like? He is a reject in society, a rejected old person.

Comrade Speaker, that is why I am saying let us talk about what is at the root of our society and what causes our old people too be in a state in which we see them today. That way we can see the best possible way of addressing issues and see how the Government can come in and give the necessary support.

Honourable Speaker, having said so, I support the Motion but let us look at the recommendations properly and not just push everything to the Government. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Kaura.

HON KAURA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable

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Speaker as you know, the topic of senior citizens has always been very close to my heart and you know at the age of 5 I lost two people I loved very much. One was my grandfather and the second one was an elderly San man. During those days, especially in the herero culture, when somebody passes away, we young people were not told that that person has passed away, we were send to the country side with older children and the burial was done secretly. When you come back and you are looking for the grandmother and you cannot find her, you know that the ceremony is over and things like that. You keep asking where the grandmother? And you are just told *she went somewhere she is going to come back* but she never came back.

The other one was an elderly San man who used to bring me berries and all these types of things and he also disappeared. Now what I learnt later in those days is that in the San culture when the person became elderly and he could no longer hunt and things like, that they felt that he has become a liability, he is taking a lot of food but not bringing in anything so they used to say that we have killed an eland somewhere, we must move over there and go and eat that eland. This elderly person would follow and after they have moved so many kilometres into the countryside, the young people used to run away and leave him behind and he will die of exposure. This is what happened to this elderly man and the young people disappeared and he died of exposure and I was looking for him I could not find him. Later in the years I learnt that that was the case.

Honourable Speaker, we age differently, unfortunately or fortunately people age differently. Now look at His Excellency, President Mugabe, look at him at 89, compare him to some other people, he looks as if he is 50 years old. He looks very young at 89. People age differently and I have learnt that our Founding President, our Founding Father, His Excellency President Nujoma, if he goes to the farm many of us might be younger but if you go walking with him in the countryside he might leave you behind in the bush, I mean he is still physically fit, so people age differently.

Last month I stopped at an Agra Shop in Outjo and some young man came

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running to me and said your sister is in the car so I walked over to her and I greeted her, I said, *now okay where are you coming from?* She said, *I am coming from Windhoek.* I said, *you look nice* and she said, *yes, but you see your daughter*, referring to my elder brother's daughter, *your daughter was looking well after me, she was washing me, feeding me and giving me my medication on time but I am going back to the farm, Windhoek is not home, I am not going back to Windhoek.* She is 93 years old but she is not prepared to stay in Windhoek with my daughter looking after her, washing her, giving her food on time and everything, it is not home, she is going back to the farm at 93. You know I asked, *but why?* She said, *no, no I am going back home I cannot stay in Windhoek, at the age of 93.* People age differently and the home environment is so important, especially when people were staying in the countryside looking after their chicken and things like that. Many of our elderly people never went senile because they remained active mentally and physically, so somehow I am not very much excited about Old Age Homes.

I read in the newspaper last month that the first time, 2 of our white countrymen, one is 68 years old and the other 72 years old are at the Katutura Old Age Home. You can imagine, the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Mbumba or me age 72 is just a number. You know *Tjiramue* business among the Hereros, these young girls say, *you are old*, I say, *age is just a number.* You know I hope with our born frees, our young people (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: No, I want you to finish, continue. Let him finish just, 2 more minutes.

HON KAURA: Thank you. With our born frees, our young people who are born in Namibia, might be able to accumulate their own pensions by the time they reach 60 so they will be able to take care of themselves like in developed countries, Germany, Great Britain whatever, there is home

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care, people stay at their own homes and they are cared for at their own homes, they do not need to go to an old age home.

I read about these two people, one of them the 72 years old person, the family members are in Switzerland, it is a question of accommodation, if you do not have a place where you can be accommodated, with N\$600.00, where would you find shelter? I think that is the basic problem. In the countryside, I can put up my own *pondok* and I can sleep there. I can make a house for myself to sleep in when in the countryside but if I do not have any place in the countryside, like my sister who has a house on the farm, where do you go to if there is no Old Age Home?

Honourable Speaker, therefore, that is the problem, these two people are no longer employable, they cannot get a job to rent a house or a flat or anything and they are getting N\$600.00 a month and they have nowhere to go, so these are the people Honourable Ben Ulenga is talking about that they have to be looked after.

HON SPEAKER: Can you please repeat, your microphone was not on.

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Honourable Kaura, are you not happy with the N\$600.00 which we are giving our old aged people that is just to look after them, if we do not included our children in their budget, is it not enough because we have surpassed the N\$500.00 that you were initially demanding and we are now going to reach N\$1,000.00, is it not enough? Thank you.

HON KAURA: Honourable Minister, it is not enough because inflation keeps going up and the standard of living keeps going up, where N\$500,00 could have been enough ten years ago, N\$500,00 is no longer

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enough. Take N\$600.00 on your own and go to one of our markets here, I do not want to mention the names, just decide and see for yourself what you are you going to buy with N\$600.00 today in Windhoek. If I am in the countryside with N\$600.00, I can buy a bag of maize meal, some sugar, tea and coffee and things like that and maybe some people may give me a piece of meat once in a month. I can survive on N\$600.00 in the countryside where I am not paying rent but not in Windhoek.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Just a quick one. It is a question to solicit information. Honourable Kaura, is asking what an elderly person can do with N\$600.00 per month, you are right there but do you also know that there are people who are working, labouring everyday and that is probably the money they get or even less, perhaps N\$300.00? Now when a Government has so much to do in terms of responsibilities, what about those who are working yet their bosses are giving them less than N\$600.00 per month, how do they survive?

HON SPEAKER: You will have an opportunity tomorrow afternoon, Honourable Kaura to respond to that question and to continue with your contribution. The House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2013.10.31 AT 14:30
