

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
13FEBRUARY 2019**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I have the honour to welcome all of you from a long recess, a very dry December and January. We hope we will receive rain in February.

Today is the opening of Parliament. We are also blessed to have one of our senior citizens, former President among us. *Tatekulu Pohamba* and *Meme Pohamba*, please welcome. (*Applause*) The other dignitaries will be properly welcomed by the Speaker.

Honourable Members, having said that, I wish to announce that today, the 13th of February 2019, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia, Dr Hage Geingob, will officially open the Ninth Session of the Sixth Parliament of the Republic of Namibia.

Honourable Members, I will now suspend the Business of the House and ask my Colleague, the Vice-Chairperson of the National Council, Honourable Sibalatani, to go and invite His Excellency the President, accompanied by the Speaker.

In the meantime, please remain standing until His Excellency the President's procession has entered the Chamber. So agreed.

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**WELCOMING REMARKS
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

WELCOMING REMARKS

HON SPEAKER: Kindly be seated. As usual, we keep a minute or two for the media to do what they are expected to do and then we will be requesting them to give us time to get started. Thank you very much for your understanding and cooperation.

We have now come to the point where we should get started. Your Excellency Dr. Hage Gottfried Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia and First Lady, Madam Monica Geingos; Your Excellency Nangolo Mbumba, Vice-President of the Republic of Namibia; Your Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, former President of the Republic of Namibia, and Madam Pohamba; Honourable Margaret Mensah-Williams, Chairperson of the National Council and Mr Williams; Your Lordship Justice Peter Shivute, Chief Justice; Honourable Members of Parliament; Your Lordship Justice Petrus Damaseb, Deputy Chief Justice and Members of the Judiciary; Your Worship Mr. Muesee Kazapua, Mayor of the City of Windhoek; Your Excellences Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Members of the Diplomatic Corps; Distinguished Service Chiefs; Mrs. Rosemary Jane Katjavivi, my Dear Wife; Madame Joan Guriras; Eminent Invited Guests; Members of the Media; Ladies and Gentlemen;

Once again, the three Organs of State have come together, at this very important event in keeping with the Constitution of the Republic.

Last week, we came together for the Opening of the Judicial Year. That was extremely important and all of us were there.

I wish to thank Honourable Loide Kasingo, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, for presiding over the first phase of today's proceedings.

On my own behalf and that of Honourable Margaret Mensah-Williams,

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Chairperson of the National Council, let me extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Dr Hage Gottfried Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia, and the First Lady, Madame Monica Geingos and, of course, to all our honoured guests who are so invited to witness this important national event.

I also wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the presence of three Honourable Members of Parliament of the Republic of Kenya, present in the Gallery. I wish they could indicate where they seated, so that we can welcome them. You are welcome to Namibia. (*Applause*) Our dear colleagues are here visiting us to network and exchange views on matters of mutual interest. After all, Kenya and Namibia are very close partner countries, otherwise we could be regarded as sister countries.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, as we start the New Year 2019, it is appropriate to acknowledge that 2018 was a busy year for many of us here in the House, and very much so in your case, Comrade President. Your daily routines at home have to take into account other duties that call upon your time within the context of our global village.

This has become even more demanding since you assumed the Chairmanship of the SADC, a position which we are proud that you hold, bringing Namibian experience and knowledge to bear on regional and continental issues. Such duties and engagements are essential in terms of promoting our country in all aspects of national development and playing our role on the world stage.

Comrade President, you will have noticed that our theme for the opening of the 2019 Legislative Year is, ***“Promoting Integrity, Accountability and Professionalism.”*** These are core values of Good Governance. Let me briefly touch on this theme.

The issue of integrity is central to any Parliamentary democracy, because Parliamentarians are the representatives of the people. By agreeing to meet certain ethical criteria and by taking an oath, Members of the Namibian Parliament commit themselves, in good conscience, to ethical

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behaviour.

Accountability

Parliament is mandated to hold the Executive to account in terms of its powers and functions as stipulated in Article 63 of the Namibian Constitution.

A Member of Parliament who executes oversight over other public officials should also be accountable to the public, first and foremost.

Professionalism

This is at the core of the *Public Service Amendment Act, 2012* (Act 6 of 2012) and the Public Service Staff Rules on Public Service Code of Conduct, which underpin the conduct of civil servants in Namibia as a whole. They are expected to display a high degree of professionalism in the execution of their duties.

Integrity, Accountability and Professionalism are some of the Core Values stipulated in the Strategic Plan of the National Assembly.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, last year, 2018, 20 Bills were passed by Parliament. This was over and above other important Business that the Parliament dealt with during the course of that year.

So far, we already have 16 anticipated Bills that will come before the House during the course of 2019. This number may increase during the course of the year and we stand ready as Parliament to take all the important Bills on as they come along.

Lastly, I would like to inform the Nation that the Namibian Parliament and the Office of the Ombudsperson, congratulated the Namibian Nation last week, on celebrating 29 years of Constitutionalism. We reaffirm our dedication to ensure that, going forward, we enhance the observation of Namibia's Constitution Day, 9th of February, and hope to do this in a

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special way. Comrade President, I do not need to tell much about the Constitution as you presided as the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee and it is something that you are familiar with, and we have taken note of your own contribution to the marking of this important national day. We need to continue to celebrate the adoption of our Constitution and to remind our citizens that it is an important milestone in the history of our country.

Having made these few remarks, I now request the President of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency Dr. Hage Gottfried Geingob, to address Parliament. *(Applause)*

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HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA: Thank you. Please be seated. Mr. Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable Professor Peter Katjavivi and Madam Katjavivi; Chairperson of the National Council, Honourable Margaret Mensah – Williams and Mr. Williams; Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia and Leader of Government Business in the House, Right Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa–Amadhila; Leader of the Official Opposition, Honourable McHenry Venaani; Honourable Members of Parliament; Vice-President of the Republic of Namibia, Comrade Nangolo Mbumba and Madam Mbumba; Oh yes, I did not know that my former boss is here, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba and Madam Pohamba *(Applause)* They miss you *(laughter)* Your Lordship Peter Shivute, Chief Justice; Your Lordship Petrus Damaseb, Deputy Chief Justice, Honourable Judges and other Members of the Judiciary; Madam Monica Geingos, the First Lady of the Republic of Namibia, which means she is married to me *(laughter)* *(applause)* Honourable Laura McLeod-Katjirua, Governor of the //Khomas Region; Your Worship Mr. Muesee Kazapua, Mayor of the City of Windhoek; Distinguished Service Chiefs; Your Excellencies, Members

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of the Diplomatic Corps and all the visitors from the Parliament of the sister Republic of Kenya, welcome; Members of the media; Ladies and Gentlemen;

On February 5, 2019, I opened the first Decision-Making Cabinet Meeting of the year, thereby marking the beginning of the work of the Executive for the year 2019. At that meeting I called on all Cabinet Members to strictly adhere to the principles of accountability while spearheading the Business of the State.

On February 6, 2019, I officiated at the opening of the 2019 Legal Year, thereby marking the beginning of the work of the Judiciary for the year 2019. During the opening, I stressed the importance of maintaining of public confidence in our judicial system and that this starts by having a judiciary that is free from improper influence from the other branches of Government.

Today, we mark the Opening of the Ninth Session of the Sixth Parliament, and the commencement of the work of Members of Parliament, under the theme, ***“Promoting Integrity, Accountability and Professionalism.”*** We find ourselves all under one roof, representing all three Organs of the State. Although we all have to carry out specific functions, our being together on this day is a symbol of our unity of purpose, our patriotism and our unwavering commitment to developing Namibia into an economically developed and prosperous Nation.

Parliament, as the legislative body of State, is the linchpin of our Governance Architecture; carrying out critical functions such as lawmaking, representation of the electorate and oversight of government activities.

The execution of these vital functions and the responsibility of representing the electorate, requires that parliamentarians should be paragons of virtue.

Why are concepts such as integrity, accountability and professionalism

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pivotal to the function, not only of the Legislature, but all three Organs of State? Meredith Edwards, in her paper **The Trust Deficit - Concepts and Causes of Low Public Trust in Governments**, highlights their importance by stating, *“Trust in government has been identified as one of the most important foundations upon which the legitimacy and sustainability of political systems are built. Trust is essential for social cohesion and well-being as it affects governments’ ability to govern and enables them to act without having to resort to coercion. Consequently, it is an efficient means of lowering transaction costs in any social, economic and political relationship.”*

Worryingly, we are living at a time in which there is a trust deficit between the public and governments. The Organisation for Economic Development and Corporation (OECD) indicates that during the last decade, the world has witnessed a growing decline in trust among the general public towards democratic institutions. Issues such as perceived corruption are negatively affecting accountability and political credibility. It is for this reason that I use the formula **Accountability + Transparency = Trust**.

Our Parliament, as the primary symbol of our democracy, is an essential element in our efforts to combat corruption and to promote integrity.

Oversight over the executive structures of Government gives Parliament the scope and power to introduce measures and Laws, which will ensure that integrity is the norm, rather than the exception when it comes to the Business of Government.

As a Government, we have set ourselves high targets that we aim to achieve, in our concerted drive towards a more prosperous Namibia. In addition, we have also declared war on social ills such as poverty and corruption.

We understand that none of these goals are achievable in the absence of effective governance and this is why we have made it the first pillar of our Harambee Prosperity Plan, which advocates for the increase of

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accountability and transparency, as well as the improvement of performance and service delivery.

Integrity, accountability and professionalism are the foundations of effective governance. This in turn, enhances our pursuit of our development objectives, while at the same time, protect us from debilitating behaviours such as corruption. It is crucial that we improve the trust that people have in government and that should begin here, in Parliament, where the representatives of the electorate endeavour to fulfil the important function of keeping our democratic institutional systems accountable and transparent.

I have said that the sign of a fully functioning democracy is the existence of robust and well-founded processes, systems and Institutions. If Parliamentary Institutions are mistrusted and perceived to be corrupt, it places a serious challenge to our democracy and subsequently our ability as Government to deliver on our promises to the electorate.

At this juncture, I wish to address the issue of decorum and how the way we conduct ourselves in public and in our work spaces can affect public perception of our Institutions and Government as a whole. Individuals who work in public life should adhere to certain professional and ethical standards.

All Parliamentarians should behave according to a strict code of conduct and their attitude and work should be aimed at reflecting the will of the electorate and not their individual will. I am aware that legislators encounter situations every day that place them at the crux of ethical dilemmas and it is due to this reason that Members of Parliament should possess irrefutable professionalism. This being the case, I hope, Comrade Speaker, that this year of accountability, we will no longer witness the lack of Quorums in Parliament. I did not say Opposition, I said lack of Quorum. *(Laughter)*

As the representatives of the people, we should always be mindful of the fact that the most valuable asset that we possess is our reputations. Once

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one's reputation is damaged, one's effectiveness becomes impeded. Subsequently, ineffectiveness of politicians will have adverse consequences on our governance architecture, leading to losses in Government revenue, lower quality public investment and public services, reduced private investment and loss of public confidence.

Comrade Speaker, listening to your press briefing several days ago, I am confident that as our Parliamentarians prepare to resume the business of Parliament, we will witness improved integrity, accountability and professionalism from the word go.

I encourage our Parliamentary Committees to carry on from where they left off in 2018, undertaking visits to the regions, investigating Government projects and conducting public hearings on pertinent issues such as gender based violence and teenage pregnancies. I did not say overseas visits, I encourage the Committees to visit the electorate here. *(Laughter)* The work of the Parliamentary Committees plays a vital role in the development of our country.

Parliamentary Committees give Members of Parliament and the public a chance to play a part in the formation of public policy. They allow Parliament to scrutinise the Executive more effectively, thereby making the Executive more responsible to the electorate.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am aware that there are 14 bills lined up to be tabled during this year's Session of Parliament, these are:

1. *Divorce Bill – not implying divorce (laughter)*
2. *Legal Practitioners Act Amendment Bill*
3. *Ombudsperson Bill*
4. *Magistrates' Courts Amendment Bill*
5. *Combating of Rape Amendment Bill*

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6. *Child Justice Bill*
7. *High Court Amendment Bill* (Rule 108 Amendment)
8. *Combating of Torture in Persons Bill*
9. *Electronic Transactions Bill*
10. *Bank of Namibia Bill*
11. *Namibia Post and Telecom Holdings Dismantling Bill*
12. *Control of Importation of Dairy Products and Substitutes Amendment Bill*
13. *Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil Amendment Bill*
14. *Maritime Authority Bill*

I wish to elaborate on a few of these Bills.

Ombudsman Bill: The Office of the Ombudsman, which is a constitutionally established office, must have much greater independence and enforcement powers in order to properly carry out its human rights functions. The Bill makes provision for this restructuring in terms of the international standards of Ombudsman Offices.

The Combating of Rape Bill: The Amendment seeks to make the Act much more victim-centred by placing additional duties on the prosecutor when dealing with bail applications and stating guidelines for service providers who deal with rape complainants. We have witnessed many disturbing instances in our society where individuals arrested for committing rape are released on bail, only to reoffend and cause more physical and mental trauma in our communities.

As the Supreme Lawmaker, Parliament should introduce Laws to help us

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combat social ills that are hampering socio-economic progress in our country. Furthermore, we should ensure that all unjust Laws of the past regimes are replaced with just Laws. *(Applause)* Our people cannot continue to be subjected to archaic and discriminatory Laws anymore.

Electronic Transactions Bill: The Bill aims to promote legal certainty and confidence in electronic transactions and communications; to promote eGovernment services and electronic commerce and communications with Public and Private Bodies, Institutions and citizens; to develop a safe, secure and effective environment for the consumer, businesses and public agencies or bodies to conduct and use electronic transactions; and to promote the development of electronic transaction services that are responsive to the needs of online consumers.

Maritime Authority Bill: The rationale for the Bill is to create a Maritime Authority, which functions on a user-pay principle, so that it is self-sustaining.

This is essential for Namibia to be able to regulate foreign ships entering the harbour under international jurisdictions known as flag states.

Two more Bills, namely the *Basic Education Bill* and the *Public Enterprises Governance Bill*, were referred back to the National Assembly by the National Council for reconsideration.

The tabling of these Bills during this Session, demands absolute commitment and a high work ethic from Legislators, in order to ensure that Parliament maintains a high success rate in passing these Bills. As a result, I expect lively, informative, educative and serious Debates, as you discuss these Bills. I call on all Parliamentarians, once more, to be punctual and endeavour to attend all Sessions of Parliament. Let your attendance and punctuality be a source of your pride rather than allowing tardiness and absenteeism to be a source of your shame.

The year of accountability calls upon us to rise to the challenges facing Namibia. It is a defining year. A year in which we either decide to hold

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hands and pull together to consolidate and build upon our hard earned gains or risk losing the decades of progress we have made since our Independence.

I look forward to a year where our Parliament will display integrity in representing the electorate, promote accountability through providing oversight and display undoubted professionalism in the crafting of legislation.

Comrade Speaker, with these words, it is my honour to now declare the Ninth Session of the Sixth Parliament of Namibia officially open. *(Applause) (Ululation)*

I wish you all a year of great success. May God Bless the Republic of Namibia. I thank you. *(Applause)*

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. There you have it. Comrade President allow me, once again, to thank you on behalf of the Parliament of the Republic of Namibia for your insightful presentation.

Among the number of issues covered is one particular aspect, which I am sure various Party Whips present in the House have taken note of. That is, to ensure attendance, when the Parliament is in Session. It is an appeal that I have personally made, not so much with respect to the National Council, I do not think that is an issue there, the National Assembly. *(Applause)* I will not shy away from drawing such distinction.

However, let me not stop there, but also take the opportunity to amplify the words of the United Nations' Secretary-General, who commended you for your wise leadership both at home and abroad. Indeed the world is taking note of your wise counsel. *(Applause)*

As you preside over the affairs at home in Namibia and deal with some of the critical issues confronting us in our region within SADC, on the

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continental level, as well as beyond the continent of Africa and the world at large, as a country, we derive joy from your exemplary leadership. I think we need to acknowledge that and simply say, in a very plain language – well done Mr President! *(Applause) (Ululation)*

That said and done, I now have the pleasure to call upon Honourable Margaret Mensah-Williams, Chairperson of the National Council, to give a Vote of Thanks.

VOTE OF THANKS

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. When the Speaker started with his welcoming remarks, I was looking to see whether he is paperless. *(Laughter)* That is on a lighter note. Thank you very much. *(Intervention)*

HON SPEAKER: Yes, I have my system right here. *(Laughter)*

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. Your Excellency Dr Hage Gottfried Geingob and he is not only the President of the Republic of Namibia, he is a President of the world. *(Applause)* We should be proud, because the Speaker just mentioned about the acknowledgement that we get, which means we are sharing our Leader with the world. *(Applause)*

Madam First Lady, our beautiful First Lady of the Republic of Namibia, one and only; Your Excellency our beloved Vice-President of the

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Republic of Namibia. Yes! He does not know he is beloved (*laughter*); our gentle giant, the former President Hifikepunye Pohamba and Madam, you are not my equal. Let me also acknowledge Right Honourable Prime Minister, Madam Sarah Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and the Deputy Prime Minister, our esteemed Lordships, Chief Justice Shivute and the Deputy Chief Justice Damaseb; and all of us present here, all protocol observed.

It is an honour and privilege for me, on behalf of both Houses of Parliament, to Move a Vote of Thanks to all our invited guest who are present here today, Your Excellency and the entire Namibian Nation on the occasion of the Official Opening of Parliament for the year 2019.

Your Excellency, the Honourable Speaker has just highlighted in his welcoming speech as we have witnessed yet another spectacular opening ceremony that we as Namibians can all be proud of. Although we have done this for many years, the opening of Parliament never ceases to draw on one's deep sense of patriotism.

However, before I deliver the Vote of Thanks, please allow me to further add onto the Honourable Speaker's welcoming speech on this year's theme, which is: ***"Promoting Integrity, Accountability and Professionalism."*** In choosing this theme for Parliament, we wanted to align ourselves with His Excellency's declaration of 2019 as the "Year of Accountability."

Comrade President, we will have lively, informative and educative Debates, as you rightfully asked from us. (*Applause*) You can count on our commitment, ethics, integrity and professionalism.

Please allow me, at this juncture, to share with you a well-known quote by Stephen Covey, which says: *"Accountability Breeds Response-Ability."* Indeed, accountability, integrity and professionalism are peas in a pod; and for me, are the most important values individuals and Institutions can aspire to.

Members of Parliament, as elected representatives of the people, we must

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continue to inculcate a culture of accountability in the execution of our constitutional mandate, because it will be the people who will ultimately hold us accountable.

Your Excellency, Honourable Speaker, last Saturday, the 9th of February marked the 29th anniversary of the adoption of the Namibian Constitution as the Supreme Law, which represents the values, hopes and aspirations of a newly-independent people fresh out of a long and bitter struggle against Apartheid colonialism.

It is with humility that one takes time out to reflect and acknowledge this very important day of the adoption of the Namibian Constitution. The drafting of the Constitution was a mammoth, complex and time consuming task. However, we all agree that the result is a document that has been internationally acclaimed as one of the most liberal and progressive Constitutions in contemporary times.

I would, therefore, like to make use of this opportunity to pay tribute to the patriotic men and women, who on that day, set aside their differences and ushered in a new era for our people for generations to come.

It would be amiss of me not to single out and acknowledge the Chairperson of the Constituent Assembly, at the time, who skilfully negotiated through polarised political and personality differences and steered the Constituent Assembly to deliver an amicable Constitution that rewrote the history of Namibia. Here I am referring to non-other than His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob, the third President of the Republic of Namibia!

Parliament pledges to continue adding value by thoroughly interrogating Bills to ensure constitutionality and to check if Government Policies and Programmes do, in fact, address matters of national interest.

Your Excellency, Honourable Speaker, I believe that we all share a responsibility towards strengthening Parliament as it continues to transform itself into a more effective and accountable branch of the State.

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In order to achieve this, we must emphasise the importance of the separation of powers in entrenching democracy and good governance.

For this reason, I once again repeat the call for the establishment of an autonomous Parliamentary Service Commission, in line with Articles 52 and 73 of the Constitution. There is evidence from around the world to suggest that Parliaments perform at their best when they have their own separate corporate bodies, which oversee the provision of the necessary facilities, property, staff and services.

That being said, I would like to appeal to all of us to embrace this as a necessary prerequisite for good parliamentary governance in a robust democracy.

Your Excellency, Honourable Speaker, now that Parliament is officially open for Business, the National Council looks forward to a productive year ahead.

I am particularly looking forward to the tabling of the *Constituency Development Fund Bill* in the National Assembly as early as possible in 2019 in order to continue the implementation of the decentralization process of our democracy. *(Applause)*

Once this Bill becomes Law, I believe it will further enhance the objectives of the Decentralisation Policy by giving each one of the 121 Constituencies more resources to bring about socio-economic development to the rural areas, thereby reducing the rampant rural-to-urban migration we are experiencing.

I also look forward in great anticipation this year as the two Houses will sit and negotiate the operationalization of the Joint Rules of Parliament that were agreed upon in 2018, as we move towards a more operationally harmonised and efficient Parliament.

Honourable Speaker, allow me through the Vote of Thanks to, especially thank His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, the President of the Republic of

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Namibia, once again, for having found the time in his busy schedule to grace us with his presence and for always setting high standards for all of us at home, as well as regionally and internationally. *(Applause)*

Thanks to our First Lady of the Republic of Namibia, for through your One-Economy Foundation, you teach us all about inclusiveness by having onboard from a cleaner up to a car guard. You are indeed a mother. *(Applause)*

I would further, also like to express our eternal indebtedness to His Excellency Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, Vice-President of the Republic of Namibia, the Right Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, our Prime Minister and the entire Cabinet for their continued support to the work of Parliament.

To the Judiciary, thank you for always gracing this occasion with us. Congratulations on your recent official opening of the legal year.

To our former President, our gentle giant, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, thank you for always putting the people first. We appreciate it. *(Applause)* We also want to thank your wonderful wife for the development projects that she has brought to fruition during her reign. Thank you very much Madam Pohamba. *(Applause)*

I am going to give a lot of thanks, because we only want to thank people when they die.

To the Regional Councils and Local Authorities, Non-Governmental Organisations, Multilateral, International and Regional Partners who have supported the work of Parliament in one way or the other in 2018, please be assured of our eternal gratitude for your assistance.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank their Excellences the Members of the Diplomatic Corps for having, once again, graced this occasion with your presence.

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I would like to acknowledge our spouses, starting with the spouse of the Speaker, my beloved husband, all the spouses and partners of Members of Parliament. I also want to thank our families and friends for standing with us through the years of toil, encouraging and reassuring us. Thank you for your presence here today. *(Applause) (Intervention)*

HON SPEAKER: Well done. Thank you very much.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL: Next, I must also extend a special word of thanks to our sponsors, namely, MTC, Coca-Cola Namibia, Namibian Dairies and the O&L Group. We are grateful for your generous support.

Allow me to extend our gratitude to the members of our Protocol and Security Services, and Parliamentary staff for their hard work in preparing for this important event in the parliamentary calendar. *(Applause)*

Finally, please allow me to also convey our gratitude to all the various Radio and TV stations, the print media and online media houses for their continued coverage of our work.

It is now my pleasure to invite you all to join us for a reception in the Parliament Courtyard and Restaurant as soon as the President and his entourage have exited the Chamber.

Alone one might go faster, but together, we can go further.

Ghei Gan Gans, Kelebogile, Dapandula Unene, Pandu Pandu Unene, Okunene Okuhepa, Okuhepa Tjinene, Letumesi, Ka Ja, Baie Dankie, Dankeschen, Merci, Gracias, Obrigada, Chee Chee, Shukraan, Asante Sana. Thank you and God Bless Namibia! (Applause)

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HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Well done indeed. That was quite something. Everybody has been thanked, I am particularly grateful for thanking our spouses. Thank you very much.

Now, at this point, I would like to call on the Sergeant-at-Arms to, once I have given the green light, lead His Excellency to exit the Chamber, together with our guests. However, I would like to request the Members to rise and remain standing until I return to make an important announcement to the Members of the National Assembly.

You heard that we are hitting the ground running; therefore, I will be coming back to make that announcement, to indicate exactly what is planned for the rest of this week. Thank you. You may rise. (*Applause*)

BUSINESS RESUMES

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Please be seated. Honourable Members, before we adjourn the Session of Parliament, I wish to inform the Members of the National Assembly that tomorrow, the 14th of February 2019, we will have a sitting in order to consider and approve the two persons so nominated by the President to serve as Electoral Commissioners, as per the guidelines of Section 6 of the *Electoral Commission Act* of 2014.

It will hopefully be a short Session, because we only have one item and we need to deal with this in terms of the Law governing the *Electoral Act*. If we delay, we can run into some difficulties.

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All the Members of the National Assembly are, therefore, requested to attend tomorrow's sitting in order to deal with this important matter.

I am appealing to you and counting on your full support, as usual, for us to dispose of this particular item. This is as brief as that. *(Interjections)* Tomorrow at 14:30.

Well, I will leave that to the staff to deal with. The relevant documentation will definitely be made available to you. *(Interjection)* I am saying, I will leave the documentation as usual to our staff to provide that in good time. *(Interjection)* Yes, everything as usual. Once we commence our sitting, all the necessary documents will hopefully be available on your mobile device, because we are actually commencing Parliament without necessarily requiring documents and papers. Technology is hopefully soon to take over. Can we leave it at that? So decided? Thank you very much.

The Joint Session of Parliament is now hereby adjourned.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:00 UNTIL 2019.02.14 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
14 FEBRUARY, 2019**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON SPEAKER: Welcome back. A few housekeeping announcements and then we will go straight to the subject matter for this afternoon. Number one, on behalf of the House we extend a word of welcome to Dr Shalumbi Shangula the new Minister of Health and Social Services who has joined us during the course of this year, warmest congratulations and we wish you well.

Secondly, as a customary by now we do observe and congratulate people who were born on a particular day as we sit in this House we recognize them and congratulate them and on top of that list, on this day, not necessarily this day but this week is the Honourable Eunice Ipinge, Happy Birthday and best wishes.

HON IIPINGE: It was yesterday.

HON SPEAKER: Good and lastly, I would like to recognize a dear friend and a colleague to whom I would like to extend a word of warm welcome and that person is none other than Professor Gerald Totemeyer, a former Deputy Minister and long serving servant of this country. Thank

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you for being here, thank you for visiting us. I know that you have got, despite the fact that you have retired I am aware that you continue to serve this country in various capacities and particularly with regards to the topic that we are going to be discussing now and dealing with elections, observing elections and dealing with the question of reinforcing and enhancing capacity within the SADC Region and so on and so forth. So it is quite appropriate that you are with us this afternoon. Welcome.

That said and done turning to the topic, I am assuming that there is no objection (*interruptions*). Yes it is very easy when you lose your line that you get a little bit just rated, "Where do I start?". We are calling for Notice of Motions and we go straight to the Notice of Motions, yes indeed for the reason that we basically (*interruptions*). Exactly, it is for the reason that we just say one item on the agenda and that basically falls under the Notices of Motions and I am now calling for that. Deputy Speaker, yes please?

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

RULE 27(F) OF THE STANDING RULES AND ORDERS

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I move without notice in terms of Rule 27 Sub Rule (f) of the Standing Rules and Orders that this Assembly considers and approves the nomination of Mr Gerson Uaripi Tjihenuna and Mr Evaristos as Members of the Electoral Commission and nominated by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia in terms of Section 6 of the Electoral Act No.5 of 2014. I so move Honourable Speaker.

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HON DIENDA**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Any objection? Agreed to. Can you submit your Motion first of all? I now formally ask any objection? Agreed to. Yes please?

HON DIENDA: I have no agenda on my table. No CV, I do not know what you are talking about so I at least need to be updated there is nothing on my table to follow where we are. Where are the CVs also? No, I am not in Standing Rules, I want the CVs on my table, there is no CV on my table.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Let me clarify the issue. Let me clarify the issue. Can we have order please? The subject we do not have an agenda. The Parliament was opened yesterday and as a customary as you will recall we normally sit the next week or a week after. For the purpose of facilitating this particular item that has to be attended to within the timeframe we decided to commence the sitting today this afternoon. We had a Standing Rules Committee at which we actually discussed this issue. It was shared there and the CVs were presented there and we discussed that the matter must be taken up formally and the Deputy Speaker will then provide the motivation to provide the background. This is as far as we have gone. So you are right there is no formal agenda but within our rules we can actually present the item and debate. So that is where we are. Yes Honourable?

HON DIENDA: Where are the CVs if we want to debate the matter?

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: On a point of order?

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HON DIENDA**

HON DIENDA: Point of order, okay.

HON SPEAKER: Can I just explain?

HON DIENDA: No I do not have (*intervention*).

HON SPEAKER: Let me explain further then when you take the floor at least you have an understanding. This is a subject that was thoroughly discussed through all applicants who applied for this particular position were dealt with through a normal Select Committee and everything was done and basically shortlisted and once that was done the list and this is the information that you will be getting through the motivation because it will be properly explained. So let me leave it at that.

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: Let me explain my point of follow up?

HON SPEAKER: Yes.

HON DIENDA: And I have not finished.

HON SPEAKER: Yes please.

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HON VAN DEN HEEVER / HON MUHARUKUA**

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: Thank you Honourable Speaker. When we assembled this morning in Standing Rules and Orders we adopted the agenda point for today. There was no thorough discussion. It was only two Members who raised an issue. The CVs were given to the Members of Standing Rules and Orders but the Secretary requested for us as Standing Rules Members to give back the CVs so we could not discuss the CVs with our Members. So the CVs are supposed to be here for the Members to peruse it and then go into a discussion. It is not just to come here and say yes to the Standing Rules and Orders Members. It was not Parliament Members who attended that meeting so totally there is a miscommunication. We even argued about the point that it is nomination but that point was introduced to us just to say yes to discuss the issue in Parliament.

HON SPEAKER: The point let me get this quite clearly. You are looking for the CVs of the candidates who are going to be presented by the Deputy Speaker, is that what you are looking for?

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: Yes, of the candidates.

HON SPEAKER: Okay we can give you the CVs but the Deputy Speaker while she is doing the motivation you can get copies of the CVs so that you can also look at it. Okay d'accord, thank you. Yes Honourable Muharukua.

HON MUHARUKUA: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I want to start with the following. I want to thank the President of this Republic for one of the comments that he made yesterday and one of those comments was that, Members of Parliament must uphold the

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decorum of this House and that is to say that in whatever we do inside the House or outside this House we must conduct our personal and public affairs and business in such a manner that the public out there use the value of this House. Now Honourable Speaker, for as long as the Chair of this House does not respect the job of this House the public out there will not respect that.

HON SPEAKER: No, no (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: No, Honourable Muharukwa, no. Sit down please.

HON MUHARUKWA: No, why?

HON SPEAKER: No, please sit down, yes. We have agreed the Deputy Speaker will highlight the nominated candidates. The CVs of the two candidates will be provided, that is what we are going to do so there is no question about it.

HON MUHARUKUA: Honourable Speaker, you have not even heard what I wanted to say. I have not started.

HON SPEAKER: No but because you are deviating from the subject matter.

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HON MUHARUKUA: No I am not deviating. How do you know I am deviating if I have not said?

HON SPEAKER: No, no, please.

HON MUHARUKWA: No, no, please Honourable Speaker (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: No I want, please conclude.

HON MUHARUKWA: No I cannot conclude I have just started.

HON SPEAKER: No but the point you are alluding to (intervention).

HON MUHARUKUA: You are new Malema, no.

HON SPEAKER: No I do not want to prolong the discussion.

HON MUHARUKUA: Honourable Speaker, what did I say?

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HON SPEAKER: I do not want to prolong. You are saying I am not honouring, you basically questioned me as the Speaker that is what you are doing.

HON MUHARUKWA: In what respect? In what respect?

HON SPEAKER: Yes, we want to respect each other. I respect the Members of this House you respect the Chair as well. We will deal with that. We will deal with that issue. The Deputy Speaker will do the motivation the CVs of the candidates will be made available to you. Let us not right away (intervention).

HON MUHARUKWA: Honourable Speaker, you have not even heard what I wanted to say.

HON SPEAKER: No I heard you. I heard you.

HON MUHARUKWA: No you have not. You have not and by merely trying to quash the debate and by merely trying to suppress what I am saying and precisely is the point that I have just raised.

HON SPEAKER: I am not quashing (*intervention*).

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HON MUHARUKUA: Yes let the Members of this House (*intervention*).

HON SPEAKER: No I do not want to prolong a discussion between us, no.

HON MUHARUKUA: No.

HON SPEAKER: No Honourable Muharukwa please sit down.

HON MUHARUKUA: No, Honourable Speaker, no.

HON SPEAKER: No, no.

HON MUHARUKUA: No Honourable Speaker, this is why this House denigrates, no.

HON SPEAKER: I am not going to have a dialogue with you. I am not permitting that no.

HON MUHARUKWA: That is exactly the point.

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HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

HON SPEAKER: Yes, on a point of order.

HON MUHARUKUA: That is the point, I have not said anything.

**DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION:**

Honourable Speaker, with due respect to Honourable Members we are talking about wanting our House to be respected and one of the rules in our books, "Never argue with the Presiding Officer". If there is an issue you sit down and you take it to the Committee of Standing Rules and Procedures that is what the rule is and it is meant it is in the book. You know it Honourable you know it, it is there please. So take the matter to the relevant Committee but do not argue with the Presiding Officer.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I want to conclude the discussion. Honourable Ithana you are the next. Are you speaking on a point of order?

HON IIVULA-ITHANA: Honourable Speaker I am at a loss. I am not lost because I have never witnessed a session of Parliament that starts outside the laid procedures. We are supposed to even if we only have one agenda item, we are supposed to start with the procedures that we normally start with. I thought that we would also put the minds of the Members at ease as we normally do. Comrade Speaker we are making our issues unnecessarily controversial. We are supposed to appoint very important persons to serve very important responsibilities of the public but now we are quarrelling even before we get to the point.

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HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

Yesterday I remember very well, a question was asked I do not know from which side whether there is supposed to be CVs for the nominated people and it was answered that the CVs were going to be sent electronically, that is at least what I understood. Maybe I was wrong or maybe I misheard. Early this morning I checked my email messages and I only saw the minutes and nothing else. Now when I came here I was looking at my desk to see whether there is something, there is nothing and I am asking myself, “What is the secrecy about the CVs of the people we are supposed to approve” (*intervention*).

HON SPEAKER: Are you done?

HON IIVULA-ITHANA: I am not done. When I will be done I will say so Comrade Speaker. I am just saying that fact alone has caused apprehensions in the minds of the Members. Why is it that CVs are not shared, that is the normal procedure? That is normally what we do, that is the normal procedure, that is normally what we do when we appoint Members here we get their CVs. I was asking who is Evaristos. I am hearing the name for the first time and with the CV I could have read for myself and be clear of what we are doing. I know Comrade Tjihenuna, yes, so I am just appealing that let us stick to the procedures they will protect us.

I so move Comrade Speaker and stick to the procedures.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Let me explain once again. The CVs of the candidates should be made available to all of you now there is no debate about that so we agree to that. Number 2, the sitting we normally after the Official Opening of Parliament we normally meet the following week but we decided as we agreed upon yesterday we will have

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a sitting to deal with this particular issue. It is especially for the purpose or for the reason that this matter must be disposed of within a given timeframe that is one of the reasons. So the CVs we are not debating it, it is going to be made available and I agree with you. The mere fact that we did not go through all the usual agenda items as we normally is this is a special sitting to discuss a particular subject matter and that is the reason why we have agreed to that. So (*intervention*).

HON MUHARUKUA: (Not on microphone).

HON SPEAKER: Please let us not all of us shout. So that is the explanation I want to give. That is the reason. The CVs will come and be made available to you. We devote our attention to this particular subject matter. So once the CVs have been distributed the House has got fifteen minutes within which (*interruptions*). Fifteen minutes is not long. You look at this and then we can actually discuss. Is that acceptable? Is that okay? So decided. You are all shouting at the same time I can hardly tell who wants what. So that is what we are going to do. The CVs will be made available to everybody, we concentrate within the fifteen minutes, review those CVs they are not that long and then we can commence our discussion. So agreed. Thank you very much. So the CVs please should be handed over to you now so review those CVs and after fifteen minutes we can then allow the Deputy Speaker to provide us with motivation, thank you. Are you providing? Okay so those CVs are coming. Can I release you? Why is it taking so long? They are taking so long can you help to do it on this side? I am assuming that every one of you has got a copy. Why is it taking so long? The copies are not made available.

HON MUHARUKUA: Comrade Speaker?

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HON SPEAKER: Yes.

HON MUHARUKUA: Where are the copies?

HON SPEAKER: Apparently they are making some copies. I thought the copies were already here. Please bear with us, the staffs are busy processing those extra copies they are going to be provided shortly.

May I check, whether are you still waiting or you got all the CVs?

HON MEMBER: Not all of them.

HON SPEAKER: Not all, okay, I am checking just to make sure. Can I see hands of those people who are still waiting, how many more people, *oh, huu!* Okay we will come back.

Anyone still without all the CVs? Can I suggest Honourable Members, may I have your attention? Can I suggest that we permit the Deputy Speaker to do the motivation because this is supplementary to the information that is available in those CVs rather than waiting? She can provide that information while you are waiting for the additional CVs to be made available to you and we wait for them for all of you to have copies of both CVs. Maybe that is the best way of spending out time rather than just waiting. Can I do that? Thank you very much. Honourable Deputy Speaker you have the floor to move the Motion.

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HON PROF KASINGO**

NOTICE OF MOTION

RULE 27(F) OF THE STANDING RULES AND ORDERS

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already done that Honourable Speaker. Now I will proceed to motivate.

HON SPEAKER: To provide the motivation?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members I rise to motivate and to request this august House to approve the nomination of the new members of the New Electoral Commission. The Electoral Commission is the constitutional body and it is composed of five members of which the Chairperson is on full time. In terms of Section 6:3 of the Electoral Act No.5 of 2014 at least four months prior to the date on which the term of office of the Members of the Commission expires the Secretary of the National Assembly must invite by notice in the gazette and at least two Daily Newspapers any person who complies with the qualification and criteria to apply for the appointment as a Member of the Commission. Two of the serving members' term of office will end in

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March 2019 (this year) and in terms of the Sections cited above the filling of these two positions was advertised in the Government Gazette and in the local print media as from the 6th of December 2018 and the closing date for the application was 20th December 2018.

The Selection Committee in terms of Section 5 was undertaking as stipulated by Electoral Act as I stated in Section 5 provides of that, of which five candidates were interviewed out of the 46 potential candidates that initially applied. Out of the five, two candidates were nominated by the President and I am seeking the approval of the House of the two candidates. Briefly here are the motivations of each:

Mr Gerson Uaripi Tjihenuna is a Director in the Office of the Speaker where he is working on contract and not as a permanent employee. Mr Tjihenuna is a long serving civil servant who has close to almost 30 years of Public Service experience. He worked for many years in Cabinet Office and some of the projects in which he placed a leading role was a creation of Cabinet Authority system and a creation of Anti Corruption Commission. He holds BA Degree in Political Science and Masters Degree in Public Policy.

In addition to that he is also a layman preacher and publish Alpha and work. He taught at Namibia main Universities in the area of Labour Relations, African Politics and Governance and he is currently trying to pursue to complete his PHD Research study that is Mr Tjihenuna.

Allow me now to go through to Mr Evaristos Evaristos. Mr Evaristos is a Director of External and International Relations at the University of Namibia as well as the Executive Assistant to the Vice Chancellor of University of Namibia (UNAM). He also sat as an Acting Coordinating Director of the Consultancy Bureau at UNAM and Deputy Director for Income Generation and Networking at the same university. He holds a BA Degree in Sociology and Politics and Masters Degree in Public Administration.

You may recall that both of these two candidates are males. In terms of

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the Electoral Commission Act there is a provision that of the five two should be women at least (*intervention*). Thank you at least should be women. Of the other three whose terms have not yet expired two are women and henceforth we are humbly requested to consider these two candidates. With this Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members I therefore move that this Assembly approve His Excellency the President's nomination in terms of Section 6 of the Electoral Act No.5 of 2014. I so move.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. We are still holding on to make sure that each of you has got copies of those CVs and then we commence the discussion on the subject matter. I hope you are not going to take too long before each of you could get a copy of those CVs. Do we have all the CVs? Oh, can I Honourable Members, am I correct to assume that all of you have received copies of the CVs?

Can we improvise, those of you who have noted the CVs of those two and you are done why not share the copy with the other colleagues so that we could speed up the process please, ha? Can I see hands of those who do not have. Can I see hands please? Keep them up please. Okay thank you very much. Now that all of you have got copies of the CVs I will wait for ten minutes and then we commence discussions. I think we have done. Everybody had an opportunity to reflect on the CVs of the two candidates. I now call upon the Honourable Venaani. Honourable Venaani you are on my list.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, today is a very special day. It is the day of lovers, those of us that are lovers and today I also celebrate my own wedding anniversary (*ululation*). So I wish all those that are having red and white, yes I do.

Honourable Speaker, I am rising on a very important point that I want to

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alert the Chair according to the rules of this House under Rule 26, this is a question before the House and all the applicable rules on the question before the House should apply according to the rules. I am very cognisant of the fact that many nations across the world and more in particular in Africa are inundated, destabilized about the contention of elections. So when we are busy with any matter that deals with the rights of the Namibian people to have a fair, free national savourage we should do so knowing that all we are doing must be above board.

Now Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members this is part of my introduction into the general debate before I come to the nomination. We are a country that is at times hailed as a walking democracy. We hold positions both in the region and internationally that makes us to become the mirror of many other nations. Then the mirror of many other nations we must also be a mirror that reflects on our own ethos and values internally in the country. We are chairing SADC and by chairing SADC there was just a contested and appears contested process in Madagascar that has been lingering on for a number of years. Zimbabwe, some electoral contestation, the DRC again so when we lead as a nation when we lead as a people leading SADC our own processes internally must be beyond reproach and that will not enter an election circle that questions the credibility of us leading others when it comes to matters of national savourage and free and fair elections.

Honourable Speaker, not only are we busy with the nomination process that is very key because nominating Commissioners these are people that should be entrusted, entrusted to supervise, coordinate activities of the Electoral Commission. Already we are hearing positions being made by the Electoral Commission without considering the views of this House all the political actors and players that are involved. One issue is that we are being told by directors that the elections will be conducted in this way without a proper consultation from political actors. Listen to me, you have not read the papers, have you not read the papers where we are being told that this election will not be verified on audited paper trail will not be part of this election.

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We are political actors that are leading political parties. We should be consulted before the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) makes this pronouncement because these things (*intervention*).

HON MEMBER: Who told you that?

HON VENAANI: I have a right to make a political statement and *dankie* I have unlimited time also so you would listen that is why I have given you the rules. Honourable Speaker nobody wants to win an election that is questionable and no one wants to lose an election that is questionable. The credibility and integrity of the election should not be in question. Now every time that we enter in courts after elections fighting about processes that were not followed correctly, we are going to a next election in a few months' time, we are nominating a Commission of which partly it has already pronounced itself without consulting political actors on how the elections are going to be conducted. Is this entity the prescribed, is this entity given the power to prescribe to political actors to the National Assembly on how it wants to conduct their pace of this election or not?

So when we are speaking of an ECN we want an ECN that is having a high level of ethics, high level of professionalism, accountability, just and fair. We are going to elections we know that the electoral voting machines that we are using for a number of years are coming from a jurisdiction called India where that country's Supreme Court has ruled that it is illegal to use EVN without a verifiable audited paper trail. That is what it says.

HON SPEAKER: On a point of order.

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HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: There is another issue which I picked up and apparently India has (off microphone).

HON VENAANI: What is your question?

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: This is a separate matter.

HON VENAANI: I will tell you. I will lecture you why.

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: (Not on microphone). You have dominated on these things (*not on microphone*).

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I think the Honourable Venaani come to the point.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I just heard the point because if you read the Rules of the House when a matter is introduced at first reading that we are not on Committee Stage where general debate is allowed before I come to the issue and I am doing so having read all the rules and provisions of this House and I am conducting myself in a fashion and manner in compliance with the Code of Conduct of this House. So I am in compliance. The very reason why I am raising this issue is because we are very cardinal to our country's survival. We cannot have a country that quarrels over elections. We cannot have a nation that quarrels over a fairness of a process and we are saying it is everywhere it

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must be avoided because we are leading SADC we cannot be a leading country that has the same problems as those countries that we are leading. Then we are not worthy of leading others. Therefore we must be able to calm down and make sure that our process is beyond reproach.

These Verifiable Audited Paper Trail is very key to a free and fair election and we want also:

- 1) The Government to pronounce itself on the use and allocating of resources for this process one.
- 2) We are also one of the only countries in the world that goes to the polls without allowing political actors to be part of the tallying centres.

Yes we are the only country and if you read our constitution one of the schedules says that all political actors must be involved in all the stages supervising all the stages of elections. I know we are one country leading SADC that does not allow political actors to monitor passes verifiable results to a point where we, during the last Presidential elections I do not know who are the members that we were invited to the ECN for the announcement of the results. When we came there, they are talking about ECN before we come to nominations because you must understand the context. Do not force this country to accept your majority. Win it fairly. Let us lose it fairly. You are always having this tendency of saying people are suffering from Savimbi syndrome. Why are you suffering from a Mugabe syndrome yes of trying to be in power. Yes you are very good at saying no, others if they do not win you are complaining. Yes let me say myself, I will come to the conclusion. You are not our fears are you? You must have fears you cannot compete with none fears that thing is why they are saying there is no democracy in this country by saying you are not having fears.

HON MEMBER: Where is that number (indistinct).

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HON VENAANI: You know those numbers are growing exponentially. You are seeing this country shaking but I do not want to go there. Yes let us wish you, we must all be dreamers. Felix Shisekedi was a dreamer until now he is President so it is coming. I do not want to derail. Honourable Speaker the point I am trying to raise is that as we are going to the polls we should not create confusion about a credible process we must bring credibility.

Now let me come to the nomination. The nomination of the two colleagues I want this House to explain to me. Individuals are not important at this point in time but it is the compliance of the spirit of the law that we need to address. If Jennifer Van Den Heever is an Executive Director of a particular Ministry on contract or whose contract is going to expire in the next sixteen months or so, will that person be construed as the law is saying? Would an Executive Director or the former Permanent Secretary Executive Director now who is on contract would he be construed as a permanent employee of the State or not? And I would argue that yes an Executive Director even who is retiring in the next six months would be construed as an employee of the State for the duration of that period. He is permanent Executive Director is a permanent employee of the State according to the spirit of hers. How are you entrusted of running the affairs of the State as a Permanent Secretary of Finance and you are not a permanent employee of the State? So we need to clarify this issue. It is a very contentious issue because it is the intention of the legislature that is in question now. You can have your own interpretation, I can have my own but we must all find a scenage to agree on what is the spirit of the Act saying? What was the intention of us when we? Because Mr Tjihenuna is a good friend of mine, a lovable human being, a competent person perhaps in many ways the problem is the following, listen (Otjiherero).

HON DIENDA: It is a skill.

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HON VENAANI: It is a skill in leadership.

HON ATTORNEY GENERAL: Yes but now I (*not on microphone*).

HON VENAANI: I have one limited time so do not worry. Honourable Speaker, my brother Tjihenuna is a Director in the Speaker's office, a political office, who is on contract, who is on contract for a period lasting March 2020. Well I want to be very sure.

HON ATTORNEY GENERAL: (*Not on microphone*).

HON VENAANI: The question that I want to ask, is not I am not questioning, allow me to say what I want to say man. I do not want to question my brother's integrity academia everything I have no problems with that but I want us to agree with the spirit of the law if a person is working is employed by the State under a contract, under the office of the Political Office Bearers for the country. Would that person comply with the spirit of the Act that is promulgated in this House? I think that one issue needs to be clarified.

The issue is the law says the following. Section 6 of the law says the following. The law that I am talking about is the Electoral Act of 2014, under Section 6 it says, "The notice referred to in Sub Section 3 may be in a form determined by the Secretary of the National Assembly and must stipulate. The form of an application for the application for the appointment which form must amongst other things provide for the furnishing of information relating to:

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- 1) The citizenship of the Applicant.
- 2) The academic qualifications obtained by the Applicant.
- 3) The age of the Applicant whether the Applicant has a criminal record.
- 4) Whether the Applicant is a rehabilitated insolvent.
- 5) Whether the Applicant is of an unsound mind or mentally disordered or defective and has been so declared by a competent Court of Law.
- 6) Whether the Applicant is permanently employed by the State.

So that provision we just want clarification so that we clarify whether when an Executive Director who is on contract would be construed as a permanent employee of the State. Can an Executive Director apply to become a Commissioner. Whether a Director in the Office of the Speaker would be companion with this provision or not, otherwise we have no problems in approving the nomination but clarity must be found that before we approve we must clarify the spirit and later of the law so that we comply with the law and we are not found wanting in a competent Court of Law. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Dienda.

HON DIENDA: Thank you Honourable Speaker I have two issues. The first one is on page 22 of the Electoral Act of 2014. It says that, there are some contradictions that is why I want to read it. The President must, within 7 days after the date on which the recommendations have been submitted to him or her under Sub Section 16 nominate five applicants for approval by the National Assembly as Chairperson of the Committee and Members of the Commission.

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Then on page 23 it says, "In the event that there exists a vacancy on the Commission and the process of appointing one or more Commissioners is required, this Section applies with the necessary change and the Selection Committee is entitled to determine the number of suitable candidates for recommendations to the President. The President may on the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Privileges of the National Assembly appoint the Members of the Commission as contemplated in Sub Section 1. So this is not Standing Committee on Privileges to start with, it is not. So was this Committee consulted? Did they recommend anything to the President?

This is what the Act is saying, it is not me Elma Dienda saying it. It is written here that is why I need clarity on this one. This Privilege Committee is being named there but it does not exist but here it says on the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Privileges of the National Assembly. So it is very clear when the vacancy appears these are the procedures that need to be followed. As we are sitting here I am asking myself is this not an illegal gathering where we are discussing things which is not in the constitution. We are not appointing the fights we are appointing the vacancies.

My next concern Honourable Speaker, I heard when the Honourable Deputy Speaker was trying to explain while both of them are just meant. For me that one does not really make sense to me because for me if five people were interviewed and the advertisement did not say that only men because there are already women. Do not waste your time it did not say that, it invited all of us to come and apply for these officials. No wait I am a Political Office Bearer I cannot.

So my concern is, Honourable Speaker now to come and justify why you are bringing two male vacancies here for us to come and approve while there were women on the shortlist, were these women incompetent? Were they not good? What is the reason? For me Honourable Speaker it says at least two Members of the Commission must be women at least. It does not say only two even if they were three it is fine. So this justification of there is already two women does not make sense to me. So I want to

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know what was the shortcomings of the women who were interviewed to come to this House so that we can debate it also. Thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. A quick one but obviously I will leave it to the Deputy Speaker to deal with that. First and foremost the vacancies basically are in terms of gender representation. The female representation is basically intact. What we need is just additional male representation of two candidates. So to the best of my knowledge that is where we are so I will leave that to the Deputy Speaker to deal with. Next on my agenda is Honourable Dr Kawana.

HON ATTORNEY GENERAL: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I rise to add my voice to this subject matter. Comrade Speaker you may recall last year I raised the issue of elections. I raised the issue of EVMs and what the position of political parties, you may recall I am on record on that issue. But maybe before I address the subject matter, let me take this opportunity to thank and congratulate our First Citizen His Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia and The Chairperson of SADC Comrade Dr Hage Geingob for his leadership as recognized internationally. We thank him because he is our representative internationally. That recognition is on our behalf and Namibia is recognized as the leader of the Official Opposition has said, Namibia is on the top lead in Africa not only in Africa I may add, in the world. When it comes to democracy, good governance and (*applauding*), this assessment is not done by us it is done by credible international institutions, credible honourable personalities internationally including the Secretary General of the United Nations. So we had to recognize that aspect whether we like it or not. We are doing well.

But as the Honourable Venaani has said, elections must be credible, must be transparent, must be accepted by everybody but those who do not

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accept, those who question the outcome of the elections in democracy there are institutions where they have to go in order to make sure that that Abita that institution will have a final word. In our situation here we have the Supreme Court. If not satisfied as it happened in the past we go to the Supreme Court the final Abita. Once that is done because we recognize those institutions that is why we go there. We respect them that is why we go there. Once the Supreme Court has ruled that is final and then everybody must have cool air and we continue as a nation to build this nation.

So Comrade Speaker you recall what I recommended last year was this that I know there is a forum of political parties together with the ECN and this issue I propose that must be debated in that forum and report via maybe the Office of the Speaker must come here because we are not scared, us from the Ruling Party we are not scared of anything. This year is the year of elections and we want to defeat anybody fairly and squarely. So whether that forum will say because of the absence of the paper trail let us go back to the manual, we are ready. We are ready. So Comrade Speaker I still plead in my capacity as Attorney General who is also equally mandated to make sure that the constitution of the Republic of Namibia is respected to make sure that we are at the same wavelength. We are at a league higher than a number of African countries, higher than a number of countries in the world. We have nothing to fear. That is why we are respected internationally.

So that part I plead Comrade Speaker, you are our leader when it comes to that aspect because you presented the budget of the ECN here because it was through the demand of the minority Parties to say ECN must be independent. It must be an institution from heaven, Government should have nothing to do with it and that is what we did because we fear nothing. So that part maybe I put it aside like that.

Secondly, when it comes to the remarks of my sister there Honourable Dienda, you see the law says during the process what you call the Committee and so forth which must do the interviews and so forth, there are time frames. If they do not comply with the timeframe that is only

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when the Committee of Privileges comes in if they fail to do their job, that is what the law says. But if they do their job within the timeframe then that Committee will recommend to the President. The President will nominate and then endorsement will be done by this House so that is what it says that is number one.

Number two, when it comes to gender, in as much as I agree with you my dear sister, currently now what has been done there is nothing unlawful because it says the representation of women is 'at least two out of five'. It means then, there can be two or they can be three. So on that one I want also to clarify in as much as what you said you have a point that there also women who applied why now here we are confronted with only two men but it is not illegal. I take your point but it is not illegal because there are already two women one of whom is even the Chairlady of the ECN. I so submit Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much and particularly thanking for the clarification on those two important points. Honourable Sacky Shanghala please.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to contribute. I too have looked at the rules. They allow that we may not make more than three interventions at each not more than twenty minutes. I say this because I am not rising to necessarily answer, it is not my Motion but I am hoping that some may benefit from those of us who have drafted the legislation. Just to share so that we understand what we intended. First of all Honourable Doreen Sioka I just want to say that the issue of gender was the one which the Opposition Parties rejected. The issue of including (interruptions), no I can go to the minutes of every consultation and we tick off issues. I become so much used to consulting that it is like a song. I look at it and I go through and my officials will tick and tick. The suggestion was that we should have 50/50 in the National

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Assembly and they rejected it. They are on record even if you go to that period and you Google you will find the articles of the newspaper confirming your rejection. I do not know why such a difficulty.

So what I am saying is the issue of 50/50 could have easily been done in our Electoral Law who had provided for Parliamentary List to be on a 50/50 but since you are progressive enough you are going to suggest it and that amendment will be welcomed by the SWAPO Party. Having said that, (intervention) no we will be waiting for your submission. Having said that Speaker(intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Order please.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Elections conducted for humans on planet earth will never be 100% perfect it is not a standard that is obtainable in any democracy on this globe, in this life and not in the next item. Therefore what has to be done is we need to have credible processes, free elections and during elections and credible processes for electoral challenges post the election. This is what we have. Many countries have that and when a country like DRC had an election challenge and it was resolved in the Court of the land and that result was accepted by both the person who petitioned the court and the other who was the respondent then we ought to say well done particularly for that part of the world that has seen so much misery from political mechanizations.

Namibia we are lucky we have had a very honest for the first time reflection in the past election, no electoral challenge but you see that piece becomes boring. Now people want to go back to the system that creates the opportunity for electoral challenges. But I want to display it to you that if you recall in 1989 when the elections were held somewhere near Ondangwa there, there were some ballot papers and most of those ballot

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papers belonged to a party which said it is okay let us just go ahead. That party ended up winning but some people, some small things even before the election had started are already crying, I do not know.

So I am just saying sometimes, now Comrade Speaker something I want to correct, I normally have got the highest respect for my colleagues here because we are learning from each other but I think he said something which is factually incorrect to say that parties are not allowed to be part of every stage of the process, is not only factually incorrect, it is also legally incorrect and I would like to refer you to Section 107. Sorry Comrade Speaker, the Act says that you are entitled to be at every stage of the election when the ballots are being printed etcetera, when the machines are being tested etcetera, verifications centres including Section 107 of the Electoral Act. But what we have learnt is that people want to say I cannot be everywhere therefore because I was not at that Polling Station there was fraud there, let us challenge that.

They use that as a basis. How can we have an election open when you do not even aver a wrongdoing of a particular magnitude at that station? So we introduce further wording to say but nothing invalidates that process by the mere absence of any party at that place. Allege something was done but you cannot just say because I was not there were those in the closet and they were counting, no it cannot be. That is part of the problem we have been having with every electoral challenge. Many of those people had we been very vindictive we could have gone to have them prosecuted for lying under oath. But because and by the way there were two/three Polling Stations where I can recall and it is in my computer here do not make me say the names, where they were drunk or they slept or they simply just decided 'this is too much I am leaving' your agents that you post so we can get into these issues.

So to eliminate this issue it is not therefore true to say that you are not allowed to be at the verification centre or any part of the process. This should not be what is going out to the nation. You are allowed to be everywhere because you are unpopular and cannot attract your people to go everywhere is not my fault now. That is one (*intervention*).

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HON SPEAKER: Okay let us bring the matter to conclusion.
Honourable yes please.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Sacky Shanghala has never supervised any election even for SWAPO.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: You are lying.

HON VENAANI: Never.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: You are lying.

HON VENAANI: You have never been at the Electoral Coalition Centre. I have been Secretary General for two terms. I have been Secretary for Information of the Parties. I have experience of four Presidential Elections, you are not part of it. So it is true that we have been denied by Electoral Commission of Namibia to be part of the Coalition Centre where the last Counting Centre is and that is reality.

HON SPEAKER: Okay let us come on to the conclusion.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker, there are two more

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issues but facts must be facts. Before I came to where I am in this station in life I also used to be a Mobilization Officer of SWAPO in Windhoek East, West first of all where I used to be an agent at Polling Stations. No hold on. You talk too much. Let me just explain to you that I have also presided over elections in the Party. When I am telling you (*intervention*).

HON SPEAKER: Let us conclude please.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Yes, it is not worth it. Comrade Speaker then the issue apparently in Indian court said what the leader of the Opposition said. I do not want to repeat it because it is not true. I do not want to make it to become true. He did not even mention the name of the case, they did not need it more that case I brought it to them. (*Laughter*) it is true, you do not know it. Let me tell you the name of the case. Let me educate you now. It was the case of Dr Subramanian Swami versus the Election Commission of India case number 9093/2013 and they were merged these two cases and what the court said at paragraph 29 and paragraph 30 is that the verifiable paper trail will add accuracy and both are confident.

Now listen to that. And then they said we allow you to introduce it gradually after they had understood that these machines do not fall from heaven they have to be parameterized and designed for those more than one million Polling Stations before they can even consider other parameterization, just for themselves alone and the court did not even give a timeframe because they know and understand the mammoth task that it is. But go and read the case. Anybody who wants the case I can give it to you now. Now they are just citing some cases, they do not know, it is hearsay for them, hearsay *bakwetu vakwetu*.

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HON SPEAKER: Let us move on.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Lastly (*intervention*).

HON SPEAKER: Yes on a point of order, Honourable Muharukua.

HON MUHARUKUA: Before the Honourable Member says, before he says finally please enlighten us, what is hearsay?

HON SPEAKER: Oh!

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: As I was saying Comrade Speaker, the process that we are now doing, part of this process that we are now doing or agreeing or not agreeing to the recommendations of the President, if we are saying and I am just saying if. If it is the case that the concern is that these people would still be gender balanced which is statutorily required in the Commission the law that remains is for the Secretary of that Committee to submit to the Speaker the names of the Commissioners who are in Office and the agenda. But the issue we have before us is to say have the candidates before us complied and has that selection made the right choice or do we have other information or other objections.

Now on the issue specifically of employment it is answered also in the legislation. Should I maybe read the Section for the Honourable Member because there is a Hansard? It says, Section 7 Sub 3 of the Electoral Act, "A person who is permanently employed by the Public Service or any

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other institution and who has been appointed as Chairperson of the Commission is deemed to have resigned from the Public Service or such institution with effect from the date on which the person is so appointed. Exactly, meaning that it becomes only an issue if the President is nominating that individual as Chairperson and then this Act automatically then keeps in. That is what the Act says. The Act says here, Section readily is starts with (*intervention*).

HON SPEAKER: Can I, Honourable Member, we are not yet there in terms of the final decision, the Commissioner who is going to be the Chairperson. When we get to that particular point is when a decision will be made as to who is going to be the Chairperson and obviously if a Commissioner is serving an employee then that Commissioner is going to honourably resign from the position and become a substantive Chairperson.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: My point exactly Comrade Speaker to say therefore what we ought to focus on is whether we agree with the contents of the submission that has been made which is, are these two individuals worthy of our approval so that the President can appoint. That is the issue. That other issues that are being brought in for instance if there is truly a problem with the attitudes of Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) employees vis a vis political parties as Dr Kawana has said there is a forum for that and there can be punitive measures taken towards those people. By the way the only and we must remember that the ECN has been made now it was not before, it is now a constitutional body which is independent which will direct the conduct of the election in referendum.

So do not be surprised if they say we were told that the election is on these days at this and that time and when we conduct this one you should walk to the left and not to the right. It is their right because they have the right

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to direct and supervise and the conduct of the election a referenda subject to no interference or direction from anybody including the political party which is your political party that is going to lose again next time in practicing. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, let us move on. Honourable Muharukwa.

HON MUHARUKUA: Thank you Honourable Muharukwa.

HON VENAANI: You are worried about rules.

HON MUHARUKWA: I will start with *(intervention)*.

HON VENAANI: You are very worried.

HON MUHARUKWA: I will start with the Honourable Minister of *(intervention)*.

HON VENAANI: Very worried about winning.

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HON SPEAKER: Let us listen to each other please.

HON VENAANI: When you allow me to speak, ask Kabila, ask your friend Kabila.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you.

HON MUHARUKUA: Allow me to start with the Honourable Minister of Justice. When elections are happening and when results are announced you do not need to show us the evidence that you have or what you were doing on the Election Day. I do not know what you were doing for you to say that the people were drunk and you have the evidence. Do not show us your videos of whatever you were doing. If you were not sober keep it to yourself because of course we were together because seemingly I would not go as far as questioning an integrity to say that you are deliberately misleading this House by saying that political parties are supervising the elections from the word go until the final formal result because that is simply not true. The only reason why you would make such conclusion is because you do not actually know. Now let me tell you what happened, the election happens then all the regions send the results to Windhoek to the ECN. This centre is called a Voter Verification Centre or something to that effect but the formal results that Namibians are informed of (*intervention*).

HON VENAANI: It is the Coalition Centre.

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HON MUHARUKUA: Yes that Coalition Centre.

HON VENAANI: That is the biggest centre.

HON MUHARUKUA: That very centre is only manned by Electoral Commission of Namibia. We do not know about the Ruling Party but no other party is there. Honourable Speaker, may the Prime Minister allow me?

HON SPEAKER: Yes please continue.

HON MUHARUKUA: Yes at this Centre the results that Namibians hear of the election is from that centre and that result, say you do not know and that centre is not supervised to my knowledge or our knowledge as the PDM caucus by no one other than the ECN itself. I do not know maybe the Ruling Party will have better information. So Honourable Minister of Justice our election at least at the point where we get the information is not supervised by all the parties. That one, that something has changed.

Now the Honourable Kawana the Attorney General (AG) has spoken about a forum of political parties to the ECN. Indeed that is correct. The Deputy Chief Whip of the Ruling Party *pratten* has talked about the forum of political parties with the ECN, it is correct. There was a meeting that I personally has attended. The PDM has actually had a specific consultation with the ECN.

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HON SPEAKER: Is that a point or order?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Honourable Speaker, I think I am getting one. We are talking about what we think may happen there and I think I would advise that we go back and verify his statements because the Honourable Member on the floor is saying, I think this is what is happening. Of course I have been there as well and I have different information so I think it will be very wrong of this House for us to inform the public from this platform, from the Member who has just been shouting you are under oath, so I think you are under oath. You definitely have to reflect the true reflection of what happened at the Electoral Commission during the counting process.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Muharukwa please continue.

HON MUHARUKUA: Honourable Speaker, I thank the Honourable Member for confirming that. She has been there. I did not know that. I cannot say that SWAPO is in that centre. Now you are confirming to us that all the other parties are not there but SWAPO is there, thank you (noise).

HON SPEAKER:” Can I suggest? Please order. I would like to suggest to the Honourable Muharukua, please continue because I do not want a dialogue between the two Members and when you speak also direct your intervention to the Chair so that you are not misunderstood. Thank you.

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HON MUHARUKUA: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker for the record, this finger does not point at anyone it points up. So I do not know, unless the Speaker is above me, it can never be said I am pointing at you.

HON SPEAKER: No, no I did not say that.

HON MUHARUKUA: No, it is a general perception. Yes so now that we know that only one party is in that final centre. What they are doing there while we are not there we do not know. I shall continue. The Honourable Attorney General has spoken about that forum and I have said yes we are aware of that forum. I personally have said in the meeting where we have raised the issues that are raised here. (*Interruptions and talking*).

HON SPEAKER: No, no continue please. No, please, continue.

HON MUHARUKUA: I cannot.

HON SPEAKER: No, you had the floor.

HON MUHARUKWA: Honourable you must protect me.

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HON SPEAKER: You are fully covered by the Speaker you are allowed.

HON MUHARUKUA: Thank you Honourable Speaker. You see that forum, this issue that has just been raised has been discussed about in that forum. These are the words of a PDM consultation with the board commission. These are the words of that Chairperson, Honourable Attorney General. The question was, "Why can we not be there because that is where the results eventually come from?" The Chairperson clearly said, "No, why would you want to be there, we can never allow you to be there". Word for word now this is a commission that should be independent (*interruptions*).

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: (*Not on microphone*).

HON MUHARUKUA: It is not her person. It is not her person that I am talking about. I am talking about the Commission. Please let us not teach others to debate you cannot do that.

HON SPEAKER: Let us continue.

HON MUHARUKUA: Yes that is the opinion of the Commission that that final centre is not for anyone but then now the Honourable Attorney General is talking about, now the Honourable Deputy Minister just said and us so yes, so she is there. Now when we are talking about systems that we must try (Otjiherero). When we are talking about systems that we must trust as citizens please translate she does not understand (laughing).

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When we talk about institutions that we must trust, our actions that lead towards the formation of those institutions should be trustworthy actions because if we have created an institution that we say it is constitutionally or should be constitutionally independent and these institutions hold such view it is a problem, I will fail to trust it and if that institution goes further and does a specific thing something to this effect to say that leave the auditorium of the ECN we are going to announce the election results at 08:00 this is 07:00 within an hour and after half an hour they come and say no half of the Votes have not been verified we cannot announce and then that verification process takes a further date to a further (incomplete). No we are talking about the credibility. We are talking about the credibility, no, Chairperson please.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: You are saying you were not there.

HON MUHARUKUA: Chairperson, we are talking about the credibility of the election commission so if anyone says what I am saying is not relevant please examine yourself, Honourable Minister of (incomplete), the credibility of the Commissioner that we are talking about. Then they take a further four days to announce the results from a centre where no one other than the ECN itself is. Of course now we know that the Ruling Party was there in the form of the Honourable Maureen Hinda, so only SWAPO and the ECN was there (*interruptions*). Except yourself you are not making intervention. So protect yourself do not make fun things. So that to us is a problem, when we are then told that that is the system, that is the easy and whether it says go left or right.

HON SPEAKER: I think we are deviating from the start.

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HON MUHARUKUA: No, no how?

HON SPEAKER: Please let us get to the point.

HON MUHARUKUA: Chair, I am talking about the credibility of the commission. Chair, the Members are intervening talking.

HON SPEAKER: Yes on a point of order.

HON MUHARUKUA: It is not your time. It is not your time. Go home if you want.

HON SPEAKER: Let us have order please.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, on a point of order I think you are correct we need to say that some of the statements that are being made here are not only irrelevant to the issue that is on the table, they are actually truly misleading and inappropriate especially given the platform at which they are being made. If there are Members of Parliament who are saying that the Election Commission does conduct itself in a manner that undermines the integrity of that institution which is a very important national institution during an important national process such as the elections then one would expect that that matter would have been taken up at the appropriate platform. But for us to use this platform

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to cast aspersion that the Electoral Commission is actually conducting itself in a manner that is unbefitting of the character and the integrity that is required of it, I think is inappropriate. So I just want to agree with you and with the floor with my colleagues that we should express the views that we have in a different way than the way that we are doing now.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Muharukua please.

HON MUHARUKUA: Honourable Speaker, the credibility of the Election Commission is the business of this House completely. Today we are charged with discussing two people who are going to be part of that Commission. Their credibility and the credibility of the body they are going to serve is absolutely cardinal and relevant to the perception of our electoral process in this country. No two questions about it. So now *(intervention)*.

HON SPEAKER: Please continue.

HON MUHARUKWA: Where was I?

HON SPEAKER: Please continue.

HON MUHARUKWA: Honourable Speaker, with these interjections I am trying to find way.

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HON SPEAKER: No, I am trying to keep up with time.

HON MUHARUKUA: Yes give me time to recollect because I have been interrupted. The point here Honourable Speaker is we are talking about systems that we must trust and we are being informed that this body is an independent body. When it says go left you must go left. When it says go right you must go right. So this body informs us that this final Coalition Centre you cannot be there, you shall not be there. We must just abide by it. We are going to announce results from this centre that we cannot supervise. We are going to verify the results from this centre that you cannot supervise and we do not want you there, that is the political issues and trust, other than that we must go to court and these statements are coming from Cabinet Members. What should we think? What should Namibians think about the credibility of elections when the Electoral Commission is saying something completely wrong and that wrong thing is being based up by Cabinet? We cannot but think anything other than that the ECN and Cabinet are in bed together. Yes, that the ECN would be walking on the direction of the Cabinet. You cannot because the Honourable Members of this House should stand with us that, that Coalition Centre we all should be there but that is maybe not the view. Other than what we are doing to inform that you were drunk that one so (intervention).

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Honourable Speaker on a point of order?

HON SPEAKER: Yes point of order.

HON MUHARUKUA: No, do I have a choice whether to take the point

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of the Member or not?

HON VENAANI: Those are the chief riggers. The chief rigger of elections.

HON MEMBER: You are out of order now.

HON VENAANI: You are not the Speaker sit down.

HON MEMBER: That is why he is accusing that system is not credible, you are talking about the (not on microphone). In fact they went there. Those who were crying foul they went to court and the court ruled and it is (intervention).

HON VENAANI: He actually say what (indistinct).

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Muharukwa could you come to conclusion please at least to move on?

HON VENAANI: That is the question and not the important thing (indistinct).

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HON MUHARUKUA: Honourable Speaker, let me get to the crux of the issue today and that is commissioners that we are appointing or that we are charged with considering and it is incumbent on this Parliament to use discretion in considering these applications. Any discretion that responsibility should be done and be done, I want to use the word judiciously, that is to say we should consider these CVs in anxiousness, sincerely. The role of this Parliament is to be serious about the business of this country. Are we being serious as a Parliament when we, I have not even seen, not even in my Grade 10 and my Grade 8 class have I been informed I am giving you a book, study it. Within fifteen minutes you are going to write a test about it because that is what Parliament is asking the Members of Parliament to do. No I am talking about the reality if the reality provokes so be it. Because these individuals we must scrutinize whether they are insolvent or be rehabilitated insolvent. There is one person here Evaristos what is the person there (laughter)? Evaristos, I have not even had an opportunity to, I see here he has some sort of qualification from a Biblical Institution. We as Members who must consider these CVs (*intervention*).

HON MEMBER: Is that Mr Tjihenuna?

HON MUHARUKUA: Yes I am not talking about Tjihenuna because I know Tjihenuna personally but the reality of the matter is that I am taking this CV to be what it is and worse off Parliament is informing the Members of Parliament that look we have processes that happened. It has happened, what is the problem, just rubberstamp. When Parliament has neglected, okay anyway, so what are we doing to the job and the responsibility bestowed upon us and that is why I talked about the decorum of the House that it is not only that Muharukwa does not swear at someone but it is that Muharukwa when you are given a responsibility to go and read a Bill read it and come and speak to the interests of the

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HON HINDA**

Namibian people even if it does not suit you political party, that is what we swear everyday to protect the constitution to the best of our abilities.

Honourable Speaker, by being given fifteen minutes and bestowing responsibility upon two individuals that we hardly have done any research about is a neglect of that duty Honourable Speaker. It is basically denigrating the duties of this Parliament. We are supposed to check the person that appoints these individuals in the name of the President. How do you check the President's appointments if you do not even know who these individuals are? Honourable Speaker, I think we must build a nation, a nation for our children and this is a neglect of that duty. Thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Hinda.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I would like to start by saying that I have perused the CVs that are presented and as per the Act provision the minimum requirements that are presented for the qualifications of Namibian citizens to be appointed to serve as Members of the Commission. The Act requires and put three years academic qualifications at level 7 in terms of NQA levels to be the minimum qualifications. I am impressed by the fact that both the CVs presented are holders of Masters Degrees and are in pursuance of doctorate sectoral studies.

I also want to go further to say that the CVs have added David under oath declaring that these individuals both of them attached to the CVs that they have not an un-rehabilitative insolvent at any point that they are not permanently employed by the State and they are not office bearers of a political party. So that satisfies the requirements and I must state that when we read the Act, of course one cannot read everything but it is

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HON HINDA**

embarrassing that we called parts that would suit out arguments. The Act says, only in the event that the Secretary of the National Assembly fails to present an approval then the President can seek the Standing Committee on Privileges to be involved. It is also for the State that you are not allowed to be an office bearer of a political party. An Act of politicians or has a higher part political profile, I think that is very clear. So in that regard I am satisfied and wish to move that we support these appointments.

I would also wish to further present the fact that it is such an important consideration that the Act makes provision that if we are in recess the Chair has the mandate to call for a special Parliamentary Session to consider this. I want to, I do not need to answer to what you said, I am presenting my own arguments. I think I do not know if there is a perception in this House that you have to respond to what the opposition is saying. I am making my statement and I want to be protected please. Am I protected please Chair?

HON SPEAKER: You are protected.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Thank you. I also wish for the fact that the Act provides that the Member of the Commission should be older than 21 years and especially for him or her to be appointed as Chairperson should then be older than 35. I am pleased to announce that the one member that is presented under the name of Evaristos is indeed very useful and below the age of 40 years and I think that is commendable and he presents that balance of wisdom and youthfulness and on that point I would wish to support these nominations. I thank you.

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**DISCUSSING ECN CANDIDATES
HON PROF KASINGO**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Well, thank you very much I think now we have comprehensively reflected on the two nominees and where we are now, does the Honourable Deputy Speaker wish to reply?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes thank you Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we debated on the issue and I have to thank all the Honourable Members who took the floor in particular for the colleagues who supported me to answer the questions put by the other Members. When one listens to for example the statement and debate by Honourable Venaani I can say that although they are related to the issue we are supposed to discuss they are not relevant. For example the EVN machines, of course they are related because these people of which we are going to approve today those are the people who are going to discuss these things. I am not going to waste my time although my learned colleague both the Attorney General and the Minister of Justice have professionally answers and as well as Honourable Madam Hinda of which I think the only thing I am supposed to comment Honourable Members to add to the explanation is the question as to whether Mr Tjihenuna is a permanent or on contract and probably to touch on the credibility of the Commission.

On the credibility of the Commission I just want to remind and to bring to the attention of the Honourable Members that Electoral Act No.5 of 2014 was passed here and it is a pity that it was passed before a number of the colleagues were not here but we have entrusted those Members of Parliament who were there at that time to pass that Act. That Act in terms of Section 5 provides the composition of the Selection Committee. To me that type of composition will also determine the credibility-ness of the Commission and to which I think the lawmakers by that time apply their minds and have satisfied themselves to say that if the Commission consists of, here I am going to mention that in terms of Section 5:1 there is established a Selection Commission consisting of:

- (a) The Chairperson of Public Service Commission who is the Chairperson of the Select Committee.

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HON PROF KASINGO**

- (b) The Chairperson of the Council of Law Society of Namibia referred to in the Section 45 of the Legal Practitioners Act of 1995 who is the Deputy Chairperson of the Selection Committee.
- (c) The Chairman of Public Accountants and Auditors Board referred to in Section 6.
- (d) The Registrar of the High Court of Namibia.
- (e) The Director of the Namibia Qualification Authority appointed in terms of the Namibia Qualification Authority Act No.29 of 1996.

I should think when we look at the combination of these people we have got credible people who are from this and have no doubt that that composition transfers itself that they would be credible and they will also see to it that the process will also be credible. But however, being positioned if you have got a problem then we must arrange another forum to debate that with them but here I am just humbly asking you colleagues to approve the two colleagues. Mr Tjihenuna has made a declaration before the Police that he is not a permanent employee. He is on contract and these people applied their minds during the Interviews I trusted it, I do not have doubt in that. With this, Honourable Speaker, I humbly request the Assembly to approve the two. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now put the question that the nomination of His Excellency for the National Assembly to approve the two candidates to be members of the Electoral Commission be adopted. Yes please.

HON VENAANI: I was not given the floor. I will stand when I am given the floor, you are not the Speaker. Honourable Speaker, there is one issue that I want us to clarify ourselves before we do the vote.

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**DISCUSSING ECN CANDIDATES
HON VENAANI / HON SHANGHALA**

HON SPEAKER: Yes.

HON VENAANI: The issue is that if somebody declares that I am on contract. He is an Executive Director who works for Government who is on contract a permanent employee and he is the person who works for the office of the Speaker under contract, would the law allow them to become commissioners? Answer that question then we have no division. Please answer that question.

HON SPEAKER: Yes please.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker, I did not know that the Honourable Leader of the Opposition takes an interest in Public Service management practices but I will explain to them the little that I can recall.

We have permanent employment in the Public Service then we also have contractual employment. So when you are employed in the Public Service you are employed against a position or you are employed outside the position but the filled positions of the Public Service. So for example you may have a person who is a Director not a permanent position on the establishment the position is not there but you are additional to the establishment for example. Or for instance you may find yourself you are an Executive Director in this Ministry you are transferred into another Ministry. You are an Executive Director but there is no position for you there. Depending on the contract that you have it determines whether you are full time and permanent or not. Normally the facets are when you are not permanent you are also not a member of the Pension Fund, you are not

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**DISCUSSING ECN CANDIDATES
HON SHANGHALA**

a member of the Medical Aid Scheme etcetera so these are the new ones that you have. This individual is not a permanent employee, I thought he had retired also.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes he did.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Yes so this is a person who is on a contract who is working. I recall when he was at the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), when I was at the OPM we were together there, he was permanent on the establishment but I do not think he is here and I would think that if that is the only concern it would also be covered in the sense that, Colleague/Comrade?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Comrade.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Colleague what I was saying is that if the concern is that if his employment would then be a border to his activities in the Commission that is also covered in the Act. For instance if you fail to pitch three times to a meeting without leave of the Commission you are no longer a Commissioner automatically, so there are those types of things. And for example let me give an example of the previous Commissioner who was working with Parliament but not necessarily with this gender Ben Karuoumbe (intervention).

HON VENAANI: (Not on microphone).

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**DISCUSSING ECN CANDIDATES
HON SHANGHALA**

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: No what I am saying is in relation to a person who is working but it if impacts the ability to perform the functions that is what I was saying.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I will put the question that the nomination by His Excellency for the National Assembly to approve the two candidates to be members of the Electoral Commission be adopted. Any objection? We note the objection. We do not need to divide the House I am assuming. We note the objection then it is so agreed to. Ha? (ululations) The objection is noted. We have taken note of that it is on record but there is no need to divide the House because the majority (intervention).

HON VENAANI: *(Not on microphone).*

HON SPEAKER: Okay let us do that. So we go for division. Those who are objecting kindly stand up. (Noise) no hang on, can I just clarify. I know when it comes to the gender issue we have in the Commission female colleagues so the gender issue does not come into this. Yes so it is already covered.

Okay I was trying to be helpful but I think we have done we have covered the issue. We are fully in agreement. We have the majority supporting the two Candidates and it is so decided.

Objection for those who are in favour I would like to see the Members standing up. Okay sit down. Those who are abstaining? Okay let me now give you the results. Objection, 4 (four) (intervention). Okay can I ask you to stand up so that we can count? So they are four, okay. Can I have order? Order please! Can I pronounce on this important matter? The

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HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

Honourable Members who are against are four according to what I can count, where is the three coming from? Yes please?

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION: Yes Honourable Speaker, according to the Honourable Speaker because one Member who stood in fact he was outside the Parliament because he was not sitting on the designated seat.

HON SPEAKER: Oh, okay thank you. Now we know. Okay I accept, no let us not go there, those who are in favour, 50: Abstaining 3, so the decision those who are in favour have it. So recorded. Thank you very much. With that I think we have come to the end of today's sitting and I thank you all for your, so we have done it the decision is made so decided and may I wish you a wonderful evening. We will be back here on Tuesday as usual. For now have a very peaceful evening.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:04 UNTIL 19.02.2019 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
19 FEBRUARY, 2019**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS IN TERMS OF RULE 20(B) OF THE
STANDING RULES AND ORDERS**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have some announcements to make by that the Office of the Speaker to be informed by the Chairperson of the National Council that the Council in terms of Rule 75:2. Attention! Attention! I am reading the announcement please, attention. I was saying, announcements, can I start again? Honourable Members, the Office OF the Speaker has been informed by the Chairperson of the National Council that the Council in terms of Rule 75:2 of the Namibian Constitution considers and confirms the following Bills without amendments:

- Appropriation Amendment Bill {B16 – 2018}
- Repeal of Obsolete Laws Bill {B21 – 2018}
- Extradition Amendment Bill {B19 – 2018}
- National Assembly of the Republic of Namibia Bill {B22 – 2018}
- Namibia Deposit Guarantee Bill {B14 – 2018}
- Administration of Estates Amendment Bill {B23 – 2018}

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON MUTORWA**

- International Cooperation in Criminal Matters Amendment Bill {B20 – 2018}
- Criminal Procedure Act Repeat Bill {B17 – 2018} and
- Public Service Amendment Bill {B23 – 2018}.

In terms of the same Article namely 75:3 of the Namibian Constitution, these Bills were referred to His Excellency the President from the National Assembly and has already dealt with them in terms of Article 56 and 64 of the Constitution. I further report that the Office of the Speaker has been informed by the Chairperson of the National Council that the Council in terms of Rule 75:2 of the Namibian Constitution considers and confirms the following Bills with amendments:

- Basic Education Bill.
- Public Enterprises Governance Bill.

These two Bills will be put again on the Order Paper for reconsideration by this Assembly as soon as the two Ministries have applied their minds to them. Those are the announcements.

Any petitions? Reports of Standing and Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notices of Questions? Reports and Papers, okay sorry there are lots of things, Reports and Papers I recognize Honourable Lucia Iipumbu.

**TABLING OF REPORTS - NATIONAL INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY POLICY AND STRATEGY**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALIZATION, TRADE
AND SME DEVELOPMENT:** (Not of microphone).

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON IIPUMBU / HON MUTORWA**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the report. Any other reports?
I recognize Honourable Minister Mutorwa.

**TABLING OF REPORTS – NAMIBIAN PORTS AUTHORITY
AND NAMIBIA CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY**

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you
Comrade Deputy Speaker. Comrade Deputy Speaker, I had a pleasant
duty to lay upon the table the following reports:

- (i) Group Annual Report of the Namibian Ports Authority for the
Financial Year 2017/2018 and:
- (ii) Annual Report of the Namibia Civil Aviation Authority for the
Financial Year 2017/2018 for the information of the Honourable
Members but more importantly for the critical scrutiny of the Public
Accounts Committee whose Chairperson is absent. Oh you are there
sorry.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Reports. I recognize
Honourable. Any further Reports and Papers on the Executive? None and
then Notices of Questions? I recognize Honourable Smit.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1:

HON SMIT: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. Honourable
Deputy Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday the 28th of February 2019 I

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON SMIT**

shall ask the Minister of Finance Honourable Calle Schlettwein the following:

That at the beginning of January this year the Honourable Minister revealed shocking information that CIMAS was using N\$900,000,000 per day of the year due to fraud. This has been going on since independence. This means that the State has lost such an astronomical amount of money in the past thirty years that my calculator refuse to produce an answer when I tried to calculate it. Thus I ask:

1. Can the Honourable Minister inform this august House how much CIMAS lost in total since independence?
2. Is there a Police investigation into the alleged fraud?
3. Has anybody been charged for this alleged fraud?
4. Can you inform this august House exactly what steps you as a responsible Minister of CIMAS has taken to stop this fraud, expose the guilty parties and close the loopholes?

I so move.

QUESTION 2:

HON SMIT: On the same day I will ask the Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation Honourable Dr Idah Kandjii Murangi the following:

The Health Professions Council of Namibia conducted a Free Internship Evaluation on 29 and 30 November 2080. This revealed that 207 Foreign Trained Medical Graduates sat for the Free Internship Evaluation and only

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON SMIT**

a total number of two, only two Medical Graduates passed the said Internship Evaluation.

Also on 17 and 29 November 2018 thirty Foreign Trained Dental Graduates were examined. None of them passed the Free Internship Evaluation, none and only fifty qualified for supplementary Free Internship Evaluation. This recent revelation comes as a huge shock and disappointment to most Namibians. Thus I ask:

1. Can the Honourable Minister inform this august House whether Universities where our learners are served at tax payers' expenses to study medicine and/or dentists are formally rated as to the academic standards?
2. If so why are disqualifications not recognized when they return to Namibia?
3. If not can the Honourable Minister please explain why they are being sent there to these Universities and why the Minister has signed contracts with these institutions if they deliver inferior education thus squandering the Namibian tax payers' money. It boggles one's mind that students can be sent to Universities that are inferior (intervention).

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry Honourable Member, we have received lots of papers but open it silently please.

HON SMIT: Sorry.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes proceed.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON SMIT**

HON SMIT: Shall I conclude:

4. Can the Honourable Minister tell this august House how much money has been paid to these institutions all the past five years, these inferior Universities?
5. How many such students have actually graduated and been employed in Namibia over the past five years? Have there been any students employed that studied at those Universities?
6. What is the standard of their foreign degrees, the other degrees such as engineering, architecture, quantity surveying and others where the Ministry is funding their studies?

I so move Honourable Deputy Speaker. On the same day (interruptions).

HON DIENDA: Take your time.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed.

QUESTION 3:

HON SMIT: On the same day I shall ask the Minister of Environment and Tourism Honourable Pohamba Shifeta the following:

According to Media reports a total of 231 applications to cut down, listen, 195,550 trees in Namibia over five years has been received where some applications are being entertained by the Ministries of Environment and Tourism and Agriculture, Water and Forestry. These propose wholesale

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON SMIT**

destruction of Namibia's very limited forests poses a huge danger to the continued existence of fauna and flora, thus I ask:

1. Has any scientific research been done on the impact that the cutting down of our forests will have on the environment for instance global warming and dissatisfaction?
2. How many trees that can be harvested actually exist in Namibia?
3. If a research has been done how many trees can be harvested annually without demanding our forests?
4. What are the criteria on which a decision is made to harvest a particular tree for instance its age, height, circumference etcetera?

HON MEMBER: What is that?

HON SMIT: You will not understand.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes?

HON SMIT: Let the Minister study this maybe he can understand and give us answers.

5. How does it take for the various species to reach these criteria to be cut. What plan is in place to replace every tree that is harvested? Are they going to be replaced or recreating another part of the desert in those areas?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON FLEERMUYS**

6. What plan is in place to replace every tree that is harvested? Is there a plan?
7. Whose responsibility is it to do this replacement? Is it the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry or the person who does the harvesting? Who must replace or are they not to be replaced?
8. Is there any control in place regarding replacement of trees?
9. In general and since Namibia is an arid country with few trees what policy is in place to plant more trees all over the country?

I so move.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes well done please table the questions. Further questions is by Honourable Fleermuys.

QUESTION 4

HON FLEERMUYS: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday 21st February 2019 I shall ask the Minister of Finance Honourable Calle Schlettwein the following question. Customarily in the past when we submitted our yearly returns to Ministry of Finance we attached tax invoices that were issued throughout the past year for assessment officers but in recent years it has come to my attention that tax invoices are no longer needed to be submitted, thus my question is as follows:

Can the Honourable Minister of Finance please inform this Honourable House whether a directive regarding tax invoices has been introduced and/or implemented and if so, when was it introduced and/or implemented? I so move Honourable Speaker.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON KAVEKOTORA**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Table the question please. The next question is by Honourable Kavekatora.

QUESTION 5:

HON KAVEKOTORA: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday the 28th of February 2019 I shall ask the Minister of Urban and Rural Development Honourable Peya Mushelenga the following question.

The Mass Housing Project was initiated to address housing shortages faced by the Namibian nation. The outcome however, fell short of expectations and very little was achieved in alleviating the housing backlog especially among those in need of social housing. Every now and then it is reported that there is a critical number of houses constructed under this project are unoccupied hence the following question.

1. Can the Honourable Minister indicate to this august House how many houses are still unoccupied and the towns and cities in which these houses are?
2. What plans does your Ministry have in place to address this dilemma?
3. In some instances affordability has been cited as the reason why these houses are standing empty. Why did Government construct houses in the upper segment of the market?
4. With lessons learnt from the housing project, does your Ministry have a revised strategy on how to address the housing challenges among the vulnerable in our society?

I so move.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON KAVEKOTORA**

QUESTION 6:

HON KAVEKOTORA: On the same day Thursday the 28th of February 2019 I shall ask the Minister of Mines and Energy Honourable Tom Alweendo the following questions:

You might recall that I asked your predecessor questions about the establishment and the reported operations of NAMDIA. NAMDIA through your Ministry presented a full financial report for the 2017/2018 Financial Year during the previous session of Parliament. The 2016/2016 Annual Report covered only six months of trading. NAMDIA has been established by your Ministry as a rough diamond trader with business operations focused on the purchasing of rough diamonds and sales of these diamonds to the international diamond industry. It is also understood that NAMDIA has a discretion to cut and polish its rough diamonds with a view to discover the market value of polished diamonds hence the following questions:

1. Can the Honourable Minister share with this august House and the nation out there how NAMDIA was indeed led as indeed led or is leading Namibia to become a major player in the entire global diamond value chain?
2. According to the comprehensive income statement for the Financial Year 2017/2018 NAMDIA's revenue was recorded to be N\$1,900,000,000 against the cost of sale of N\$1,700,000,000 or 90% of revenue with an operating expense of amount to N\$32,600,000,000. My question is, how does this figure compare to the industry and all.
3. Why do you not Honourable Minister subject NAMDIA to a performance audit by the Auditor General to assess the value for money and economic benefits that are accrued from establishment of NAMDIA.

I so move Honourable Speaker.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON VAN WYK**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the questions. The following questions are by Honourable Van Wyk.

QUESTION 7:

HON VAN WYK: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. Honourable Deputy Speaker, I hereby give Notice that on Thursday 21st of February 2019 I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Urban and Rural Development, Honourable Dr Peya Mushelenga the following:

Honourable Minister, after several requests for intervention at the Rehoboth Town Council due to alleged corrupt practices you then in March 2018 suspended the Rehoboth Town Council for an indefinite period. A Ministerial intervention Report compiled clearly indicates those involved. However, no action was taken. I shall therefore ask the following.

1. Honourable Minister, opposition Councillors reported the alleged corrupt practices at the Rehoboth Town Council to your Ministry on several occasions. Can you explain as to why such reports were ignored by your Ministry?
2. What are the reason/s for not taking appropriate action against those implicated and alleged corrupt practises?
3. When will the suspension of opposition Councillors be lifted as they are not implicated in corruption or corrupt practises uncovered during the investigations?
4. Since the period of employment of your representative at the Rehoboth Town Council is still to come to an end on the 31st of March 2019 what is the way forward at the Rehoboth Town Council?

I so move Honourable Deputy Speaker.

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NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON DIENDA / HON VAN DEN HEEVER

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the questions. The next question is by Honourable Dienda.

QUESTION 8:

HON DIENDA: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. I hereby give Notice that on Thursday the 28th of February I shall ask the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture the following:

1. Can Honourable Minister please provide me and this august House with the syllabus of the New Curriculum for all the grades?
2. How many teachers have undergone training for the new curriculum and what was the reason of this training?
3. Are there plans to train those who did not undergo this training?
4. What is your Ministry doing to address the shortages of textbooks in our schools?
5. What is your Ministry doing to also address the lack of shelter seeing that winter is fast approaching?

I so move Honourable Deputy Speaker.

QUESTION 9

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. I hereby give Notice that on the 28th of February I shall ask the Minister of Urban and Rural Development, Honourable Dr Peya Mushelenga the following (interruptions). You cannot even pronounce my name I do not know why you are bothering me. You must be worried as representatives

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**NOTICES OF QUESTIONS
HON VAN DEN HEEVER**

of the electorate, am I protected Honourable Deputy Speaker?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are.

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: Am I protected from Honourable Kandjoze and seeing. We must be worried as representatives of the electorate when reference find it difficult and almost impossible to acquire land through the Town Council of when the same people repeatedly benefit from projects that are meant to support the poor and elderly.

When Town Councils advertise land sales they make it clear that all Namibians can apply yet there is a supposed condition that state only first time buyers qualify to acquire land through this route. I would therefore like to ask Honourable Mushelenga:

1. What system have you in place to ensure that local residence are prioritized in acquisition of title deeds and ervens, how effective has this system been?
2. Are residence required to pay a fee for the acquisition of title deeds? If yes why?

I so submit.

QUESTION 10:

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: On the very same day Honourable Deputy Speaker I give notice that I shall ask on Thursday the 28th of February the

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HON VAN DEN HEEVER**

Minister of Education, Arts and Culture Honourable Katrina Hanse-Himarwa the following:

At the end of last year some 20,000 learners failed to garner enough points to proceed to Grade 11. It has come to my knowledge that NAMCOL now registered these learners for Grade 12 despite the fact that they were unable to pass while attending a full time school. I thus ask. Can the Honourable Minister explain the rationale behind this decision that a learner who could not pass Grade 10 full time can now enroll for Grade 12 without the benefit of teachers and attending classes every day? I so submit.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the question. Now we move to the Notices of Motions, anyone? Notices of Motions? Messages from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? In the absence of anything else this brings us to the end of today's deliberations.

Next Thursday any questions? I stand to be guided, Chief Whip, Right Honourable Prime Minister, Madam Doreen Sioka, yes Honourable?

HON MINISTER OF GENDER, EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: (Not on microphone).

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes I take note of that. Honourable Kavekatora would you like to say something?

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**ADJOURNMENT
HON PROF KASINGO**

HON KAVEKOTORA: I second.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay the House is adjourned then till next week or before that Right Honourable Prime Minister?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Adjourned to Tuesday next week.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes Tuesday next week, when is Tuesday? Ha? The 26th.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Okay thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. Honourable Deputy Speaker, I move that the House adjourns until next week Tuesday the usual time to be in the House.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay so agreed, we meet next Tuesday at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:15 UNTIL 2019.02.26

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
26 FEBRUARY 2019**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

**ANNOUNCEMENT IN TERMS OF RULE 20(B)
OF THE STANDING RULES AND ORDERS**

HON SPEAKER: Welcome back. Honourable Members very interesting. I hope our Colleagues will still be coming. I have just been told that they are on their way. Well, Honourable Members as you know by now the country has witnessed the safe return of the Bible and the Whip belonging to our iconic leader Hendrik Witbooi. These artifacts were duly handed over this morning to His Excellency Doctor NangoloMbumba the Vice President of the Republic of Namibia. I am sure you agree with me that this artifacts are very, very important to our national heritage and there would be many more to come back in line with UNESCO Convention governing artifacts that were taken from Africa many years ago.

So we should prepare them, house them, preserve them for the younger generations to understand and appreciate how important it is. So that said and done, we congratulate all those who participated in this important exercise and we thank them very much. It is someone's birthday today and the list might even extend but for now I have taken note of the fact that it is the Honourable Bernadette Maria Jagger it is her birthday today and we wish her happy birthday and many more returns. Last week in fact I noticed there were couple of Honourable Members who observed their birthdays and we want you to know that we wish you equally well, good

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON SHILUNGA**

health and keep up the good work as lawmakers of the Republic of Namibia. Any petitions, yes.

HON EKANDJO: Speaker my farm Manager has got a problem. He was born on the 29th of February and his birthday is only after fourth year so this year he does have a birthday because apparently February is 28. So he told me that he is now almost, he is a person over. He was born in 1981 or 1985 but he said he is maybe 20 years because he count every after four years so now this time he does not know. This year he is also celebrating his birthday since February is. Maybe this House can now put in between 29th or something so that he can also.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. We will look into that and I am going to consult the elders in this House to give us guidance as to how to deal with that aspect of our national calendar. Good, any petitions, reports of standing and select Committees, other reports and papers, yes, Honourable Deputy Minister of Mines and Energy.

**TABLING: REPORT OF THE
ELECTRICITY CONTROL BOARD**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Honourable Speaker I lay upon the table annual reports of the Electricity Control for the year 2018.

I so move Honourable Speaker.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON NAUYOMA**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of questions, Honourable Nauyoma.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 11

HON NAUYOMA: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker I give notice that on Thursday the 7th of March 2019 I shall move to ask the Honourable Minister of Higher Education the following. With regard to the dilemma of the foreign state doctors that are struggling around our cities, I want to find out why did we spend money in the first place to send these graduates to University like in Cuba, China, Russia and others that are not up to standard with our systems? Why should we spend money in such a situation knowing very well that when they come back they cannot be able to be absorbed into our medical systems?

I so move Honourable Speaker.

QUESTION 12

HON NAUYOMA: Again, Speaker on the same day I shall move to ask the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport the following. With regard to the road construction project and other capital projects of the country that are struggling very, very hard, I want to find out why do we start projects that we cannot sustain or we do not have the money to complete because if you have started this one project with the little money that is there and you complete it, in my view it would be much more advisable than starting several projects that are now and then you see people in papers demanding payments, talking about claims of N\$5

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON SMIT**

Million per day. What kind of planning really are we doing in the country?

I so move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I am quite certain that the Honourable Member will get an appropriate response from the Minister of Higher Education but I am at pain to suggest that we should never make a judgment of academic institutions around the globe. Who are we to judge and I think we should be very careful not to make generalize comments because this is something which needs careful handling but I will leave it to the Minister concerned to deal with it and I am sure she will respond, Honourable Nico Smit.

QUESTION 13

HON SMIT: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker I give notice that on the 7th of March 2019 I shall ask the Minister of Health and Social Service, Honourable Doctor Shangula the following:

Namibians were shocked by the revelations in the media about a young woman who required emergency surgery and the blood transfusion after the alleged treatment she was objected at the Government Hospital in Otjiwarongo while giving birth to a baby boy. Injuries alleged at the hands of medical staff during the birth allegedly included a serious loss of blood, a broken pelvis and a tear in perineum. This brutal treatment must be seen as blatant itself on a member of the public by medical staff trained and appointed to provide care to patients thus I ask.

1. Can the Honourable Minister inform this August House whether the medical staff who were involved in this shocking assault have been investigated

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON SMIT**

2. If so, and if it is found that the woman's allegations are true, what action will be taken against them
3. Has the woman being informed of her right to lay a charge of assault against the medical staff who were responsible for her injuries
4. Can the Honourable Minister tell this August House what steps would be taken to protect members of the public from such treatment in Government Hospitals in future.

I so move.

QUESTION 14

HON SMIT: On the same day I will ask the Minister of Safety and Security Honourable Charles Namoloh the following. The steering reports about growing policy brutality against members of the public have been filling our newspaper since December. In January members of the public of both sexes complained that they were arrested and held in the police cells in Okahandja and then subjected to assault and indignities in the police cells at the hands of a special field force. In the same month in Swakopmund a man complained that he was flunked into a police van and illegally held without charge for the whole day for taking photos on the beach where the police were removing fishermen and in Karasburg two men complained that they were assaulted and paper sprayed by passing policeman without any reason being provided for this behavior thus I ask.

1. Is there a law that prohibits a member of the public from taking photos of police officers carrying out their duties
2. When reports appear in the media alleging for police brutality, are these reports noted and these allegations investigated by the police
3. If found guilty, is disciplinary action taken against such members of

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON SMIT**

the police

4. Can the Honourable Minister provide this August House with figures regarding the number of such cases that have been investigated over the past 18 months and how many police members have been found guilty and actually punished
5. Can the Honourable Minister inform this August House what has been done to curb this alleged police brutality?

I so move.

QUESTION 15:

HON SMIT: On the same day I shall ask the Minister of Safety and Police and Security Honourble Charles Namoloh the following:

The large number of unsolved murders perpetrated on young girls and women in Namibia over the past almost seven years have shown the inability of the Namibian Police to effect efficiently and effectively investigate serious crimes thus I ask.

1. Why no progress has been made in nearly seven years to solve the murders mentioned above
2. How many police dockets have been send back by court over the past five years because of failure of investigation that made prosecution impossible
3. How many police dockets have over the past few years disappeared before the case could be brought before the courts
4. Why does it take years to investigate cases such as the Hackmire and

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON VENAANI**

Hoff case as well as the Zambezi Prison case and many others taken years and years and years

5. What is your Ministry doing or has done to ensure that those responsible for the failure to investigate crimes in such a manner that someone can be brought to justice or held accountable for such failures.

I so move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Next is Honourable Venaani.

QUESTION 16:

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I want to stand before I ask the question in this monumental day that our nation has received the whip and the Bible of our late legendary Hendrik Witbooi. Hendrik Witbooi was known to write a white course and the Ovaherero fighters at Osona would always look with admiration how he would whip the horse. It was a white whip and the white horse. In fact there some local songs that sings and praise him on that horse. Then Hereros never knew horses very well because the horses came with the Namas from the south the gun and the horse and the whip and it is historic that today we are witnessing these things that we have heard through oral history over a period of over 115 years that we are witnessing them happening so well done to Namibia.

Honourable Speaker I give notice that on Thursday the 7th of March 2019 I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister I do not know whether she resigned or she ran away but if she is still the Prime Minister, then Sarah Kuugongelwa-Amadhila the following:

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON VENAANI**

It was reported a few months ago that Government has appointed a Deputy Permanent Secretary then and a Deputy Executive Director in the Ministry of Finance to a tune of N\$1.1 Million hence the following question:

1. What is the salary structure of an Executive Directors in all the Ministries in the country
2. Which Executive Director or a Deputy Executive Director earns more than the other and on which grounds are these exemptions allowed when the country has no funds.

I so submit.

QUESTION 17

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker on the very same day I shall give notice that on Thursday 7th March 2019 I shall ask the Minister of Presidential Affairs Honourable Martin Endjamba the following. We are made aware that there is a Bill an Act that regulates the retirement benefit of the Presidency. We are also made to understand that the former Vice President is given lodging in a Government house located in Eros after retirement.

1. Is this assertion true or false
2. If one is in the affirmative, which Act empower a retired Vice President to live in a Government property
3. How much rental fee is being paid on this property by the current tenant and the may the Minister provide proof of the payment thereof.

I so submit.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON VENAANI**

QUESTION 18

HON VENAANI: On the very same day 7th March 2019 I shall ask the Minister of Defence Honourable Penda YaNangolo the following. The Defence Museum in Okahandja was built in 2004. Since its construction it was never inaugurated.

1. When will it be open to the public and what was the cost of this construction.

A North Korean Company called Mansudai Overseas Project Group was initially building ammunition factory outside Rehoboth in Namibia but to a United Nations sanctions it was reported to seize operation hence the question

- 1 What is the status of this ammunition factory? Has it gone into production
- 2 What is the actual cost of this project
- 3 The same North Korean Company Mansudai Overseas Project Group was also set to build Defence Ministry Headquarters. What is the current status of this construction and who has taken over the construction?

QUESTION 19:

HON VENAANI: On the very same day I shall ask the Minister of Trade and Industry Honourable Tjekero Tweya the following:

1. In total how many companies were given export processing zone status so far
2. What is the value of these companies individually and how much jobs

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON VENAANI**

have been created through these IPZ zones

3. Can the Minister provide the list of names of all the companies that are under the IPZ category
 4. How many of them are bigger than SMEs
-

QUESTION 20

HON VENAANI: On the very same day I shall ask the Minister of Mines and Energy Honourable Tom Alweendo the following:

1. May the Minister clarify the license issuance of solar generation. How many licenses were issued, how many plants are currently running and at what megawatts are generated.
 2. Regarding the actual cost of the generation, who are the companies that got the licenses and what is the duration of their licenses
 3. How many megawatts are needed to generate an immediate power deficit in the country
-

QUESTION 21:

HON VENAANI: On the same day I shall ask the same Minister Mines and Energy Tom Alweendo that there has been silence on one of the most important national public projects that is seen as a positive substance for future economic growth in the country namely the National Oil Storage project in Walvis Bay.

1. Can the Minister explain who are the companies that have tenders,

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON LIMBO**

who are the companies that have been awarded the tender for the project and when is it expected to be completed and at what cost.

Honourable Speaker I so move. I so submit.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Next on my list is Honourable Agnes Limbo. I do not know what happened but.

QUESTION 22:

HON LIMBO: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I give notice that on the 7th of March 2019 I shall ask the Minister of Health and Social Welfare Doctor KalumbiShangula the following question. In the end of 2018 to date we the residence of Windhoek especially in the area of Khomasdal and Otjomuise are experiencing an increase of mosquitoes. Can I be protected Honourable Speaker? There is a threat from young man in the House.

HON SPEAKER: Alright.

HON LIMBO: The residence are forced to use the mosquito pesticide which is in itself is not health if used daily hence the following question:

1. What can the Minister of health and Social Welfare in conjunction with the City of Windhoek do to mitigate the abovementioned problem
2. Is it possible to carry out the mosquito spray programs like what is happening in the northern regions

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON VAN DEN HEEVER**

I so submit. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Next is Honourable Van Den Heever.

QUESTION 23:

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I hereby give notice that on Thursday the 7th of March 2019 I shall ask the Minister of Urban and Rural Development HonourablePeyaMushelenga the following. There have been concern raised by residence of Rehoboth around the functionality and the manner in which decisions are taken at the Rehoboth Municipality especially decisions that pertains to urban planning. Businessman and women has a way to scheme the Municipality sometime only indicate that they are interested in building a shop to sell goods. When buying an area in the central business CBD and not a specific intended purpose of that shop.

Currently offloading of materials in Rehoboth take place in CBD exposing of unwanted materials in the middle of the town is indeed a nuisance to passerby. I therefore like to ask the HonourablePeya the following.

1. How does your Ministry deal with individuals who operate at certain areas without clearing certificates
2. What mechanisms have you in place to operate issues such as the one in Rehoboth where shop owners undertake light or heavy industrial activities in the CBD which causes traffic and creates chaos on the roads

I so submit.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON !AUXAB**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable !Auchab.

QUESTION 24:

HON !AUXAB: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker I give notice that on Thursday 7th of March 2019 I shall ask the Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare Honourable Doreen Sioka the following questions. On Children's Day November 2018 UNICEF launched a global petition to call on all leaders to commit to fulfilling the rights of every child and to recognize that these rights are no negotiable.

1. May the Honourable Minister share the progress Justice Ministry to approve regulations campaign in the long awaited Child Care Protection Bill that was passed in 2015
 2. Honourable Minister you will agree with me four years is too long for a country to not implement a law that has been passed in this August House and you will further agree with me that it is a shame that Namibia is still floating with an outdated 1960 law that is failing our children to appoint children's Advocate and the establishment of national advisory Council on children amongst many others provisions.
-

QUESTION 25:

HON !AUXAB: Honourable Speaker on the same day I shall ask the Minister of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development HonourableTjekeroTweya the following questions. Trade statistics released by the Namibian Statistics Agency so that the value of export increase 2.1% in the second quarter of 2018 but the economist warn that the fate figures indicates that almost half of Namibia's exports are re-exports.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON !AUXAB**

1. May the Honourable Minister enlighten this August House how much the concerted effort by the private and public sector are needed to identify goods that can be produced and sourced locally not only to reduce the import bill but also to diversify the domestic economy.
 2. Honourable Minister will you agree with me that for Namibia promoting and applying new technologies to substitute energy imports have energy sources available in the country will reduce the energy import bill permanently and support domestic economic activities.
 3. If yes Honourable Minister when is your Ministry ready to advance the logic.
-

QUESTION 26

HON !AUXAB: And on the same day Honourable Speaker I shall ask the Minister of Environment and Tourism Honourable Pohamba Shifeta the following questions:

Namibia is the first developing country to submit its bio annual update report to United States framework Convention on the climate change the report that has helped climate change deal to bring Paris back to life, congratulations Honourable Minister for that.

1. May the Honourable Minister share with this August House the progress of implementation of the N\$60 Million project funded by the adaptation fund for desalinated underground water at Betanie and Grunoeb in the Karas region and also the requested N\$5 Million grant to lay an economy wide national adaptation plan.
2. Can the Honourable Minister also appraise this August House how the Summit accord reach by 196 states outlined plans for common rule book for all countries how it will hold richer nations legally liable to accept for causing climate change

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MUHARUKUA**

3. Can the Honourable Minister share with the Kunene residence the signed and funded activity agreement worth N\$140 Million between green climate fund and environment investment fund of Namibia to support climate change adaptation in disaster management in Kunene.

I so move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Next is Honourable Muharukua.

QUESTION 27

HON MUHARUKUA: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker I have an urgent oral question for Deputy Minister of Safety and Security.

HON SPEAKER: Safety and Security?

HON MUHARUKUA: Yes.

HON SPEAKER: Well, let us hear it.

HON MUHARUKUA: The gist of it is the food situation in the prisons, the lack of food in the prisons, not in the prisons, in the police holding

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MUHARUKUA**

cells.

HON SPEAKER: Alright.

HON MUHARUKUA: No, it is urgent people are hungry. Honourable Minister (interrupted).

HON SPEAKER: Let us have order please.

ORAL QUESTION

QUESTION 1:

HON MUHARUKUA: Honourable Deputy Minister police officers are really not some of the highest paid civil servants in this country. Did you know or are you aware of a situation that police officers in certain police stations had to collect money that is putting money together to buy food for inmates because there is no provision for food from the kitchens for those inmates specifically Klein Windhoek police station where police officers recently had to put money together just to be able to buy bread and Oros for inmates to eat because the inmates are hungry. The kitchen from big police station is not giving them food. Are you aware of that situation? If you are aware and it is true, is this situation receiving your urgent attention because police officers cannot really give, should really not be able to use the little they earn to support or to take care of the

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
HON KASHIKOLA**

wellbeing of the inmates in the police holding cells?

HON SPEAKER: Alright, thank you. Deputy Minister, can you throw a light to that particular question?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I am not aware of the specific situation. I am saying the specific case that you are talking about but I am quite aware that there has been report of insufficient supply of food at some of the police stations and to that effect, we have launched an investigation that is going on and we will be able to sort out what is the situation depending on what we will find. However, in the meantime we have a tender running for the supply of food to all the police stations. So once that has happened, we would be able to sort out this situation anyway but I am not aware of the Klein Windhoek situation. We will look at it.

HON SPEAKER: You will look into that. Thank you very much. Can we leave it at that? Next on my list is Honourable Shixwameni.

QUESTION

HON SHIXWAMENI: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Just out of curiosity but I do not know whether to throw the question to you or to the Secretary-General of Swapo or to the Deputy Chief Whip. Can we be told in my 18 year Parliamentary service, I have not seen all Ministers being absent at the time? So I am now wondering is there a coup d'etat, is there a reshuffle or what has happened to all our Ministers? Can we exactly be informed on a lighter note? Can we be informed what is happening

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**NOTICES OF QUESTIONS
HON SHIXWAMENI**

because my street there have to take a whole curb to come to Parliament because my street is cost? I do not know what is happening in fact.

HON SPEAKER: We will, thank you very much. The absence of so many Members of Cabinet is due to there was actually an engagement arranged between the two countries DRC and Namibia at the Head of State level high level and we have been informed that the arrival of the President of DRC the plane was delayed and that has actually disrupted the work and the attendance of Parliament but I just got a message to say that the meeting started rather late but the Members will soon join us in due course. That is really the little that I can share with you. Thank you. Next is Honourable Lucia Witbooi.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Thank you Comrade Speaker. I have the answer for Honourable !Auchab about the regulation of the Child Care and Protection Act so that we cannot waste time.

HON SPEAKER: It was a written question. You still have time to respond in the usual way. Let us move on. Notices of Motions, Honourable Venaani.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

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**NOTICES OF MOTIONS
HON VENAANI**

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker yourself as an academician raised a very important matter and I want Parliament to execute this matter with the seriousness it deserve and it is a Motion that I intend to move tomorrow on Wednesday 27th February. I give notice that I shall move that this August House discusses the plight of foreign trained medical Doctors who have graduated from Universities in countries such as China, Russia and Ukraine. Many of them are seated around here where they are being taught as we are telling children and the young of our country that education is the greatest equalizer. Thousands of our young people go to Universities, get certificates and when they come home, the equalizer becomes a mirage. I am aware that 240 students who finished the course work study on Government grants to the value of N\$125 Million. Further aware that there is another batch of 500 students that are about to graduate in Ukraine and Eastern Europe that are expected to graduate this year which Government through the Student Financial Aid Fund has spent close to N\$300 Million because every child cost N\$87 000 a year times six years times 300 or times 240 times 500 students, it will give you the total.

The health professional Council has for sometimes now been calling these graduates as substandard and their demand to be tested is ignored. Therefore I call for this Assembly to set up a Parliamentary inquiry on these important matters to ask the fundamental questions. Did we test these Universities? How did we grant these loans to the students? At what college level would we compare these students' studies with our own but we cannot just throw people away? So I want Parliament to urgently discuss this matter and so I move.

Honourable Speaker I give notice that on Tuesday 12th of March 2019 I shall ask that this August House discusses the precarious situation prevailing at the Public Service Medical Aid Scheme. According to a leaked IMF report that I have in my possession, yes, it was leaked, our country is apparently losing N\$900 Million every year through fraud, through the CIMAS Scheme. If it is true what the IMF has analyzed in their report and IMF is a credible body, if it is true, then this is the biggest loot that this country has ever seen. It is the biggest corruption being

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**NOTICES OF MOTIONS
HON PENDUKENI-ITHANA**

practiced and I want this Assembly to discuss CIMAS, to discuss the corruption of Doctors claiming and people that are already dead that are also continuously benefiting. Yes, they are dead but Nekundi is claiming on their behalf as they usually do. Therefore I call on this Assembly to be given a mandate to refer this Motion to a relevant Standing Committee for investigation and report back.

Honourable Speaker I so move.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Venaani I learned from you that our guests who are seated here Medical Doctors who were trained outside the country, I did not acknowledge them because I was not informed. So you are informing the Speaker for the first time. May I extend a word of welcome to all of you? Thank you for being here. The subject that you heard being introduced is of particular interest to all of us. All of us have received our Degrees from various Universities around the globe. So that is why in my limited comment I made a reference to the fact that we should never generalize. Every institution has got its own tradition and so forth and therefore, I am really looking forward to a balanced discussion about the subject matter that you heard about. I will leave it at that. We will go through the Motions or doing justice to the subject that has been brought before us. Thank you, welcome. Honourable Lucia Ipumbu, oh, sorry, Honourable.

HON PENDUKENI ITHANA: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I am rising after the matter has been submitted to the Speaker's desk. My greatest sympathy to our children who have studied abroad and who are finding a situation unwelcoming at home. My greatest sympathy. However, Comrade Speaker I have heard from the grape vine that the children of ours have challenged the prohibition for them to practice through the court of law and if that is true that they have challenged that, then probably the Motion cannot go concurrently with the court

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**NOTICES OF MOTIONS
HON IPUMBU**

proceedings. Otherwise, in terms of what we know the matter would be considered as a sub judies. I am just posing this. If the matter is settled, then I withdraw.

HON SPEAKER: I take the view that this matter is settled and this is a kind of a fresh issue that would be discussed normally in the House and I am sure we will take care of that when the time comes. If indeed is the case, we will look into that but to the best of my knowledge, I think the matter has been resolved in the court of law and now we will have an opportunity basically to deal with it on the basis of the Motion and I hope we will get to the bottom of this important issue. Let us leave it at that and wait for the time. Thank you very much, Honourable Lucia Ipumbu.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION, TRADE AND SME DEVELOPMENT: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I move that on Tuesday the 5th of March this House discuss and agrees to the ratification of the Kigali Amendment to Montreal Protocol on substance that delete the Ozone layer.

I so move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Well, we covered Motions. We move messages from the Head of State, Ministerial Statement. There being none, that essentially has brought us today's sitting to an end. We were hoping Honourable Members honestly we have a number of Bills that have been presented to the House only to the list made available to us. I would like to see a movement where these Bills are now being introduced so that we deal with them or take them up at the level of the Committee so we can start making progress. We have three Bills here the Bank of Namibia Bill, Electronic Transactions Bill, Arms and Ammunition Amendment Bill. They were due to be motivated rather to be introduced this afternoon and I am assuming the Ministries concerned are represented

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**ADJOURNMENT
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

in the House. They are not. So we will move. Hopefully we will move these Bills tomorrow. We are quite anxious to get moving so that we can get down to the hard work. Honourable Members that essentially is bringing us, yes, Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Speaker as you have said that there is a Bill supposed to be tabled by the Ministers and it appears that there are on official duty, we are expecting that to be delegated to the Deputies tomorrow so that we can move on, delegation.

HON SPEAKER: The Deputy Ministers are here and please can you make it clear to your respective Colleagues Ministers to say perhaps if there is any further delay on the part of the Minister who were supposed to introduce these Bills if they are not going to be available tomorrow, let their Deputies do the job. I am sure you agree with me. We want to hear these Bills. I think the message is loud and clear. Alright, I think we have gone as far as we can and now can we call it a day? The House stands adjourn until tomorrow the usual time, so decided.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40 UNTIL 2019.02.27 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
27 FEBRUARY, 2019**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER IN TERMS OF
RULE 20(B) OF THE STANDING RULES AND ORDERS**

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, welcome back. I would like to take this opportunity to announce to you that today is the last day, we have the privilege of being together with the Honourable Usutuaije Maamberua as a Member of this Parliament. Let me, I do not need to tell you as Members of this House that he has been a longstanding Member of this august body House and an Honourable one indeed who has over the years of his service performed his oversight duties with diligence and dedication.

There were moments of course in this House (*laughter*) when the Honourable Maamberua might have locked horns with some Members of this House including the Speaker on matters of importance during debates in this chamber. Despite all that, being a gentleman that he is there was always never any animosity between himself and the rest of the Members of this House.

In the light of this there will be an opportunity for those Honourable Members who would like to bid him farewell to do so at the appropriate time. As some of you might be aware the Honourable Maamberua's successor in this House will be Dr Tangeni Iiyambo of the SWANU Party. Arrangements for the swearing in of his successor have been made and that will be made known to you in due course.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

On my part, Honourable Maamberua I want to appreciate your Honourable service to our Parliament and to the nation in general. There are people who will still remember you, your wise counsel as an effective Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee. I had the privilege of talking to some of the people who came across you as far away from Namibia who still recall warm memories of you at the helm of that Committee, the Public Accounts Committee. I am confident that your contribution to the development of our nation is a calling that will not end with your departure from Parliament but will last for as long as you are able and still able to serve this country, the Sub Region, the Continent and the Global Village. I wish you well Honourable Maamberua.

Next, I know we are limited in number but we will make do with the little that we have. Honourable Members I would like to take this opportunity to announce to you that we have a formidable number of researchers from the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda led by their Director of Research and Policy Analysis who have been with us now since the beginning of the week and where they come from the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda they are actually a dedicated team serving the Office of the Leader of the Official Opposition. They do that as professionals who are competently qualified to offer the services to that important office. We are hosting them for a whole week and they are liaising both with the officials of the National Assembly as well as the National Council. May I ask them briefly to stand up so that we can welcome them warmly and to wish them well, thank you for being here. We hope your stay in Namibia will be as productive and give you the opportunity also to observe a bit of what Namibia has to offer as an important destination of visitors not only from far away but even from Africa, welcome.

Any Petitions? Reports of Standing and Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notices of Questions? Notices of Motions? Am I moving fast? The Honourable Auchab please.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON !AUXAB**

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 27

HON AUXAB: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I hereby give notice that on Thursday 7th March 2019 I shall ask the Minister of Lands and Resettlement Honourable Utoni Nujoma the following questions:

Farm Okongava measuring 15,000 hectares was purchased in 2014 with seven other farms meant for resettlement programme and to expand communal areas of Otjimbingwe. May the Honourable Minister appraise this august House and the public out there how far the Ministry has progressed to allocate Farm Okongava after delay by illegal occupation by nearby communities?

If allocated how many people benefitted and if not why taking years after purchasing it in 2014?

May the Honourable Minister also appraise the Honourable Members why he has revoked the decision of Honourable Alfeus !Naruseb on the allocation of the Farm Okongava to the Njuakudoman Traditional Authority to expand the communal land?

May the Honourable Minister also enlighten the august House about the work the technical team who investigate the matter and has submitted a proposed Land Use Plan and how is this plan aligned with the allocation plan in accordance with directives from the Cabinet Committee of Policy and Priorities?

I so submit Honourable Speaker.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MBAI**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Mbai.

QUESTION 28

HON MBAI: Thank you so much Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I give notice that on the 7th of March 2019 I shall ask the Minister of Finance the following questions:

Honourable Speaker, the spirit, enthusiasm and consensus taken from the conclusion of recent Second Land Conference chose yet again that Namibians from all walks of life can join together and progress towards the common goals of a better quality of life and equality in an inclusive society. We have resolved to address this land issue which can ultimately empower our people and exploit value from this asset for the betterment of all our people. The same spirit is needed now to confront our current economic challenges.

Fitch on 20 November 2017 downgraded Namibia's default rating IDR to BB plus or junk status with a stable outlook. This gave us some hope that Honourable Minister is about to put our economy back on track. It is however, heart renting and this appointing that Fitch came back on the 21st of February 2019 with damning report casting a shed on our positive expectation about our economy and Government fiscal management. Fitch left Namibia at junk status but downgraded the economic outlook to negative made though mistake, this was a damning report to paraphrase Fitch's words. Our previous expectation of a gradual growth recovery in 2018 has not materialized. GDP decline for the tenth consecutive quota in third quota of 2018, we now expect a weaker and uncertain economic recovery in 2019. Given the weaker starting point and persistent headwinds we focused GDP to grow by 0.7% in 2019. This is our earlier focus of 1.8% and 2.0% in 2020 respectively way below the current rating BB remedial of 3.2%.

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Honourable Minister, in plain language this means real pain for the ordinary citizens of our beautiful country. Paying in terms of jobs losses, paying in terms of reduced medical services, paying in terms of reduced supplies to schools and other social sectors and it is not an exaggeration to say that one day our Civil Servants would wake up on pay day and receive no wages. If nothing is done this plan is set to continue for many times.

Honourable Minister, resumption of economic growth and concretize of fiscal consolidation and debt stabilization would help to sustain Namibia's ratings. Without a plan to grow the economy a plan to reduce Government's huge and growing debt and without a plan to close its mounting deficit further negative judgments would follow.

Honourable Minister can you tell this august House, what is the cost of the negative Fitch Rating in terms of increased growing cost and pressure on fiscas?

What is your plan to take the economy of our current slump out of our current slump?

What is your plan to stop the bleeding of Government coffers through the bailing of unproductive Public Enterprises?

How do you plan to reduce the Public Sector Wage Bill which is the 'elephant in the room?'

Finally how do you plan to protect Private Sector jobs?

Honourable Minister, I am confident and convey the aspiration of many that really if it was not for you who would have been more in the dark about our financial situation? I so move.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you.

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**FAREWELL REMARKS
HON VENAANI**

HON MEMBER: (Not on microphone).

HON SPEAKER: That is a really wrong question. Thank you. With regards to the question of Notices of Motions can I make and enlighten the House, we have a Motion already by the Honourable Venaani on the Order Paper and we consulted a little bit on the issue in the light of the number of attendance in the House for the reason that is well known by now by you, quite a number of our colleagues are making their way to attend the national event in Gibeon with the arrival of the Bible and the Whip. So we consulted and agreed that (*interruptions*).

HON SHIXWAMENI: (Not on microphone).

HON SPEAKER: Yes, we consulted to say in the light of this event that basically is eating into the appropriate quorum in the House we can take up this matter in March round about the 12th of March. Of course the time must be agreed between the Honourable Venaani and the Front Table. Yes Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, we all know from yesterday that this Motion is not wanted by one part of the House. There is a deliberate stage coup, yesterday already we knew that there will be a staged coup today for people do not want to discuss it they want to go and solve the problem. So to say that we agreed, I am here to move the Motion, Members of Parliament (MPs) that are not here are saying they are going to be in Gibeon. I am going to be in Gibeon. 06:00 tomorrow I am in Gibeon. I will count how many MPs are there, they are also not going to be there, so we know the decision (indistinct) this issue will never die it will receive attention for as long as I am here. Thank you.

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HON MUHARUKUA**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Can I just make a comment? No, no a Motion, any proposal before the House will be given the appropriate space and that is what I was saying from the Chair. That is what we are proposing. I am not the one to decide what Member should be where so we leave it at that. Honourable Muharukua?

HON MUHARUKUA: I just want to congratulate you.

HON SPEAKER: Sorry.

HON MUHARUKUA: I just wanted to congratulate you. It is the first time in four years that the Honourable Speaker has called the quorum unilaterally, congratulations.

HON SPEAKER: The Speaker? I do not know whether I should comment on that or I should not. We will have tea together and I am going to ask for elaboration. Good, let us move on. Messages from the Head of State?

Ministerial Statement, it is under Ministerial Statement that I am proposing that we give an opportunity to the Honourable Maamberua. Yes?

HON VENAANI: (Not on microphone).

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HON MAAMBERUA**

HON SPEAKER: Yes, absolutely yes. We will invite any Member who wish to bid farewell to the Honourable Maamberua to have their say. Honourable Maamberua you have the floor.

HON MAAMBERUA: It is a farewell statement, Comrade Speaker, thank you very much and I would like to also appreciate and thank you for your initial kind words. Comrade Speaker Professor Peter Katjavivi, Comrade Deputy Speaker Professor Loide Kasingo, Comrade the Right Honourable Prime Minister Dr Sarah Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, The Leader of the Official Opposition Honourable McHenry Venaani, all Leaders and Chief Whips of all Political Parties present, Honourable Members and the public out there and the Media staff present. Comrade Speaker, thank you for according me time space and the opportunity to bid my fellow Members a humbling yet patriotic farewell today.

My philosophy in life converts with what Rosa Luksbog once said and I quote, "*Freedom is always and exclusively freedom for the one who thinks differently*". Comrade Speaker and Members, informed and schooled in the foregoing philosophy for me to come to Parliament in 2010 I had to think differently in strategy and to remain I had to think differently in my contributions and questions. I am now exiting after I had thought differently in terms of perpetuity of incumbency in Parliament hence Comrade Speaker the exclusive FREEDOM that I referred to above enveloping me today is satisfying.

Comrade Speaker, to open space through constant change perpetual incumbency is certainly not desirable. I therefore submit that having for nine years occupied desks that once belonged to the fathers and mothers of this nation I cannot but be reminded that even the nation's greatest leaders and all the rest of us are merely temporary workers here.

It has all along been my persistent and unwavering position to work as a collective to meet our *raison d'être* of the Trinity, Representation, Oversight and Legislating. I would therefore, hope to see our democracy

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not being characterized by our discord and our dysfunction but rather by our values, visions and our principles as a nation.

Comrade Speaker, in order for me to locate this brief farewell in context allow me to share a retrospective account that may appeal to your sense of history. After all I am still a serving Member albeit for a few hours more.

Comrade Speaker, although almost the entire of life of my early adulthood was spent in exile in pursuit of political emancipation that is thirteen years thereof Namibia remained at all times the centre of my universe. Once that goal was attained my public service began as an international public servant at the African Development Bank as an advisor for two and half years. And that was followed by about eight years as a Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Finance of the Government of the Republic of Namibia. Then I so joined as Senior Lecturer at the University of Namibia for about seven years. All these are being epilogue by a political public service of nine years as a Member of Parliament. Most memorable Comrade Speaker is the experience of being the first person ever to represent SWANU the oldest political party in Namibia in this Honourable House, an institution colourfully reflecting the inherent diversity of our nation and country. That is the brief story of my adulthood so far.

But Comrade Speaker, this career path might have taken a different trajectory had it not been due to the favourable considerations in various respects by the following people whom I wholeheartedly would like to thank today. His Excellency Gasper Martins, he was the Executive Director at the African Development whom I advised he is now the Permanent Representative at the United Nations, Honourable Helmut Angula, His Excellency Vice President Nangolo Mbumba, His Excellency President Geingob, His Excellency President Sam Nujoma, His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba, the late Theo Ben-Gurirab, Professor Peter Katjavivi, many SWANU Comrades including Uateza Kazapua, Tangeni Iiyambo, Asinath !Nuwuses, Unaani Kauami and indeed the following late Comrades, Godfrey Gaoseb, Hitjevi Veii and Uatjindua Ndoze and many others of course. I need to note here that during most of these times two of my children Rikuvera Kauapirura,

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HON MAAMBERUA**

Kamaitiueua Tjiriange had to endure long days of my absence bravely and with unprecedented tolerance and understanding.

Comrade Speaker and Deputy Speaker, as stewards of this august House you have surely assisted me to develop an invincible bond towards this institution. Considering that I joined this august House as a ‘greenhorn’ with no previous exposure to Parliamentary Politics and the dynamics it entails. I have no doubt whatsoever in my mind that the Legislature is a crucible of our infantile democratic polity. I trust and look forward to you achieving new milestones of success and bring this House worldwide acclamation.

In the same spirit Comrade Speaker, though I cease to be a Member of Parliament shortly I would in this hour thank all my colleagues Members of Parliament and indeed also being heartily cognisant that of us Members of Parliament are as good as our staff. Staff that give up their late nights and weekends, postpone vacations because they are here helping us. I thank all of them in every room, nook and cranny of this historically unprecedented significant building – der Tintenpalast.

I look forward to your support to the incoming SWANU Member of Parliament as I trust you will give him and the Party the same unfailing cooperation which has made of all us a collective to lead Namibia to greater and higher success in the future.

It was a privilege and honour to serve the Namibian nation through my participation in Parliamentary work close to a decade now. And yes I loved the job NOT for its prestige, its titles and ceremonies which of course I am not bothered about at all. I enjoyed this job for its potential to make this country fairer, more tolerant, more democratic, more prosperous, more just and equitable or syndical inclusive a truly caring and sharing Namibia.

Lest we forget there is some unfinished business dear to the heart of our nation, Reparations for Genocide, University Healthcare system, Sovereign Wealth Fund, Genocide Remembrance Day and as we all know

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the central plank of SWANU's policies, the land question and the ancestral land rights.

Comrade Speaker, I have been asked severally and variously that I am going to do next as I exit this august House I am going to do a lot of things and very few of them conform to the notion of retirement. As per our SWANU dictum and I quote, "*A person's life is limited but his/her services to the people know no bounds*". I shall therefore endeavour to render services that will impart the lives of the people even beyond my own life span.

When I finally leave this place I am taking many of you with me. You will live on in my memories. I shall always remember the things we achieved together so shall I continue to treasure the enumerable disagreements we have had to agree on taking this nation forward.

I thank you all as elected representatives of the Namibian people. My gratitude goes to the tolerance demonstrated by the Namibian nation during my tenure of office in this House.

Last but not least, a great thank you to the fourth estate to the Media which I unwaveringly and slavishly carried our messages both good and bad to the Namibian public and the world at last. I thank you and bid you a patriotic and progressive goodbye. Give the land back to the people. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Thank you very much, it is coming from the heart and we receive the message with the very strong sense of appreciation. I like the reference to being fair, caring, having faith and trust and ability also to transcend some of our different political programmes, agenda the same, there are things that do bind us together more than the things that divide us. You are exiting as a Member of Parliament, you continue to retain that reference of being an Honourable Maamberua. Honourable Venaani.

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HON VENAANI**

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, when the news in the grapevine got to me as we would say in our own language *otjiuerotjiueroru operondou* is not bad, I was at pain, the story tale I had no way to backbend. I was at pain to hear that Maamberua was about to exit the National Assembly.

1. I must confess that he is one of our illustrious son that my village has brought forth. He comes from the village of Okatjeru so he is our product. We are proud of his achievements.
2. But it is very difficult to bid farewell to good cousin, to good friends and a good collaborator.

Honourable Maamberua as a politician here at the centre of the Namibian political theatre, he was a man of strategy. I always looked at him and he was fighting alone against the Speaker and against the whole House on an issue that SWANU found resonance and that was dear to them. He has always a strategy to be heard even if he was alone. Moses Katjiungua could be compared to him in one sense. Moses Katjiungua had a tongue and a mouth. He could stand up there where Honourable Mbai is sitting and he would argue that he was equal to 50 Members of this side of the House. So he had different ways to be heard but Honourable Maamberua did not use an emergence of numbers to make a case, he used intellectualism, fairness to the debate and he always came across as a person who needed to be heard.

As leader of official opposition, he was a good collaborator and it is unfortunate that you are leaving while elections are coming because strategically you are already mechanize from the other side because you knew that if you have Honourable Maamberua on your side on a particular issue you would carry the day in terms of the argument. You shall forever be remembered for two things that could always be your reference points on the mini things that are bestowed on you.

One is that due to your industry it was due to your industry of this House that led to the Genocide Memorial that is the product of Honourable

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HON VENAANI**

Maamberua. The Genocide Museum that came here, you played an important role in getting that. There is business unfinished as you are exiting. You were also very illustrious in bringing in a Motion that was wholeheartedly supported, of course pioneered by our late Paramount Chief Dr Kuaima Riruako who pioneered the Genocide Debate and you who came after him to call for a Genocide Remembrance Day. If that day comes and if this House agrees on a Genocide Remembrance Day it will be just fair to invite you to become the Keynote Speaker of that day because it is through your industry that brought that date.

Now as you are going back to our village and to many centres of ours I remember you my very first time to see you and not to see you but to see you in action was in Cote d'Ivoire while you were serving at the African Development Bank. I remember your days as the Permanent Secretary and I want you to write. One thing that many politicians do not look, I want you to write the moments and we are very interested to know the moments that you had to deal with the lawyer in our politics President Sam Nujoma dealing with financial matters of our country. I would want you to reveal those difficult moments that you had to make in steering the pace on the finances of this country. So as you are going back home do not go slowly go faster, put something on paper so that present and future generations would understand the role in totality that you have played in this country.

I want to end with the words of Shakespeare who says, "*Whether we shall meet again we know not. If we do we shall smile. If we do not then this goodbye is well meant*". Go well, thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I like the part of writing because there are things that we want to reveal that we did together that I am aware at the University of Namibia. Honourable Mbai.

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HON MBAI / HON SHIWAMENI**

HON MBAI: Thank you Honourable I will be very brief. Honourable Speaker, I rise to add my voice to that of my previous speakers in bidding farewell to a special person to me and in particular this august House.

Hailing together from Otjituo Primary School and obtained that unbeaten record of the three of us namely Honourable McHenry Venaani, Honourable Usutuaije Maamberua and myself to become leaders of our political formation in this august House namely PDM, NUDO and SWANU. Now that you are bidding farewell to say farewell to this august House go home but once Honourable and forever Honourable. Keep well and enjoy your new life after Parliament. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Shixwameni.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Thank you Honourable Speaker. My brother and Comrade Usutuaije Maamberua, I have known him now for a long time after independence and I am proud actually that he is honourable exiting this House. I think all of us, the youth actually want by next year to cover the desks with youthful energy and talents, all the desks. You are actually taking an example. Nobody has brought you to the House. You came here duly elected as a Member of Parliament. You behaved yourself with distinction. I remember your Public Accounts Committee chairpersonship and the many other Committee meetings that we had together, the trips that we went together abroad and all these kinds of things, you were a refined and a distinguished leader in your own rights and I think there must be time always to say I have had enough the millions cannot continue to flow we must all find our time to go home.

Dear Comrades and Members of Parliament around here on bidding him farewell my brother and my Comrade for a very long time all that I want to say let us inject a spirit of renewal in our Parliament. Let us bring more. Myself probably might not also come back but let us bring in more

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spirit of renewal, let us bring in new blood the country is longing for new blood and that new blood must come in. my brother is always laughing he must also be able to go as well as my brother there Tom Alweendo (*laughter*). The fact of the matter is that we have all served this nation with distinctions. Those who are currently here are serving the nation with distinction, let us serve the nation with distinction and at the point in time be able to say we have done our best and it is time to move on and do some other things. I would truly write also with clarity. Write your history whilst you are still there and Professor Katjavivi also please write your history whilst you are still there. I am trying to do mine. I think as I was going same time going and my feet are there. The Deputy Speaker is also about to do hers, so please go well we shall always be with you and we will meet time and again and work together.

Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. The Honourable Steve Bezuidenhout.

HON BEZUIDENHOUT: Thank you Honourable Speaker, it is just to say thank you very much for knowing again to know the individual of Honourable Maamberua. He really changed my life in these nine years being together. I have seen him various stages and I admired him from a distance and I have learnt a lot from him. Even as he goes out voluntarily I will follow in his footsteps. I will eventually at the end of this term also go to do some other private things. I want him to focus on the unfinished business of this nation. I wish him all the best in his life all the best in his endeavours and go well. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Fleermuys.

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HON FLEERMUYS / HON SIBUNGO**

HON FLEERMUYS: Thank you Honourable Speaker. It is a big pleasure to know someone who is called Honourable Maamberua because when I ever see him although I have not yet been a politician then I have liked it the way he has approached whatever he was dealing with and after I have ended up in Parliament I met him in person and I can only talk of honour of him because what I have learnt from him I would have hoped that I could have met him before I had come into Parliament because I could have learnt very much high as of I have been trained at a special place.

So I have been with him inside the Chamber and inside the Committee meetings and that is where I have had very much big honour for him because how he has approached things what we were supposed to deal with has given me a very high teaching so I appreciate to know him as human being as well as a politician. Actually he is and was a lecture for us when we were dealing with him in Committee meetings as well as inside the Chamber. So I wanted to give him a blessing from God for his time off which time is still available for him in life. So Honourable Maamberua go well and God will bless you. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Sibungo.

HON SIBUNGO: Honourable Speaker, I would fail in my duty as a Chairperson of Economics not to bid farewell to a brother. When you announced I thought like, is it a funeral you know it was a big blow in my face. It is always good to praise people when they are still alive. So Honourable Speaker, Honourable Maamberua you are known as a professor in our Committee. He was our library. He was just everything to us.

At the first time that I saw him in my Committee I thought this grey hair what will he do to us. I refer back to a meeting we had in Swakopmund,

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HON !AUCHAB**

he made my Committee Members really to be economists and until today they understand.

Honourable Speaker his legacy remains. Though he is going home we will still follow him home, you know the home not the home in heaven, the Parliamentary Budget Book he was the man behind it that he was the professor behind the microphone and today we are very proud. Honourable Maamberua, thank you very much and God Bless you. God knows why you have left and yet there is the other door that is open for you. God bless you and your family, thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. And finally the Honourable Auchab.

HON AUCHAB: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I took the floor to also say go well to the great son of Namibian soil. Every long journey starts with one step and every long journey has an end but your journey has ended in the House but outside you have also a huge start to perform as a great son and a leader of this country. Do not forget that you have also taught some of us here who came as newcomers in this House. We learnt a lot from you and we will carry on with what we have learnt from you. The good arguments that you have of the good debates that you have done in the House that we will take but the arguments with the Speaker you always (*laughter*), I had loggerheads with him that we will not take so I will not say goodbye but I will say go well because we will always meet in the corners and you will always advise us to carry on in the House. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much indeed. Thank you all. Before I call on the Honourable Maamberua because I would like him to thank

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those who have spoken and to thank everybody here in the House I want to reveal something to the Honourable Maamberua and I hope our distinguished Researchers and Policy Analysts from the Parliament of Uganda will not object. When I had lunch with them yesterday as we spoke I do not know how we got into talking about the Honourable Maamberua and one of them remembered you and described the work you have done as a Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee and that actually touched me. I thought, we do not work in a vacuum if you perform well excellence many people will take note of your work not only here at home but wherever you might find your way. So I just wanted by way of complimenting him to simply say that I am not saying that some of our people we are told by history that they hail from Lake Victoria thereby a particular community I come from are supposed to have come from East Africa and the point of reference Lake Victoria. So it is my community from Uganda who are saying well done to you Honourable Maamberua. Do you have the last word?

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you Comrade Speaker. It is very difficult now. Let me start with thanking the colleagues from Uganda and also for the good words and also revealing one thing as you say we all come from the Great Lakes Central Africa. In my own experience and contacts with people from actually the whole of Central and East Africa whenever I am there I have always been taken to be as one of them. They would look at my (*laughter*) and think either I am from that village or the other village whether in Kenya or any of those. The same way I was also mistaken several times for being a Western African particularly from Senegal and Mali and those areas, so we are all one and thank you very much.

I would like to thank all those who have taken the floor also for their kind words. I was reminded to reveal a few things but let me reveal only one, this tie that I am putting on today is written “Y2K” that is Year 2000. If you recall the history of the changing from our own systems that is the whole world actually had to move away from the programmes of computers that ended in the year 1999 to switch over to year 2000 so

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everything was supposed to be reprogrammed.

At the Ministry of Finance and that is my biggest moments, my biggest headache and perhaps at the end my biggest job is that I spent sleepless nights headaches to convert the whole Government system, financial payment, payment system from the old name frame computer system that was at the Office of the Prime Minister to take all the information and data to the Ministry of Finance and that was a very difficult period for me.

I also recall at one time the Government was panicking to the extent that I had to be called not only me but also including my Minister then Comrade Gumba to the Office of the Prime Minister who is now the current President to go and explain whether we are actually safe if the system is not going to crash and as a technical person the person was taking the responsibility for that conversion. I did assure the Prime Minister then that everything was under control hence I am with joy now today put on this tie as a remembrance to what was my biggest fear at the time. Otherwise the whole system of Government was going to collapse if we did not have to intervene.

So I thank you very much that is all that I can reveal today the others will come in the book of course and so on, so thank you very much. I am happy.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, well done. Honourable Members, under the Order Paper I think we have dealt with that aspect earlier and basically it is just to remind the Members that we are being reminded of the national event taking place tomorrow in Gibeon that has

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been advertised and we are all aware of this and because of that we are not able to meet tomorrow since everybody is expected to show up in that event in Gibeon. So basically that concludes the items on today's agenda and if I may be permitted can I adjourn the House until Tuesday the usual time? So decided, thank you.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:00 UNTIL 05.03.2019 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
05 MARCH 2019**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

**SWEARING-IN OF A NEW MEMBER IN TERMS OF
RULE 20(A) OF THE STANDING RULES AND ORDERS**

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members I assume I have gathered today is a special day that will do the honourable thing and that has something to do with the fact that we are all aware that the SWANU party used to be represented by its Honourable Usutuije Maamberua and as we know he vacated his seat as a Member of the National Assembly in terms of Article 48(c) of the Namibian Constitution. His last day as a Member of this Assembly was last week Wednesday the 27th February 2019. In terms of Article 48(2) of the Namibian Constitution SWANU has nominated Doctor Tangeni Iiyambo to fill the vacancy. I now call on the Chief Justice to administer the oath to Doctor Iiyambo and direct the designated Member to escort Doctor Iiyambo into the Chamber.

**OATH AND/OR AFFIRMATION BY NEWLY
ELECTED MEMBER**

"I Tangeni Iiyambo, do hereby swear/solemnly affirm that I will be faithful to the Republic of Namibia and its people and I solemnly promise to uphold and defend the Constitution and Laws of the Republic of Namibia to the best of my ability. (In

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the case of an oath:.) So help me God. ”

CHIEF JUSTICE SHIVUTE: I will ask you to sign?
Congratulations.

HON SPEAKER: I now declare Doctor Iiyambo as a duly elected Member of the National Assembly and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate him warmly. We congratulate you Honourable member and welcome you on board. Please take note of your seat. That is where you would be seated from now on, welcome. Can I inform Members of this House Doctor Tangeni Iiyambo hail from Ovitoto so he is a fellow compatriot from my area, welcome? Chief Justice I thank you on behalf of all of us for your commitment and service to this nation. I know that you do this often with utmost commitment and I thus wish to thank you very much. We hope we can continue to call on you and for now I would like the Sergeant at Arms to escort the Chief Justice. Once again thank you very much Your Worship Chief Justice.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS TERMS OF RULE 20(B)
OF THE STANDING RULES AND ORDERS**

Back to the business as usual, I would like also to thank all those Members who from our various corners of the Republic of Namibia who have come to witness this event. Thank you very much for being here. This is your Parliament. We welcome you from time to time to come and see how we are doing and I hope we can count on your support particularly in being interested in the work of Parliament. Thank you very much. Honourable Members can I take you on a memory lane the chance of history as we meet here?

I want to take this opportunity to share with you that an old friend of this country a long standing international civil servant by the name of Brian

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Ogert a former senior official of the United Nations last week he celebrated his centenary birthday 100 years old. He is one of those young man who joined the United Nations at very young age and who continue to serve the World Organization for many, many years. This gentleman was in service of the United Nations almost throughout the entire time when the question of our country was being debated at the United Nations.

One of his many, many applications do have a very interesting piece on Namibia and of course overall. The book is dealing with the work of the United Nations as if he reflects the rest of the international community and the title of the book reflect a particular challenge that had confronted the United Nations and the title of the book is 'A life in peace and war' and it says a lot about the work of the United Nations during those many years from the 1940s and 50s and 60s until almost the end of the World War and of course continuing up to now. I therefore want us all to join him and his family in congratulating him to wishing him well, wishing him have many more happy returns. You know people who have made a mark on one's life and country need to be remembered and especially when they have become turned the age of 100. It is a milestone. Thank you.

Furthermore, Honourable Members I would like to take this opportunity to announce to you that we have in these days a number of Parliamentarians seven of them accompanying by the Clerk of the Parliament of Tanzania visiting our country. Their visit is particularly devoted to focusing on three thematic areas. Number one is to assess as to whether increased women representation indeed contributes to gender responsive legislation and budgeting. They are here to undertake that assignment. Number two the importance of male and female partnership in bringing about gender equality in Parliament and thirdly the last the role of political parties in supporting women to enter Parliament and other decision making national institutions. This is what they are trying to explore as they interact with Namibian counterparts.

When you come across them please lend them your support and cooperation. Thank you. Any petitions, yes, Honourable Uutoni Nuyoma.

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**OATH AND AFFIRMATION
HON NUJOMA / HON EKANDJO**

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Thank you very much Comrade Speaker. I just rise to in my own personal capacity as Uutoni Nujoma just to welcome my fellow old location friend Tangeni Korere Iiyambo. He is the son of Meme Tenyi and Tate Iiyambo so the Speaker was correct when he referred to his eldest here among us from old location. Then myself and then the young politicians who are coming so today is Honourable Dingara just came to me here. I do not know why Comrade Dingara the Member of Parliament I just want to tell my young brother that you are most welcome but be careful. It will not happen until the donkeys grow horns or develop horns or the bulls develop breasts so welcome my brother. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much for that warm welcome to the Honourable Tangeni Iiyambo. You should feel free to interact with your Colleagues, fellow Parliamentarians and they are very few people from the old location, any petition, well, Honourable Tangeni Iiyambo you would like to say something. No, no, sorry, sorry, sorry just ignore that. I was misled, any petitions, reports of standing and select Committees, other reports and papers, yes, please.

HON EKANDJO: Thank you Comrade Speaker. I also want to congratulate Comrade Tangeni. Just a reminder Tangeni 1963 when we were playing soccer at Balkan do you remember those days when we were looking at this Parliament. One day we said one day 30 years later we will sit in this Parliament. Do you remember when we were talking that 1963 in the old location? The two of us were aspiring to come and sit in this Parliament and it materialized today. Congratulations.

HON SPEAKER: Alright, I think we leave it at that. We get on with the work of the House. There will be an opportunity occasion when

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON ITHETE / HON SIMATAA**

Honourable Iiyambo will make his maiden speech and that time will come, other reports and papers, notices of questions, yes, Deputy Minister of Finance.

TABLING - REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members I lay upon the table reports of the Auditor General on the account of the:

- i. Namibia Press Agency for the Financial Year ended 31st of March 2017
- ii. Town Council of Lüderitz for the Financial Year ended 30th June 2017
- iii. Town Council of Eenhana for the Financial Year ended 30th June 2016-2017
- iv. Village Council of Otjinene for the Financial Year ended 30th June 2015-2016
- v. Regional Council of the great Otjozondjupa region for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2016

I so move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Simataa.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON DIENDA**

**TABLING – REPORTS ON ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
COMMUNICATION REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF NAMIBIA**

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I lay upon the table the annual reports of the Communication Regulatory Authority of Namibia CRAN for the year 2018.

I so move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Now we move on to notices of questions. May I call on Honourable Dienda please?

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 29:

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker I give notice that on Thursday the 14th of March 2019 I shall ask the Minister of Urban and Rural Development Honourable Peya Mushelenga the following:

The Auditor General in his audit report Honourable Speaker the Honourable Deputy Minister of Finance just give notices of audit reports I have questions already on those reports which was submitted here now. The Auditor General in his audit report for the Lüderitz Town Council for the Financial Year ended 31st of March 2017 got an adverse audit opinion. This means that the financial statements do not present fairly in all material respects the financial position of the Town Council at this mentioned period. I thus ask the following on illegal use of the Town Council that VAT number.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON DIENDA**

1. What measures have been taken to bring the culprit to book Honourable Minister
2. Has there been a case opened against any culprit who is involved in such illegal practices.

I so move Honourable Speaker.

QUESTION 30:

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker I also give notice that on Thursday the 14th of March 2019 I shall ask the Minister of Information and Communication Technology Honourable Stanley Simataa the following:

In the Auditor General's report on the accounts of the Namibia Press Agency for the Financial Year ended 31st of March 2017 I have made the following observation. An amount of totaling N\$108 000 for the year 2016-2017 book year which is more than double than what was spend on Board members as part of other expenses.

1. Can the Honourable Minister please explain how this amount has increased so drastically and what this amount was catering for as part of expenses
2. On Board members sitting allowance please give this August House tell us how much each Board member receive for the duration of the year in question and how many sittings are we talking about

Then on consulting fees according to the Auditor General's reports increased from N\$280 000 to N\$439 000.

1. Honourable Minister what consultation was done by whom were the consultations done and with who

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HON NAUYOMA**

2. Can the Honourable Minister also report to this August with the breakdown of these consultations expenses

The interest paid increased from N\$149 000 in 2016 to N\$1 Million in 2017.

1. Why has this been the case
2. Can the Minister please explain this large margin

As the disclaimer of the audit opinion, the Auditor General gives the following as the basis of the audit opinion. 'I believe that the audit evidence I obtained is insufficient and inappropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. A disclaimer audit opinion is being expressed due to the following:

1. Lack of reconciliations of accounts receivable and payable
 2. Understated provisions for bonuses
 3. Unauthorized journal increase amount to N\$8 Million
- (a) What measure are in place to rectify these problems in the future
Honourable Minister and the Auditor General also further states 'I had nothing to report in this regard, nothing because of what is mentioned here'.
1. Can the Honourable Minister please explain what happened to the N\$8 Million that was unaccounted for

I so move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Next is Honourable Reinhold Nauyoma

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NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON NAUYOMA / HON VAN DEN HEEVER

QUESTION 31:

HON NAUYOMA: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker I give notice that on Thursday the 14th of March 2019 I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation Honourable Itah Kandjii-Murangi the following:

In recent media reports had it that Namibia University of Science and Technology at NUST was in the process of appointing a new Vice Chancellor. This was received by the general public with mixed emotions which is deceived when you read comments on social media. Therefore my questions.

1. Can the Honourable Minister inform this August House and the public out there how far is the process of appointing this Vice Chancellor
2. What difficulties are experienced during this process and

I so move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Next is Honourable Jennifer Van Den Heever.

QUESTION 32:

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I hereby give notice that on Thursday 14th March 2019 I shall ask the Minister of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development Honourable Tjekero Tweya the following:

The Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development implemented programs through the NDC with a role to play in developing the ethnic sector efficiently and effectively by means of setting

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HON KAVEKOTORA**

appropriate policy and program availing land for the development of businesses, creating an enabling infrastructure policy at affordable rental rates setting best practice moral for ethnic business to grow and to flourish with key output such as job creating and growing the economy.

In this regard several parts, SME part were under construction at the Opuwo, Outapi, Karlkrand, Tsumeb, Omaruru, Walvis Bay, Divundu and Rundu. However, five industrial parts at several places Roshpina, Lüderitz, Oranjemund, Katima Mulilo and Omaruru reportedly came to a halt in 2017 because the Ministry could not honor its financial obligation thus I ask.

1. Could the Minister furnish this August House of the status of this project
2. Is it true that the Ministry could not honor its financial obligations toward these projects and why
3. The Ministry also received an unqualified audit report, could the Minister please furnish this August House the findings given by the Auditor General to that extent and lastly
4. What mechanisms are in place to ensure that these projects will see completion?

I so submit.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Next is Honourable Mike Kavekatora.

QUESTION 33

HON KAVEKOTORA: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I must also take this opportunity to welcome Doctor Iiyambo my colleague

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HON KAVEKOTORA**

from Oshuruu. Welcome on board. Honourable Speaker I give notice that on 14th of March 2019 I shall ask the Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation Honourable Doctor Itah Kandjii-Murangi questions about the relationship between the Chinese Loving Heart Organization represented by Mr Jack Wang as a Director and NASFAF represented by the CEO. According to the newspapers reports 50 Namibian students were to study civil engineering in China over a period of three years hence my question:

1. Can the Honourable Minister provide this August House with a progress report on the 50 Namibian students who went to China to study engineering in China under this MOU
2. Can the Honourable Minister provide this August House with proof that the institutions identified by the Chinese Loving Organization are academically credible
3. What was NASFAF total contribution to this MOU in monetary terms
4. What benefit did accrue to NASFAF using the staff Jack Wang organization instead of the Chinese Embassy or the good bilateral relationship that Namibia enjoys with China and lastly
5. Why do you allow NASFAF Honourable Minister to continue with the MOU after Mr Wang was implicated in tax fraud amounting to billions and billions of Namibian Dollars

QUESTION 34

HON KAVEKOTORA: I give notice Honourable Speaker on the same day Thursday the 14th of March 2019 I shall ask the Minister of Finance Honourable Calle Schlettwein the following questions regarding the N\$36 Million whatever distributed among PLAN, SWARTF and KUFTU members. I understand and it is clear now from the general's comments

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of last year and I agree that the money was distributed among former fighters from both sides. What is not clear however was the N\$2 Million that was earmarked for developmental purposes hence my following questions.

1. Where did the N\$12 Million go and how did it benefit the former fighters
2. My second question in that regard is that it also came to light that some SWARTF and KUFTU members did not receive the N\$1 300 given to others. How did that happen and where did the money go that was earmarked for these fighters and lastly
3. Can the Honourable Minister open this file for us to have a proper reconciliation of money disbursed and money still outstanding?

I so move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Members notices of Motions, yes, Honourable Deputy Minister of Safety and Security

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:

Honourable Speaker I give notice that tomorrow on the 6th of March 2019 I shall move that leave be given to introduce a Bill to amend the Arms and Ammunition Bill Act of 1996 so as to provide for certain definitions, to provide for competence testing and competence certificate, to provide for issuing of copy of defaced lost or stolen licenses, permits or documents, to provide for brokering without license, to provide for license, to conduct

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broker, to prohibit brokering, to provide for conduct or brokering, to provide for register to be kept, documents to be retained and retain rendering by brokers, to provide for inspection of registers or brokers, to prohibit unauthorized repairing, uttering and improvement of arms, to provide for the registration as gun smith, to provide for issuing of gun smith certificate, to provide for renewal of gun smith certificates, to provide for jurisdiction of higher courts in respect of offences related to brokering, to provide for arms free zones, to provide for disposal of arms in a case of birth inherited firearms and winding up of businesses, to provide for the use of arms in theatre and cinemas, to provide for conditions in respect of the use, safekeeping and disposal of state owned arms, to provide for prohibited conventional arms and ammunition and devices not regarded as arms and to provide for incidental matters.

I so move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, messages from the Head of State, Ministerial statement and I call upon the Minister of Higher Education, Innovation.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

**THE FOREIGN QUALIFICATIONS OBTAINED BY NAMIBIAN
STUDENTS AND THE RECOGNITION AND TESTING THEREOF
BY NSFAF, NQA AND HPCN**

**HON MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, TRAINING AND
INNOVATION:** Thank you Honourable Speaker. For the past few weeks

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the nation have been unaudited with news about foreign acquired health related qualifications that do not meet the Health Professions Council of Namibia set standards. I would like to put this in proper perspective by addressing the following. By giving a short historical background by also talking to the role of higher education in our country, by talking about the foreign qualifications recognition architecture in our country, by outlining some of the current challenges and also some corrective measures that are underway. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members land and education fend Namibia's liberation struggle.

Massive expropriation of land by the colonizers forced our people into waging the war of resistance in the 1890s thus subsequently culminated in the genocidal war of 1904 to 1908. During the intervening decades, the despicable subduction and heinous atrocities never abated as the apartheid system became entrenched. The people resisted and in 1966 the armed liberation struggle was launched. The apartheid education system was rational based and premised on the pin principles of divide and rule which basically means segregate and decent power and the second done service without questions or questioning meaning indoctrinate and mislead for loyalty.

The Bantu education protest of the 1970s led to student's exodus to join Swapo and the liberation struggle. It is important that we recall that in exile Swapo paid great and special attention to the education of cadres. The setting of the United Nations institution for Namibia a training centre dedicated to general and specialized education amplified the importance attached to education and self-rule and even in exile union had procedures requirements and standards.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members higher education is of fundamental importance to any country's development. Higher education is the engine for knowledge creation, intellectual sophistication and professional skills development. A well developed and implemented education system is a pride of any nation. Quality is the major underlining concept and a key ingredient in a country's higher education institutions programs for it talks to the content which is curriculum, education

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provision which is teaching, the impact which is learning and knowledge which is the end results. Furthermore, quality in higher education is embedded by clear set national standards that are comparable to global standards. Consistency in application of such standards is important. Consistency at entry points, progression between an across levels and indeed at exist points. Since the advent of independence the Government of the Republic of Namibia had never relented on safeguarding education standards across our education system. Today there are Government entities established purely to implement and uphold higher education and training standards.

We have for instance the Namibia Qualifications Authority, the National Council on Higher Education, the National Training Authority, the various professional bodies that are specific to different professions and of course the Universities themselves, the colleges, the technical vocational education training centers themselves. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members the challenges that many countries grapple with Namibia included are limited opportunities at local higher education institutions not all required and needed academic programs are offered locally.

As a result some eligible and deserving students must study abroad at recognized higher education institutions while others are advised to study locally through local and foreign private universities operation in Namibia. The Namibian Constitution provides for the running of private higher education institutions provided they are funded by their owners and meet the minimum standard set by Government. The Government of course funds eligible and deserving students at formerly registered and recognized private institutions.

Namibian Qualifications rather Institutions such as the National Council of Higher Education and the Namibia Qualifications Authority have been established to register an audit institutions of higher learning. At this point I might actually stress the fact that our students parents out there and guardians should always establish the academic standing of an institutions one is interested in with the National Regulatory bodies that is prior to actually registering for any program under such institution and I am

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urging our parents, students and guardians to do this aspect of finding out the academic standing for both local institutions as well as international institutions.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members the Namibia Qualification Authority Act 1996 Act number 29 of 1996 and the Namibia Higher Education Act 2003, Act 26 of 2003 clearly stipulate requirements for higher education institutions to operate in Namibia. The regulations developed under this legal instrument spell out the steps towards registration, the minimum curriculum standards to be met for the different qualifications, the need to competent teachers, robust assessment system, minimum teaching facilities and the requirements for progress accreditation.

The Namibia Qualifications Authority's role is to evaluate foreign qualification in order to determine whether these qualifications obtained by Namibians abroad are authentic and whether the institutions where they have studied is recognized within the country of origin.

Furthermore, it is the mandate of the NQA to undertake among others the following functions.

1. Verification that the qualification has been approved by a recognized quality assurance body in the country of origin.
2. Verification that the issuing authority has a credible and variable status conferred by a recognized quality assurance body in the country of origin.
3. An appraisal of all submitted documents available and relevant documents or information sources and decisions by other recognized qualification evaluation body and
4. Consultations with relevant professional association regulatory bodies or employer bodies if qualifications are specifically defined for career entry, registration or licensing purposes.

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Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members it is the professional bodies such as the health professional Council of Namibia that will test the graduates in terms of content, understanding and coverage. Since the training programs are different, NASFAF, NQA and this Council assessed a number of state owned institutions in Russia, Ukraine and China to ascertain whether there is congruent with local training requirements. The assessed institutions were willing to modify the curricula to meet our requirements. Unfortunately, our self-sponsored students opted to go foreign private higher institutions that are not at par with the assessed foreign college public higher education institutions.

Professional bodies such as the Health Professional Council of Namibia its primary task is to protect Namibian citizens against medical practitioners who are not qualified to practice. This Council has thus developed pre-internship evaluation to assess whether the graduates meet the basic standards for admission as medical intern or interns. Unfortunately, unlike in the previous years, this cohort of graduates lack basic skills and thus an agreement was reached between UNAM and the Council to upgrade these students.

In addition it was also observed that some graduates who are allowed to be taken up as medical intern do not pass even after having under this kind of mentorship or clinical exposure for a number of years. In order to strengthen coordination between the various quality assurance bodies, our Ministry has arranged a number of meetings to discuss, improve and coordinate better management systems with regards to recognition of foreign higher education institutions and also to improve our local training facilities including training hospitals.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members the medical graduates who have returned from mostly foreign private education institutions went to these institutions as self-sponsored students around 2011 and 2012. These students did not meet the minimum requirements to enter our local higher education institution thus they went on their own to foreign countries where they were admitted regardless of the points they acquired at Grade 12. The Namibian Student Financial Assistant Fund in 2014 developed

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new requirements for sponsoring students locally and at foreign institutions.

For local institutions 25 points in five subjects are required with a D in English for all qualifications other than medicine, engineering where the requirement in terms of (indistinct) 35. To qualify for NASFAF sponsorship a minimum of 35 points and a D in English is required. These requirements were imposed since 2014. In order to further improve coordination an agreement between the Ministry of Health and Social Services, the Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation and the University of Namibia and NQA will be entered into within the shortest possible time.

There will be a revised inter-Ministerial advisory Committee on medical training that will look at coherence of processes, policies and laws. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members in conclusion it is our belief without our Ministry that we should work hard towards strengthening and expanding intakes in some of the priority areas of study at our local institutions of higher learning. We need to invest in physical infrastructure and human resources in particular specialist training here at home. Also scholarships that emanate from agreement with partner countries should closely be monitored and negotiated where can some of these scholarships be tunable here at our local institutions in some of our priority fields of study. This way I believe we will build institutional capacity, respond to national needs but also introduced important local specialized programs that will also help to expand access at home. It is through upholding quality standard that we can protect our citizens and also become a competitive nation. I so submit.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Shixwameni. Is it a follow up question?

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HON SHIXWAMENI: No, no, I just want to know in terms of the rules. It means that Ministerial Statement deals with a Motion that is on the table. The Motion has not been introduced. It has not been put. So what becomes the status of the Motion which is on the table? If you can just help us with guidance towards that because it is not overtaken. It is abuse of the rule because she knows that this Motion is on the table and she is not supposed to discuss matters that are already tabled on the Motion. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Alright, thank you very much. Honourable Dienda are you on the same subject?

HON DIENDA: There are so many questions that my President who table the Motion through this Motion want to ask and now the Honourable Minister came with a Ministerial Statement. So what is the status of that?

HON SPEAKER: Alright, fine. The Motion is on our order paper for the time it is indicated. We are going to hear that Motion. It is going to be motivated. We are going to be debating on that. It does not pre-empt the Ministerial Statement. It provide information but we will deal with that, yes, Honourable Kavekatora.

HON KAVEKOTORA: Honourable Speaker I think Honourable Shixwameni's question is still a relevant question. I have a notice of question here and I was not here last week. I was in South Africa for SADCOPAC. The question that I posed these questions to the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services but when I looked at the Motion on the order paper it compares favorably to the questions that I

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HON IPUMBU**

wanted to ask hence my decisions to withdraw the questions. I did not ask these questions because I felt that there is already a Motion for discussion but that is why I was a bit confused when I was listening to the Honourable Minister because it is the question or pre-empting the question or what is happening because it has taken a pre-emptive strike nothing more.

HON SPEAKER: Alright, thank you very much. You can only pre-empt the question sorry, you can only pre-empt. The Motion cannot be pre-empted. The Motion stands. A motivation would be done on the Motion and we debate it. That is all I can say. Thank you. Is that an issue, alright, can we, the notice of a Motion is the one of the Deputy Minister of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development. Does the Honourable Deputy Minister move the Motion?

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALIZATION, TRADE
AND SME DEVELOPMENT:** I move so Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Who seconds the Motion, any objection, agreed to. The Honourable Deputy Minister you have the floor.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

**RATIFICATION OF THE KIGALI AMENDMENT TO
THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES
THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER**

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**RATIFICATION OF KIGALI AMENDMENT
TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL
HON IPUMBU**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALIZATION, TRADE AND SME DEVELOPMENT: Thank you Honourable Speaker. First allow me to extend the welcoming and congratulatory remarks to Doctor Iiyambo for joining this August House. I rise to introduce and table the Kigali Amendment with the Montreal Protocol on substance that depleting the ozone layer for consideration and subsequent ratification by this August House. The Kigali Amendment has entered into force in January 2019.

Honourable Members this protocol was adopted in 1987. It is the only sole protocol that the Vienna 1985 Convention for the protection of the ozone layer have passed which protect life on earth from the harmful radiation from the sun. Since its inception the Protocol has sought to control and phase out the ozone depleting substances such as chlorophyll carbons, herons, menthol, promit and hydro chloro-carbon. Namibia became signatory to the protocol in 1993 and it established a national ozone unit within the Directorate of industrial development in the Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development with a purpose to oversee the implementation of Namibia's obligation to the Montreal Protocol. Namibia was one of the first countries in Africa to have totally phased out chlorophyll carbons, herones, menthol in the year 2008 and the Council remains committed to eliminating hydro chlorophyll carbons in all status during the third period between 2012 and 2020.

I should point out that the phase out schedule for Namibia is based on an accelerated approach under the Montreal Protocol and owing to that commitment, the hydro chlorophyll carbons consumption has already been drastically reduced to 80% from the baseline. As a management tool Namibia has elected hydro chlorophyll carbons regulations that prohibits importation of equipment design to use the hydro chlorophyll carbons and establish a quarter system so that imports aimed at controlling and maintaining records as well as ensuring the reduction of hydro chlorophyll carbons imports are achieved.

The Government Gazette number 4636 of 31st December 2010 is a

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national regulatory registration that guides the nation of ozone unit. Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members under the guidance of the Directorate of industrial development and technical assistance from the implementation agencies such as the United Nations Environment Program and the GIZ Procliner, the national ozone unit carried out activities critical in ensuring that Namibia is in compliance to the Montreal Protocol. Amongst the activities through the ozone unit includes:

1. The enforcement of control measures on the licensing and quarter systems in line with hydro chlorophyll carbons phased out plan

Namibia has established a licensing and quarter system for the import and export of hydro chlorophyll carbons. On annual basis our Ministry awards hydro chlorophyll carbons quarter to companies dealing in air conditioning and refrigeration subsector. The Hydro chlorophyll carbons phased out plans stipulate that the quarter decrease every year until 2020 when it is supposed to be phased out. The Namibia national ozone unit however monitors the quarter utilization to ensure that Namibia's hydro chlorophyll carbons consumption is in line with the phased out plan.

2. Independent verification of the ozone depleting substance import quarters and licensing system as well as the inventory on alternatives to the ozone depletion substance.

This done through service on refrigeration and air condition sector to track progress made by our efforts and to analyze the industry's usage of alternatives to hydro chlorophyll carbons. This initiative is important in ensuring that Namibia is on right track with its obligations to the Montreal Protocol.

3. What we will also do is to train the trainers.

Those are the ones operating with air conditions and refrigeration. In support of capacity building and with the gradual shift in technology

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refrigeration and air condition trainers from vocational training centres in Namibia Institute of Mining and Technology undergo training in good refrigeration practices and use of hydro carbon gases. These alternatives are to replace the hydro chlorophyll carbons as it is being phased out. What we do again is to train the technicians in the informal air-conditioning and refrigeration sector. This is given to the fact that the technician in the refrigeration and air condition sector especially in the informal sector in various regions are safe and they know how to build off reduce the alternatives that we are facing.

We also train the Custom and Excise officials. The training aim to equip the officials with the trend or knowledge on hydro chlorophyll carbons identification and handling and outlines the different smuggling schemes and also to curb them. The training has resulted in many successful figures of the hydro chlorophyll carbons and equipment design for that to contain hydro chlorophyll carbons in the country. We also supply refrigerant and air conditioners companies and institutions with equipment. Those are now the vocational training institutions.

We intensify them on equipment to vocational training centre to support hand on training for the refrigeration and air conditioning courses and to the industry to encourage the sector to shift to the alternatives. We also supply border post countrywide with refrigerant identifiers. That happens in ensuring successful control in identification of hydro chlorophyll carbons in training. The Namibian national ozone unit practices and supplies border post countrywide with refrigerant identifiers. These machines are used to test and identify different types of gases.

The customs officers are also trained on how to use and safely handle and store these machines during the annual Custom and Excise training. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members I wish however to acknowledge that hydro chlorophyll carbons are being replaced with hydro chloro-carbons and this has resulted in increasing consumption rate in the country. At the 28th meeting of the parties held in Kigali Rwanda in 2016 delegates agreed to amend the protocol to include hydro chloro-

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carbons as part of this ambit and also to set the set down schedule for hydro chloro-carbons.

The hydro chloro-carbons which are replacing hydro chlorophyll carbons are not a threat to the ozone layer but have a high global warning for protection hence parties to the Montreal Protocol proactively written to address its challenge by adopting the Kigali Amendment whose entry enforce has already commenced as indicated earlier on. To date 60 parties the Montreal Protocol have ratified the Kigali Amendment and we believe that the ratification to this Amendment will not only benefit the global climate but also a large proportion of our population that have limited means of adaptation to the threats of climate change.

We remain confident that the details of the Amendment will address the challenges that were raised during the meeting of the parties to the Montreal Protocol. This include amongst others issues of capacity, awareness raising, technology adoption and availability of alternative technologies.

Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members in the light of the above the Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development has to play a coordinating role to ensure that Namibia remains compliant to the Montreal Protocol of 1987 as amended for which she is party to. Allow me therefore at this juncture to table the ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol for your consideration and ratification. Your positive consideration and ratification of this Amendment Honourable Members will reinforce and gain momentum to the speedy implementation of the Montreal Protocol which we will result in ensuring that Namibia is compliant to her obligation. I am counting on your usual support and I thank you for your attention.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Any further discussion, Honourable Dienda please?

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**RATIFICATION OF KIGALI AMENDMENT
TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL
HON DIENDA / HON KAVEKOTORA**

HON DIENDA: Just a question Honourable Speaker. I do not know what is hydro-chlorophyll. I do not know. I cannot sit here and approve something. I did not do biology at school. I am a history and Afrikaans teacher. This hydro-chloro thing just an explaining what are we. We are not talking about defence. I am talking about hydro chloro whatever. You also do not what it is. What does it mean? You want me to approve things I do not even know what is it.

HON SPEAKER: You are quite right. This is the opportunity for Members to raise questions, any clarification you deem necessary so we can do that. Any further discussion? Well, yes, Honourable Dienda please, no, no, Honourable Hinda please.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I want to ask if we can postpone it until tomorrow to ask some questions.

HON SPEAKER: There is a request, well, let me finish those who are ready to debate and then we can continue looking at the request, yes, Honourable Mike Kavekatora.

HON KAVEKOTORA: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I also do not understand the hydro floro chloro what a view but I think the most important thing here is that when you read the Motion it is really this Kigali Protocol. The Kigali Protocol is talking about our contribution to try to reduce the ozone layer. I think that is the subject matter and I think that is a very important aspect. We are now in a drought situation and

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**RATIFICATION OF KIGALI AMENDMENT
TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL
HON HINDA-MBUENDE**

some people are saying that the drought is actually because of maybe of the hydro chloro what a view. So I think it is a very important Motion Honourable Speaker so I agree with my Colleague that perhaps we just need to get more information so that at least we study the thing and we make valuable contribution to this.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much and in the absence of any other Members who would like to take the floor, I put the question to the mover whether the request from the Honourable Hinda Mbuende could be entertained. Are you comfortable with that or there are some reason why we should not?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION, TRADE AND SME DEVELOPMENT: Thank you Honourable Speaker, Honourable Speaker I am comfortable with that arrangement but in the meantime I can maybe briefly explain the chlorophyll carbons and hydro chlorophyll carbons and hydro carbons. These are three different gases types of gases, the gases that we use with the air conditioning systems and the fridges so because of various sample inflicts, we have been phasing them out one by one and to find alternatives that do not have an impact to our climate and the chlorophyll carbons we have already take out as indicated and hydro chlorophyll carbons is the one we are busy phasing out already at 80% so that it can be replaced by hydro carbons and that is where we are. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Alright, with that additional information would be taken into account and the proposal is that we will pick up the subject matter tomorrow during our sitting. Is that acceptable. 'daccord', so decided? Thank you very much. Well, that basically brought

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**ADJOURNMENT
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

us to the end of the items before the agenda and before we adjourn, I would like to share something with the Members with Honourable Members. We have requests, we receive a request from the Governor of the Bank of Namibia and this request was extended to us since last year and particularly he decided well, we decided that maybe this is the best time to ask the Governor to come and speak to a workshop on the state of the outlook of the economy in good time before we get into the debate on the budget and that sort of information perhaps could be useful to Members to know exactly how to deal with the issues relating to the economy, the constraints and the challenges and I do not want to impose it on you.

This must be seen as a useful opportunity to hear from someone who has got an overview through a certain window on the state of the economy. Are you comfortable? Can we organize something like that as soon as possible? Now if that is yes, then I will like to confirm that he is ready to address that workshop tomorrow from tomorrow or do you want us to do it next week, next week. Yes, so you are ready Wednesday week. Is that acceptable to many of you? Then the following Wednesday we will have another speaker who is going

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to speak on the state of energy, the energy question in the country. Again these are series of issues that we thought are important in terms of the economy and are you also comfortable with that? So we follow each other 'daccord'. Alright, thank you very much. Well, with that understanding the House stand adjourn until tomorrow the usual time.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:00 UNTIL 2019.03.06 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
06 MARCH, 2019**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HN SPEAKER: Honourable Members, welcome back. Honourable Members, the National Council Considered the Public Enterprises Governance Bill which was referred to it under Sub Article 75:1 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia. This Bill has now been placed on the Order Paper for reconsideration tomorrow and the proposed amendments from the National Council and the certified ones from the Office of the Attorney General will in the meantime be redistributed to Members in order to prepare for tomorrow's reconsideration of the Bill I just referred to. I just wanted to make sure that we have this information in good time for tomorrow's consideration of the subject matter. So that is one announcement I would like to make.

The second announcement I would like to make Honourable Members on behalf of the National Assembly I would like to express our sincere condolences and sadness to the members of the family of course of the Honourable Evelyn !Nawases-Taeyele our Chief Whip of the Governing Party who lost a dear brother. Suddenly passed on a couple of days ago, he is younger brother Mr Croton !Nawaseb who died on the 24th of February 2019. The memorial service will take place in Leornardville on Friday the 8th March of course this year while the funeral will be taking place on Saturday the 9th March 2019, also in the same place. No obligation was but as we normally do on a voluntary basis a list has been sent around to Honourable Members, those who would like to make a

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON SWARTZ / HON TJONGARERO**

voluntary contribution towards the loss of our colleague's brother by way of donation to facilitate lessen the burden in terms of the obligation of the family during the court of this difficult period for the family. So we leave it to you to use your judgment as to how you will be able to make a contribution. That said and done, any petitions? Reports of Standing and Select Committees? Yes Honourable Swartz.

**TABLING OF REPORTS ON - PARLIAMENTARY
STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

HON SWARTZ: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the table for discussion the number one report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Natural Resources on visits to the mines and fisheries factories from 21 July until 3rd of August 2017, that one is for discussion.

The second report on the 23rd Session of Conference of Parties, COP23 Fiji, to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Conference of the parties serving as the 13th Meeting of the parties to the KYOTO Protocol and the second part of the first conference of the parties serving as the meeting of the parties to piracy agreement held in Bonn, Germany from 6 November to 17 November 2017 only for note taking that one.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Other Reports and Papers? Notices of Questions? Yes Honourable Agnes Tjongarero.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, SPORT AND NATIONAL
SERVICE:** Honourable Speaker I have got an urgent question.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTION
HON TJONGARERO**

HON SPEAKER: Oral question yes give me the gist.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

ORAL QUESTION

QUESTION 2:

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, SPORT AND NATIONAL SERVICE: Yes Honourable Speaker, at the beginning of this session the Speaker informed us that we are going to have a paperless Parliament and until now it seems we are back to square one. We are still having many of the papers. When are we going to start with the paperless Parliament and if we are given the date can we at least start with the Order Paper, at least? Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I thought the Honourable Agnes Tjongarero was on the Executive out there but for some reasons she seems to be well informed about the discussion that took place today at the Standing Rules and Orders. Similar question was raised so you are absolutely on the ball. So I warmly welcome the question. It is most welcome, it is actually pertinent and let me answer you as follows. We have indeed started the exercise of paperless Parliament or E Parliament as it is also known and the reason for that is simply we feel and we are convinced that it is important that we move in that direction. That is why we have the work of tools that we have, (indistinct) and all the ICT staff that we have. Some of the information is actually loaded here and we can access them easily. But one of the reasons why you still see Order Papers are being distributed on the daily basis is that we have entered into

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**RESPONSE TO ORAL QUESTION
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

a contract, that contract is still running so you will still continue to see Order Papers are still being made available but as soon as we conclude that that particular commitment we will then basically stop issuing the Order Papers.

I also want to emphasize the fact that other important information that we can download etcetera are going to be loaded and made available to you so that you access them through your Tablets and through your other ICT instruments so we will still continue with that but where I share your concern it is simply is not enough to say we have begun. We agree with you and this morning there was a clear understanding and appreciation of the fact that we need to do more. Our ICT Committee has the responsibility but we also like them to liaise closely with the line Ministry to work with them so that we can strengthen our endeavours here as a paperless Parliament, so we are going to do that.

Secondly, we also see the need to have a dedicated point of reference in Parliament that could be visited by Honourable Members who would like to seek clarifications helped so that they could be further strengthened in the knowledge of managing these kinds of tools. So your question is absolutely relevant and it is important. It is simply, I would just want to say that we will provide to Honourable Members with additional information as to what progress we are making in getting off the ground Phase 1 of paperless Parliament, so thank you for the question. Now can we move on.

Notices of Motions? Messages from, yes Minister of Finance.

NOTICE OF MOTION

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that tomorrow on the 7th of March 2019 I shall move that

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**NOTICE OF MOTION
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

leave be given to introduce a Bill to amend the Bank of Namibia Act, Act No.15 of 1997 to provide for the Central Bank of Namibia to serve as a State's principle Instrument of to control money supply currently and the situations of finance in Namibia to provide for the functions of the Central Bank and:

- To provide for management
- To regulate the issues of bank notes and coins
- To provide for matters relating to banking, currencies and monetary policy to manage Foreign Exchange reserves
- To promote financial stability and to provide for incidental matters.

I so move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. It is coming, thank you very much we move on, Messages from the Head of State? Ministerial Statement and I recognize the Honourable Minister of Gender and Child Welfare. You can move to this side and see whether yes.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTER OF GENDER
EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE IN TERMS OF
RULE 98 OF THE STANDING RULES AND ORDERS**

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON SIOKA**

HON MINISTER OF GENDER, EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I have got three Ministerial Statements. You should be very patient with me. We have to keep Parliament working. (Honourable Shixwameni interrupting).

You are one of them. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House allow me first of all to welcome Mr Iiyambo to the House of Wisdom. We welcome you my brother. The jokes you saw yesterday is how we deal with issues but we do not take revenge against one another, you are most welcome. I also take this opportunity to thank the NUDO Party for coming up with a female President, really it is an achievement to the Republic of Namibia. We are ready to work with Esther Munyangwe in all avenues but all I would like to encourage our fellow women Parliamentarians and other political parties to work with her. She has set a very big tone to us that we can stand that position which is only selected for men now this position is for women. We welcome her. Now let me come to my speech.

Honourable Speaker, I am here to come and give a brief report on the assignment on the sanitary pads last year. Kindly allow me to provide you with an update on the issue of sanitary pads that was raised in this august House some time ago. Girls' education and academic achievements at primary and secondary level plays a key role in the economy, social and health developments of our country. However, many factors still exist that limit the attendance of girls in other primary and secondary schools. One of the primary factors for this could well be the like of sanitary products especially for rural schools where unemployed parents or guardians are unable to afford these products for their girls.

Girls who lack resources to buy sanitary pads each month have tirelessly suffered heart renting humiliation and academic disadvantage during the time of their menstruation periods. In terms of training and Oxford team reported improved attendance among girls who were given free disposals sanitary pads. This research has now been continued in Uganda. It was

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HON SIOKA**

found that most of the girls do not have access to sanitary pads and so use (indistinct) sheet homemade clothes pads which are effective. Embarrassment due to accidents and lack of privacy for disposal or washing touched part in schools led the girls to remain absent for the length of their circle and miss out on school work. According to statistics only 17% of female living in the rural areas have access to improved sanitation facilities and this deprived women of their privacy and infrastructure required for health and hygienic menstrual management.

Therefore provision of sanitary products may offer as fast more direct and less expensive means to tackle these problems and increasing attendance in schools. Regarding this provision of free sanitary pads to the needy school girls in Namibia I would like to inform this august House that the Ministry of Gender, Equality and Child Welfare through the coordination mechanisms for the effective implementation of the National Gender Policy 2010/2020 in the education and training the girls and boy child cluster which is chaired by the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture.

I mean this cluster is chaired by the Ministry of Education. Various achievements have been done to ensure that the girl child does not stay out of school due to lack of sanitary products. The cluster provides technical support to reduce inequality in education, improve education retention and completion rate for girls and boys. It contributes to increased access of women to vocational training science and technology as well as promotes enrolment of boys in disciplines they are hugely under represented such as nursing, social work, tourism and hospitality sector.

- The role of the cluster includes among others to ensure integration and mainstreaming of gender in education sector, policies, programmes, budget and plans.
- Also to ensure education sector compliance with national commitments such as NDP3, the MDGs and the international commitments as they are related to goals of gender equality and women empowerment.

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HON SIOKA**

- Liaison and coordination with stakeholders on gender issues related to the education and girl child cluster.
- Raise funds and influence budget allocation to gender programmes and activities.
- Identify the proposed areas for gender research and generation of gender statistics in the education sector.
- Institutionalize gender sensitivity, monitoring evaluation and reporting in the education and girl child cluster

All issues pertaining to the girl child and boy child such as teenage pregnancy, high school dropout, child early marriage, harmful cultural practises as well as the girl child not attending classes because of unavailability and affordability of sanitary products are discussed during the cluster meetings.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, on starters of the provision of sanitary products:

1. Government through the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture and other stakeholders including business people, the private sector, Non Governmental Organizations have taken initiatives in providing sanitary products to the needy school girls in the country.
2. Recognition is hereby made towards the role of civil society and other stakeholders who are currently acquiring sanitary products to give to the needy children for example locally youth based organizations, African Mobilized Sanitary Products, Forum for African Women, educationists, Namibia that is Henry Joowe of Henima Investment. (Interruptions) Yes that is the name you do not know it. Donated sanitary products to needy children. NamPort also provided sanitary products to girls in schools. Eight year old Mahia Ndeutala in Swakopmund also donated sanitary products. Scorpion Zinc Mine. Official communication: In 2017/2018 Financial Year our real Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture collected, listen here now, you

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3. should also here in Parliament collect something not to be talking too much here: N\$200,000 to FAWENA for the procurement and distribution of sanitary products to the regions as well as the formularization of the Technical Committee on Sanitary Products.
4. Further the Government together with the United Nations Children Fund supported the establishment of Menstrual Hygiene Management Clubs and part of the school led total sanitation programme in Namibia. Through this programme girls and boys in schools are equipped with knowledge about menstruation and empowerment to know the parts about this natural process. So far 52 Menstrual Hygiene Management Clubs have been established countrywide.
5. In addition Government is making efforts to address the gaps in Menstrual Health and Hygiene as one of the strategies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal 3 on good health and wellbeing Goal 5 on gender equality and Goal 6 on clean water and sanitation.
6. On the 28th of May 2018 Government together with the United Nations Family hosted the very national commemoration of the Menstrual Health and Hygiene they held in Omaheke Region. Honourable Speaker, the commemoration was under the theme, Empowering Women and Girls through good and safe menstrual health and hygiene. We saw the Deputy Minister of Health attended. She was there. The event was honoured by the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services Honourable Juliet Kavetuna.
7. UNSCEF is in the process of conducting the study on sanitary products in Namibia.
8. However, there are a number of organizations that wish to provide menstrual health products to learners particularly re-washable ones.
9. The challenge is that the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture can however, not endorse these products as there is no actual approval of their structure. In 2019/2020 Financial Year the Ministry of

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10. Education, Arts and Culture will send out a directive to schools for them to use some of the education grants as saved money to start income generating projects that can assist in the provision of menstrual health and products for learners.
11. One of the key intervention in the pipeline is to explore the possibility of tax exemption on country products. Now challenges, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members there is a need to determine whether or not Government has to make budgetary provision to ensure monthly provision of sanitary products to needy children and the sustainable thereof. A policy direction on sanitary products is necessary also. Sanitary menstrual products not yet tax free and what financial implications on the economy in the long run this could not yet been established. Discussion at this level still yield decision on whether to procure or produce washable sanitary products as well as which institution should approve such a product. No national study on the relationship between sanitary products and school drop outs absenteeism.

Dear Members of Parliament further deliberation will be required once the study has finalized and the direction collection on our school dropouts is determine. Finally, be assured that the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture and ourselves the Ministry of Gender, Equality and Child Welfare will take appropriate action once study is concluded. With these few remarks I thank you Comrade Speaker maybe you could allow me just to proceed with the other one. Now this one is for (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member, if I may suggest that you introduce the Ministerial Statement about the subject matter so that people will follow logically.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER, EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Are we not going to lose track maybe?

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HON SPEAKER: I think it will be helpful to you as well and to the Members then they know that you are dealing with this issue and that issue, just briefly and not in any details, please. You may continue.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER, EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Shixwameni you just wanted.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER, EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: This is for Shixwameni.

HON SHIXWAMENI: I remember at the Standing Rules and Orders I was saying the Leninists is saying three steps forward, one step back. We are exactly on this sanitary pad at that point today. I welcome your speech but we had the project that was supposed to be based in Rundu to produce sanitary pads in conjunction with the UNDP what happened to that project? So we are starting to reinvent the wheel in every section we start doing like this? I would like really to just my peace time Comrade to explain what happened. Is it a new initiative or is it an old initiative in new bodies? Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Member please do continue.

And you can answer either now or at the end.

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HON MINISTER OF GENDER, EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: I will just answer him now. Thank you very much Comrade Speaker. I think last week you have seen one project which was opened for sanitary pads, the one which can take 50 litres of water but a woman cannot feel that is wet, is a sixth year because they went to my office they were there in my office. Anyway listen here this one which you are asking for it is of the report from Parliament. If you do not have a woman you will lack of information. You only brought two of you men and instead you left one woman so she could have been giving you right information. Hold on I am still coming. That project is still coming.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Do not worry but (not on microphone).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Shixwameni let her finish and then you come back. Let her finish.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER, EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Honourable Shixwameni that project is still in the pipeline, nobody has stopped it. The only thing is we have to get more because people are suffering, children are suffering. That project is still in the pipeline.

HON SHIXWAMENI: I thought that I would be allowed to read the letter (indistinct).

HON SPEAKER: Do you still want to come back or you are done?

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HON SHIXWAMENI: No I have girls that are at school who are women. I am married to a woman. I have three sisters who are women so she cannot say just because you only have two Members of Parliament that are men that we are disqualified to speak about the sensitive issue like that. It is just for her information and very well.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER, EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: I do not want to waste time on that. Anyway he is a family member. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I am now coming to a second Ministerial Statement on Gender Based Violence which is escalating in the country.

HON SPEAKER: Okay.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER, EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Allow me to recognize the national solidarity and the efforts made in the fight against gender based violence particularly violence against women and children through different national initiatives including 16 girls against gender based violence that have been commemorated countrywide every year. I would like to state that like this intervention gender based violence in Namibia is still a concern. The latest report was a gruesome mother a 23 year old woman, a third year education student and a potential future teacher for the Namibian child. This is unacceptable because we cannot be having murdering other people like animals. We have just lost value of human life. Women and girls like many other citizens ought to be valued and not subjected to the grievous acts that endangers or take again their rights to life as we have seen in the recent weeks in months. This is not a Namibia we fought for, this is not the Namibia we want to live in where we take one another's life.

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HON SIOKA**

There is no excuse whatsoever for anyone to take somebody's life not even that of a baby, it is very important. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is thus not that most of the victims are children and women and youth also especially young women. I am asking this question again, are we trying to eliminate our nation from the face of the earth? Are we trying to phase out women and children? Where will we get the seed which will lead this country?

Honourable Speaker as a nation we need to change the way we deal with precious life that cannot be bought. These gruesome killings always send a shock wave throughout the country if not even the world. Namibia is a big country with a small population but we are trying to phase out one another.

Violence against women caused untold misery, cutting lives short and leaving families in pain and fear. As a nation we strongly condemn such violence committed against women and men, girls and boys. The time is now we should stop it. Let us enter into negotiations. Let us enter into discussions. Let us communicate our problems with one another starting from Parliament here up to the grassroots.

Honourable Speaker, in view of all this we remain committed to create an environment where men, women, boys and girls feel safe. The Government has put in place laws to protect people to live in harmony. Among them are the Combating of Rape Act, Combating of Domestic Violence Act, Combating of Moral Practise Act among others and the constitution also the Supreme law. With efforts to exercise prevention and response to gender based violence my Ministry in collaboration with other stakeholders developed two key framework namely the National Gender Based Violence plan of action 2019/2023 and a national Gender Based Violence (GBV) Training Resource Kits. This national plan of action on Gender Based Violence 2019, 2023 accompanied by its robust monitoring and evaluation framework is focused on addressed the complex nature of GBV by all stakeholders. The plan focuses on four key priority areas namely survival first, safetiness and community care, youth in the lead and adequate data those are the four.

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A national GBV Training Resource Kit is a comprehensive training tool for all stakeholders involved in training and facilitation to harmonize message given, methodologies and training objectives. The Kit is meant to foster common understanding on GBV and hence informative of the information given to trainees about GBV prevention and response.

Honourable Speaker these two frameworks and the National Gender Based Violence study will be launched during the commemoration of the 8th of March in Omuthiya Oshikoto Region. That will be addressed by Honourable Shanghala. This man is a problem. They are all the same they are from the same area anyway. Tate Shangula, Doctor please do not delay me, Doctor Shalumbi Shangula, no Shanghala, Shalumbi (laughter). Ha?

HON SPEAKER: Okay, order please.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER, EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Yes he is Doctor Shalumbi (interruptions).

HON SPEAKER: I think we got the message.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER, EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Okay the Minister of Health. But this doctor is my cousin, neh (laughter). He is my cousin I will pronounce his name correctly. He is Mr Kalumbi (laughter).

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HON SPEAKER: It is okay let us (intervention).

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Our neighbours the *shaa, shaa* is too much for us we had PC. Honourable Speaker these two frameworks and the National DBC, where was I even? Where was I, okay these two frameworks and the National DBC those who are studying will be launched during the commemoration of the 8th of March in Omuthiya, Oshikoto Region by the Honourable Minister Dr Kalumbi. I am strongly appealing to all of us to join hands to fight these barbaric feelings which results in losing precious lives. The fight cannot be left to Government Ministries or a few Non Governmental Organizations, Church based organizations. We need to join hands to cultivate a culture of peace and love for one another and have more awareness to promote health picking behaviour.

In the same vein I would like to encourage media to continue playing a constructing role in eradicating violence against women and children by adopting guidelines which ensure sensitive coverage of these issues. Dissemination of policy gender message and violation avoiding perpetration of gender based violence, I urge all our partners to scale up their efforts in achieving thereof incidences of gender based violence against women and children.

Finally I would like to invite you all to attend the International Women's Day on the 8th of March. The national events will be commemorated in Omuthiya as I said, Oshikoto Region where the two national documents alluded to will be led by the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services. The rest of the 13 regions will also be commemorating in their respective regions. With these remarks I thank you Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Next is the Honourable Hinda-Mbuende.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON HINDA-MBUENDE**

**HON MINISTER OF GENDER, EQUALITY AND CHILD
WELFARE:** Comrade Speaker?

HON SPEAKER: Yes, I think there is a third statement ha? This is the last one?

**HON MINISTER OF GENDER, EQUALITY AND CHILD
WELFARE:** Yes.

HON SPEAKER: Can we allow her to complete? Please continue.

THE CHILD PROTECTION SECTOR

**HON MINISTER OF GENDER, EQUALITY AND CHILD
WELFARE:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Media has entered into a new era in the child protection sector. The motivation I am going to present now is on the Child Care and Protection Act, the regulations which we announced on the 4th, on Monday at Safari Hotel. Namibian has entered a new era in the child protection sector with the Enforcement of the child Care and Protection Act. The regulations for the Act was gazetted on the 30th January 2019. We have worked for over twenty years on the enactment of this legislation and we are all indeed honoured to be here to celebrate the enforcement of this detailed piece of legislation.

The main objective of this Act is to promote and protect the wellbeing of all children and to give effects to the children's rights as provided for in

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the Namibian Constitution. These Acts include international convention and the Charter such as the United Nations Convention on the rights of the child on the African Charter on the rights and welfare of the child. Another very important aspect of this Act is that it promotes the protection and strengthening of family and community structure to care better for their children. It provides for protective services for children in need of care and at the same time recognize that children with disability have a special need. The Child Care and Protection makes provision for new measures such as the age of majority, medical concerns, HIV testing, mandatory reporting, dating procedures for professionals working with children, kingship, care as well as inter country adoption. In this new law the age of majority has been lowered from 21 years to 18 years to bring Namibia in line with the international law and reflect the fact that at this age young Namibians are expected to engage in some activities such as building, making their own informed decisions in the spheres. In spite of this provision a person below the age of 21 years still requires consent from their parents or guardian in order to marry.

The Act provides for children from the age of 14 to consent to medical procedures and HIV testing. The provisions are necessary as they enhance access to critical services for adolescence. The ultimate provision for professionals such as school principals, teachers, medical or dental practitioners, pharmacists, schools, counsellors, dentists, psychologists, socio psychological counsellors, nurses, physiotherapists, speech therapists, traditional leaders and social workers to make it mandatory to report cases of child abuse or children in need of protective services to a social worker or police. One of the key provisions of the Act is the requirement that certain professionals working in places such as schools, residential, child care facilities, ECD centres, shelter or any other place where there might have access to children are required to provide valid points clearance.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in conclusion the Act requires concerted efforts from all of us in prevention and earlier intervention activities. These activities are intended to better social problems from occurring or addressing them early when they do occur. We all know that

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the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare alone is not able to fulfill the provisions of this law. The Ministry is calling on all Ministries, Offices, Agencies, stakeholders and development partners to fulfill their role in the protection of children. I rely on your unwavering commitment and support to the cause of this child protection in our beautiful country Namibia. With these remarks I conclude my three Ministerial Statements I thank you Comrade Chairperson.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. That was (incomplete). Yes next is the Honourable Hinda-Mbuende.

HON MEMBER: Yes Hinda-Mbuende.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Is that new? Thank you Honourable Speaker. I think the Honourable Speaker was supposed to inform the House, however that he is asking. Honourable Speaker, I want to appreciate the Minister of Gender for honouring Women Day in the session, addressing issues pertaining to children and women that are pertinent. But I just want to ask if I have the attention of the Honourable Members, Honourable Minister was talking about and I want to ask about the girl child part, on the reusable sanitary pads. My question is, is the Minister probably aware because she was talking about these reusable pads be able to take 16 litres of water whatever, something of water equivalent but I was just imagining is that just to wash, neh? Can I have the attention of the House?

HON SPEAKER: Yes please.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: I do not want the noise, because if you have to reuse it means you have to wash it and I can imagine how that washing whether it is really hygienic. I wanted just to ask the Minister. If the Minister away of reusable menstrual cup also known as the Moon Cup that is going to be introduced that is reusable? You can use the same Moon Cup up to ten years. So one person can have one Moon Cup that you can use up to ten years and you can simply rinse it and reuse it again, I think it is more hygienic. Yes it is called a Moon Cup or a Menstrual Cup.

HON MEMBER: It is the Sun Cup.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Is it, well. It is not the same, that one is washed, I am not talking about the washing because I can imagine how red the water will be. So I am talking about a cup that is reusable. So that cup can be used up to ten years, it is medically graded. It does not leak. Up to twelve hours it is eco friendly and cost effective. Currently I think in Namibia I cup is N\$40,00 meaning one girl can have a N\$40 cup for ten years. Maybe it is something that we could look into. In South Africa widely used it is in pharmacies and I have also noticed that they are distributing at some schools. So I just wanted to ask if the Minister of Gender, Equality and Child Welfare could consider. Thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Any further questions. Okay, yes Honourable Speaker.

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HON MINISTER OF GENDER, EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Comrade Speaker let me register my apology on I am summoned up there now I am needed right now, I do not know how I am going to do that?

HON SPEAKER: Can I take additional questions while you are doing that?

HON MINISTER OF GENDER, EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Let the Prime Minister then take that. Oh, we are going together?

HON SPEAKER: I will take the next two questions. Is that a point of order?

HON IIVULA-ITHANA: Honourable Speaker, I do not have my rules with me here but I rely on my memory. Ministerial Statements normally do not invoke immediate discussions. Otherwise we will just run out of the scheme of how things are supposed to be done.

HON SPEAKER: Absolutely, thank you very much. In fact normally there is a quick comment something relevant that will add value to the statement that is why I took it on that basis. So that was a quick one. The Honourable Kavekatora do you want to make a comment or what is it?

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HON KAVEKOTORA: Yes actually a quick one.

HON SPEAKER: Ha?

HON KAVEKOTORA: I want to make a quick one. Thank you Honourable Speaker, I actually wanted to make an elaborative comment but the Honourable Member reminded us of the rules. I would like to comply to the rules because otherwise I will be guilty of not complying.

I just want to make a statement, I actually wanted to ask a question and make a statement to say that I listened very carefully to the three Ministerial Statements because when you hear it is a Ministerial Statement you almost expect certain quality of a statement and I would like to suggest that whoever wrote the statement on behalf of the Minister should be fired.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, we will stop there. We do not want to add value. Honourable Minister you have the last word.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER, EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Yes, thank you very much Colleague, I take note, thank you.

HON SPEAKER: We must stop there. We took quite a while because,

The Secretary will read the Order of the Day. Motion, the Notice of a Motion is one of the Honourable Deputy Minister of Safety and Security, yes indeed. Does the Honourable Deputy Minister move the Bill be now

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introduced?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: I move
Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds the Motion? Is there any objection?
Any objection? I am coming to that, then it is agreed to but the question is
we have the quorum I just wanted to check to make sure that we are. I
think we are. Yes we do save to say. Will the Honourable Deputy
Minister please table the Bill.

The Secretary will now read the Bill the first time.

ARMS AND AMMUNITION AMENDMENT BILL [B.12 – 2018]

SECRETARY: *Arms and Ammunition Amendment Bill* [B.12 – 2018].

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Deputy Minister of Safety and
Security Move that the Bill now be read a second time?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: I move
Honourable Speaker.

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HON SPEAKER: Any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. The Honourable Deputy Minister you had the floor. Actually I like the fact that the Deputy Minister is presenting the subject matter using the tools of work.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to introduce amendments to the Arms and Ammunition Act, Act No.7 of 1996 in order to address identify the gaps regarding the control of firearms and ammunition as well as other related materials. Honourable Speaker, the Arms and Ammunition Bill is aimed at amending the Arms and Ammunition Act so as to provide for certain definitions of the renewal of licence to possess firearms for the devised note not regarded as firearms for the competency testing and competency certificates for firearms free zone for disposal of firearms in case of death, inherited firearms and winding up of business for the use of firearms in theatre and cinema for State Owned firearms for brokering and to provide for incidental matters.

From 2008 to 2016 consultative meetings with various stakeholders which include among others Government institutions, gun dealers, Namibia Professional Hunters Association, Traditional Leaders, Regional Governors and Regional Councils are being contacted in order to ensure that the proposed amendment takes into consideration a wide range of public views. These consultation meetings identified shortcomings and loopholes in the Arms and Ammunition Act 7 of 1996 and these issues were discussed and decided upon. Among others it was identified that the current legislation does not make provision for competency perspective to ensure that only people who are capable of handling and dealing with firearms are eligible to be issued with competency certificates and licences to possess firearms. Competency constitutes the standing point in applying for a Firearms Licence. It is determined by a combination of factors of which trailing I the most important accompanied with personal interviews of relatives, friends and so forth in order to determine whether the Applicant is fit and proper.

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Furthermore the proposed amendment makes provision among other requirements for the applicant of competency certificate to be mentally fit or does not suffer from or alleged people have suffered from any mental illness. Therefore medical clearance may be required in addition to the certificate of good conduct issued by the Namibian Police. According to a study conducted in 2004 at the start of the implementation of Arms and Ammunition Act 7 of 1996 there were only 97,262 firearms licences in Namibia. However, the current number of licensed firearms issued to civilians stand at 210,000 according to the Ministry's database. Therefore the number of licensed firearms has considerably increased over the past thirteen years.

In 2004 there were around 5.04 firearms per 100 persons in Namibia compared to 9 licensed firearms per 100 persons today. The third quarter of 2018/2019 the Ministry dealt with 4,870 applications possessed firearms although there is a slight decrease compared to the period of 2017/2018 which was about 5,424. It was also observed with concern that 50% of the applications were for handguns and handguns means pistols and revolvers. The justification for the demands of handguns is self defense, restrains is likely to continue in the near future. Therefore there is a need to improve on arms and ammunition control mechanisms by promulgating enabling legislations. The Arms and Ammunition Amendment Bill therefore aims to bring about better control for firearms and related materials.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, cases of stolen or lost firearms have increased at an alarming rate. 80% of those firearms reported stolen or lost are handguns. Some of these firearms are the ones being used in the commission of crimes. I therefore wish to call upon all those who have been issued or have applied for licences to possess firearms to make sure that your firearm is always locked up in a safe if it is not in use so that it does not fall in the hands of criminals. The mechanisms of firearms control particularly the application for licences to possess firearms have identified as the main setback while so many licences were issued to people who could possibly not be fit to possess firearms. To be specific the performance audit report on the issuance and

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control of firearms licence in Namibia presented by Auditor General to Parliament of the Republic of Namibia recommended to the Ministry of Safety and Security to develop a policy to determine the competency and fitness level of firearms owners whatever put an issuing of the licence subject to which can no longer be prolonged. It is suggested that all persons in Namibia to either possess a firearms, trade in firearms, manufacture firearms, who carries on business as per gun Smith must be a competent expert by an accredited training facility. The idea behind competency testing is to ensure that only those people who are competent of handling and dealing with firearms will be issued with firearms licence that separates of course from finer materials and allows authority to maintain a manageable database.

The Ammunition Bill obliges the Registrar to only issues a competent certificate where the applicants complied with all the applicable requirements and not to issue a licence to any person who is not in possessing of a relevant competent certificate. The control and implementation of the convention will be done within the existing structure of the Ministry. The Ministry of Safety and Security would draw from the experience gained during the implementation of Arms and Ammunition Acts of 1996 to effectively implement Arms and Ammunition Bill.

Furthermore the Ministry of Safety and Security is considering the outsourcing of the service for the expansion of E Policing database to include the ballistic testing and competency testing as provided in the proposed Amendment Bill.

Honourable Speaker, in conclusion the control and managing of firearms and ammunition in Namibia becomes a challenge as the current Arms and Ammunition Act becomes outdated. The solution is therefore for this Honourable House to debate on the amendment as having been introduced to curb the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Namibia. I thank you.

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HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Any further discussion? Yes Honourable Muharukwa.

HON MUHARUKUA: Honourable Speaker thank you. May I postpone the debate of this Bill to next week Tuesday?

HON SPEAKER: Tuesday next week. Okay I do not have any other Honourable Members who would like to contribute so can we agree to that. So decided, thank you very much.

We move on to the next item and the Secretary will read the Order of the day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE
RATIFICATION OF THE KIGALI AMENDMENT
TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES
THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYERS**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on the Ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

HON SPEAKER: When the Assembly adjourned yesterday the 5th March 2019 the question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Deputy Minister of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development that

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the amendment be agreed to. The Honourable Deputy Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration adjourned the debate and I now give her the floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to make a contribution to the call for the consideration and subsequent ratification in this House for the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer as introduced and tabled by Honourable by Honourable Lucia Iipumbu the Deputy Minister to the Industrial, Trade and SME Development yesterday. Climate change is a living reality nobody can afford to ignore. I applaud the efforts of our Government thus far to comply with the international protocol emanating from the Paris Agreement. I cannot help to remember Hurricane Katrina and of the most recent hurricane Emma Himalaya which is August 2017 destroyed everything on the islands of Barbuda and forced the relocation of its more than 1,600 residents and the delegation affects on the 1,300,000 residents in Costa Rico due to disaster with the first ever category 5 hurricanes on the Atlantic Ocean. Though estimates vary but by consensus it says that at least 200,000,000 people will be displaced as a result of Climate Change by 2050.

Coming back closer home I am not sure if Namibia, Southern Africa or even Sub Saharan Africa is included in that SADC phase. We have an Atlantic Ocean too.

What is it likely to be by 2050 in terms of elevation of sea level, I am asking? Honourable Speaker, it is commendable to ratify the Kigali Amendment which deals with hyroplaura carbon but the question which they ask is we as a country are doing enough to mitigate local challenges posed by Climate Change. It is common knowledge the countries that historically polluted the environment are and was negatively affected by Climate change due to earlier mitigations that they have taken.

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In fact Honourable Speaker, the report by Inter Governmental Plenary on Climate Change identifies Sub Sahara Africa and small island space as the most vulnerable to Climate Change because we do not have the resources or infrastructure to adequately adapt to environmental changes.

I am concerned about the mitigation that we are taking as a country to ensure that we arrest the situation and aver to those challenges that could cause disasters to our environment here at home. We have experienced severe droughts in the past years. Even that year we are praying and hopeful that God will hear our cries. The rain no longer fall the way it used to. It is sporadic, abrupt or same and devastating by thunders. Recently we had the Hopa Camp Site that was under water and a very energetic young tour guide was swept away with his tent and died. May his soul find internal peace?

Statistics has it there are 70% of our people in Namibia rely on agriculture for livelihood. Namibia is a dry country to which about two...which over the years has claimed more land which they have expanded so much so that most of the South is becoming inhabitable. The agricultural activities mainly the small stock farming we can feel the effects of depletion of the Ozone layer. The sun has become hotter. Grazing has gone out, etcetera. What implications are we talking as a country to ensure that we do not run dry? Are we planting trees? Are we saving water? Are we harvesting water? Are we working on optimizing the underground water utilization? As I understand we have underground water reservoirs, are we looking into technology that allows trapped water irrigation in villages because we need to ensure food security if rain totally disappears which is not farfetched. As forests are well know for attracting rain yet we are not conserving ours. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, as much as all Members have ratified or most members of the United Nations have ratified and are signatories to this Protocol on climate change, it is no secret that developed countries are involved in commercial activities that may have dire consequences on our environment with devastating irreversible effect.

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Southern Africa has been hit of late with bad images that point our TV Screens of the rape of our forests. Our natural resources are being shipped out of our continent. Our trees as old as 400 years are being cut down in volumes. This is indeed the genocide of our nature. Our wildlife is declining and the developed countries will think of killing have nothing to kill and take whatever they can from them. Southern Africa, Sub Sahara Africa your Africa is large is trying. It is very sad and pathetic stage that we are following in as we only talk of stern warning. Honourable Members we need to do more. We are voted Members and also making laws that will protect our country its natural resources and the livelihood of our people. We have to be bold and take drastic actions to stop the road. The future of our country will judge out harshly if we fail to protect it, what will become of our children?

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members we cannot allow Namibia's forests and wildlife to continue being raided and killed at a rate it is currently happening. One wonders the increased incidents of earthquakes experienced in Namibia. It is not caused by undue exploitation of our resources, the question we need to ask ourselves is, what will become of Namibia after fifteen years from now? What impacts will this hand on our climate? It is our duty and responsibility to ensure that our laws are for the advantage and benefit of our people and to protect the sovereignty of our countries in every true sense of the word.

We cannot continue to send on the friends elect the colonialism of Africa's resources continue all over again. In this track of economic emancipation let us choose our partners as well and ensure that we do not sell out our continent under the pretext of development which is one time that investment and development in Africa should happen in our terms. No one should dictate to us. It is not in our interest that we allow the forests to disappear. We have excellent national development plans. We have our Vision 2030 that projects Namibia to become industrial country by 2030. We have eleven years to go yet developed countries continue to exploit our natural resources in raw materials for definition of having wealth and

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HON KATOMA**

employment in their countries instead of creating jobs here while youth are lavishing in poverty and despair. We need to have a closer look at our interventions most relevant to our level of development as well. With that said I support the ratification, I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Let have Honourable Levi Katoma.

HON KATOMA: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to give my input on the debate on the table, the phasing out of substances that deplete the ozone layer globally some of which is a hydro carbon which earmarks will be phased out in our sectors during the same period of 2012 to 2020.

Honourable Speaker, the substance in question as effects on the environment and on to human health, the effects on environment, although FCFCs are unlikely to have any impact on environment in the immediate vicinity of their release they might be slightly involved in the action to produce Ozone which can cause damage to plants and materials on a local level whereas at the global level it has a serious environmental consequence. They get up into the higher atmosphere where they can destroy the ozone layer thus to reduce the protection that it offers to the earth from the sun's harmful. It also contributes to global warming. No matter the amount emitted are relatively small they have a powerful warming effect leading to a higher global warming potential.

Effects on Human Health: Hydro carbon enters the bodies primarily by inhalation of air containing high level of its content but can also enter the body by incident initiation those may lead to health effects including chest badness irritation of the respiratory track and health and breathing difficulties.

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TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL
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Honourable Speaker, exposure to higher level of some hydro carbon may also affect the nerve system, heart, liver, kidney and reproductive system. The injection of it may also cause nausea headache, dizziness and disorientation whereas thermal contact in some contents of it may cause skin irritation, dermatitis and cost bite.

Hydro carbons are also involved in the destruction of the stratospheric ozone layer resulting in increased exposure to ultraviolet UV radiation which is known to cause skin cancer. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members in compliance with our own obligation and that of the international and indeed the pursuance of protecting our environment and our people from all the outlined effects and consequence we need to ratify this amendment as a matter of urgency, I so move, I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. In the absence of any further contribution does the Honourable Deputy Minister of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development wish to reply?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALIZATION, TRADE AND SME DEVELOPMENT: I was (not on microphone) Honourable Shanghala because he indicated to me that he wanted to make a contribution. He was around but I do not know if we should continue or he is maybe somewhere else.

HON SPEAKER: We cannot deal with the wish we have to deal with things as they are. In the absence of any Member wishing to contribute I call upon you to reply.

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HON IIPUMBU**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALIZATION, TRADE AND SME DEVELOPMENT: Thank you Honourable Speaker, thank you Honourable Members for the support on the Ratification of very important Instrument.

I should thank Honourable Mbuende on her contribution specifically on outlining all issues that have to affect and have a negative impact on our environment. I should at this point and at this juncture maybe just make it clear that issues of environment in general are dealt with by the responsible Ministry. For us the specific unit of ozone layer depletion we handled on the basis of the fact that it is a marketable and traded commodity and it is on that basis that they unit this House under our Ministry.

However, all other concerns as raised those that have got to do with conservation and reservation of our natural resources are well noted and various stakeholders representing various sectors and Ministries are responsible for that I believe they take a note together with us to ensure that the concerns and maintain our environment for the benefit of us and the generations to come.

I should also further continue to say to the contributions from Honourable Katoma, in actual fact for amplifying the effects and the dangers that are caused by the hydro chlorophyll carbons which we want to phase out and replace it with the hydro carbon. It is our concerted efforts together to ensure that we support the process of phasing that that we would have identified that has harmful effects and replace it with the hydro carbon that is of better benefit in terms of the ozone layer maintenance.

I thank you Honourable Members those that have contributed silently for I know you are supporting and on that note I thank you.

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**ADJOURNMENT
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now put the question that the amendment be agreed to. Any objection? Agreed to, the whole House. So that has been disposed of. And with that we have dealt with all the items on the agenda for the day, all that is left for us now is to adjourn the House and to meet tomorrow at the usual time. So agreed? Thank you very much the House stands adjourned.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:29 UNTIL 2019.03.07

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
07 MARCH 2019**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER IN TERMS OF
RULE 20(A) OF THE STANDING RULES AND ORDERS**

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members welcome back to another busy day. I think it was on the 5th it was on Tuesday when I made an announcement informing the House that indeed we have a dedication from the Tanzanian Parliament and I think I might have jumped the gun because then were not in the Chamber then but I can assure you this afternoon once again I would like to take this opportunity to announce that in our midst in the gallery we have a delegation of five Parliamentarians accompanied by the Clerk of the Parliament of Tanzania plus one Member constituting a group of seven persons currently this visiting our Parliament and our country and I shared with you the purpose of the visit is to focus the attention on sematic areas dealing with gender related issues. They know why they are here and you know because I have announced earlier what are those sematic areas that are of particular interest to them.

Our joint Parliamentary Women Caucus is hosting them or the entire week. May I therefore briefly request them to stand up so that we can acknowledge their presence Karibosana. You know if I am allowed to say few things in Swahili I can continue. Of course I had the opportunity to talk to them a little bit about Tanzania-Namibia relations and the wonderful hospitality extended by the people of Tanzania to the people of the entire sub-region of Southern Africa. I told a little bit about the contribution made to the liberation struggle of our country by our brothers

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON ITHETE**

and sisters from Tanzania. I talk a little bit about the role played by Mwalimu Kambareke Nyerere the first President of the Republic and his contribution to the Pan African vision of the continent.

So I can go on and on but I think it is enough. They are talking to their colleagues and they will continue to explore ways and means of building linkages between our two Parliaments and between our two countries Karibusana. Any petitions, reports of standing and select Committees, other reports and papers, Deputy Minister of Finance.

TABLING: REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members I lay upon at the table the report of the Auditor General on the accounts of the:

1. Municipality of Gobabis for the Financial Year ended 30th June 2017
2. Town Council of Outapi for the Financial Year ended 30th June 2017
3. Town Council of Opuwo for the Financial Year ended 30th June 2017
4. Village Council of Okongo for the Financial Year ended 30th June 2016-2017
5. Village Council of Tses for the Financial Year ended 30th June 2016
6. Omaheke Regional Council for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2017 and finally
7. The Regional Council of Oshikoto region for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2017

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RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

I so move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, notices of questions, notices of Motions, messages from the Head of State, Ministerial Statements so we have done away with everything on our list. The notice of a Motion is the one of the Honourable, we do not want to do away with these two items. I am asking the House whether we could quickly deal with these two items on the agenda and then we spend the rest of the time on these questions because we do have the time, Honourable Sioka please.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Comrade Speaker it was a request which I wanted to put forth that I wanted to answer my questions because I have to leave again now, now just a request. I have a commitment. I am not leaving for pleasure. It is a request I am putting to the Speaker. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Alright, alright, what is the number of the question? We will dispose question number 24. Well we want to accommodate Honourable Minister. Question number 24 is from the Honourable !Auchab and he is not in the House. What I am proposing you want to answer the question. Can you put the question, your microphone?

HON SHIXWAMENI: I am just saying just as a matter of procedure going forward I think sticking to the rules is better protect us than timely of fix the goal post now and then. So if it is question time, let us deal with question time. The rest of the matter can be resolved as they are instead of one day agreeing with this Minister and when there is the next time the leader of the opposition do not want to agree to a certain procedure and the Speaker then insist that no, it must be done because it is being rules

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HON SMIT
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

that way. I think the best way follow the procedures at that time and even the issue that is being raised by my sister and Comrade Doreen Sioka I think the rules are very clear on this. The matter cannot be put if a Member that asked the question is not there. It has to be postponed. So I think let us stick to the rules. It regards all of us. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. You spoke as a senior member of the House helping the Speaker. You are absolutely correct. Sometimes I am requested to respond to some urgent cases but in this occasion I am going to stick to the rules. Question time is question time. We will go through questions but the second aspect or the matter is that of that the question has to be put. How the Honourable Member is not in the House. His Colleague is not in the House so if we go beyond that, then we are basically going out of the rules of the House but I know you are quite anxious to but your Deputy could respond in your absence. Will that be alright, yes? Thank you very much.

I think we will deal with the questions. Question number 1 is the Honourable Nico Smit. You put the question.

HON SMIT: Puts the question.

HON SPEAKER: And the question is directed to the Minister of Finance.

QUESTION 1:

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you Honourable Speaker. The question by Honourable Smit concerns a CIMAS report which the Honourable Member said was revealed by myself. I just want to correct

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that. It was not revealed by myself. It was working document from the IMF to the public. It is not from the Ministry nor from myself and having said that, the first question would be whether the Minister can inform the August House how much CIMAS has lost in total since independence. I would have loved to give that total estimate but the investigations are ongoing and I will in my answers explain what we are doing to establish that. So I have no concrete figure from starting independence what the losses are but we are getting there and I hope the Honourable Members understand that the investigation is long and complicated one covers 30 years so we have no figure that I want to state a figure which I will be hold on which is wrong. So I cannot give you a figure for now.

What I can give you is that in the last year Honourable Speaker we have recovered N\$13 062 734 since June 2018 from health care providers for claims that were submitted incorrectly. There is a difference in incorrect and some of discriminatory, some of is erroneous because of administrative errors but I will explain as I go through the questions and the answers. Second question is, is there a police investigation into alleged fraud. Due to the increase in pharmacy expenditure we started off with a peer review process which was conducted for the first time in April 2017 by stakeholders that are contracted into CIMAS. So we used the service providers that we are cooperating with as a peer review group and they engaged them in the process.

The main purpose of this peer review process was to analyze the claiming partners of health care service providers to detect possible fraud, abuse, over servicing and that peer review mechanism resulted in a list of 82 health care service providers that were identified as out-layers or suspects whatever you want to call them and they were recommended for further investigation. Based on the aforementioned, a forensic investigating team was appointed.

We procured that services to a procurement award done by the Procurement Board. The provision of medical forensic investigation for a period of six months started from 19th March 2018 was extended for a

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further period to complete the investigation for terms of reference for this forensic medical investigation were:

1. To carry out forensic investigations on the list of health care service providers that was identified as out-layers by the peer review Committee
2. To investigate all alleged medical fraud over-servicing and abuse
3. To support the Ministry of Finance with development of forensic management framework and identify sanctions aimed at enforcing zero tolerance against fraud in the medical service provision over servicing, abuse and profiteering through illegal, unfair and unethical financial dealings.

From the 82 practices that was suspected, the forensic investigations have now concluded 29 cases during the period to the data analysis and the verification process that are time consuming. From the 29 cases the forensic investigators conducted a claim analysis of 11 practices and based on the regular fees found during the claim analysis process, member interviewed and verification were conducted and on six practices with following findings. The first practice type was a dental therapy. The findings of the investigation was that the current under benefit for them to therapy was abused thus considered limiting dental therapy benefit.

Secondly performing procedures that was part of the scope but did not have Namatere approach by example health capping, cheopoket disease, ipalative minor oculusis adjustments, minor ovary surgery and gross scaling. Thirds use emergency code to claim for the abovementioned procedures. Fourthly patient record confirm that treatments were provided. Fifthly acknowledge wrong doing and well committed to pay back.

The actions taken, the matters were handed over to the Government Attorney for civil proceedings to recover overpayment. Civil recovery commenced through the Government Attorney in case number reference

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1135/18A21C needs to make a supplement agreement through the Government Attorneys and the CIMAS agreement that we have with that practice is suspended and remain suspended until a settlement has been found. The second practice is a dental practice dentist. The findings were that the employed dental therapists to dental work instead of dentist so it was not a dentist who did the job but claims were is it dentist. Claim dental tariffs which is not allowed has a dental tariff operate the administration and scope reflected as per HPCNA and thirdly acknowledge wrongdoing.

The action taken, the agreement that we have with the stakeholder the CIMAS was suspended. The matter was reported to the HPCNA and a warning was given by the HPCNA to the dental practice. The matter was handed over to the Government Attorney for several recovery. Losses were recovered and paid to the state account. CIMAS agreement reinstated. Further investigation are in progress by the Anti-Corruption Commission and the data analysis is commencing. The third practice was again a dentist.

The findings of the investigations were three practices instead of only one practice had a tremors agreement. So there were three practices but only one had an agreement claimed from two other practices which were not contracted in the CIMAS and employed dental therapists to dental work instead of a registered dentist. The case was handed over to the Government Attorney sorry, to the Attorney General for civil recovery. The civil claim was instituted. The matter set down for arbitration on the 22nd - 23rd January 2019.

The fourth practice was a general medical practice. The findings were that practice claimed for services not performed and issued scripts for patients not seen, abuse or NSAID and cortisone injections, abuse of section 5 mobilization, abuse of esteration and joint of excess codes, claims identified for services performed on Sunday that is number 6, practices closed on Sunday and services claimed does not correspond with patients records. The actions that have been taken we have received or we have

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actually submitted the matter to the police. The police has refer the matter to the Prosecutor General and a criminal case is opened with case number CR109/2018.

The seventh practice was a pharmacy. The findings were the staff members misappropriated cash payments for medicine dispensed to none service members taking the claim from CIMAS members who were not given their medicine and colluded with General Practitioners to obtain the scripts of CIMAS members to facilitate claims. The matter was handed over to the police and subsequently handed over to the Prosecutor General. A criminal case is opened with the case number CR159/11/2018.

A general medical practice was the next practice that I want to report on. The findings were that unusually high tonsillitic claims secondly performed in hospital claimed as a performed at consultancy rooms. Thirdly consecutive claims for IUDs, claims for identifying for IUDs issued on male member, practice claimed on male patients, claim submitted, processed and paid for via laboratory services and members verification affected you to outdated contact details.

Honourable Speaker this practice was suspended as an action. No CIMAS agreement was granted. Quantifications of losses to be done. Member verification not successful as most members could not be reached by phone. A new approach to rather concentrate on patient's record and clinical verifications, we suspect criminal acts and the docket must be finalized before we can proceed with it to the Prosecutor General. General Medical practice is the following, claims identified for services not performed, abuse, drainage and access to these wounds debauchment and affected clothes, abuse of NSA, ID and cortisone injections, chronic medicine claimed consecutively outside the law of frequencies and administrator did not detect the abnormalities.

The quantification of losses is commencing. One losses are established justification of funds withheld should be done. We consider both instituting civil and criminal procedures against the Practitioners in this

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case but the verification process is still going. The general medical practice I can go on with all of them and maybe it is starting to bore you but I can carry on. I have three more to go. It is again in general medical practice the findings were that claims for treatment rendered to deceased patients, claims for treatment not rendered at all, claimed twice for circumcision on the same patient, rather a difficult procedure, patient records not corresponding with treatment provided and abuse of circumcision generable gangling and impanel codes. A criminal case was opened with Nampol and the case number is 118/11/2018. The CIMAS agreement is terminated. Quantification of losses is undertaken. Civil recovery is being instituted once losses are quantified. The matter is reported to the Medical Board.

The second last one is again a laboratory, a posemodic laboratory. It was registered as a pennon laboratory only but it claimed for both clinical and anatomical pathology while only employing anatomical pathologist thus claim outside allowed scope of practice. The entity acknowledge wrongdoing. Outstanding payments will not be honored to cover the amount paid for clinical pathology claims and we notified NAMA and the Ministry of Health and Social Services about the negligence.

The medical technology the last case, the Minister of Health and Social Services license was obtained under false pretense. The entity used documents of medical technologist employed elsewhere without permission to obtain NAMA practice numbers and CIMAS agreement. The medical technologies linked to a new premise contract as designed. The work permit of the medical technologies expired. The laboratory does not comply with Ministry of Health nor NAMA nor CIMAS requirements, patients' records on requesting Doctors did not correspond with the requested test. Requesting Doctors only rely on laboratory test requesting standard test without regarding the cost thereof.

In this case the action taken was that the agreement with CIMAS was suspended. The termination of the CIMAS agreement is in progress. The matter is handed over to the Namibian Police and the Government

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Attorney for both criminal and civil cases. Honourable Speaker as a summary, the total amount recovered from members from NAMA health care services providers and paid to the state account is N\$13 062. That is up to now. A total amount to be recovered from these cases is another N\$23 095 111. The amount that they have saved due to reversal of claims is N\$6.2 Million and a total amount retained by administrators pending for investigation stand currently at N\$8.5 Million. So I believe we can show that in the last here and so.

We made quite significant progress to rain in these fraudulent activities but as I said earlier it is an ongoing process and out of the 82 or so cases, we have covered 29 and not all of them have been concluded. So we are limited by the capacity of the forensic audits and the verification process but Honourable Members will agree with me that once you go for both civil and criminal prosecution, you must prove on the one hand with probability on the other hand without doubt and that needs a very sort of process that is time consuming. We believe that it is worth of course to approach it in that rate that is whenever wrongdoing is found to institute civil and criminal cases.

The third question is has anyone been charged for the alleged fraud? Honourable Speaker the cases that I have mentioned indicated who has been charged and who not but I can repeat that Ministry has reported three health care service providers to Nampol for criminal procedures. One case is currently being investigated by the ACC and one case the Ministry is awaiting the outcome of the hearing cases of the dentist who only had one contract with CIMAS claim for two practices and did not have a contract with CIMAS. Furthermore two cases are handed over to the Government Attorney for civil proceedings for civil and criminal proceedings as well. One case completed to a recovery of N\$7 Million.

In addition two staff members of the Ministry of Finance were arrested and criminally charged last year for contravening sections 43.1 of the Anti-Corruption Act, Act 28 of 2003 for corruptly using public offices for positions or to obtain a gratification. The staff members allegedly

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registered non-public servants on the CIMAS system thus defrauding Government of a substantive amount. More cases of non-public servants registered on CIMAS system were discovered during that investigation.

Cases are being handed to the Anti-Corruption Commission for civil recovery lodged against the staff member who resigned from the 19th January 2019. Two more staff members from the Ministry were charged with the misconduct cases for allegedly registering illegally people on CIMAS system and the case was also handed over to the Namibian Police for criminal procedures.

The fourth question, can you inform the House exactly what steps you as the responsible Minister for CIMAS is taking for stopping the fraud exposed against the parties and close the loopholes? Honourable Speaker in terms of the health care service providers as an immediate remedial action, the Ministry had conducted the forensic medical investigation on the group of health care service providers and all health care service providers found to have committed fraud will be handed over to the available authorities.

We have also started this with a peer review mechanism where we use our service providers, our stakeholders in CIMAS to assist us with identifying out layers and suspect claims and once we have this flag have been identified, they are then channeled into forensic medical investigation so that we get to the bottom of it. In the Ministry we have also developed a new contract which was implemented on the 1st May 2018. This contract meant to eliminate loopholes. The Ministry is also in the process of reviewing this new CIMAS contract with this weaknesses that we have in the meantime identified during the private implementation phase of the CIMAS new contract and also to incorporate changes that were recommended by the Government Attorneys.

For example the current contract does not have a disqualification clause which means that any health care service provider that applies for CIMAS contract regardless that the health care service provider was previously

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investigated or found guilty of fraud can still be readmitted. The Ministry is also, we also have an issue in the contract with the limitation of multiple practices and contract with one health care service provider. With the CIMAS contract health care service providers will only be allowed to enter into two contracts with CIMAS. Even more the Ministry will closely monitor the CIMAS partners and health care service providers through its peer review mechanism.

Other matters that we have we will implement Ministry of Finance together with its CIMAS administrators are busy informed. One of the reforms is to update the CIMAS membership data and also to conduct audit of the medical aid division within the Ministry of Finance. The first phase has been completed during last year in which over 17 000 dependents have been reached the age limit and were deactivated. The Ministry is also busy with the system enhancements to also terminate dependents that reached the age limit. The second phase will be to conduct a desktop audit review. This process will entail comparing the information on the payroll report of different Ministries, Agencies and regional Councils with CIMAS membership data and to determine that all members who do not appear on the payroll report of the respective invoices.

The second phase will clean up data for the next phase which is the implementation of a biometric system. The biometric system or card is a biometric authentication system which is a (indistinct) medical aid identification and claims the administration system. The aim of the system is to harmonize CIMAS membership data and to drastically curb membership for during the process or CIMAS members and dependents would be re-registered physically and issued with a biometric smart card that are embedded with membership identification features. This system will also harmonize the interface different systems that someone says human resources management system and payroll and the integrated financial management system within the Ministry of Finance.

The Ministry currently busy with a system enhancement that will have the

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internal controls to identify and monitor and control the (indistinct). The Ministry is in the process to liaise with all HR office and the Ministries, Offices and Agencies to update CIMAS on a monthly basis of any staff changes in the different offices, Ministries and Agencies and lastly the Ministry's efforts to compliment would be complimented by the CIMAS reforms that are currently underway in the office of the Prime Minister which are related to the HR component of the office. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Well, well, that was quite a marathon, Honourable Nico Smith.

HON SMIT: Thank you Honourable Speaker for the opportunity. I would like to thank the Minister of Finance for the answers. Although I have a small problem here and there the amount of N\$900 Million as it has been reported in the media and also in IMF report, it is mind boggling amount of money that can disappear, been stolen within one year so I would like to ask the Minister if this amount real or is it just amount that was grabbed from somewhere or where did the IMF get this amount of money that disappeared? Then on the cases that the 29 cases that is being investigated going to the Attorney General or civil action and also criminal action, I want to congratulate the Minister on that at least something is happening. The people out there will know now that the Ministry is doing something to get rid of this rot in CIMAS because the Government if you look at the amount of money that is yearly been given to CIMAS to do their job is enormous amount of money and we cannot afford that that money just disappear. So we are glad especially we all know that Doctors many of us have Doctors as friends and tell us what is going on that people might turn up there with children under the age of 18 years who does not need an ID to identify the person that is coming for health care, for Doctor or even the hospital. So any person can, a registered member can take actually any child for medical care so there

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was no real checks and balances but at the end what the Minister was saying that you are now issuing a smart card where all the members and the children whatever are now being sort of getting a card and can be checked but I just want to ask the Minister that please we would like to hear from time to time what is going on here that it is not the same thing with the investigation in the GIPF millions that disappeared that nobody ever knows what is happening there, what happened to the money and what is happening to the people who took the money. So thank you again to the Minister for his answers.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Minister do you feel like responding briefly?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you Honourable Speaker and thank you Honourable Smit for your follow up question. The first question was on the amount that was quoted in the media and the issue of that is we do not know how and when the IMF got it and what database it was got. It was unverified report that was not shared with us at that point in time. So we have no knowledge how they devised on it and what it is and that is always the problem the speakers of unverified documents are used as a matter of fact. They may not be but that there is wastage in CIMAS we have embraced and the actions that we are taking hopefully will solve by and large the problem. The matter of reporting I agree we can report and I just want to remind the House that the Ministry of Finance made on regular basis public statements through press conferences where we indicated what we are doing at CIMAS and to develop where we have not reported at all but if the House needs these reports of course we stand ready to give that. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Members I want to issue a small appeal. I am just conscious that if we do not revert back

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to the order paper, we might begin to lose the quorum that we need for decision making and could I just revert back to the order paper so that I can pick up the two items we have and then if need be, go back to questions and it is an appeal. Is that appreciated and I want to start with the Honourable Leon Jooste partly because he is under pressure to attend to an urgent matter. Can I do that with your permission? Thank you very much.

The Secretary will read the order of the day.

**RECONSIDERATION – PUBLIC ENTERPRISES GOVERNANCE
BILL [B.15 – 2018]**

SECRETARY: Reconsideration – *Public Enterprises Governance Bill* [B.15 – 2018].

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Public Enterprises move that the Assembly now goes into reconsider the Bill?

HON MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: I so move Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: It is moved that the Assembly now goes into Committee and I leave the chair and would be taken in good care of by the Deputy Chief Whip.

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ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Whole House Committee is called to order. The Whole House Committee has to reconsider Public Enterprise Governance Bill as passed by the National Council. The National Council considered and passed the Bill subject to the proposed amendments which will be tabled by the Minister of Public Enterprises in terms of Article 75(6)(a) of the Constitution.

I put the arrangements of sections Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: Thank you Honourable Chairperson so in the arrangements of sections we substitute the heading 'Chapter 7' with the heading 'Chapter 6'.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Can the Honourable Minister table the amendment? Any further discussions, any objection, agreed to. I put clause 2(1) as proposed by the National Council Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: In clause 2(a) substitute the word proceeding, paragraph (a)(i) with the following words 'the Minister may with the approval of Cabinet by notice in the Gazette'

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declare (b) substitute clause 4 with the following sub-clause 'the Minister may with the approval of Cabinet by notice in the Gazette determine that a body seizes to be a public enterprise and alter such declaration and determination under section 4(2) is deemed to have been withdrawn and the provisions are establishing law or documents applied'.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Can the Honourable Minister table the amendment? Any further discussions, any objection, yes.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Chairperson and Honourable Members I would like to ask clarify from the Minister as I see the introduction of new terminology which a custom to maybe I am a creature of old habits. The language I am accustomed to the person the intention is in consultation with Cabinet for instance. It has (indistinct) it has been interpreted in our courts. I see there is an introduction of language with the approval of Cabinet. I do not know whether this has been tested. I had the pleasure or privilege of consulting one of the drafters before I came in and I learned that the language has been changed recently. I could not quite understand the explanation whether it purports to amount to exactly that so that we can record it so that if it is being interpreted, even those that will interpret it will know that we mean to say in consultation. I would like to reiterate why perhaps this was an issue which we have raised in this House and somehow we forgot it and the National Council picked it up is that if the Minister is being given powers to say I convey to this entity, to that entity which powers are constitutionally those of the President if you look at parastatals as an extension of Executive function, then they ought to be some Cabinet approval. Otherwise we create a super Minister which I do not think is his intention in any event and if you could clarify that one Comrade Minister.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE:** Yes, Honourable Minister you have the floor.

HON MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: Thank you. Let me exactly put that into context. The Honourable Minister of Justice in a way answered the question as well. So the initial proposal was to use the terminology after consultation. So from our internal consultations and for exactly the reasons that the Honourable Minister of Justice has said and to prevent creating a super Minister that you need to be bond to Cabinet approval. So the alternative after consultation was to use the word in consultation implying that that would mean and bound that Minister to receive Cabinet approval. Now the office now it is a pity our Honourable Attorney General is not in the House. He would have been able to explain it far better than I can. Their determination was that they do not have a legal basis that in consultation means exactly that. Therefore the more explicit terminology as it stands here which says with the approval of Cabinet so meaning exactly what the intention was to use the word in consultation now more explicitly using the terminology with the approval of Cabinet I would feel rest assured that it means exactly that. Thank you.

**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE:** Thank you Honourable Minister. Any further discussion, yes, Honourable Kapofi.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: I am equally a bit concern about the introduction of that terminology because we have passed many laws but it seems to be a specific one when an explicit Cabinet approval is required. We have seen many cases that we heard when Cabinet was

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made reference to and in most cases we lost those cases. Now because it is required, it is assumed it is a Minister because he is the Minister is Cabinet but for us to be specific that that Minister must be or that aspect the Minister must and we are putting it in a law. I do not know maybe Honourable Shanghala would be able to make reference refers to a specific laws that carry similar clauses that make reference to Cabinet that Cabinet in consultation. Yes, there are certain respect instances but our laws do not have those kind of clauses. I am not sure whether they all have.

**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE:** Thank you Honourable Minister of Home Affairs,
Honourable Van Wyk.

HON VAN WYK: Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also do have a question or concern Honourable Minister. I do not know whether it is the right time to raise it. Since this Bill was referred back by the National Council I would like to find out Honourable Minister it is a standard practice that annual reports are being tabled in the National Assembly. The principle Act namely the State Owned Enterprises Act in section 3 makes the following provision and I shall quote it. ‘ The portfolio Minister must cause a copy of the report of a state owned enterprise to be laid before the National Assembly within 30 days of the receipt thereof if the National Assembly is in ordinary session or if the National Assembly is not in ordinary session within 30 days after the commencement of the first ordinary session’. It is not clear Honourable Minister how the National Assembly should deal with the annual reports in the interest of accountability and checks and balances.

There should be some kind of review or scrutiny of these annual reports. I therefore propose that a following amendment be included in the Bill.

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Annual report or any other reports of state owned enterprises tabled in the National Assembly refer to in section 3 of the principle Act shall or will stand referred to the relevant Standing Committee of the National Assembly for review, scrutiny and to report back. Currently Honourable Minister if a report is tabled the Act is not clear whether it should go to the Public Accounts Committee or whether it should just be somewhere. So I think you should bring that into the Act saying that it should be referred to the relevant Standing Committee. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you Honourable Van Wyk. Honourable Minister you have the floor to respond to the question raised by Honourable Van Wyk.

HON MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISE: Thank you Honourable Chairperson. I need guidance from your table if additional amendments maybe introduced from the floor as they are now to be considered other than the amendments as proposed from the National Council.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Yes, Honourable Sacky Shanghala.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Chairperson I thought that perhaps once we have gone through the tabled amendment if there are further discussions which you would invite, Honourable Van Wyk can be catered there but I wanted to just thank the Minister for the response and indicate that if it is the intention that this terminology is to strengthen in

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consultation and I want to state it categorically clear that the first introduction of the terminology in consultation in our jurisprudence was with the South West Africa Constitution of 1968 section 32 which required that Ministry to act in consultation with the Members of the Executive Committee. That is the first time it came to this territory has been mitigated upon in the rest occasions. We know what it means as opposed to after consultation. After consultation means I can consult you but I do not need to take your advice or agree with you but I must consult you.

In consultation I perhaps am outdated in the education that I receive is that you have to agree with the person whom you consult and if that is the case, it is strengthen the protection that the function that is assigned to the Head of State to create an established Ministries and organize a Government in that accordance is not abdicated to an appointee and that even as Ministers were responsible to the President in Parliament, Parliament can hold that individual Minister accountable for that function and the process goes is gone through and if that is the case and we can record it that way, I am satisfied.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you Honourable Minister of Justice. Honourable Van Wyk are you satisfied? Any further discussion, any objection, yes, Minister of Finance.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you Honourable Chairperson. I have two questions with the matter that was raised by Honourable Minister of Justice. The first one is if we want to strengthen the oversight of Cabinet. I would want to know who is the final approving institute. Is it Cabinet or is it the Minister? I am asking it because it appears to be discretion because the Minister may that means the Minister does not act

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so I have question where is the final authority that then gives the approval. It is discretion for the Minister. Thank you.

**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE:** Yes, the question is directed to the Minister of Justice wanted to respond, yes, Honourable Shixwameni.

HON SHIXWAMENI: My question is these amendments that we are discussing here today were certified by the Attorney General. He is the Government's lawyer. I cannot understand suddenly what is going on between the three Ministers and the questions that are there because this thing must have definitely been put to Cabinet for the Attorney General to certify them so maybe they can clear the air to those of us that do not sit in Cabinet and who do not benefit from the discussions in Cabinet as to was this change of terminology certified, I mean agreed upon in Cabinet or was it or is it the Minister of Public Enterprises and Attorney General agreement that brought this thing of the change of terminology. That is all that I want to add.

**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE:** Yes, Honourable Minister of Justice you have the floor. You respond to the two questions.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you. Let me start with the Honourable Shixwameni and just explain in law making process in short. When (incomplete).

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE:** Yes, you have the floor, no, no, you have the floor.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: What happens is that the principle in principle of the Bill is approved by Cabinet. It is those Cabinet Committee on legislation, they weigh these issues, these issues were also raised internally with the party caucus. However, somehow due to the processes between it being discussed and it being put, it slipped through. Thank goodness the process knew that it would come for the National Council. When it comes from the National Council it does not go first back to Cabinet and then back. It comes here and proposes and in that process, the table office and the Minister and the Attorney General will then satisfy with drafters from the Minister of Justice.

We had Cabinet Committee on legislation and it is highly is covered just probably today of the language when I was dealing with something else. So I therefore have no other option but to raise it here but also I want to say when I sit here, I do not sit here as a Member of Cabinet. I sit here as a Member of the National Assembly. I too have the same responsibility you have. I cannot just say because if I feel strongly about it, then I hope this is not a waste of time. I actually think that the comments we would be making are very productive not only for the purposes of state not only for the purposes of two shared interpretation but also for the education of those that we work with Colleagues. I now would like to return to the Minister of Finance.

You are quite right. Honourable Minister I was very diplomatic in my approach. I would have actually preferred that it simply just reads the Minister with the approval of Cabinet by notice you know. Then that was is straight. The may or could or those other words that can cause the impression that there is an elective or not would be removed would be an actual enforcement of that. So even if you just simply in the version that

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we have before us approve by the Attorney General and even if there is a typo I do not think we should be constrained due to his absence. It is the Minister with the approval of Cabinet by notice in the Gazette and that would be the removal of the word may if may so propose Honourable Minister.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Yes, Honourable Minister of Finance are you satisfied with the response?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I would support that kind of wording that was proposed by the Honourable Minister of Justice.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Shixwameni are you satisfied with the response?

HON SHIXWAMENI: It is not that I am not satisfied. I agree with his explanation. The only thing that happens is that then the Attorney General, there must be new amendment on the floor certified by the Attorney General in order to pass that particular floor.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Minister of Public Enterprises.

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HON MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: Thank you Chairperson. I would equally support that amendment and I would equally hence the rules if they apply. My previous question was to Honourable Van Wyk that an amendment can be tabled other than what is contained within this to accept that proposal for that amendment.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I am hearing now being reminded that we do not have a quorum and the suggestion there or the proposal of the Minister for us to make an amendment on the floor for now we need to be certified by the Attorney General and we cannot certify that amendment while we are busy in the Chamber unless it need to be certified outside the Chamber before we brought it to the Chamber. The advice I am having now is unless the only option what we can do now is just the Honourable Minister to adjourn or to postpone it until next week when we have the amendment. Then we can continue. We do not have. First the first thing we do not have a quorum. Secondly that that amendment we do not have it here unless the Honourable Minister is just to propose for the adjournment for us to adjourn then we continue next week, yes, Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: Chairperson if I may before agreeing to postpone.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Can I have order in the House please? Honourable Nekundi and Honourable Shixwameni please.

HON MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: So before I agree to

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postpone if I may ask once again from the Chairperson if there would be an objection from the Members if this particular proposed amendment from the Member is not accepted if there would be an objection. If there would not be an objection, I would rather propose that we conclude this afternoon. If there is an objection of course we postpone.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Members there is that question to say that if the House agree with that amendment, then it is for us to continue but I am hearing people talking while you are seated and you do not have a floor saying that there is no quorum, there is no quorum. Why cannot one just have the floor then to say this is how we should treat it because, yes, for the record purpose?

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House I am standing in accordance to Rule number 17 to be evoked since there is no quorum at this stage and the rule 17 is saying that the quorum from (a) up to (f) please evoke it.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: So we will ring the bell and we will wait for five-ten minutes for the other Members also who are in the Restaurant to come. We are now 46. For us to constitute a quorum we are supposed to be 49. Comrade Nekundi please do not create a dialogue with the Chairperson. So the time has lapsed and in the absence of the quorum, I will report of progress and we ask permission for us to sit again.

Honourable Speaker I report progress and I ask leave for us to sit again.

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ASSEMBLY RESUMES

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I noticed that we seem to have the number now. Anyway we will continue to soldier on. Question number 2 from the Honourable Nico Smit. Do you put the question?

HON SMIT: Puts the question.

HON SPEAKER: Directed to the Minister of Higher Education, Deputy Minister of Higher Education.

QUESTION 2:

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INNOVATION: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this August House, I rise to answer Honourable Smit's questions and wish to thank the Honourable Member for his questions for they show his interest in what the Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation has been mandated to do which is to provide higher education to train and to innovate. Further to my rising to answer this questions, I wish to state from the onset that my answers are just opposed within the broader framework provided for by the Ministerial statement of the Honourable Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation Doctor Itah Kandjii-Murangi in this August House and I am answering these questions on her behalf.

Question one specifically asked are the Universities where learners are send rated to check academic standards? Yes, the Universities to which students are send are normally vetted and accredited by NQA. The NQA

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is a statutory body established to evaluate foreign qualifications and it is the competent body to evaluate foreign qualifications and pronounce itself on authenticity of qualifications. However, the particular students that are being referred to here applied to Universities that are not accredited by NQA nor their qualifications rated. They went abroad at their own expense during the years 2011-2012 and 2013-2014.

It has to be pointed out that NASFAF in its current form as a state owned enterprises only became operational in 2013. These students applied on their own at institution of higher learning not accredited by NQA and went to various countries abroad to study at their own expense. None of these students at those institutions were sent by NASFAF to study in those countries. The bulk of the students have been studying in Ukraine, China and Russia. There is a table one when I distribute the answer you will have to check. The majority were awarded in 2014. When the then NASFAF award policy made provisions to award whoever was admitted to whatever institutions of higher learning and with whatever points. The only condition used was that the student has an admission letter and that is where most of the problems emanated from.

Nonetheless during the year 2014 NASFAF introduced stringent funding requirement and only students that have obtained 35 points in above in five subjects in Grade 12 were funded. Nonetheless this attempt at putting stringent measures in place came too little too late because the bulk of the students funding did not meet these new requirements in place yet they were already being funded and are not graduating from none accredited institutions with qualifications that cannot be verified and authenticated. It is pertinent to stress that NASFAF provided financial assistance to students studying medicine and dentistry in the following countries, Algeria, Ethiopia, Mauritius, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Cuba, Czech Republic, China, India, Hungary, Russia, Ukraine and the USA.

Nevertheless with the bulk of the students studying in Ukraine, Russia and China there is also a table that capture that, table 1. These countries provided scholarships to Namibians to study in their respective countries.

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The Embassies from the country such as Russia and China that offered scholarships managed the application process themselves. As per the scholarship condition, it was expected that NASFAF ca pay the studies and the flight tickets for those students who were awarded scholarships and NASFAF did pay.

Question 2 why are the qualifications not recognized when they return to Namibia? Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members it is important to point out that recognition of qualifications at completion levels are in intrinsically linked to meeting the requirements and criteria at entry level. In other words if you do not have what it takes at the beginning to read medicine or engineering, you cannot have what it takes to be that, at the end no matter how hard you try. So if you do not have mathematics, science and biology which are the critical ingredients of reading medicine or engineering, you cannot beg the recipe. So you can simply not become that.

The Health Profession Council of Namibia is an institution under the Ministry of Health and Social Services that is tasked with the registration on medical doctors thus every person who underwent medical training outside Namibia is subjected to a pre-registration evaluation process before being considered for registration as a medical and or dental practitioner.

This includes those who qualifies from other African countries such as South Africa. After a qualification has been initially considered on paper by NQA as being equivalent to the one prescribed in Namibia a graduate has attained in the process of acquiring the qualifications, then professional bodies take over to evaluate, assess and ascertain the competences of the would-be medical and dental practitioners hence the insistence for this would-be medical practitioners to meet the pre-registration evaluation requirement criteria.

Question 3, why did the Ministry send students and why did the Ministry sign contracts with institutions if they deliver inferior education?

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Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members the Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation as emphasized above did not send students nor sign contracts with these institutions. The students applied as individuals to those universities and countries, went there by themselves, paid the initial fees by themselves until they could not afford to pay anymore. Having been stranded abroad, they then apply to NASFAF for funding. Unfortunately, in 2014 there was a blanket award policy to award to whoever had admission to a university of whatever standing with whatever points.

That is when 153 students in Ukraine, 97 in China and 45 in Russia were funded. These students were not send nor subject to our scrutiny of minimum criteria of admission points of 25 points then and 35 points now. Moreover these universities to which they were went were not rated by NQA and therefore their qualifications cannot be verified and authenticated. NQA has produced a booklet of a list of vetted and accredited institutions. The Honourable Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation and the Executive Director and other such as NQA have been on NBC television several times on talk of the nation programs to discourage students from accessing bogus non accredited institutions to little avail.

Question 4 how much money has been paid to these institutions over the past five years? Over the past five years NASFAF provided financial assistance to 453 students studying outside Namibia in medicine and dentistry. The number awarded since 2014 are summarized in table 1 below which I will also show in my reply. During 2014 a total of 313 students were awarded based on the old policy. This policy was reviewed in 2014 and thus in 2015 only 27 new students were awarded funding. In 2016 there were only 55 new awards and in 2017 there were 24 new awards and 34 students were awarded in 2018. It should be noted that the number of students awarded to study abroad reduced when UNAM medical school was started which receive priority when it comes to funding students studying in the medical field.

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There is a table 2 which shows the number of students and course per year covering 2014 to 2018 which would be distributed. All the students including those awarded before 2014 that were in the NASFAF database in 2014 were 671 students in total. The total cost for medical students to NASFAF was N\$43.5 Million while for dentistry they were 34 students at a cost of N\$1.2 Million. The total number of students for studies abroad reduced from 671 in 2014 to 319 students in 2018 at a total cost of N\$27 Million so the N\$43.5 Million reduced to N\$27 Million in 2018.

For these years 2015 and 2017 the cost range from N\$40 Million to N\$50 Million due to annual increases. During the past five years the annual cost incurred for funding all the Namibian students is indicated in table 2 and this include both continuing students and new student intake. Table 2 further captures the reduction in cost from N\$43.5 Million in 2014 when there was blanket award of funding to whatever got admission into any university to N\$27 Million in 2018. It further shows the reduction in numbers of medical students from 671 in 2014 to 319 medical students in 2018. The 352 students are among those who completed and or who dropped out mostly due to not meeting the pass requirements.

As for the dentistry students the reduction in numbers is from 34 students in 2018 to 19 in 2019 and 2018. However cost increased from N\$1.2 Million in 2014 to N\$1.4 Million in 2018 due to increase in number from 34 to 49 in 2016. Question number 5 number of medical students graduated from institutions outside Namibia and have been employed in Namibia over the last five years. The NASFAF database shows that 199 under graduates students completed their studies and 16 of those are doing post graduates in Tanzania and South Africa and now specializing.

However the NASFAF data does not capture how many are employed. NASFAF has been encouraged by the Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation to compile a comprehensive database and is busy doing that. So there is table 3 that shows the list of universities and numbers of students that are currently being funded by NASFAF are to specialized and there is an Annexure A that captures all the numbers. So

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for the other students whose qualification cannot be authenticated, the Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation and the Minister of Health and Social Services in collaboration with NQA and HPCN which the Health Professional Council of Namibia and NASFAF are all collaborating to assess the situation of all Namibian students specifically those who studies medicine and dentistry outside of Namibia in order to develop strategies to facilitate the onward process of improving coordinated planning and where relevant further retraining and internship placements and where retraining fail, to propos the way forward.

Question number 6 what is the standard of other foreign degrees such as engineering, architecture, quantity survey that are being funded? Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members it is pertinent to note that not all foreign degrees are assumed to be substandard and we do subscribe to higher standards particularly at admission stage. Currently, students are expected to have a minimum of 35 points in five subjects in Grade 12 with an C better in English to be funded at an NQA accredited institution outside Namibia to read the above mentioned courses and others. In this effort the Ministry through NASFAF continually engage professional bodies such as the health profession Council of Namibia and the engineering Council of Namibia pertaining to the funding requirements of students aspiring to study in this field regulated by these bodies.

However, there will always be Namibian students who will be applying by themselves as well as pay for themselves and these students might complete studies as self-sponsoring students. Nonetheless upon completion all students who successfully complete such foreign degrees and as prescribed are expected to meet admission requirements of these professional bodies to attest to their competences. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members you may recall that some years ago in 2015-2016 some students completed their studies in a foreign institution and they wanted to be admitted to practice as engineers by the engineering Council of Namibia and they were refused admission to practice as engineers and instead, they were classified as artisans.

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The Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation was asked to intervene and rectifying mechanisms were put in place. These artisans were given upgrade training that was worked out between Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation, NUST Namibia University of Science and Technology and ECN. Upon completion of their upgrade study program, they were admitted to register with ECN and are currently practicing as engineers. There was also the internship of the first 35 graduates of our medical school who due to lack of adequate clinical exposure were not allowed as interns at our hospitals.

Again, under the able Chairpersonship of Doctor Ishmael Kashita another renounce Doctor, an amicable solution was worked and found. These students were send back to our medical school with a prescribe upgrade training for an extra year before they were admitted to register with the health profession Council of Namibia and after completion of their upgrade studies that built in adequate clinical exposure they turn out to be the best interns in our hospitals. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members by this scrutiny we mean well. All we are trying to do is to ensure that our engineers are enginers and not artisans but they are engineers who are properly trained and who would be design and build bridges and houses of quality and that would not collapse on us and our Doctors shall be well trained Doctors who will attend to the sick with competences, skills and professionalism that will not compromise the well-being and safety of our patients in hospitals across the country.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members I again thank the Honourable Smit for the questions and I trust I have adequately answered them and I thank you for your kind attention.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I particularly thank the Deputy Minister for not repeating each question but summrising and providing the necessary responses, Honourable Nico Smit you would like to have ago.

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HON SMIT: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I would like to thank the Honourable Deputy Minister for the answers although I must say after listening to her and also after reading the Ministerial speech by the Minister on Tuesday I think the whole issue becomes as clear as much but will not comment on it now. I just want to ask the Minister for a copy of her answers and we will discuss this issue in a Motion and by Honourable Venaani because I think we should come to the bottom of this issue and the only way is if the Motion is referred to the relevant Committee to do some indepth investigation into this because as I have read between the lines, talking of dates it seems to me where the whole problem originated from is actually where Minister Namwandi was the Minister of Higher Education. It just looks to me something is smelling in the state of their mark regarding what is wrong in the education system so but we will get to that in a Motion. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I also like to compliment the Honourable Nico Smit the way you phrase this question is a new style thus I ask I like that. Believe in the changing world and we have to compliment each other when we do something new. Alright, next question is question number 3 from the Honourable Nico Smit directed to the Minister of Environment and Tourism.

HON SMIT: Puts the question.

HON SPEAKER: They are not here or the Deputy Minister is here. Thank you very much. Deputy Minister you have the floor.

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QUESTION 3:

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:

Thank you Honourable Speaker. We have the questions, the responses of the questions Honourable Smit ready. It is here on paper but may I kindly ask you Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members for your indulgence for the responses to Honourable Smit's questions to stand over until next Thursday. This is being discussed between himself and myself and also in consultation with the Minister who is not here in the country. So we ask that it stands over until next Thursday.

HON SPEAKER: Absolutely thank you very much and I can see there is a consultation. Thank you. Question number 4. The question is from Honourable Fleermuys. You put the question.

HON FLEERMUYS: Puts the question.

HON SPEAKER: And the question is directed to the Minister of Finance.

QUESTION 4:

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Thank you Honourable Fleermuys for the question. The question was whether it is customary in the past when we have submitted our yearly returns to the Ministry of Finance where we attached tax invoices that were issued throughout the past year for assessment purposes but the recent years it has come to my attention that tax invoices are no longer

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needed or submitted. That was the preamble and the question is that is still the case. Honourable Speaker tax invoices serve as the path of the documentary proof to a certain authenticity and accuracy of information for assessing and examining tax returns. Other documents include but are not limited to receipt, proof of payment, accounts and trade and stock list etc.

Tax returns are often prepared by bookkeepers, accountants or tax payers themselves. They are based on tax invoices and other documentation. The tax invoice serves as evidence of expenditure to be deducted or sales made by the tax payer. It permits the tax office to request tax invoices and other documents at any time to serve as proof and validate legitimacy of statements when examining tax returns and that on both sides as to prove the value of sales and the income derived of it or validating claims deductibles. The tax office contact tax payers and request for specially proof on tax invoices and or other documents as the case maybe.

This is done to manage excess of payments of rent express and to store documents and to avoid a situation where the tax payer claims that the proof of income and expenditure were already submitted and it cannot traced. Once the examination of a tax return is completed, the tax invoices or other documentary proof are then returned to the tax payer. Some tax payers voluntary do submit invoices without being asked to do so together with their tax return. Procedurally tax invoices should be submitted to the tax office upon request. The handing of tax invoice is done in accordance with the tax law and no additional directives have been issued by the Ministry of Finance of recent.

The tax law requires tax payers to keep their documents for a period of five years and to allow for tax office to examine and validate the legitimacy of tax returns submitted to the office at any time during the five years period. That is the response to your question. There is no difference in approach. Tax payers are sometimes voluntarily submitting their tax invoices but they do not have to unless they are requested by the tax office to do so. Thank you.

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HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Fleermuys.

HON FLEERMUYS: Thank you very much Minister of Finance that you have quite clearly give quite reasonable answers on this issue. However, when it comes to submitting voluntary I am wondering why would the Permanent Secretary and his staff or her staff tells me no, you do not need to bring those. Now one way or the other Honourable Minister I am very thankful that you have given me that quite clear answer and I would like to have a copy of your answer. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Let us move on. Question number 5 and question number 6 from the Honourable Kavekatora. He is not in the House. Do you agree with me that we skip that? Thank you, yes, and question number 7 from Honourable Van Wyk. You put the question.

HON VAN WYK: Puts the question.

HON SPEAKER: And the question is directed to the Deputy Minister of Urban and Rural Development.

QUESTION 7:

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members I wish to thank you Honourable Van Wyk for the questions at

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the same time I wish to inform the House that Honourable Van Wyk requested for and was granted an audience by the Minister responsible for local authorities on 26th February 2019 to which he was accompanied by the suspended UPM Councillors. He and his UPM Colleagues raised the same questions to which the Minister responded. I will however respond thereto. I will try thus to go into the answers. I wish to thank the Honourable Member for the questions and wish to respond to him as follows.

Firstly, I disagree that reports and complaints about poor governance and service delivery at Rehoboth Town Council were ignored. I must also correct that while there might have been one or two communications or letters from the UPM Councillors leasing irregularities, it was more the effected residence of Rehoboth that first brought to the attention of the Ministry. More importantly as this August House knows that Central Government through the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development took the complaints very seriously and intervene on several occasions through a combination of coaching and capacity building interventions and finally penal action.

All local authorities including Rehoboth have over the years benefited from capacity building interventions by the Ministry which started both the Councillors as well as the administrators. In addition to this formal capacity building support local authorities on an ongoing basis have always received on a monthly basis an assistance from the Ministry. In the case of Rehoboth our intervention included sending a team of officials to Rehoboth and a team was physically stationed in the town during March to April 2017 for a due purpose namely to carry out and indebt diagnostic investigation as well as to provide onsite advise and assistance to the Council to address shortcomings on the spot.

It is important to note that in terms of the principle of administrative justice our intervention was preceded by an investigation to confirm the rot and mismanagement by the Council that was reported by the community. It must be noted that as pointed out that in terms of law it is

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the Council and not the Ministry that is legally vested with the immediate responsibility to run the affairs of the local authority. The Ministry lastly has an oversight responsibility. From the investigation and continued failure of the Council to change despite the various supported intervention by the Ministry was a clear indication of a case of a Council failing to collectively exercise their powers and perform their duties and functions assigned to a local authority Council in terms of Section 30 of the Local Authorities Act number 23 of 1992 as amended.

The outcome of the Ministry's intervention was a diagnosis report which report was given to the Council to take note of and reflect on the findings and most importantly to implement the corrective measures recommended therein. The Council was given a timeline within which to implement the recommended corrective measures and when it could not demonstrate its ability and commitment to act, the Minister exercised the powers vested in him in terms of the Local Authorities Act 1992 and suspended the entire Council as the members of the Council have a collective responsibility to govern and to account.

The Council was even as a last resort given an opportunity by the Minister to make the face to face representation on why it should not be suspended. Among others there was an apparently division among the Councillors which extenuated the fact that the Councillors were not putting together and able to execute a collective responsibility to the electorate.

Question 2 it was our investigation and not the UPM Councillors that is being claimed that reveals that the specific problem areas and individuals implicated. In some cases there was clear evidence to act immediately and in other cases not much and further investigation was required. It is also important to point out a number of the irregularities occurred due to the Councillors involvement and administrative matters and in some cases Councillors cause such for instances staff appointments. In one of such personal related cases, the Council refused and was making excuses to implement the Ministry's recommendations.

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This was the grounds that prompted the Minister to suspend the Council and to assume the role of the Council through his appointment representatives as for the powers assigned to the Minister in the Act. Since assuming duty as the Minister's representative Mr Natalia Gowases has been hard at work fixing the system employing various matters ranging from team building, stakeholders engagements and more importantly strengthening the governance and the operational systems of the Council. The representatives submits monthly reports to the Minister and there are visible improvements with even some of the UPM Councillors who came to see the Minister on 26th February 2019 acknowledged.

There is much to fix and the process is ongoing and require more time. Number 3 the Local Authority Act 1992 as amended section 92 paragraph 2 provides for the powers of the Minister to remove or suspend a local authority Council as a collective body. The Minister may only consider the removal or suspension of an individual Councillor on recommendation by the Council upon receipt of evidence from a Council in support of a request from a Council. The Minister has to follow a due process which includes giving the accused an opportunity to be heard. There was or has been no such recommendation from the Council against a single Councillor or Councillors. As such, the entire Council had to held accountable on the collective basis and irrespective of their political affairs.

Number 4 what is important is not so much the time but more the work that has to be done to fix this roads. From the report from my representative the job is not yet completed even though the term of the appointment is coming to an end, end of March 2019. The appointment provides for an extension for a further term where necessary. A final consultation is planned between the Minister and his representative in this month which will enable the Minister to take a decision on the way forward but from previous reports, there is still a lot of cleaning up to be done in Rehoboth. I thank Honourable Members for their attention. Thank you.

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HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Jan Van Wyk.

HON VAN WYK: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Firstly I must thank the Honourable Deputy Minister for the answers given. I however would like to find out from the Deputy Minister. Honourable Deputy Minister it is clear that from the report or reports that the majority Council is guilty of this transgression. That is clear in the report. So I do not understand as to why the Ministry is still failing to act instead protecting and you have indicated in your answers that the rot was discovered but why are we covering the people responsible for that rot? We know who the people are. I suggest Honourable Deputy Minister that and you have said that the residence complained.

Yes, that is true but still the residence are suffering because now the people who were involved before the suspension of this Council they are still there. They are not the Council and they will not take any action against themselves. The only option Honourable Deputy Minister is to recall your Councillors, get competent people there or the Minister should just dissolve the whole Council and let us have a by-election. The Rehoboth Town Council is having adverse audit opinion for the past twenty years under Swapo leadership and it is just continuing. Nothing is going to change so get the competent people there. Recall them or dissolve the Council and let us have the by-election. We cannot go on like this. The residence of Rehoboth are suffering. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Deputy Minister you want to add to that. I am not insisting.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: No, I am not really going to add or whatever but I

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take note of what the Honourable Van Wyk said and as I said that the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development we have followed the law and we have done what is expected from us through the legal channels and we are trying our best as I say to get rid of the rot in Rehoboth. The process is not done yet. We are still there. Our representative is there and we are still working there to see how can clean Rehoboth up. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. We will continue to keep an eye on the situation. Honourable Dienda you put the question.

HON DIENDA: Puts the question.

HON SPEAKER: And the question is directed to the Honourable Minister of Education, Arts and Culture question number 8.

QUESTION 8:

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE: Thank you Comrade Speaker. May I respond to the question that has been posed by Honourable Elma Dienda on the syllaby of the reviewed curriculum for all the grades for her to be provided. I must say Honourable Speaker that all syllaby for the junior primary, the pre-primary that first stretches from Grade 1 to 3 the senior primary from Grade 4 to 7, junior secondary from Grade 8 to 9 and senior secondary certificate ordinary that is NSTO level a two course covered in Grade 10 and 11 are available on the NEAD website www.nead.edu.na. also precede a CD with all the syllaby grouped

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in folders according to school phases. The specimen assessment materials are included in each sub-folder of a subject on and a CO level.

Take note that Namibia senior secondary certificate advanced, subsidiary the NCAS level syllabus and specimen assessment materials are not yet approved by the national examinations assessment and certification Board but they are on advanced stage of development. In addition there are 16 syllabus for basic three vocational skills course implemented in resources schools which we were referring to as the former special schools not to be confused of the pre-vocational technical subjects in mainstreams course. You also asked how many teachers have undergone training on the new revised curriculum and what was the duration of this training.

I suspect that the Honourable Member of Parliament wanted to refer to the NSCO level curriculum only. The curriculum should be correctly referred to as the revised not the new curriculum as it sends the incorrect message. The junior primary and pre-primary Grade 1 to 3 in pre-primary 1 122 teachers were trained nationally for two weeks. For Grade 1 to 3, 8 000 teachers were inducted on the revised curriculum at regional level in six subjects. Regional facilitators were trained at national levels for two weeks and the duration of regional workshops was six days. For the senior primary that stretches from Grade 4 to 7, 1 149 regional facilitators were trained at national level for four days in 26 subjects. 19 935 teachers were trained in regions in different subjects.

Note that some teachers teach two to three subjects. The junior secondary which stretches between Grade 8 and 9, 1 900 regional facilitators and teachers for smaller learner entry subjects for example Seswana computer studies were trained national level for four days on the revised curriculum. A total 9 735 teachers were trained on regional level for four days. Also the first group of 22 teachers for reintroduce technical subjects, basic skills upgrading training course for two weeks at Namibia Institute for Mining Technology NIMT in Arandis and that was in 2017 and the training program is still continuing.

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For the senior secondary phase that is the NSCO Grade 10 and 11 two national facilitators workshops for NSCO school Principals and inspectors of education took place on 23rd to 25th October 2018 and 29th October to 1st of November 2018 at NEAD. The aim was to capacitate them to be able to interpret and monitor the implementation of the revised curriculum. 80 participants from all regions attended and they were trained to be trained other Principals and inspectors in regions. The regional workshop for inspectors and NSCO school Principals are still ongoing in few of the remaining regions.

The training focus amongst others on changes to curriculum specially with the learning areas and subjects, learning support and inclusivity of course also the promotion policy, quality assurance in schools, Principals as logical and instructional leaders, induction programs for novice teachers, partnerships, networking etc. For the teachers 595 regional facilitators were directly trained by NEAD including teachers for smaller learner entry subjects where direct training is possible for example NSCO fashion and fabrics or Setswana. 4 232 NSCO teachers were trained in regions. We followed the cascading training module in line with the decentralization of functions to the Regional Councils.

The Regional Educational Directorate identified competent facilitators and two to three regions were grouped in order to have a larger pool of facilitators sharing teaching experiences. It should be noted that the revised aim as a CO curriculum has a higher degree of continuity with what many teachers were teaching over the past years. Also the second group of 22 teachers for re-introduced technical subjects receive skills upgrading training for two weeks at Namibia Institute of Mining Technology NIMT in Arandis in 2018 last year and the training programs are still continuing. The other question was are the plans to train those who did not undergo this training.

The number of trained teachers indicate that one teacher in a subject was trained for every senior secondary school offering as a CO. We have schools with sometimes two or three teachers in a subject. So this is

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where school base professional development initiatives and peer coaching or onsite mentoring programs should be applied if a leading teacher is trained to share with others who already have experience. Now this can be part of school development plan again just to emphasis that there is high degree of continuity with what teachers were teaching before the revision.

The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture had budgeted for induction training of new teachers to be recruited or appointed by the Regional Education Directorate from January 2019 in the 2019-2020 Financial Year. The other question was what is the Ministry doing to address the shortage of textbooks. The Ministry procured books for junior primary for N\$25 Million in 2014 and 2015 Financial Year. That is the time we have started at the junior primary phase of the implementation of the reviewed curriculum. N\$40 Million for senior primary in 2015 and 2016 Financial Year, N\$90 Million for junior secondary in 2016 and 2017 and N\$90 Million for 2017-2018 Financial Year.

N\$82 Milloin for the NCSO in 2018 and 2019. These are not sufficient to reach the one to one learner textbook ratio but the Ministry continue to top up on school phases anyway. It should be noted that the curriculum is just revised and it has larger proportion of the old curriculum although it is ideally a good wish to have new books for all the learners. This means that all textbooks are not obsolete. They are also helpful to cover the gap. It is hoped that the gap will be covered in the coming few years as the Ministry continues to top up on textbooks across various school phases.

What I am telling the teaches aqs I am travellign in the regions and when the complaints of the textbooks are coming is show me a book that is one hundred years old and which is having content that is irrelevant to modern times and today. So from that textbooks in schools can never be redundant. Can never be absolute. They would be always parts in the textbooks that can be used even though you will review the curriculum or reform your education for how many books that I was taught from in Grade 1 sub A that was 1974. I found them still today so much relevant

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so that is what books are and that is what we are advising to do. The ideal situation would be if we could have a one on one but you can see the amounts of millions that we have spend since the start of the introduction of the reviewed curriculum.

What is your Ministry doing? You also address the lack of shelter saying the winter is fast approaching. The Ministry assesses the current situation with regards to the number of classes in corrugated iron, tents etc in regions and has created a priority less on short term, medium terms and long term basis to channel resources to manage situation but it should be noted that migration of people to urban areas and continued increasing rate of population growth will continue to create stress on limited resources especially in the junior primary phases and the regions where we are mostly observing this influx is Khomas for obvious reasons and Erongo region that we have always these challenges and of course some of the northern areas where we have got ailing infrastructure or insufficient infrastructure that came from the historical background.

So we have got a serious backlog. Honourable Speaker I hope that is the session in which I was trying to respond to Honourable Dienda on her questions. I do not know whether I should continue with the next question?

HON SPEAKER: Have you got another one?

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE: I have got another one from Honourable Van Den Heever. Shall we wait for that.

HON SPEAKER: What number oh, yes, you might as well do that, yes.

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Do you mind, alright? I hope you are, yes, please.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker I am satisfied because she just proved. I saw on the website that there is a syllabus missing and that is why I came to ask this question so that she can confirm whether it is true or not. So I just wanted that confirmation on that part and secondly Honourable Speaker on the issue of shortages of textbooks I want to make a suggestion Honourable Minister that instead of giving textbook to one or five learners in the school or to say four learners must share a textbook because that textbook might get lost amongst the four and nobody will take up responsibility of that textbook rather to keep the textbooks just in the class and not to give it out to the learners so that is something for the teachers to think about but because they do not do it and the children must share it and when the books are lost, all of us must now come and pay because no child is taking responsibility of it. So this is just an unhealthy situation at the schools. Thank you and I thank you for your response Honourable Minister.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Let me continue with the list the number. Question number 9 from the Honourable Jennifer Van Den Heever. You put the question.

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: Puts the question.

HON SPEAKER: The Deputy Minister is ready.

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QUESTION 9:

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you once more Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members I wish to thank Honourable Van Den Heever for the question. She really loves this Ministry. She was a Councillor, very good. She asked what systems have you in place to ensure that local residence are prioritized in the acquisition of title deeds and erven. Now in terms of land sales the only system in place are waiting list and giving priority to applicants on the basis of first come first serve as well as those who are first time purchasers. This applies where land has been serviced and is being sold by local authorities.

General land sales are done as a method set out in the Local Authorities Act of 1992 as amended namesly private treating and public tender. Special arrangements are or used to be made to deal with the special needs for the poor and low income especially when they have organized themselves as a group or communities such as the Shack Dweller Federation of Namibia especially. Currently, there is no system in place to prioritise local residence in the acquisition of specifically erven. Applicants to acquire an erf varied from local authority to local authority depending on the available and affordability of serviced erven ready for acquisition and as I have said previously, we have the waiting list which is catering for local residence wherever first come first serve, served on.

The second question are residence required to pay a fee for the acquisition of title deeds? If yes, why. Now Honourable Van Den Heever title deeds are provided for and regulated in terms of the Deeds Registry Act which Act is being administered by the Ministry of Land Reform so the question on the title deeds is misdirected to Ministry of Urban and Rural Development. I thank Honourable for the question and I thank the members for listening. Thank you.

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HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Van Den Heever.

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Deputy Minister thank you very much for the response to my questions and I am happy that you said no to it because the practices are totally the opposite in certain towns and that is why I asked this question. So I will come back to you on this one especially on the title deeds because it is the practice that Councillors and Ministerial or the Ministry officials or the Council officials are asking for a fee selling the erven to people so that is the reason why I asked and specially in this case in Rehoboth whereby people have to pay N\$300 and then the erf becomes yours and so on and so on so there are so much irregularities there and I am very happy. So I just wanted that response in writing.

HON SPEAKER: Good, thank you very much. Honourable Jennifer Van Den Heever do you put the question, question number 10. Thank you.

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: Puts the question.

HON SPEAKER: Yes, please.

QUESTION 10

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Point of information the information that we have just received is very serious information and I would like to

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remind us that this body has promulgated legislation that deals with this type of things. There is a body called Anti-Corruption Commission and I would really urge if information existed that be reported because that is corruption. If I can implore upon the Honourable Member to do that even if it is being investigated at least then there is something happening.

HON SPEAKER: I think this is a very serious issue if we come across evidence, information, I think we must make it a point it is a responsibility, it is an obligation to inform the appropriate authorities and I cannot judge whether the cases are being but I think we should ensure that we communicate the information to the right appropriate institution. Honourable Minister of Education, Arts and Culture you have the floor.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. Once again thank you for the question that has been posed to our Ministry by Honourable Van Den Heever. She said at the end of last year some 20 000 learners failed to garner enough points to proceed to Grade 11. It has come to our knowledge that NAMCOL now registers these learners for Grade 12 despite the fact that they were unable to pass while attending a full time school. I thus ask can the Honourable Minister explain the rationale behind this decision that a learner who could not pass Grade 10 full time can now enroll for the Grade 12 without the benefit of teachers and attending classes every day.

I say thanks once again but I think the question could be perfect if the Honourable Member could have said some learners are now registering for as a CO instead of Grade 12. The issue in question is just one of the available four options for learners who could not obtain minimum points required to progress to the senior secondary level, they are as follows.

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Learners who are under the age of 17 will be allowed to study the new junior secondary curriculum in Grade 9 the last Grade and this requires indepth understanding so I am going to read slowly for the purposes of everything. Really I am considerate when you are not in the fraternity of education. It is not so easy to understand but fortunately for her she is from education background.

A lot of things has changed Honourable Van Den Heever. So it is not the times of you and me in education. So the last Grade of the junior secondary phase and sit for this semi-external examination at the end of Grade 9 in 2019. Now learners who passed the semi-external examinations at the end of Grade 9 in 2019 because we are writing semi-external examininations now in Grade 9. Now those one will process to the senior secondary phase in 2020 meaning Grade 10 in 2020 now. The other option is learners above the age of 17 who would like to improve their Grade 10 samples will be offered an opportunity to enroll for tuitioin through part time institution registered with the Minisry of Education, Arts and Culture and write Grad 10 national examinations as part time candidates in October-November 2019 exams.

Another option is learners above the age of 17 who will not register for Grade 10 national examinations as part time candidates in October-November 2019 exams will be allowed to register with part time institutions for the Namibia senior secondary certification ordinary or higher level. That is the NCSO or the NCSH level. As first time takers in 2019 to take three subjects each year over two years. The fourth option is full time learners who are above the age of 17 who will not register with part time institutions for as a NCSO or H as first time takers in 2019 will be allowed to register with part time institutions for the new NCSO and they will be taking three subjects each year as from 2020.

Now the question of Honourable Van Den Heever refers more to the 1.3 option and I will repeat the 1.3 option that says learners above the age of 17 who will not register for Grade 10 natoinal examinations as part time candidates in October-November 2019 meaning this year will be allowed

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to register with part time institutions for the Namibia senior secondary certificate ordinary or high level as first time takers in 2019. That refers to NAMCOL which is a part time institution and they will be allowed to take three subjects each year over two years.

Now this is not new in our history before and after independence. Some of the experienced teachers about the retire completed their standard 8 and standard 10 through correspondence, performed better and registered for education certificate in primary ECB. So many teachers are having those qualifications or lower primary teaching certificate the LTC in formal colleges of education before independence as an example. Now learners completing Grade 10 through part time institutions and are progressing to the NCSO existed even before the revision of the curriculum. It was there already before we revised the curriculum.

Remember that these learners did nine subjects in Grader 10 and failed to make it so evidence shows that with three NCSO subjects and attending part time classes or block classes during holidays at centres they tend to be focused and obtain better grades so there is evidence to that because it is a practice that is already for some time already there. It is part of the existing safety nets in the system the education system. So during the second year, learners take other three subjects and pass all or two to progress to the vocational training institutions or any other institution of higher learning, yes.

On service a learner may have obtained 23 points for example and failed but he she may have obtained better samples or grades for example three or four subjects with two Cs and two Ds in specific subjects better than a counterpart who passed with 26 points so those are realities and scenarios we are seeing in the system. It is also a shorter route to obtain a senior secondary qualification which is now the NCSO and evidence exist for success so this is the reason for maybe also the popularity of the option the third option. Of course we cannot apply to all but there are success stories.

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Remember also that the Grade 10 certificate does not have much value anymore if you compare to 20 years ago in terms of the access to the vocational institutions for example. The requirements have changed tremendously. So the contact session and the tuition and support system are therefore provided for the registered institutions who have qualified teachers. So Honourable Van Den Heever that is my response to your question but I am open if there is more clarification needed. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. So we conclude that happily. Question number 11 from Honourable Madhala Nauyoma directed to the Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation. You put the question.

HON NAUYOMA: Puts the question.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Deputy Minister of Higher Education.

QUESTION 11:

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION TRAINING AND INNOVATION: Thanks Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members I rise to first thank the Honourable Nauyoma for his questions and to state that these questions are similar to those of Honourable Smit and my answer as shall be distributed are covered these three questions. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members I so submit. Thank you.

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HON SPEAKER: You just have to make sure the copy reaches you Honourable Nauyoma. The copy is available, alright. Can we just make sure?

HON NAUYOMA: Mine are very specific because my worry is regarding the Doctors that are running up and down in towns, demonstrating and all that. I wanted the specific of this situation because my problem has always been this non coordination of our activities. You do not know because my worry you send people to go and study or spend money, when people come back you are saying no, you do not qualify. That is the area that I wanted. Why should you allow people to go to Cuba or Russia or China but when they come back you say no, you do not.

HON SPEAKER: Well, alright I get it and I think if the Deputy Minister could just, I recall you when you responded. It was very clearly explained that some of these students leave on their own not under any sponsorship of the Ministry or any institution in the country and then they undergo training there at institutions that are not necessarily, no, the money is not spend by the Government. It is spend by individual students. If I am not, that is how I heard the Deputy Minister. Initially do you want to just briefly.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INNOVATION: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I spoke at length about this and basically it is covered everything. However if you want why should we spend money on universities that are sub-standard. We do not send those students to sub-standard universities. They went by themselves so you would have liked the students to be stranded in foreign contries without payment and then you could not have called them back to assess them whether they qualified or not. They were given scholarships

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by these universities initially and they studies courses or they were sponsored by their own parents. So we were just trying to save those who could be saved but those ones who were below the bar, they could not be saved and we did not continue to spend money on them and I think you know once my question is distributed which I have given for photocopy for distribution, it will surface to answer your question and I insist it is actually answering every part of your question. I thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable John Mutorwa.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Comrade Speaker you may allow me I am just wanted to register an observation.

HON SPEAKER: Yes, please.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Not specifically on this question that is now being answered and the observation is that our rule with regard to how to handle questions are very, very clear but I am observing a trend maybe we can appeal to the table that assist the Speaker that many at times our preambles to questions are in a kind of generalized statements. For example if we just look at this question the others as well Honourable Nauyoma it is not only to you. The names of specific countries are given. Now and then the question comes sub-standard. I know that all these things that we are doing here are public. I am just appealing and this appeal is not to the Honourable Members as such because it is the responsibility of the table to assist Speaker that when we

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ask questions that at least we conform to our own rules and that certain people, certain countries whose names we throw around here do not get offended. I just felt that needed to make that observation without I am not, are you getting my point Comrade? Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Absolutely it is loud and clear. We do not want, well, I think basically mentioning names of country and then at the same time we talk about sub-standard education. It will send a wrong message. That is all what we are trying to say. In future I think we need to be a bit more careful in how we address. Alright, I appreciate that interjection by the Honourable John Mutorwa. It is very, very helpful. The question the information would be shared and let us move on. Question number 12. We will have a bit of time. Question number 12 actually is directed to the Ministry of Works and Transport if I am not wrong, yes.

HON NAUYOMA: Puts the question.

HON SPEAKER: The question number 12.

QUESTION 12:

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Speaker today is good that after I have made an observation this one is coming now. If the question was directed to the Ministry of Works and Transport, we should have made sure that that name Ministry of Works and Transport is reflected here. I did not come prepared because I got the order paper. There is no reference to Ministry of Works and Transport but in order to do justice

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maybe the Honourable Member at the next occasion can re-raise the question and then those responsible to make sure that it is well captured.

HON SPEAKER: Very good. There is no debate. There is no argument. We accept something was not done correctly. So question number 13 from the Honourable, well, I have just been told that apparently the question was faxed directly to the Ministry but of course, that does not guarantee that it will necessarily, yes. So we leave it at that with your cooperation we will redirect the question to the correct Ministry question number 12. Question number 13 Honourable Nico Smit. You put the question.

HON SMIT: Puts the question.

HON SPEAKER: The Deputy Minister is here. You have the floor.

QUESTION 13:

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker, Honourable Smit for asking this question. First I will not repeat the questions but rather just go straight to the answers. The Ministry of Health and Social Services have guidelines in place to review on responses of maternal death which refers to the death of the women while pregnant or within 42 days after the termination of pregnant or after giving birth or the other guidelines that we are having is for maternal neamesis a woman who is referring to a woman who nearly died but survived a complication that occurred during pregnancy, child birth or within 42 days of the termination of pregnancy.

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The other guidelines and responses that we are still reviewing in our Ministry is the still birth. Still birth is referring to an infant that has died in a womb strictly after having survived through the first 28 weeks of pregnancy and the last one that we are actually reviewing and responding to is neonatal death. Neonatal refers to a death during the first 28 days of life for a child who was born. So the case that there are regional and national Committees that are handling all these reviews and every of these case, every incident that occurs, the Ministry is making sure that it is reviewed and report has been written to the national level to investigate and to identify some issues.

The incident at hand the unfortunate incident at hand that you are referring to is classified as neonatal death which means somebody who survived. Did you capture the term neonatal death, that one and is being investigated? Therefore it would not be safe for me to give you the details of any further information at this stage as the investigation of this case is going forward and it would be maybe communicated to you at another stage. Second question the Ministry of Health and Social Services like any other Ministry in an independent Republic of Namibia is guided by laws and guidelines that clearly stipulates the procedures to be followed in case of gross negligence or any offence.

In addition all health professionals are registered with the health professional Council of Namibia which has the power to investigate and charge in case of unprofessional conduct by one or another health worker. The Ministry will follow the relevant guidelines should the investigation found that the allegation of negligence in this case is true and that will be reported as such too. The third question the Ministry has a patient charter and this is very, very important books and is available and have been available for nearly two years now. So it is also on line and we have small summarized brochures that we are giving also to our patients in different venues. We make also some frames that is actually on the walls of our clinics where the patient has to read that what is their rights when they are coming to the health facility and what is their responsibility also. So the

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patient charter which is stipulating the right and responsibility which is available at all health facilities.

The patients have every right to lay a complaints or a charge if he or she feels that her rights have, where his or her rights were violated. The last question the public should not feel threatened or scared to visit our health facilities. The Ministry has competent compassionate health workers out there who are being overlooked by a few individuals who may not take their profession serious. The Ministry has decided that all our employees in the Ministry will wear name tags which will enable all our service users to identify and deal with staff individually and not to cluster on in the same category so that is actually what we are planning to do.

We have already introduced in some facilities. You will find that our health workers everybody from the cleaner up to the Doctors will have name tags. So you must always have contact to read the names of the health workers. I thank you for the questions. I think I have answered you sufficiently.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Nico Smit.

HON SMIT: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I would like to thank the Honourable Deputy Minister for the answers but I think it was actually not necessary for her to give it today because the Ministry answered already yesterday in the newspaper my questions. So I just want to. So if that is the norm, our questions would be answered in future, then I will ask the question also by a way of a press conference and then the Minister can answer by way of a press conference.

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HON SPEAKER: Alright, well we leave it at that. Thank you very much. Let us quickly deal with the question number 14 from the same Honourable Nico Smit. You put the question.

HON SMIT: Puts the question.

HON SPEAKER: But do we not have five minutes? You think it is a long one. Are you ready to deal with this question or you, yes please?

QUESTION 14:

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Alright, I will just go to the answer. The Ministry of Safety and Security department of Namibian Police has established a gender base violence protection unit which is specialising with responsibility of investigating all criminal cases deriving from gender base violence. In most cases murder suspects are known either by family members or victims. It is only in very isolated cases that suspects are unknown such as in the Aviye case for which the investigation is still underway. It should also be noted that murder cases are complex in nature as the victims are no longer there to give clues to the police as the police is left to follow trails of possible evidence to resolve such cases. Mr Smit you were a policeman you know this as well. In some instances the delay in murder cases is brought by the whole criminal justice system for instance police investigation might take long.

HON SPEAKER: Is that a point of order? Let him complete the question.

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HON SMIT: He is answering the wrong question.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY : Really what is it?

HON SPEAKER: Let me see question number 15 is it not, I mean 14 yes but it is okay because the next one is also yours. Honourable Minister can I ask you to complete because you have started.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY : But they are only one for instance police investigation might take long to be followed such as witnesses who cannot be traced to testify, lack of enough evidence for link suspects to cases, some defence lawyers delay in most cases. They are pre-occupied with other cases. The complexity of each murder case to resolve delays in obtaining forensic investigation results as Namibia has only one forensic lab that caters for the whole country and in some cases test are referred to other specialized forensic labs outside the country.

Second the other one as from 2014 to 2018, 733 cases, dockets were sent back for further investigation. This does not mean that there is a failure in the investigation. It should be noted that prosecution to proceed there should be *prima facie* evidence. The office of the Prosecutor General together with the Ministry of Safety and Security department of Namibian Police Force has now embarked upon prosecution guided investigation. This initiative is aimed at ensuring that each investigation is properly gain in conformity with the requirement of the courts. Can I continue with the others. I may not necessarily refer to all cases, dockets that were not taken to court on their court dates as disappeared. Some dockets may have just been misplaced at the time in the office of the investigator or his/her supervisor or Public Prosecutor.

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I am confident that the situation would be tremendously improve with the introduction of E-Police in darker places. Currently I am not in position to account for all the dockets that were not in court on the required dates as only court records will reveal where the dockets were when the docket was not presented. Hackmay and Hoff cases this matter was reported to the police on the 7th of January 2011. Immediately two suspects American nationals were arrested and charged. The investigation into this matters was completed and the matter is still before the court.

I should mention that the delays in this matter are not caused by the delays in investigation but continuous hiring and firing of defence lawyers by the accused persons themselves and constitutionally the accused persons have the right to a presentation in any court. Zambezi High treason, these are complex cases which require indepth investigation. However, investigation to these cases were finalized eventually after a considerable time. There are multiple reasons which contributed to the delays in finalizing of these cases. One of them is the delaying tactics by the accused persons when they disputed in court that they were not Namibians and therefore they could not be tried in Namibian courts.

Another factor which contributed to the delays was the huge number of accused persons who were charged at once for different accounts. The process of applying for level 8 and private attorneys also contributed to the delay. Number five, the Ministry of Safety and Security department of Namibian police force has policies and regulations in place on how to deal with members who fail or neglect their duties in this regard regulation 15 takes effect as provided for in the Public Police Act 1990, Act 19 of 1990 as amended regarding the static reports about growing police brutality against the members of public.

Six, there is currently no law prohibiting a person from being taking photos of police officers in the execution of their duties. I have come now to that one. Do not worry I am answering you. They are all yours. However, it is not a menu of course that we start with a starter and then you end with a desert. However, some scenes of crime may require

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further investigation and filming and public of such scenes of crime may defeat the purpose of the investigation as there maybe unknown subject of investigation alerted by such publication. Comrade Speaker can I continue?

I was saying however some scenes of crime may require further investigation and the filming and publishing of such scenes of crime may defeat the purpose of the investigation as there maybe unknown subject of investigation who maybe alerted by such publication

and in some cases such filming may lead to the contamination of the scene of crime. Seven, when an allegation or concerns about the police or its personnel are, just listen to the answer. Alright, the personnels are brought to our station. They are assessed and investigated to determine the merit thereof.

HON SPEAKER: Let us have some order please. Please we need to finish. We are over the time and just want to, that is the question I want us to conclude.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: So depending on the merit of each allegation, criminals and or departmental cases are opened and referred to either the Prosecutro Geenral office for a decision or the police internal investigation directorate for departmental hearing. I should however point out that for reasons of possible unnecessary request involved, the Ministry of Safety and Security does not rely on media report to investigate cases but we always act upon formal complaints and the report brought forwards.

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**ADJOURNMENT
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I know it has taken a bit longer so we, Honourable Nico Smit.

HON SMIT: Honourable Speaker thank you. Now I think we all know why the cases are not properly investigated and why we have this matter of affairs in the police. If the Honourable Minister cannot answer the questions two different set of questions, then it speaks for itself.

HON SPEAKER: We will revisit that with the help of the Minister if need be but for now I think we are over the time and I thank you very much for your patience and understanding. Just lastly those of you, of course we as a country we are a member of the Commonwealth of Nations and next Monday the 11th of March 2019 at 9am we have a major event to commemorate the Commonwealth Day on the 11th of March so Members of Parliament all of you are invited to join the big crowd in front of Parliament. We are joining other people who are members of the Commonwealth represented by their Higher Commissioners in this country celebrating the day the 9th. It is supposed to be the 9th of March. Well, you will hear more about that. It is a Commonwealth Day. It is a day when we talk about issues that basically we share in common. So we leave it at that. Do make use of the time but for now the House stands adjourn until next week Tuesday the usual time.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:52 UNTIL 2019.03.12 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
12 MARCH 2019**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER IN TERMS OF
RULE 20(A) OF THE STANDING RULES AND ORDERS**

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, few announcements and now I am going to talk about something relating to the Ministry of Sports, Youth and National Services and so I am happy that the Honourable Deputy Minister Agnes Tjongarero is here. Her colleague the Minister is still to come. It is all about sports. It is all about strengthening the representation of Namibia at home and abroad. It is all about building capacity for our sportsmen and women to excel in order to bring honours not only to themselves but to the nation and for that reason I take the opportunity of informing you that the Sports Commission through the Ministry of Sports is hosting a fundraising Gala Dinner to facilitate key events of sports in the country. They have requested Parliamentarians, Lawmakers to join them in big number on that occasion. They have requested that each table that to be bought will sit about ten people to the cost of about N\$1,200 per person (*laughter*). This is all for a good cause. So Honourable Members if we team up and have about maybe two tables or three tables and properly organize in order to demonstrate our commitment in support. This event is planned for Thursday 14th March. The venue is the Country Club and the Country Club is also making their own contribution by hosting this particular fund raising. So let us organize ourselves and find our way to give our support as solidarity to this important event for a good cause. That is one.

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HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

Number two, not so much related to fund raising. Is an important event that will take place here tomorrow morning? The Governor of the Bank of Namibia will present to us the much awaited talk commencing at 09:00. The title of his talk will be the economic outlook of Namibia followed by questions and answers. I think this is important in the light of the fact that soon we will be having the budget and obviously any issue relating to the economy will help Honourable Members to sharpen the understanding and appreciation of some of these critical issues affecting the economy not only of this country but the entire global village.

The third announcement (*intervention*).

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND
IMMIGRATION:** What time?

HON SPEAKER: 09:00 tomorrow. So we have to forego some of our other activities to attend and it is going to be in the Chamber, it is a workshop format and I really hope that you will be able to attend. Next Wednesday this event tomorrow will be followed by another talk next Wednesday is going to be also dealing with the, coming back, the topic will be announced tomorrow.

The third announcement has something to do with our young people, learners, the leaders of tomorrow and I am delighted to be able to inform the Honourable Members that in attendance are 23 learners from Hage Geingob Secondary School, Hashipenda Secondary School and Immanuel Shifidi Secondary School in Windhoek, all three schools are represented by learners who are currently visiting Parliament. They are here in the gallery observing the law making process here. They are brought here to familiarize themselves with the work of Parliament and they also visited the Namibia Institute of Democracy through its Civic Education Programme, welcome to your Parliament. We are delighted to have you this afternoon observing us as we partake in lawmaking exercise,

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welcome. That said and done we move on. Any Petitions? Yes
Honourable Iivula-Ithana.

HON IIVULA-ITHANA: I was just trying to look at my calendar here in connection with the announcement for another workshop and that date the other Wednesday seems to be the 21st.

HON SPEAKER: No it is the 20th.

HON IIVULA-ITHANA: Oh it is Thursday?

HON SPEAKER: Yes.

HON IIVULA-ITHANA: Okay thank you.

HON SPEAKER: No, Wednesday.

HON IIVULA-ITHANA: 21st is Thursday, okay.

HON SPEAKER: Wednesday is the 20th.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON ITHETE**

HON IIVULA-ITHANA: But normally Comrade Speaker, the day before the Independence Anniversary many people would be sent out to deliver messages. Will there be people really or a quorum for such an event? Why do we not look for a date that is probably accommodating?

HON SPEAKER: You have a point. A point we could do it the following week, yes. Anyway we will investigate and report back tomorrow to make sure that we are on the safe grounds. Thank you for that observation. Any petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Yes Deputy Minister of Finance?

TABLING OF REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Other Reports and Papers? Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the table Auditor General Report on Social Security Commission and Associate Fund:

1. Social Security Commission Maternity Leave, Sick Leave and Death Benefit Fund, Employee Compensation Fund, Development Fund for Financial Year 28th February 2018.
2. Report of the Auditor General on the Account of the New Era Publications Cooperation for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2017.
3. Namibia Development Cooperation for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2015, 2016 and 2017.
4. Diamond Evaluation Fund for the Financial Year ended 31 December 2017.

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HON VENAANI**

5. Special Report of the Auditor General Report of the none submission of financial statements by some Local Authorities, Regional Councils as statutory bodies up to the Financial Year ended 30th of June 2015, 2016 and 2018.
6. Follow up performance Audit Report in the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture on the Procurement Circle of Schools Materials for the Financial Year 2014/2015, 2015/2016 and 2016/2017.

I so move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Notices of questions, yes Honourable Venaani.

NOTICE OF QUESTION

ORAL QUESTIONS

QUESTION 3:

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I pray for your indulgence to ask an urgent oral question to the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.

HON SPEAKER: Can I have the gist of the question?

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HON !NARUSEB**

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, through you to the Minister we are seeing a lot of farmers in drought stricken, two-thirds of the country is in drought stricken conditions, cattle are dying, farmers are struggling to maintain their cattle but we have not heard any pronouncement from the Minister. When is the Minister envisaging to declare the year as a drought year and that the emergency of drought would start to start helping these farmers?

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Minister?

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:
Thank you Honourable Speaker Sir and I also want to thank my nephew, the leader of the Official Opposition the PDM for the very relevant question that he has put as much as I would have appreciated to be given time to internalize the question but given the fact that he has put it, I shall strive to venture in responding to say.

As recently as towards the end of last year we have submitted a report as a sector outlining the state of rain patterns in our country which informed us that the situation then for the 2017/2018 rain season was not giving us much space to find us in a situation that we can expect good rains and the pattern in fact continued as all of us are witness to that. Without really disclosing the inner discussions of the Cabinet and the Executive we are ceased with the matter in terms of looking at the data at our disposal in order for us to inform the Head of State accordingly.

For your information Honourable Member it is not incumbent on the Minister to declare the State of Emergency with regards to the drought situation in the country, we need to empower our Head of State with the relevant empirical data for him to base on that information declare State of Emergency with regards to the rain pattern and what we are observing. We are observing so many things in terms of the State of the animals that

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HON DIENDA**

animals are in fact dying as a result of lack of grazing and that the water supply in terms of certain communities are being also identified as Hot Spots that needs special attention from the Government.

Maybe at this point in time through you Honourable Speaker, I would then rely on the indulgence of the leader of the Official Opposition so that we finalise the issues that we have already started with in terms of what we are observing as the Government on behalf of this nation so that we, in due course once we have ascertained the facts on an empirical basis can come up with the necessary advice to the Head of State for the relevant pronouncements to be made. But it does not really included the fact that we are aware of the state of the rain pattern in the country and that we are just formulating a proper response in terms of pronouncement to make in this regard. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Venaani thank you very much. Honourable Dienda.

QUESTION 4:

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker I give notice that on Thursday the 20th of March I shall ask the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture Honourable Katrina Hanse-Himarwa the following.

HON MEMBER: Where is she?

HON DIENDA: She is somewhere.

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HON DIENDA**

HON MEMBER: Where?

HON DIENDA: No, you know. Honourable Minister, are you aware of the overcrowding challenge at Rundu Ngama Combined School where 114 learners occupy a single classroom? If yes, how is your Ministry working to resolve this issue? Secondly, the lack of proper sanitation in schools is one of the learning factors contributing to young girls dropping out of education early as we were informed during our outreach programmes in the north:

- 1) Are you also aware that rural schools such as Ngama Combined School experience the poorest sanitation and are under resources?
- 2) 247 learners using seven toilets, what mechanisms have you in place to address this issue?
- 3) Infrastructural development in rural schools is also a major concern. For example many times learners have to sit on the floor and write on their laps while others share chairs or desks, what is your Ministry doing about this in the Kavango Region?
- 4) When should we expect the positive results from your efforts if there are any?

I so submit Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker I also have an oral question to the Honourable Minister Dr Kalumbi Shangula of Health and Services. An oral urgent question?

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HON DIENDA**

HON SPEAKER: Can I get the gist of the question?

HON DIENDA: Okay, Honourable Speaker I received this Circular dated 7 March 2019. It reads as follows, "Office of the Executive Director. Suspension or serving of TN Coffee, you are herewith notified that the Ministry has decided to suspended serving of teas and coffee served at 10"00, 15:00 (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Can I just (*intervention*).

HON DIENDA: I am just reading the Circular.

HON SPEAKER: No I got the gist. I got the gist of it. Honourable Member is that a Circular?

HON DIENDA: Yes it is a Circular coming from the Minister's office.

HON SPEAKER: Aha?

HON DIENDA: Aha, so I want to know whether he is aware of this Circular and then I have questions on this Circular, it is urgent. Wait I am coming. This is another Swaatbooi. I cannot have this, I withdraw.

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HON DIENDA**

“10:00, 15:00 and 19:00 for the patients on the current menus” staff do not have menus if patients have menus, due to financial constraints. Suspension is with effect 1st April 2019. So my question is:

- 1) Honourable Minister, for how long will this suspension be?
- 2) Do you have any alternative to replace this TN coffee that you do not want to serve due to money constrains?

HON SPEAKER: Can he answer? Are you still?

HON DIENDA: He is writing down, I saw him he must write.

HON SPEAKER: Are you still continuing?

HON DIENDA: I have a third one. Number 3, was this service for coffee and tea not budgeted for already because next time we will debate the budget. So according to my information it must be in that budget or will this item be removed from the budget? I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, I thought first of all I was not sure whether this is an official Circular or it is just a rumour I think we need to (*intervention*).

HON DIENDA: I confirmed it with the Deputy PA.

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HON SHANGULA**

HON SPEAKER: Okay, so let the Honourable Minister deal with that.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. Honourable Member Dienda, thank you very much for the question. I will attempt to deal with it now. As we all know the Ministry of Health and Social Services has got an important function that is to safeguard and guarantee the health of the Namibian people including all of us.

Now that Circular is authentic. It was issued to the managers of the Ministry of Health and Social Services. For our consideration in this time, these difficult economic times when we have got resources we must ensure that the financial resources we have are used prudent. We have then to review our systems to see if there are certain wastages or leakages. It was identified that the tea, coffee and juices which are served 10:00, 15:00, 19:00 everyday which actually carried a significant financial cost are not really used properly for the purposes it was intended. Most of the time it is not consumed by the patients, most of the time they are stuck in the locusts and as a result they attract cockroaches which the public have rightly complained about and it undermined our efforts to have pest free environment for our patients.

As a result we have tasked our dieticians and nutritionists to review the whole menu of the patients and to see whether there will be a negative impact to the patients if these items are no longer served because they are hardly consumed by the patients. It was found out that there will be no negative impact to the patients and hence a decision was taken which was well informed by the professionals. Now I would also like to assure the House that patients will continue to receive three meals per day. I would also like to assure the House that those specific patients who may require tea, coffee or juices as part of the treatment that one will still continue. But we would like that the serving which we are realizing from doing

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HON VAN DEN HEEVER**

away with these items will be channeled to more needy areas of patient care. So in short this will be a continuous thing it has not time limit till we have been advised otherwise by the dieticians and nutritionists. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Dienda.

HON DIENDA: No, Honourable Speaker I am very much happy with the answer but I also want to ask the Honourable Minister and all other Ministers, can we also try to save costs through not buying newspapers for us sitting here to save costs not only for the patients. Thank you *(laughter)*.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Dienda, you are a long serving Member of the House but you forgot to submit your questions. Next is Honourable Jennifer Van Den Heever.

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: Thank you Honourable Speaker, it is your question. Honourable Speaker, I hereby give notice that on Wednesday the 20th March 2019 I shall ask the Minister of Safety and Security General, my favourite, as representatives of the people it is our duty to ensure that at all times that residences receive the quality of services which they are charged for whether it is water, proper sanitation and/or electricity. The constant complaint about electricity outages in small towns is quite worrying. I would therefore like to ask Honourable Namoloh.

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HON VAN DEN HEEVER**

- 1) Honourable Minister the General, are you aware that the Police Station in Rehoboth has been without electricity for some time now due to none payment?
- 2) Our Police Officers are working with torches there and it is very dangerous, what is the way forward established by your Ministry to address that issue?
- 3) What impact has this outage had on the day to day operation at the station because the telephones are not even working, is it business as usual?
- 4) Lastly, General has your Ministry looked at alternative such as backup generators?

I so submit.

HON SPEAKER: Let us move on. Notices of Motions? Messages from the Head of State? Oh yes? What are you standing for?

HON MURORUA: Honourable Speaker, it is a Motion not Message from the Head of State. Where are we now?

HON SPEAKER: Motions.

HON MEMBER: (Not on microphone).

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**PUBLIC ENTERPRISES GOVERNANCE BILL
HON JOOSTE**

HON MURORUA: No listen carefully. I move without notice that the Assembly grants leave of absence from today the 12th of March 2019 to Honourable Apius Auchab due to personal ill health. I so move.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes messages from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? So we are done.

The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION
PUBLIC ENTERPRISES GOVERNANCE BILL**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Consideration Public Enterprises Governance Bill.

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Public Enterprises move that the Assembly now goes into reconsider the Bill?

HON MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES : Good afternoon Comrade Speaker. I would like to beg the indulgence of the House to allow for the resumption of the reconsideration to be postponed till Friday to allow for further consultations, sorry Thursday, between the Minister of Justice and the Honourable Attorney General. So postponed till Thursday.

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**PUBLIC ENTERPRISES GOVERNANCE BILL
HON JOOSTE**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, until Thursday.

HON MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: Thank you Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Until Thursday so decided. Thank you.

The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND READING – ARMS
AND AMMUNITION AMENDMENT BILL [B.12 – 2018]**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – *Arms and Ammunition Amendment Bill* [B.12 – 2018].

HON SPEAKER: When this Assembly adjourned on Wednesday the 6th March 2018 the question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Deputy Minister of Safety and Security that the Bill be read a Second Time. The Honourable Muharukwa adjourned the debate and I now give him the floor.

HON MUHARUKUA: Thank you Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. Honourable Speaker, let me start by saying that the Firearms is property just like any other property, just like the cell phone that is mine or this pen that is mine. But I believe it is trite and it is common cause that the firearm is quite a dangerous property and hence we all agree that it

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must be regulated. We will agree that not all hands or not everyone should get their hands on ammunitions. There must be instances where ownership of such property should be limited in the interest of public or perhaps in the interests of that very own would-be owner. Yes for the interest of the public, it encompasses all of you but it is my view that one's right to own property should be inhibited minimally whatever regulations we put to such ownership of property should be absolutely necessary. Whatever prohibition or limitation we put should as far as practicable and as far as possible give value to the right for one to own property. The purpose of, I suppose for wanting to possess, operate, own a firearm would vary from person to person.

For some individuals it is a hobby collection, people who love collecting all sorts of firearms from 19... From 1904 there is such a firearm amongst us to maybe the 60s it is collected items for some. For some who operate in certain hostile environments, the firearm can mean the difference between life and death. I remember I used to say it here. I used to rent in a farm that borders Etosha and every second weekend or every third weekend that you go to the farm there would always be commotion in the kraal because the lions have come out of Etosha and the cattle are either smelling them or they are either threatening the cattle to jump out of the kraal so that they can catch them.

So for one, yes Honourable Shifeta it is true, I am talking about personal experience Honourable Shifeta, your animals are doing these things to us. Yes you are winning awards at our expense, congratulations by the way. Good gesture. So that is why I am saying owning a firearm at times can mean life and death. Of course if you are competent enough to use it because there is a difference in running out trying to chase a lion with a firestone or fire or firearm. In one instance if that lion is trying to come to you, you are dead because you do not have a firearm. But if you have a firearm there is an opportunity to live because you can defend yourself.

In other instances we have people who are in urban areas with all sorts of

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challenges who live in some instances in quite dangerous areas and individuals who are not physically strong and capable of defending themselves. Yes, even like myself or Honourable Nekundi for that matter he is weaker than me. Yes and if I do not want to use an example but (*intervention*).

HON SPEAKER: Is that a point of order? Can you wait for the microphone?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION: I just wanted to seek more clarity from the Honourable Members. Is it really unheard of from the African communities the Himbas included of someone to have killed a lion with an *asagai* and now that you are saying it is only with a gun strategy and allowed an *asagai*?

HON MUHARUKWA: Honourable Speaker, no, I have lived, in fact I was fortunate enough to have both my grandfathers die after 2010. So I have lived enough to hear their tales or I have lived with old enough people to hear the tales but I have not personally been present at a fight where we are fighting a lion with an *asagai*? I think in this modern day and age it would not be a very wise thing. I would advise you not to do it. We should let Honourable Shifeta to do that because he understands the lions better than us.

But be that as it may I was where I was saying we live in urban areas where a pebble person or a person that is not physically strong can be confronted by another person who either is stronger. I did not say pebble can be a male like the Honourable Kandjoze who is just sitting there. Let

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me use an example, if I am to say something against the Honourable Sankwasa I have stood next to the Honourable Sankwasa and if you stand next to him and he is a person that speaks with authority and he is angry. Someone who is my side speaking to the Honourable Sankwasa would switch the firearm next to me because you are intimidated. So it is not just against animals but where we live is, the world has become a dangerous place. Now by these submissions I am not for once suggesting that the Act is prohibition the ownership of licences however, I have reservations on a number of things that the Act professes to do or the Amendment Bill seems to want to do.

In that regard I am going to talk about maybe four cardinal things the rest of the things I believe at Committee Stage we can address. But one is the requirement for competency. Two is the variance prohibitions that the Amendment Bill Outlines and: Three is the reapplication process. The fourth one is a legal matter in terms of Section 10 but I will deal with that, that is the fourth matter.

Coming back to the first issue, we are requiring a person that owns a firearm to possess or to have a certain level of competency to do that. In my opinion an act of law should be addressing a gap in our lives, something that is wrong that we need to correct with regulations in order for us not to over regulate, in order for people to live their lives without or with the minimal involvement of the State or State Act.

Now to start with, what we mean by competency I am not sure because competency is such a wide term, it is sort of vague but the Amendment Bill just goes ahead and outlines various things that speaks to competency. But one thing that jumps to my mind when we are talking about competency to possess a firearm is that you must be trained to possess one. Now I can tell you, I possess a firearm. In fact I have never been to military training, I have never been to Police training and I am using myself as an example but I am sure, okay except for those who were in the liberation struggle of us who are seated here. Very few of us have, I am talking about either way, those ones that on the other side and the ones

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that are on the other side.

HON MEMBER: Honourable Fleermuys is looking at you.

HON MUHARUKWA: Yes Honourable Fleermuys was also part of it either way even Honourable Van Den Walt there who is not here, all of us. But the point is so many people in the people in the country who possess these things have not had that former training in owning firearms but I do not think the negligent use or the negligent operation or discharge of this property firearm is such a right problem that we should impose say for instance a specific level of training for individuals who own firearms or to own a firearm.

If you look, I do not know maybe the Ministry will bring us the start that informs to say that the negligence operation of firearms is more rife amongst individual who are not trained than those who are. From my experience and having been a Defence Attorney for I suppose medium term the negligent discharge of firearms is probably more rife amongst Police Officers and Defence Force Members and ordinary members of the public. Pretty much I can actually testify that 80% of the cases at Court for this offence I believe, of course speaking under correction because I have not done a study is probably more rife amongst those that are trained than those that are not. So when we are placing these emphasis is on training. I, of course training for me to get a clearance certificate that is the point (*intervention*).

HON SPEAKER: Yes point of order? Point of information?

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HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: It is actually a question. The Honourable Member made a statistical remark I just wanted him to clarify. Are you related to the percentage of cases of people being prosecuted for having discharges willfully because obviously then they have possessed or are you saying that the number of unintended discharge is high among them because we have statistics that relate to culpable homicide cases or convictions of murder or unlawful of excessive use of force but not necessarily for unintended discharge, which one are you referring to?

HON MUHARUKWA: I am referring to the former not unintended discharge. I am talking about the negligence of use of the thing so that is to say where the intention to do is there not when the *mens rea* is lacking, yes. My emphasis here is on when we require for one to get a firearm to have a clearance certificate. Now it is not to say that you know one should be able to go and buy a firearm without at all being acquainted with this specific object. Of course when one goes to buy you would have, for those of us who have fathers that are farmers and uncles that are farmers and perhaps mothers that have firearms. I am sure before that step is taken at home you would have heard that sort of training and it works so I do not know why we should over regulate it because this is my problem. At the moment you say you must have a clearance certificate that clearance certificate to me is probably more something like when you go to NITIS you drive, is it general debate, ha?

HON MEMBER: Competency Certificate.

HON MUHARUKWA: Competency Certificate, certainly yes thank you. Competency certificate under correction, yes. It is probably the same as when one would go to NITIS, passed out, you are cleared to drive now

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you get your driver's licence. The difference comes here, for me to get a driver's licence there is a manual that I must study and then of course there are Driving Schools that one goes to, to be able to, the manual is a requirement, the Driving School is a facility that is available to me to obtain that specific competence.

Now General, Honourable Minister of Safety and Security, his own safety and mine I suppose, for me to get that formal clearance if the competency is talking about my ability to operate the firearm if it relates to that then that means there must be a facility where I am going to be trained and in my poor understanding that facility can only be a shooting ranch or Honourable Shanghala's farm to handle. Then it is not clear. It is not clear that they are seeking clarity you can clarify since you are the Minister of Justice. So my question then would be, how many shooting ranches do we have in Namibia? Where are they located?

HON SPEAKER: No I think I would suggest, the Honourable Member get on with your presentation, ask questions, the Honourable Minister will respond later when the time comes not now. So you lay the ground for the argument and then leave it at that so that we can continue with other people.

HON MUHARUKWA: Okay thank. I think Honourable Minister that is directed to you but you can answer later. Yes so where are these ranches situated?

- 1) If one is seated in Rundu is there a shooting ranch in Rundu for the Rundu people to be able to get this training? Katima Mulilo, Oshakati, Opuwo where are these things seated that is one or are we just increasing the cost for one to be able to acquire this property that can enlighten them, the owner or the other person? That is one.

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- 2) Who owns them? In my experience guns, guns smiths or people close to them own shooting ranches. So if this Competency Certificate requires you to get this training it is not clear from here that is why I want clarity. If it would require that what that would mean is for me to get a firearm from a specific guns smiths first I must find the ammunition through the training, I must pay for their time to train me. Basically what you are going to do is whereas the cost for me to acquire a firearm was going to be N\$12,000 is going to escalate to N\$20,000 because of all these trainings that would precede me getting that.

So I think these Competency Certificates must be clarified and if it means training either to handle or to operate then I would propose as a matter of policy that the Ministry of Safety or Defence perhaps should avail facilities in our respective regions where civilians are able to obtain this sort of competency because you cannot place a requirement on someone and leaving to the dogs to acquire it.

I will move on to the second issues. It is the prohibition that the Amendment Bill proffers to put on people ownership of firearms. It is a host of them. Yes at Committee Stage we will deal with them but as a blanket the trend is if you have been convicted of X offence you are not a fit and proper person to possess. If you have been convicted of an offence and got a direct custodial sentence without an option of a fine you are not entitled. So if I got an offence say for instance a traffic ticket that you have not paid for the past 20 years and you get direct imprisonment which is possible so you cannot own a firearm because you were driving a vehicle.

Maybe we must clarify and two, I do not see a form of provision that says you are not after such conviction for X number of years, you are not entitled to get that licence, you are not even proper. Basically if you were convicted in 1990 or 1991 of slapping someone, it is one of the issues, slapping someone because where an offence has a violent element for slapping someone or maybe I went and I pleaded guilty because I knew

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that ah the fine will be N\$300,00 and I will get it out of the way instead of me wasting my time coming to Court all the time and paying a lot of lawyers' fees that is a violent offence but maybe I will not give. It is enough you cannot own a firearm. The circumstances that is what I am talking about, it is automatic, you slapped someone or you pushed someone so you cannot own a firearm. I think we must be really careful about when we regulate not to over regulate. There must be sort of rehabilitation. What law is it that we are proffering that does not have any form of forgiveness? If you were (*intervention*).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member please could you conclude?

HON MUHARUKUA: Yes I am concluding. There is no form of, what is this? Is it atonement? You know there is no pardon for life if you were convicted of an offence when you were 18 years old or 20 years old when you are 40 you still cannot buy a firearm even when you own a firearm next to Etosha. I think it is quite draconian to regulate in that fashion.

Finally, or second to final is the requirement for reapplication, your licence when you own a firearm is now we are proffering that it must last for five years and then after five years you must come back and reapply, why? What wrong is that proffering to address? We have people that have owned firearms since 1990, why should they reapply and not only that, not only is it like a burden on a person or a cost on a person but what it does is in my view it will proliferate people having their guns illegally because of the bottlenecks at the Police Stations. Currently (*intervention*).

HON SPEAKER: Is that a question?

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HON VENAANI: On a point of (indistinct), let me ask the Honourable Member a question. Given the facts that you have given do you remember a few probably a month or two ago there was an ordeal in the City Centre that nearly took my wife.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: Conflict of interest?

HON VENAANI: Yes and, no it is not conflict of interest. How do we pick up these people that would use these firearms in a wrong way if we do not give them a time to reapply?

HON MUHARUKWA: Yes I think that is the question that must go not necessarily to say those that, but were entitled, that are entitled should all be presumed to either be the same or being incapable. I think that duty lies with the Ministry. Let me give you an example, if I am declared, the old English word, I believe is also politically correct. Yes in saying what is the new word for insanity? Mentally incapacity, mentally incapable, if I am declared mentally incapable it is the Ministry's job to every month go to the Ministry of Health and Social Services get a register of the people that are mentally, yes and flake out those who own firearms on that list who should not own them. Instead of expecting 200,000 people to reapply every five years because five people have been declared incapable. I still have five minutes Honourable.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Speaker?

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HON SPEAKER: No, no, please hang on. No please try and conclude. You tend to repeat yourself so much, please.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Speaker, my question was by parity of reasoning if we look at the number of registered tax payers in Namibia, is that the duty of the tax payers to pay tax or is it the duty of the tax man to go and collect the tax by parity of reasoning because he is using the numbers? Which one do you think Honourable Members and does the Honourable Member in his response want to clarify what the civic duty and obligation would be?

HON MUHARUKWA: Honourable Shanghala (*intervention*).

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, I think let us proceed with your argument. Lay them out. Let the Minister respond.

HON MUHARUKWA: Without answering?

HON SPEAKER: You can deal with that briefly please.

HON MUHARUKWA: Honourable Speaker, I mean look (*intervention*).

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HON SPEAKER: Actually to be honest with you, no let me. Since you are questioning me, sit down. Let me repeat, honestly speaking you tend to repeat yourself and that is one of the reasons why you never find time to conclude. Please have a go now.

HON MUHARUKWA: Honourable, did I tell you Speaker I think the Speaker is trying to bully me but okay I succumb to the bullying. Honourable Shanghala you are comparing apples and pears. You see, ha?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: They are all fruits.

HON MUHARUKWA: Yes they are all fruits but we are talking gun and you are talking about money and there is a duty on you to give your tax money yes that is true. What we are talking about here is my right to own property which property is a firearm and everybody in the country should be taxed not everybody in the country has guns. But be that as it may, if five people have been and there is another process, if five people have been declared unfit and they have guns the Ministry should be able to pick that up and there is a second process. The second process is the courts. If Section 10 which is also dealt with here, if you have been convicted of an offence where there is a firearm involved there is a specific enquiry that is done to declare you unfit for a specific period. So there are modalities that are there.

Yes perhaps certain things must be changed but to say that 200,000 people must after every five years go and apply or even 50,000 or even 30 or even 10 just to be able to get (*intervention*).

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HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: What about your car which you said you registered?

HON MUHARUKUA: Yes but you do not re-register your car every year, no you do not. So that is one aspect. Okay the final aspect Honourable Speaker is Section 10 and this Section I think or what I am going to address is probably more specific or that are addressed during Committee Stage and that is experience that we leave the courts to fend for themselves when it comes to conducting these enquiries of declaring people unfit. I think and most of the time it is the Lower Courts that have to deal with yes I know I am speaking about Section 10 of the main Act which is also dealt with here. Most of the time the courts are faced with this Section is the Lower Court.

It is my opinion but I think you must give guidelines. You must give guidelines as to the specific thing that the courts must look at in order for them to assess whether or not this person should in fact be declared or the number of things that courts should accept as reasons not to declare the person unfit. Hypothetically if a soldier has been convicted because of negligence that involves a firearm during duty should a court take the fact that he is a soldier as a reason and say no actually we are not going to declare you unfit because you are going to lose your job or maybe a security guard or she did not. I think guidance from Parliament is needed there. It is a problem that one was faced with during the time, thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Nekundi.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. Before I say what I want to say possibly the Honourable who just finished does not recognize that the misuse of guns in this country has really taken lives of Namibians. I think one must first recognize how much guns are misused and as lawmakers I really feel that we have that moral and constitutional obligation to protect the lives of Namibians at all costs using the rule of law in this country. On a daily basis or weekly basis people are dying through the barrel of a gun and I see no reason why we should not introduce serious measures in terms of the laws that we must enact in this very august House in order to curb the unnecessary loss of innocent lives in our country which we are proud to call peace loving nation.

Comrade Speaker, that being said I really want to go straight to the element in the Bill. I would like to start with page 7, Section 2 Sub Section 4, I would like this Bill to replace the word 'if renewable' with 'may be renewable', I am saying that so that it does not provide for a legal gap that could be challenged because my understanding in application of the legal gap once you say 'if renewable' it shall therefore be construed that it is renewable therefore you cannot defuse the renewable. Therefore I submit that it must be 'may be renewable'. I submit as such. Those who want to argue differently the platform will be provided for that, no problem Honourable Speaker.

Again on page 7, Section 2 (*intervention*).

HON SPEAKER: Yes on the point of order.

HON MUHARUKWA: I thought the Honourable Minister of Justice would ask the question. Honourable Member if you use the word 'may be renewable' do you not think that gives you the choice of whether or not to

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apply for renewable? No if you say 'may be renewable' then that discretion then lies on me whether or not to apply for renewable.

HON SPEAKER: Okay.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: Honourable Speaker there I want to advise my Honourable Learned Colleague to read the sentence in totality. The sentence only provides that the licence is valid for five year, period. Therefore that validity of the licence that period is set as such. Now the matter here now is the renewability, is it 'if' of 'may be renewed', 'if' means it must be renewed, 'may be' means it has lapsed now when you apply who must renew it, should he give it or should have the discretion in terms of the requirements that he or she may refuse to renew that. So that is the element of such that and now it is cleared you can consult me over tea.

HON SPEAKER: I am happy you are consulting over a cup of tea.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: Yes he is coming, as usual he does that, as usual. The next one Honourable Speaker is on page 7 Section 2, Sub Section 2(b), Clause (c), it takes that a person may apply in terms of Section 3:1 "*A person may apply in terms of Section 3:1 for a licence to possess an arm or in terms of Section 2(a) for a Competency Certificate if that person if that person is fit to possess a firearm*". My understanding to that is that the competency is that that must be deleted in entirety the whole sentence because the essence of that Clause is exactly provided for in Clause (d) up to Clause (o). so that will

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be my submission that that whole sentence must be removed because it is only covered in the Sub Section thereof.

The next one Honourable Speaker, I suggest that for the purposes of the application both the competency and licence to possess a firearm in Clause 2 we should insert a Clause which makes provision for public objection against the issuance of the competency or licence to possess a firearm. So as somebody might be from a village or somewhere else and this guy is very ruthless in terms of deducing the firearms or whatever this person is, just somebody who is violent in society so the community because this person is going to cause the danger in the community so the public will be given the opportunity to object to this person. I so submit Comrade Speaker in terms of that particularly.

Then we go on page 8, Clause (j) and (k) of Sub Section 2(b) that we delete the part which states, *“and sentenced to a period of imprisonment without the option of a fine”*. Comrade Speaker (j) is on page 8, (j) and (k) so I really want my position is that has not been convicted whether in or outside Namibia of an offence involving the abuse of alcohol. So would it be the application that he is only somebody who has been sentenced without an option of a fine that that person is reckless in using a gun?

Certainly now and I do not think that it is only such a person. So my position is the sentencing should not be a pre-condition. So whether you were in prison or not imprisoned or without an option, as long as you have been convicted, whether you have been convicted of fine only or imprisonment so that should just be a standard. We should not wait for somebody to commit it as dependency and seeing that that is the only person who can let me deal with the gun.

The next one is Clause, on page 8 Sub Section 2 or Sub Section 2(b) replace the word ‘there’ with ‘and’ leaving, which states here that, *“an offence referred to in the Sub Section 1 includes any conspiracy, incitement or attempt to commit the offence”* which if you say the offence

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that means it is a known offence. So here I therefore refer to ‘an offence’ so that that offence is generalized not ‘an offence’ because otherwise if we say ‘the offence’ therefore the offence must be known in the Bill or in the Act what is that particular offence. No I am saying then you must say which one. It must then stipulates which one is the offence because there are a number of offences here. Which one is there, the offence.

Honourable Speaker, on page 10, Section 5, Sub Section 7(b) I tell it 2, that Clause should only be applicable if the State has usage need for such a firearm. What if such is a shotgun or any other gun that the State does not use? We must be mindful that it is not the State’s fault for the none renewability. As such the burden cannot be placed on the part that has not been rated the burden of non renewability. I hope you understand.

On page 10 on top there, there is (b)(ii) it says that, *“if a firearm could not be sold in accordance”* because the selling is now by the State, *“with Sub Paragraph 1, actually (i) or 1 paid over an amount equal to the fair market value after deduction of the said expenses to the Applicant contemplated in paragraph (a) whereafter such arms or ammunition shall become the property of the State”*. So that cannot be placed on the State because for the licence that is to be renewed is not because of the State so therefore the burden thereof cannot be placed on the State. If there is no buyer there is no buyer for it but you are not fit to use that firearm so therefore we cannot place the burden on the State. The same page Section 6, there should be a Clause to provide for the custody of the firearms during the said period. The issue of copy of the same loss or stolen licence, permit or document, so during that period the person should submit the firearms for safekeeping until that his licence is being sorted out.

HON MUHARUKWA: (Not on microphone).

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: So can you have a copy of the licence?

HON MUHARUKWA: It does not (not on microphone).

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: Okay no problem I will sit after I am done. Honourable Speaker, on page 11, Section 7 Sub Section 1(a) should include the Interim Protection Order not only the final order. we have at most have realized that after this Interim Protection Order the persons or the perpetrators do then go and commit the actual killing and as a result I suggest that that should be applied. I also suggest that we insert a provision which shall hold any person reliable. If such a person bears the knowledge that a person who possesses a firearm affirm to act as contemplated in Section 7 Sub Section a, b, c, d, e and f and such persons fail to report such acts to the law enforcement that such provision should carry a penalty of imprisonment a fine or both. Yes you must have that obligation. On this one I am seeking the clarity. I am thinking twice on Sub Section 2(b) Clause (b) as to what is implied by the *phrase "except for members of the service"* just hold on. Where they say that the members of the service, it should be 7, no. It is where there is 'members of the service' can you get it for me?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: On page?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: On page 7, yes thank you very much Comrade Sacky Shanghala. It is on page 7, I am just seeking clarity where it says, "*a person may apply in terms of Section*

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3:1 for a licence to possess an arm or in terms of Section 2(a) for a Competency Certificate if that person is 18 years of age or older except for members of the services". I am trying to seek clarity because it is not a service pistol it is a private pistol, I just want to seek clarity why such person should not have been required to acquire one for their personal guns or firearms.

The next one is that I am seeking clarity if the Act makes provision for the revocation of any licence at any time. Can the licence be revoked at any time? I am now seeking clarity in terms of that. Equally does the Act need provision for a member of the public to any time apply to the Inspector General of any person to be requested for proper and fit to possess a firearm. Yes you will come and answer Honourable General.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: My answer there will be (indistinct).

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: No, that one is something I cannot find in here. I am seeking clarity whether there is any provision in the Act that is the provision for any member of the public if I see that Honourable Fleermuys in my mind I no longer fit can I apply or can I inform the General to reevaluate this person. I am just asking is there such a provision and I understand so yes.

The next one Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members my last one here is that another factor I wish to propose for this amendment is to insert a provision that will re-professionalize guns control and its Police work in terms of control and crime investigation. This is to make mandatory for guns tracking technology as the system will have the capacity to exactly show where the gun is, when the gun is fired, how many rounds are fired, which way the firearm is pointing to and it is even drawn from the holster.

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The system will enable the cops know where every gun is that has been used in a crime. They could also know who had a gun and who does not every crime call.

In addition if count one losses a gun or has one stolen the gun owner or the Police could easily track it down. Honourable Members I can assure you with the provision of this system our Police investigation would be incredible to the extent that even in a shootout between two parties the Police will know who pulled the gun out of the holster first or which way it was pointed or who shot first. The absolute fact in presentation of evidence in the court our Police will be able to produce enough scientific evidence to solve many crimes and cases involving the usage of firearms. It is actually right, our Police would potentially track criminals a lot quicker than they currently do. With that Honourable Speaker, I support the Bill. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Next is Honourable Kooper.

HON KOOPER: Thank you Honourable Speaker, I want to give the chance for contribution to Honourable Lucia Iipumbu who has an engagement outside of Parliament now and then come afterwards if possible.

HON SPEAKER: Okay let me continue with, next is the Honourable Iipumbu.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALIZATION AND SME DEVELOPMENT: Thank you Honourable Speaker, thank you Honourable Kooper. Honourable Speaker, I stand to make my contribution to the Arms and Ammunition Amendment Bill. However, the subject matter I want to talk about is not provided for in the Bill and I believe it should be provided for in the regulations in terms of acquiring and owning a firearm or a gun. I know it is a standard requirement that one should have a say where one can keep a gun or a revolver, a pistol safe in whatever environment, dwelling, office or wherever one protects such a gun.

I want to tie that and my contribution is also bringing in the Ministry of Works that is responsible for air trust transportation because Air Namibia of recent introduced a requirement that any person travelling with a gun or a firearm is required to carry a safe to the Airport and to carry that gun in the safe irrespective of whether you are a law enforcement officer I believe it is a requirement. In the first place I did not see an advert to that effect in terms of that new requirement that is being enforced specifically on the domestic rules. My question is, if one has to carry a safe I believe in the public eyes it is giving a scary message that we are sending out and it is my understanding that if one needs to make use of the facilities of Air Namibia in my understanding I believe it should be Air Namibia who should arrange for safes in their aircrafts or whatever medium of transport that they are transporting people so that they make sure they are safe.

I am just imagining a situation where the ten law enforcement officers are boarding a plane and each one of them brings along a safe and for argument sake is a shot gun or a bigger gun not a revolver or a pistol and we all know they must emphasize of a tap thereof, what message will we be sending to the other customers that are being transported in the same aircraft and would Air Namibia have space on their aircraft for ten or fifteen officers, yes General but the question has got to do with the ammunitions of which you are regulating.

I believe maybe there should be a common understanding between the

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Ministry responsible for Safety and Security and the Ministry of Transport to make arrangements that Air Namibia yes it is a requirement it is a statutory requirement worldwide that we should safes where to keep those guns but Air Namibia is the one who should make those arrangements and not the passengers to carry safes from their homes to the aircraft and back and forth which I believe is not a conducive arrangement. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Next is the Honourable Karupu.

HON KARUPU: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I rise to add my voice to those who have already contributed to this very important piece of legislation. As much as we all know that there might be some improvement being made in this piece of legislation and my view this Bill addresses a lot of issues that will, as this is an amendment, make the work of our law enforcement agency especially the Police very easy. In this country we have got a proliferation of small arms and light weapons, yes light weapons these and so on. Small arms are AK47 and so on. If you do not know let me teach you.

HON MEMBER: You are a PLAN Combatant?

HON KARUPU: Yes I am a PLAN Combatant I know types of arms. Honourable Speaker, this piece of legislation is talking about managing and even inspecting the premises such as aircrafts, even the cars, the farms, houses or those who involve themselves in brokering in elicit gunsmiths in the country. Gunsmiths means those who are dealing with

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arms maybe I have to make it very simple, dealing with arm trails or those who are improving arms or changing arms you see those gunsmiths. They are doing it illegally in the country. They are selling guns. Some are facilitating the sale of guns as the Honourable Ipinge recently said referring to the airports, some of our aerodromes, we know that aerodromes means (intervention). Yes listen aerodromes means as Honourable Ipinge it means in this country we have got many airstrips that are used by former South African defence. Yes aerodromes means airstrips, small, listen Honourable Muharukwa this is not law this is military, listen to me who knows the military things. We are speaking the military language now.

HON SPEAKER: On a point of order.

HON MUHARUKUA: Honourable Speaker, two point on point of information. I think we are dealing with the law on firearms not making war that is one. Two, I was actually, Honourable, going to ask for clarity, what do the drones have to do with safes?

HON KARUPU: Aerodromes, Aero means airport or airstrips that is what it means.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, you may continue.

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HON KARUPU: Thank you very much. We have got those aerodromes in a country that are not being manned and at some of the aerodromes private aircrafts are landing there and h to search those facilities and with this law if we pass it, it will now enable them to go and search because these private aeroplanes might bring in weapons that might be used by some of our citizens in committing crimes as it was said by many who have spoken. That is why I am supporting him although there might be some improvements made as I have started. Honourable Speaker, I made my case and I thank you for the floor.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Uutoni Nujoma.

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Thank you Comrade Speaker, I simply rise to give my support to this very important Amendment Bill tabled by the Deputy Minister, of course the Minister himself. I think my point of departure is that really once we amend any piece of legislation its intentions must be to ease the work of the Police particularly this Bill and also the administrative procedures. I do not want to see a Bill that will add a burden and we have to be careful always when, of course we are aware there is an over proliferation of weapons here in this country and on various occasions when I visited these arms shops you will find young people there some of them just looking at the weapons and then you ask a young man of this age some are not even 18 years but they take the more sophisticated weapons and looking and admiring these weapons. so the question is, for what? Not only that, they are interested in looking at these dangerous weapons.

Secondly, we have this domestic violence, gender based violence, brutality against women and all these things. So I think it is important that we need to take measures but also learn from the other countries. Maybe these things have not reached us yet but you will find young people taking

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these guns and shooting other young people in the United States almost every time and these young people will go into a classroom shoot maybe twenty to thirty people. These are real challenges. So when we are addressing these types of issues we need to be serious and consider the implications, the ramification of these issues. When the Police are trying to establish measures not to over regulate, we must also on the other hand balance, over regulations, the over bureaucratize the issues so that we cannot handle them at a later stage then you have suddenly 300 applications you cannot handle them or 400 application. So my plea is to the Minister while I support all this, is we must not over regulate we need to be careful because sometimes we are keen to introduce new laws and later on we cannot keep up like the ratification we ratify in this Parliament tomorrow we cannot comply with the obligations. Today I want to be a rationale to be rationale in my (laughter), yes.

HON MEMBER: (Not on microphone).

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: But I have always been rationale. You see I have been telling the process leading up to the Land Conference, I was telling my colleagues, "*Come let us sit down*" I was rationale there it is more important. So colleagues while I support the Police let us look at the issue of the applications as well, I mean the five years we can also maybe increase it maybe to seven years or ten years whatever but make it extremely difficult that the process of acquiring the weapons must not be easy. Competency testing it does not mean you have to go to a shooting range, it must determine whether you, even in your own house you are rationale. You do not shout at your wife, you do not threaten her verbally and all those things counts. When you are in Parliament you are not angry (laughter) one thing. How do we know that tomorrow you do not come here with a weapon?

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HON SPEAKER: Is that a point of order? Yes.

HON MUHARUKWA: I want to ask the Honourable Member a question. If that is the requirement I believe would it not then be the case that Honourable Nghaamwa, Honourable behind there sorry I forgot the name, are the only people that will be able to have firearms in this Parliament (*laughter*)?

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Yes if the country will be safer then let it be. We see young people, these aspiring politicians are just angry (*laughter*). We cannot entrust weapons Honourable Dienda, angry. So future politicians please let us also set examples, Honourable Fleermuys, let us set an example of rationality, reasonableness so that we do not instill these things, these small things start, angry and angry without thinking you take the firearm. Now Comrade Speaker that was my small contribution, I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Ithete.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I will try my best not to be angry at all we are just advised that young people should not be angry especially on the floor of Parliament. I have realized that the countries have mainly have illegal guns all over. We have learnt this from reports when one is arrested doing robberies there and then they are always found with illegal guns. I therefore propose that this amnesty that is always has been given by the Ministry of Safety and Security that it should be an ongoing process, it

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should not stop for us to collect all those illegal guns. I think they are still around our houses all over the country but people sometimes are scared to bring them because they will be questioned. So if that amnesty can continue then we will collect more and remove them from the society. That is my only contribution Honourable Speaker, thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: In some countries this question of getting people to bring in illegal arms when they return these guns are they given some incentives, something in return? I just wonder whether that will influence more people to do so. Anyway I will leave it at that. Next on my list is the Honourable Dr Mushelenga please.

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I rise to add my voice to those that support the amendment Bill to the Arms. First I would like to register my support to imposing a limit on the years of the gun licence. So I am hereby differing with my learned colleague from the other side because we all know that when one applies for a gun they go, they make an assessment, they check your fingerprints and so forth but once you acquire a gun you may end up committing some acts that ordinarily will not qualify you to be granted a gun licence if you are applying for it at that time and with too many rights that our people are aware of it is not just easy to say because you became violent we are going to withdraw your gun, it is not easy. But Rule in terms of gun licence it will become possible to control those that are to be found wanting not to have been granted this licence and it should be made explicitly clear that if you previously possess a gun with a licence and you apply and you are refused you must surrender that gun. The issue of test was elaborated by my colleague Honourable Nujoma. That the test should not only mean that you should go to the shooting range and so forth, comprehensive assessment can be made whereby even your family members can be

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interviewed whether you are fit to possess the firearm, that is now in respect of domestic violence.

Now the issue of people that can be mentally disturbed and it will be dangerous for them to possess weapons one of the Honourable Members here spoke about the Police should be going to the hospital. I want to make it the other way round that it should be made obligatory for the hospital institutions for them when they receive patients that would be violent it should be made obligatory for them to report to the Safety and Security so that they can check if these people are among those that have been granted firearms. It should be an obligation if the hospital authorities fail to do that, if the hospital authorities fail to do that (*intervention*).

HON SPEAKER: A point of order here?

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Yes.

HON SPEAKER: Wait for the light, okay.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN OFFICE OF PRESIDENT RESPONSIBLE FOR DISABILITIES: Yes thank you Speaker. I am terribly sorry Dr Peza Mushelenga for disturbing you but I would just like to maybe make a point of correction in terms of human rights of people that you call mentally disturbed. That is derogatory and we will rather call them people with psycho social disability. Thank you.

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HON SPEAKER: That is a correction.

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

Thank you for the correction. Honourable Member is well vested with these terminologies she being a Social Work student so psycho what again?

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT
RESPONSIBLE FOR DISABILITIES:** Psycho social disabilities.

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

Psycho social disabilities, but now these psycho social disabilities should also be carefully assessed. Now to come to law but I also want to tell the Honourable Member that if you check the Criminal Procedure Act it talks of mental hospitals and that is how I will refer to them not a psycho social. Now being an admitted Attorney I will stick to what I have read in the Criminal Procedure Act. Now when you come to the mental hospitals one may end up in a mental hospital for various reasons. Maybe you may have lost a close person and just maybe depression so it is not automatic that when the Safety and Security is told that (*intervention*).

HON SPEAKER: Point of order please.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT
RESPONSIBLE FOR DISABILITIES:** But Dr Mushelenga should

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maybe also be cognisant of the fact that we as the Member States country have ratified the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities and we should also be consistent with that and to that effect we should also work towards repealing our laws that are derogatory. Thank you.

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

Thank you. I made a distinction, for people I say people with psycho social called them as Honourable Member is saying but for the hospital it is called the mental that is what the Act says unless and until it is repealed. I stood in this Parliament and took an oath to uphold, protect and defend the constitution and the laws of the Republic of Namibia and I took an oath as the Legal Practitioner of the High Court when I got admitted to protect and defend those laws and these are the terms of that law so I am not taking it from myself.

Now in a mental hospital a person can go there for other reasons not because a person will be violent so therefore we must be careful that if the Ministry of Safety and Security receive reports from a mental hospital it does not mean everyone who went there should now be disqualified. I think that should just be made clear.

Honourable Minister, it is one thing to say a person after having been assessed competency test and so forth should not be granted a licence that is one thing. But it is another thing also to speak about a person lawfully possessing an arm that does not necessarily belong to him or her. I know for the soldiers and for the police when you apply you go through some checkups and they check whether you are able to be in the force. I doubt if these requirements are really applying and if they are applicable are really being observed by security companies. I may not perhaps be fit in terms of the assessment of competency test to possess the licence for the firearm but maybe when I go and look for a job in a security company I will have access to that firearm whereas ordinarily I would not have qualified myself and I go to the injury.

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Perhaps Honourable Minister also looks at the way how we monitor and control security companies who (indistinct) our rights to carry firearms whether they really meet these requirements that are applicable because if you are unable to get a licence or a gun you should also not be able to carry this (*intervention*).

HON SPEAKER: Point of order?

HON IIVULA-ITHANA: Yes on a point of order Comrade Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Minister a question.

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:
Accepted.

HON IIVULA-ITHANA: Yes Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Member is referring to this armed forces, I call them armed forces for lack of a better word because even those who are guarding homes and what note and companies carry guns. If the test whichever they go through is anything really to rely upon does the Honourable Minister know incidences of either based on gender based violence or just violence in society in general carried out by either soldiers, police and these other forces?

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:
Honourable Speaker, many actually the first person I have ever seen

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committing domestic violence was a member of the armed forces before independence the SWARTEF, beating a wife openly there at Oshiwambo. Yes and we still have members of the uniformed forces who are involved in domestic violence. That is undeniable. So I was continuing to say other than the Members of the armed forces and other security personnel from security companies. They should really be assessed that if you are unable to obtain a licence to carry a gun it is equally that you should not be operating with a gun. With these words I support the Amendment Bill.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Next is the Honourable Shapwa.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I would love to support the amendment to the Arms and Ammunition Amendment Bill 2019. I see it is written 2018 I hope Comrade Kashikola will take that note it is supposed to be 19, I think. I think it is very important that we have reached this point of controlling the arms and ammunition in this country because they are the cause of loss of many lives especially young lives these days. My contribution is on Section 5 Sub Section 7 on the options that are given when one is refused for the licence to be renewed and I would love to propose a third option on that because I do not understand why if my application for renewal is refused then what is (*interruptions*).

No I forgive him he does not know it. The only two options there is that the State or the Minister may sell the arms or ammunition so refused on that application, ammunition sorry.

HON SPEAKER: Ammunition?

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: It is the Queen's language which is very far from my language. And the second option is actually that the arms could be sold. Now I am saying can I not be given an opportunity or an option to donate it if my application is refused, either to donate it to my beneficiary who qualifies who meets the requirements. Now once it is refused that is the end and we know arms are quite valuable assets in families and we want to keep them sometimes and now when I reapply it is not necessarily that I expect that my application is going to be refused. When it is refused should I just leave it to the Minister to either sell or give me some money which I may not necessarily want that I want to keep in the family and I want to give it to my daughter? Of course I would want to give it to daughters because they handle them better than sons. So this is really my problem and I want to propose that we have a third option on that. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Next is the Honourable Kavekatora.

HON KAVEKOTORA: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I also want to make some contributions to this very important Amendment Bill. Honourable Speaker, I also on a lighter note I want to congratulate Honourable Utoni whatever happened and whatever transpired I want you to keep it up (*laughter*).

Honourable Speaker, now coming back to the Bill my first comment to the Honourable Minister General is the question of problem definition and I think a number of Honourable Members made comments to that fact and that is a question of when one is introducing amendments to a Bill it must have a desired results and that comes to my point of saying that it is very important for one to define a problem prudently so that the outcome is actually equating to the problem that has been identified. In my view as other Honourable Members have said, I need to make sure that at the end

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of the day whatever we do we eliminate crimes that are caused by firearms, that should be the overarching objectives and I think that is something that one has to make as a test. If I make these amendments would they take me towards elimination of crime committed by firearms and I think that should be the test, with firearm.

Now the other observation is about regulating the formal market and I am saying this is the informal market because you have a situation for instance I read a statement in South Africa or a research that was conducted in South Africa where they have regulated the tobacco industry to the limit but the end result was basically just a mushrooming of the informal sector because what happened to the formal sector will have an impact on the informal sector and that might also be the case in the issue of cannot control and what a view. You might minimize the impact of the licence formal market but then you have a mushrooming of guns in the informal market. So that is something that one has to look into, the impact of that.

Now the other issue also, it looks like the amendment I am talking about addressing the issues of the private citizens but I also have an issue about the arms for the armed forces, the police, the army and the likes that sometimes even when it comes to the training and I do not know what is actually happening there. Sometimes you find that the policeman or a policewoman does not really know how to handle a firearm. I observed on two occasions where a policeman and in both occasions they were men, were trying to handle a firearm and it was a pistol normally when you shoot the first shot a pistol automatically corks itself but the Police were at the same time corking the pistol. In other words the second bullet was just falling without being fired because corking basically means now you are removing it because the thing was already corked. So I think it is also an issue where the police need to be retrained in the use of firearms.

HON MEMBER: And bodyguards?

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HON KAVEKOTORA: We do not have bodyguards as yet and I understand you want to run as an independent candidate (laughter). The Bill is also talking about to get a clearance certificate which is fine and again you are referring to the people who want to follow the law and the people who do not want to follow the law are not subjected to a clearance certificate because you would not know that. I believe that also the use of firearms or (*intervention*).

HON MEMBER: Yes said clearance what?

HON KAVEKOTORA: I said that the Clearance Certificate that the Bill is talking about will apply to those people who want to follow the law and to the criminals the people who are acquiring arms in a fraudulent way will not be subjected to a clearance certificate, whatever, competency certificate. Honourable Minister I also believe that in the abuse of firearms is also linked to some other abuses including alcohol abuse and I think it is something that you have to be linked one way or another because in some instances where a normal person and when I am talking about a person normal I am not referring to somebody who has not consumed alcohol. A firearm is in some instances also a deterrent. When you have a firearm and Honourable Iiyambo comes to fight you sometimes you would rather run away from the fight because you know the damages you will call to Honourable Iyambo. So sometimes firearms can also be deterrent in that respect.

Now coming to the Bill on page 16, it talks about unauthorized referring of firearms Chapter 5(a) and I think here we have to be very specific because to refer a firearm would deem many things.

1. Sometimes it is just the wood that is broken and if the wood now you want to wrap it with something that constitutes the repair of firearm or what.

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2. It is also very experience to repair a firearm. So I think maybe one has to be very specific in terms of what is it that we are talking about when we talk about repairing of firearm because if every single item that breaks on your rifle, pistol or revolver has to be subjected to a licence dealer to go and repair it, it is going to be very expensive.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: (Not on microphone).

HON KAVEKOTORA: I understand you have to reply afterwards so just wait. The other issue here is on the issue of page 24 Honourable General you talk about inherited firearm 41(c):1(a) which says that, "*A person who intends to keep an arm (it is about an inherited arm) as an inheritance from a holder of an arm licence who is deceased must (a) In writing inform the Inspector General of such intention within 30 days after the registration of the estate of the deceased person at the Master of the High Court*". I do not know whether every single individual in Namibia who owns a firearm and who died is actually the estate is subjected to registration with the Master of High Court. I think there is a certain threshold at which those things are subjected to the Master of High Court so I think if the amount perhaps is below N\$100,000 and the person owns a firearm we will have a problem with this law because the firearm will not reach the Master of High Court for the Master of High Court to do whatever needs to be done. So I want you to look into that as well. Those are my few comments the rest I will deal with at the Committee Stage, thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. The Honourable Kooper. I know there was, you were extremely kind to your dear colleague. You are done you had your opportunity to speak in order to attend to some urgent business

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now it is the turn for the Honourable Kooper. You have the floor.

HON KOOPER: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. honourable Speaker, Honourable Members allow me to present an idea for consideration on the Motion regarding the Arms and Ammunition Bill which is aimed at amending the Arms and Ammunition Act, Act No.7 of 1996 as tabled by Honourable Daniel Kashikola. It is evident that arms controlling is on everyone's mind at the moment. Could better arms and ammunition help control gender based killings? Will it help in ending the elephant and rhino slaughter in Namibia? In most arms and ammunition shops it has become a culture to hand a poster with the following statement, "Guns do not kill people, people kill people". I say this is fallacious. We need to make sure that our minds are emotionally clear. Before having a discussion which is not disrespectful to victims of a tragedy to discuss possible ways that might avoid similar tragedies, I say guns make it a lot easier for people to kill people and in great numbers. My proposal today in this statement in all arms and ammunition retail is a plea to this House and this statement is misleading, deceptive and illusive.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the rates of poaching have increased dramatically where are those weapons coming from thus allowing these conflicts to continue. Which types of arms and ammunition are used in these incidences? Military style rifles are cheaper in this country and large scale poachers tend to prefer hunting rifles with their long range and ability to take down an elephant or rhinos with a single shot but as far as rifles and light machine guns are really growing in popularity especially among the highly organized poaching groups and military style weapons are cheaper so as the ammunition and if were to come by then hunting rifles stiffer controlling of the trade of arms and ammunition can help control poaching. I am convinced that the incidence involving poaching can be avoided, if the trading aspect of the price of the arms and ammunition are reviewed.

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Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, with these few words I improve on the Motion tabled and support it. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Sacky Shanghala you have the floor.

HON SHANGHALA: Comrade Speaker, I did not quite get the way your pronounced my name today and I too will not be angry (laughter). Comrade Speaker I just want to, before I make my comments, I would just like to correct one thing that the Honourable Kavekatora said and I think this is important education for everybody. Every estate must be reported to the Master, period. Every, listen to me, every estate must be reported to the Master and I have opportunity to commit an unlawful act here and call the Master and confirm while I was on the floor here and if you do not believe that then the reading of this Bill now compels you also if there is a firearm in that estate to register that estate. So it is a discussion where you are taken nowhere because of the importance of regulating firearms.

I wanted to begin my contribution to the Motion by saying I support it and I want to recite some statistics for the benefit of the House NAMPOL reports that in 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively there were 196 cases, 217 cases, 222 cases a total of 635 attempted murders with firearm in the Republic of Namibia reported. For the same years 2013, 2014, 2015 NAMPOL reports that there were 55, 38 and 54 respectively a total of 147 cases of murders which have been investigated by the police.

HON KAVEKOTORA: And illegal orders.

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HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Excuse me?

HON MUHARUKUA: And illegal orders are that.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: No I did not get to that detail yet but whether legal or not the point we are trying to make is that these firearms in the hands of human beings are harm to other human beings mortally.

HON MUHARUKUA: (Not on microphone).

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: The percentage of?

HON SPEAKER: Is that a point of order?

HON MUHARUKUA: Thank you Honourable Speaker, I think when one is making an analysis of the probability of firearms causing that you have to weight it against the number of firearms that you have in the country. If you take the percentage of the offences that is being alleged versus the total number of firearms in the country what is the ratio, how many percentages? It is probably less than 1%.

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HON SPEAKER: Yes Honourable Member.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I want to admit Honourable Muharukwa that it is not that high as percentage for example comparable with car accidents but one death is one death to many. One life lost is one life to many that is the point I am making and I am making this point Speaker because part of my portfolio is to report on our compliance with the international instruments that we are obliged to observe and it goes to the issue of human rights and yesterday I had the pleasure of showing the podium with Honourable Idah Hoffmann at a gender based violence discussion at the University of Namibia.

Looking to the reports commissioned by the Legal Assistance Centre of Namibia it is clear that firearms are an instrument of weapon and particularly gender based violence and in this regard gender both men and women because we have cases of men being called by partners. We have cases of women being killed by partners where a firearm or attempted murder, attempted cases of firearms are involved.

Honourable Speaker, this Bill is a welcomed instrument in the fight of curbing illicit firearms and even those possessed firearms but are a potential liability. We know what happens in other societies where we find as Honourable Uutoni Nujoma indicated young lives cut short because people in those countries can buy firearms like you are buying popcorn. Literally to go to a bazaar and you buy, sometimes no medical checkup, mental checkup particularly. I just wanted to retort a little bit to the discussion that because of dangerous areas people need guns and can we imagine for once and I know we are a post traumatic society we are coming from a war, there are weapons floating around. We had them in our fields, mahangu fields, grandparents' fields where you find that there was a statue probably forgot about it or the person who put it there is no longer alive you discovered it but can we imagine for once the society were only the law enforcement agencies are carrying weapons. Botswana

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is such a country. In Botswana I understand that citizens cannot necessarily just carry arms. They carry pistols or there are other countries maybe I was misinformed, England for example

Now the point I am trying to make is if only the law enforcement agencies have weapons (*interruptions*).

HON SPEAKER: Let us have some order please.

HON MUHARUKUA: You are speaking for yourself.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: No I am not speaking for myself. Yes I am not speaking for myself I am speaking about this law and perhaps (*intervention*).

HON MUHARUKWA: You are not angry?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: No, I am not angry. What I am trying to say is can we perceive a situation where only the law enforcement agencies have weapons and assuming we could do that and everybody surrendered not those weapons that are required for permit like as you were talking about animals which are dangerous like lions and you therefore have a rifle and not just cloaks and all these specialized pistols. We probably would have places that are less unsafe than what they are today. But remember what I want to say about body guards is not that

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bodyguards are there to protect against firearms they are there to protect your person. You have the Scandinavian Prime Minister or a Minister who has been killed in a country which is relatively peaceful and Sweden and you require or last year there was a Mayor who at a function was stabbed with a knife. So violence I am not saying it will disappear per se the bodyguards are there to protect you against the violence but I am talking about gun related deaths.

Now Honourable Muharukwa spoke very well about the individuals' rights to owning property and it should be unfettered, it is not the case. It is not the case. I do not believe actually that there is a right that any human being has which is totally unfettered. Public law and order morality, descends and all those protections come in and I am of the view that the requirements put into this Bill that speak to the competency some of the Honourable Members who made remarks said it should be more articulate and then for example Honourable Nekundi said some of the items should be removed. It is a contradiction and the reason why those issues are there, are there to allow those that are regulating this right to property to be able to rely on them for the regulations of those firearms.

Now I was just asking maybe a rhetorical question, if we have so many cases in our Justice System 20,000 backlog cases Prison population has almost reached its zenith and we still have these firearms floating around. Should we one day not consider a day that we come with a progressive Bill that says only this type of firearms can be owned. For example why do you need to carry a browning, not a browning but what is this on the Casper?

HON MUHARUKWA: Browning.

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HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Browning, why would you need, even if you say you are a collector why would you need to carry? There are people with those licences do exist and what you are doing is you are saying look for the rest of the public I am giving you this type of protection for the rest of us who can afford to pay the licence we can have mini armies on our farms or whatever but the firearm (*intervention*).

HON MUHARUKWA: (Not on microphone).

HON SPEAKER: No what I am saying is, which have revolved as human beings to a level where we really should not be tolerating firearms in our civilian lives. We should one day and the position I am making although I support the Bill I am saying we should be moving to a day where we do not have firearms circulating. Alternatively you have now people who are driving around simply because I have a salary I could buy a car, I got myself a firearm, apparently I am protecting myself and these accidents are happening because people do not know how to handle the firearms. Even when we talk of police officers and members of the uniform services, the standard for them is very high to hold a firearm and possess it because even when they pull it out and shoot those are the people that we have prosecuted a lot for, for example culpable homicide because he could have injured somebody but he instead killed.

Now you have un-preyed people now like my friend Honourable Muharukwa and others what will you do? You saw in the United States when this FBI Agent at the party was dancing and he slipped over and the firearm discharged and injured somebody luckily it did not kill somebody. Now those are trained people. Imagine now the majority of us and General was here one day in Parliament saying that when you were announcing the amnesty how many weapons were just outside of Katutura there taken back by the police? We make our society dangerous. So what

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I was trying to say is maybe we should think of a society where these firearms are not required.

Lastly, Honourable Speaker, I think the very good comment made by the Honourable Members here, one of them was asked what the definition in Clause 2, the Draft Clause 2(b), 1(b) of services and I could not find the definition of services. Maybe not in the principle act, not in this Act because official institution was the language you used. Those comments are helpful but there are some iatrical suggestions which I want us to understand what we are saying. We are saying that if you were drunken driving once and you were charged and convicted for drunken driving for example as is suggested in the same Clause 2(b) and it was difficult following Honourable Member because the Bill has its own clauses, referring to draft clauses but people are referring to pages and whatever I do not know. For a Bill it is a Clause. For an Act it is a Section. For a Constitution and International Governance is an Article, now page whatever, take whatever.

Anyway the removal of and sentence to a period of imprisonment without an option of a fine means that even if you were caught drunken driving you should lose your firearm for drunken driving. I am talking about Clause 2, Draft Clause 2(b), 1(j) and (k) that was referred to. I am saying that even if you were caught drunken driving you should lose your firearm. Is there a correlation between that incident and owning a firearm? That is why I am saying the suggestions were being made, I want us to understand the implications of what we are saying. The other one is if you are convicted in or outside Namibia or any draft related offence for instance if you took medicine or you were in possession of certain medicines without the prescription or a prescription in that country or from another country you could not produce it and that is it. Or you should lose it because the licence is lost but you may have a copy electronically to show that I do have the licence or I did possess it randomly so I am just saying some of these suggestions you are making we must know that we are not doing it for ourselves.

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Then there was also a suggestion of some vicarious liability. Apparently if, I do not know what one per se but if I could lose my licence because I knew or I should have or I ought to have known that somebody would (*intervention*).

HON MUHARUKWA: (Not on microphone).

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Yes, I think it is very difficult to understand the psych of an individual. It is one thing to observe attempted and activity and conduct which threatens the life or being of another person but simply to just say "*Because Honourable Muharukwa behaves the way he behaves I think he is not okay in his mind he must lose his firearm*" because I find him straight sometimes but that could be me the next person could find him perfectly okay. It is such a difficult thing. It should be a qualified person who makes that determination and then that person if they were observing you and failed to report for instance then I understand but I am walking down the street I see the way Honourable Fleermuys behaves I may think he really needs to be rehabilitated you know, but that was just an example. That was just an example.

I wanted to say Honourable Speaker that I for once want to say that we are moving in the right direction. We came thirty years ago or nearly thirty years ago from a situation where at my young age I could hold an AK47 in my hands because my uncles had them, they are left there and to a situation where and then you know luckily for our sake we never played with them to cause accidents but we were moving into a situation where there is no war. I really think that we should think deeper one day and support that Minister or another Minister to say no guns in Namibia unless you are authorized to hold one or otherwise let us all go to military training at a certain age and then we know how to hold one. Thank you very much.

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HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Let us move on. Next is the Honourable Murorua.

HON MURORUA: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker, thank you very much Honourable Members. First and foremost I would like to state that I am in agreement with this amendment Bill and also with most of the points that have been raised by the Honourable Members, but one thing that I would like to state is the competency of an applicant. I believe it refers basically to the mental health as well as (*intervention*).

HON MEMBER: The what (indistinct).

HON MURORUA: Whatever as well as the handling skills of that person. Now I think in Namibia when it comes to handling skills we do not have what is called a cadet school so it will be very difficult for people to qualify in the first instance not meaning that it is a bad thing that people have to be competent. But together with that I think we need to understand that it is when a person applies for a firearm basic questions are being asked and you need to answer them and that is when I applied in 1983 for a pistol I had to give reasons why I wanted it but then I had to prove also I do have a business and I am travelling with money to the bank and anything can happen in between so I need to have a firearm to protect myself and based on that and then I had to also provide the licence of the business itself.

Nowadays you only give your reasons on paper without really giving proof of what you are having. Previously also it was so that if you do not have a firearm it was the Headman that had to write a letter to prove that you are farming in that area and that you want to protect your property and

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your family. Nowadays you have to prove that you have got a farm and that you want to protect your property. These things I do not mean that they are not being done nowadays but it is very rare that they are being done. I am saying very rare because to find for example my daughter driving a car without a licence is very easy for a traffic officer. But to find out that somebody or even myself is having an unlicensed firearm only comes to be known when this firearm is being used for something illegal and that I think is the problem that we are having basically in Namibia.

So I think we need to find ways and means of how we can address this problem. First I think reconsideration on the age of when a person needs to possess or should possess a firearm should be reconsidered whether 18 is the right age or whether the age has to be a little bit higher (*interruptions*). I said higher, you are counting in reserves.

The other thing is when you are having a firearm and you say you are protecting your family and that is the main reason that the licence is being granted to you. Many are times in court cases when a person who has broken into your house has been shot by you. You might be found guilty and not the person who has broken into your house. So those kinds of things but the person came into your house, broke the door without your permission and were trying to do something and when you shot that person even if you have not killed that person you might be found guilty. So I think the way how our legal system is approaching these kinds of things is also what annoys the citizens of this country.

The other thing that is of great importance is to reapply every fifth year for your firearm licence. I think the idea is basically good but many are times we are found also with drivers' licences that many people do not even look at when their firearm licence is to expire. But with the firearm when we say 90 days before the expiry date what if while I am waiting for my firearm licence to be approved there is something that is happening that needs that I have to protect my family or my property because my understanding is as such when you apply for a firearm licence then the firearm itself has to be in safe custody whether with the dealer or with the

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Police itself. It is my humble understanding that you cannot apply for a firearm licence of a firearm whilst it is in your possession. That is why arm has to go back to the police and what if something happens in the meantime and who says the worst might not happen that if somebody in the forces might know that I have now handed back my firearm and am sitting without anything at home that he would not be an attack on me or my family? Who can guarantee that? Therefore I think the first year period to my understanding is really unnecessary honestly speaking.

The third point that I would like to raise is, many are times we have got security companies and by the rule security companies are having in their possession more firearms than an ordinary citizen but many security companies are registered only under Closed Corporations (CC) by a single person and if that person does not have a tender to security work then these companies become dormant, which means that this person is now sitting with a huge amount of firearms in his or her possession for a very long period because the tender might run for another three or four years and this person might be sitting with these firearms that he does not need at all. If this rule of five years would apply to such security companies then it would be a very good thing because then this person or the business is in fact having in his or her possession firearms that he or she might not be needing during this period and then he needs to handle in or only reapply when he/she has got a tender again. I think if that rule would then be applied in that case then I totally agree with it.

Therefore Honourable Speaker, it is my humble request that the aspect of the five years be only applicable to security companies that are in possession of more than four firearms that an individual is required to possess. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Next is the Honourable Billy Mwaningange.

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**SECOND READING - ARMS AND
AMMUNITION AMENDMENT BILL
HON MWANINGANGE**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you very much Comrade Speaker. Indeed I would like to contribute to the Bill, Arms and Ammunition Armament Bill according to my letter here. However, I have some concern, general concerns if you look at Clause 3, Section (a) the qualification of one to be granted a licence or firearm. Clause 3, paragraph 7 (b) it reads, *“No person other than a person referred to in paragraph 1(m) Section 42 shall, in terms of Sub Section 1 be issued with licence/s and continues by saying how many licences per person to be issued?”* Maximum is four arms, then he says the licence clarity qualifies you to have up to four firearms. I am now worried and ask myself and ask also all of us here, we are saying there are lots of firearms in the public Comrade General, I want you to follow and listen here do not miss that. Should I read to the end? Yes I will read to the end. *“With licence and entitling such a person to possess more than four arms each of different lawful calibre or of such greater number as per Minister upon application and a good cause so many approved”*. You see now there are lots of firearms in the public.

Many even more than our population let me give just a simple example, I have two firearms, my five sons each one has one firearm only one household, they are licensed then it goes. You have firearms, your wife has firearm that if you have two wives, in one village you may end up having thousand firearms. So what can we do as lawmakers to regulate these arms because they are so many? If one household has more than twenty arms or maybe there is one place where it is stipulated that how many firearms per household, I think the Bill does not provide for that and it is not maybe at this stage to provide that but we think of that that one of the reasons why in Namibia we have so many firearms we are not making thorough checks and balances as to how many firearms are to be issued per person. So it is another dilemma so we will look on that it is just food for thought I put across.

Then I have a question also this is just a question of clarification. That when you are giving the number or measurement of the calibre of the gun you are using millimeter and sometimes you are seen feed yes centimeters

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AMMUNITION AMENDMENT BILL
HON UUTONI**

yes on page 6 used millimeters 200 millimeters. At another page 8 you are saying feeds referring to the calibre of the weapon. So these measurements are either to use the measurement of feet or millimeter, in Namibia normally we use millimeters, centimeters, metres so as you are informed in the Bill itself. This is all the observations I made, observation on what the Bill provided. Otherwise I support the Bill and I thank you so much Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, we move on. Next is the Honourable Erastus Uutoni.

HON MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. Mine is very short and my question is appearing on page 24, Section 41(c) Sub Section 2.

HON DIENDA: Clause?

HON MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE: Yes you want me to say Clause 41, ha? Yes Clause 41 (laughter). Clause 41(c):2 and my question is more on this when it says, inheritance of firearms and then this paragraph reads as follows, "*If a person does not wish to acquire arms as inheritance from the holder of an arms licence who is deceased such person must have the arm either sold or delivered to the police for disposal*". Now my question is based on the word 'sold' meaning that if I am not interested in keeping the firearm or whatever I should sell it to whoever I want to sell but now this paragraph

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does not provide further information on the process how I should sell this firearm, that is where the challenge is because if you look at it very well nowadays I think some of us have experienced this, a number of criminals are now targeting houses of families where there are deaths and they know that such a deceased had a firearm. Now they come to you and they offer you a nice price and because of that offer because they are also in dire need of that firearm so should I just sell?

Another question is, as I said this paragraph does not provide further information on the processes how one can sell. Can I also take my firearms because I have inherited this, I am an executor can I just go to the open market and then sell it? So these are some of the questions that (*intervention*).

HON SPEAKER: On the point of order Honourable Minister.

HON MURORUA: Honourable Minister, I would just like to know from the Honourable Minister when you are selling a very simple thing like a cow do you not need to go to Veterinary Offices to transfer that animal into the name of the buyer that you think you can just do it on the street when it comes to a firearm? A cow not something that is dangerous or a goat for that matter?

HON MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE: Yes, if I understand your question by selling a cow there are clear provisions how you should handle the sale of the cow but as I said here maybe it should be explained somewhere. There are no clear provisions that are providing this information how one can sell it if I understand your question. So this is what I only wanted to find out how

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one can sell a firearm. With this I support the Bill.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I am sure the Honourable Minister will respond to all those questions. I have got one last one and I am assuming the Honourable Dienda I thought you spoke earlier, no? Okay, yes.

HON DIENDA: I want to say, Honourable Speaker, the time is against me so I will adjourn the debate until next week Tuesday.

HON SPEAKER: You want to do that?

HON DIENDA: Yes next week the 20th.

HON SPEAKER: Yes thank you very much. Well Honourable Members, I am sure you would like to know, this was quite a marathon. We have about fourteen Honourable Members who spoke. I might not be accurate but it is about fourteen, it could have been fifteen by now so we had a very good run. Because of the subject it has been so important Safety and Security it is something very close to our hearts. Now that we are almost close to the timing of the end of the session can we call it a day to adjourn and meet again tomorrow the usual time? So decided. Thank you.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:43 UNTIL 2019.03.13 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
13 MARCH 2019**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Welcome back. First of all on a sad note I would like to bring to the attention of the House that we have lost one of our Colleagues the former President of Pan African Parliament the Honourable Advocate Bethen Amadhi. He served in various capacities in the continental Parliament and during that period I was a member of the Namibian delegation to the Pan African Parliament so I have known him extremely well. He also served as a President 2012 to 2015. Unfortunately, our Colleague passed away in February and he will be buried back home in Nigeria during the course of the first week of April. May I therefore request you to observe a minute of silence in his memory?

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER IN TERMS OF
RULE 20(A) OF THE STANDING RULES AND ORDERS**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Let his soul rest in eternal peace. I have go a leaflet here that will give you the background about Advocate Amadhi for those of you who would to just have an idea who he was. I will give it to the staff to share it around. Thank you. A few housekeeping announcements, documents have got a tendency of running away when you are looking for them. Honourable Members first of all a brief announcement indeed Honourable Members that the, this is not my day. I was about to read something which is totally different. Yes, this is what I am looking for. Honourable Members I take this opportunity to

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

inform you that the Honourable Minister of Finance was due to give notice today to table the national budget. However due to other pressing matters including the preparation for the national day, he will not be able to do this today. Therefore he will give notice for the same on the 19th March 2019. I am aware that our timetable have been shifting slightly due to all sorts of pressure on everyone and include and collectively of course. At least I just wanted to share that piece of information and of course this is just next week.

Apart from that I also wanted to take this opportunity we were hoping to plan an event a week today as part of the information gathering exercise to prepare us on particular topical issues. We were hoping to have a similar event as what we have this morning with the Governor of the Bank of Namibia who gave us an excellent exposition on the outlook of the economy with an appropriate background information that he share with us and I can speak for many of you who were here. That information was well received, very informative in terms of the subject matter. In the same vein we were hoping a similar exercise a week today on the 20th of March.

Now I do realize that the 20th of March is getting us closer to the national day being the 21st and without imposing it on you, I wanted to repeat what we did last week because this event was held with the full understanding and support of everybody in the House. So it was extremely appreciated by those who were able to attend. Now the next item if I may just give you the gist is the topic is kudu energizing the nation. Basically is on kudu, on energy and this morning the question of energy was quite prominent in some of the exchanges we had but I am concern about how this is becoming closer to the national day. So I do not know what is the views of the Honourable Members, if you feel this is too close, we could shift it a week later. I am in your hands. Silence basically means that you are confirming that we should rather shift it. Honourable Tom Alweendo in line with you because this is something close to your heart.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON ITHETE**

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Yes, Comrade Speaker it is. Now Honourable Speaker I do recall that we had a brief discussion on this energy and then kudu but now to think about it kudu is a project that is still being tabled about as the Government project and has been going back and forth kind of. Now if we are going to have someone to come and actually talk about kudu as a project while we are still actually discussing this as a Government, are we not pre-empting something but if it was going to be an energy discussion just general about energy how we need it, it is fine but if we are going to discuss a project it is fine, I am not so sure whether it is going to be helpful.

HON SPEAKER: Well, I take your comment quite seriously because the intention is never to pre-empty. I would rather await the conclusion of the current negotiations so that we are not seen to be pre-empting something. So I would then conclude that for now let us put it on hold. Thank you but we can still have the discussion. We can still have the conversation after so we will do that. Thank you very much. We move on. Any petitions, reports of standing or select Committee, other reports and papers, Deputy Minister of Finance.

TABLING - REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members before I table this report, allow me to congratulate Comrade Elia Herimare and thank the President for appointing him as a Governor of Oshana region. He is the former President of Namibian National Student Organization. Honourable Speaker let me now table the report of the Auditor General of the account of the:

1. Regional Council of Oshana Regional Council for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2017.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON VENAANI**

I so move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, notice of questions, Honourable Venaani.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

ORAL QUESTION

QUESTION 5:

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I pray for your indulgence to ask an oral question to the Minister of Finance.

HON SPEAKER: Minister of?

HON VENAANI: Finance.

HON SPEAKER: As a customary I would like to have the gist so that you consider it to be?

HON VENAANI: Yes, it is quite an urgent question. Honourable Speaker

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HON NAUYOMA**

through you to the Minister a story is developing in South Africa our neighbouring country with many landing base that are landing people that there is a discrepancy found in some of the banks that the people previously disadvantaged citizens are charged more on home loans than previously advantaged South African. Now noting the fact that many of these banks that are doing that in South Africa are having subsidiary companies here. The Standard Bank that is in South Africa is a parent of the Standard Bank here. Has the Minister put in any investigation to investigate whether the same is happening with our banks with regard to the lending discrepancies between previously formerly advantaged citizens of South Africa?

HON SPEAKER: Can I for the benefit of the Minister and the Members of Parliament who were not here this morning. That subject was dealt with by the Governor of the Bank of Namibia and I just wanted just to put that on record and in terms of members, I also somehow feel I really do not see the urgency of the matter. I really do not see it because it is such a subject that will require you to do your homework. It is not something that you can respond to off the cuff but the Governor helped those Members who were present this morning by actually saying the banks are under certain obligation not to charge interest and charge people who earn at a particular level and I just felt it is something that require you to do some research before he could you could respond. I just wanted to share that. You were not around this morning. Maybe if you heard that, you could have actually taken that into account but for now I do not really as being an urgent matter. I will leave it at that, Honourable Nauyoma.

HON NAUYOMA: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker I give notice that on Thursday the 28th of March 2019 I shall ask the Minister of Urban and Rural Development Honourable Doctor Peya Mushelenga the following with regard to the progress made so far on the allocation of out of mass housing that are lying idle in different parts of

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the country and even towns and in some instances being vandalized public money being wasted. Can the Honourable Minister inform this August House how far has the Ministry gone in the allocation of the mass housing project countrywide?

I so move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of Motions, messages from the Head of State, Ministerial Statement. Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

**REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS THE MINISTRY HAS
MADE IN THE CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE
AND NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I have the honor and pleasure to address this August House today. I was sworn in as a Member of Parliament and took oath as a Minister of Health and Social Services on the 19th of December 2018. I thank His Excellence the President Doctor Hage Geingob the trust and confidence he put in me and for the honor accorded to me to serve the Namibian people in this double roll as a lawmaker and as a service provider. Let me also thank you Honourable Members for the warm welcome you extended to me upon joining this August House.

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I am looking forward to work with you. Since we are less than a week after the date, allow me to congratulate all the women Members of Parliament on the International Women's Day 2019. Honourable Speaker health and social wellbeing are fundamental human rights. Consequently the ultimate goal of the Ministry of Health and Social Services is to attain a level of health and social wellbeing of all Namibians which will enable them to live economically and socially productive lives. This is to be achieved through a cost effective developmental social welfare and primary health care approach which include promotive, preventive, formative and rehabilitative services.

The strategy is to achieve this status through a network of outreach services, clinics, health centres, district hospital, intermediate hospital and the national referral hospitals. Critical to these goals is adequate funding and skilled and motivated human resource. Honourable Speaker the Ministry has made remarkable tides over the years in achieving health and social wellbeing of the Namibian people. It works well of the first countries on the continent to initiate the prevention of mother to child HIV transmission and antilateral viral therapy. Currently, it is estimated that 204 207 people in Namibia are living with HIV Aids of which 94% know their HIV status, 96% are on antilateral viral treatment and 95% have their viral suppressed hence Namibia has exceeded the target of 90, 90, 90. There are remarkable achievements in the control of communicable and non-communicable diseases. Namibia has far much better health indicators than Africa average. In the area of maternal and women health there have been significant reduction in maternal death from 390 per 100 000 live death in 2005 to 265 death per 100 000 live death in 2015. However, the quality of obestratrics and neonatal care services remains sub-optimal and require further work. One of the greatest in competent to the provision of adequate health service is the lack of human resources in critical areas as well as appropriate skills mix.

In order to address this problem the Ministry took a deliberate decision to train staff at both under graduate and post graduate levels. In addition the Ministry has instituted its service development program not only for improved service delivery but also to charge the career path for those staff

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members. It is envisioned that self-sufficiency in human resource for health provision will be an attainable goal in the near future. Honourable Speaker the Ministry has been challenged time and again by disease outbreaks. In September 2015 a number of patients presented themselves to the health facilities in the Windhoek district with jaundice or yellow eyes.

On the 14th of December 2017 the Ministry of Health and Social Services declared an outbreak of hepatitis B in Namibia. Ever since cases of hepatitis B have been reported in all the regions with the exception of Karas and Zambezi regions. Hepatitis E is a disease of the liver caused by Hepatitis E virus. Hepatitis E is acquired when a person drinks or eats fluids or food that is contaminated with the feces of somebody who has the virus. It is low common in places where there is poor hand washing habits and lack of clean water. The symptoms that may appear between two to six weeks after infection include fever, adhnos, lack of appetite, stomach ache, joint pain, light coloured stool, yellowish skin or eyes.

This disease has claimed 41 lives most of who are pregnant and post-delivery women. I will just like to appeal to the Honourable Members since I have mentioned these symptoms not to start diagnosing themselves. Honourable Speaker the rapid assessment of the response to hepatitis B that was carried out recently revealed that there is a low communication on hepatitis B through mass media. Sanitation is very poor in informal settlement, open edification, unsafe and irregular hand washing practices are the norm. It is quite a matter of concern that the public does not seem to view the outbreak as a serious matter.

The responsibility to prevent one from being infected with hepatitis B lies to a great extent with an individual person. We have taken measures to invigorate the control activities in all the regions including those two that are currently not yet affected. Our clarion call is hand wash after toilet, hand wash before meal. Prevention is better than cure. One of the chronic challenges facing the Ministry is the procurement of medicines and other pharmaceutical products to supply to clinics, health centres and hospitals throughout the country. Of late our procurement system has not been

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responsive enough to our needs to the extent that there have been impermanent stock outs but what is pleasing is the fact that there is a renewed effort in commitment to address this now. Various options are being considered to find the long term solution. We have instituted measures for introspection to identify wastages and leakages within our systems. Last week I witnessed the commitment of Managers in the form of their individual working pledges on things they undertake to improve within a specific period of time. The Medical Superintendent of Katutura Hospital for example pledged to eradicate pests including the infamous cockroaches from the hospital. Yesterday I stated in this August House in response to the question by Honourable Dienda that we have done away with tea and snacks which were served to patients at 10 o'clock, 15:00 and 19:00 interval.

These measures serve to bring in efficiency and eliminate wastages in our operations without compromising on the health and social wellbeing of our patients. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members working with patients who are in a state of severe pain it is very difficult tasked by any stretch of imagination. Interacting with patients family members who do not have insight into the conditions of their loved ones is even more challenging. On the other hand we have Doctors and nurses who work for extended hours who by have just witnessed a death of a patient and who are risking contracting diseases themselves in the process of treating patients.

This situation is pressing and requires dedication and commitment on the part of the health workers and sympathy and understanding on the part of the public. Under such stringent situation health workers may easily get agitated. It is human. As a Ministry we have agreed to rally around a shared value which points are commitment, empathy, compassion, courtesy, caring, believe in others, cooperation and appreciation. We do value the feedback from the public when members of the public might have been aggrieved in their interaction with our staff. We value more the mutual understanding between our staff or patients and our clients. I always maintain that health and social wellbeing are shared responsibilities. I thank you Honourable Speaker.

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**PLIGHT OF FOREIGN TRAINED
MEDICAL DOCTORS
HON VENAANI**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The first notice of a Motion is the one of the Honourable Venaani. Does the Honourable Member moved the Motion?

HON VENAANI: I so move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds the Motion, any objection, agreed to. Honourable Member you have the floor.

NOTICE OF MOTION

**THE PLIGHT OF FOREIGN-TRAINED MEDICAL DOCTORS
WHO HAVE GRADUATED FROM UNIVERSITIES IN
COUNTRIES SUCH AS CHINA, RUSSIA AND UKRAINE**

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker before I motivate this very important Motion before this August House, I want to remind fellow legislators about the provisions of Article 45 of our national constitution that state *inter alia* and I quote 'that the Members of the National Assembly shall be representative of all the people and shall in the performance of their duties be guided by the objectives of this constitution and most fundamentally that are underlined by the public interest and by the conscious'. Honourable Speaker we are faced with a social academic (indistinct) on the question of foreign trained medical Doctors. At the start please permit me to put the record straight about our nation accidental journey that we

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have embarked upon in the many harms we are experiencing should we not adjust our direction of tabling. Firstly according to the new curriculum, learners who have failed Grade 10 the previous year are required to retain to the previous Grade 9 or resort to part-time schooling with institutions such as Namcol with no effective supervision, mechanisms in place or they are simply told to go home.

Second we are continuously practicing an irrational and absurd practice in our country that require nearly every young person seeking an ordinary job in this country to have experience of five to ten years on entry job level in our country. That we have an Act the Medical and Dental Act of 2004 which establishes the health professional Council of Namibia with a duty to regulate the profession and to uphold the principles of professionalism in the medical practice and to prepare young graduates in the system for their careers in the medical field. Many young Namibians due to our education systems are living in exotic poverty conditions around our motherland without any hope.

Our nation is sitting with close to 60 000 graduates in various skills of studies without hope. We hold high the victim that education is a greatest equalizer that those who attempt to educate themselves are relegated to the junk status. Honourable Members it is not an exaggeration therefore to say that this Council the Dental Health Council has done the complete opposite to their given mandates and mind oblivious. Equally so the Government has been taken a backward steps to reducing youth unemployment in our country. In fact we are working towards increasing youth unemployment. Honourable Speaker, a few years ago 2013 to be exact a Namibian delegation was assigned to visit foreign medical universities in countries such as China, Russia and Ukraine.

The delegation consisted of representatives from the Ministry of Education, the Student Financial Assistance Fund NAFAF, the Namibia Qualifications Authority, the Health Professional Council of Namibia and the representative from the faculty of health science of the University of Namibia. The mission was to become familiar with the education systems

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in these countries and to foster better understanding hope the training programs. The then Minister of Education it is said Doctor David Namwandi accompanied the delegation during the visit to the Ministries of education and health Ministries of these countries that are mentioned. The following was said after returning from these visit.

‘The strong emphasis on practical is a notable picture. The Universities have strong collaborations with the pharmaceutical industry on research and students placements. It is an example worthy of emulation here at the school of pharmacy and school of medicine at the University of Namibia’. Through bilateral agreement these young people obtained scholarship and could now pursue their medical careers in these foreign countries. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members the Health Professional Council of Namibia conducted a pre-internship evaluation on the 29th and 30th of November 2018.

207 foreign trained medical graduates set for the pre-internship evaluation. These medical graduates studied in various countries such as Russia, Ukraine and South Africa. Of these 207, only two medical graduates passed the pre-internship evaluation. Now Honourable Members there is a contestation by Government and in the public domain that argues that the foreign trained Doctors that are trained in Ukraine, in China, in Russia, in Algeria and other various jurisdictions of the world are trained from non-accredited universities but here comes the argument that we should put forward that how is it possible that students that have studied in South Africa, South Africa with one of its best medical record a country that was the forerunner of doing the first heart plant of the world, the same students that are coming from South Africa sitting for this examination are not passing that examination and only two. 20 students that were evaluated came from South Africa and only two students from the 207 could be able to pass.

Are we saying that South African Universities cannot train qualified Doctors for these young people not to be able to pass this examination or are we saying the South Africa Universities where our nearly the whole

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country's Doctor are hailing from cannot be able to become Doctors in this country? Honourable Members on average an amount of N\$87-88 000 for six years was spend on each medical student to pursue his or her medical career. That is approximately N\$500 000 or half a million per student the 240 students of taxpayers money.

Now if the argument is consistent to say these students in the first place did not qualify, how can we as a country explain to the conscience of our citizens? How can we explain to our own conscience as legislators that we have spent close to N\$300 million of taxpayer's money and we have thrown in the money in the water? Are we saying that this is another SME Bank? Is this another SME Bank where money just got? No, do not tell me to calm down? I am really calm. I am very calm. If it was your own money, would you be calm?

HON SPEAKER: Let us have some order please?

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker I am very focus, a very focused leader for that matter. Honourable Speaker we are saying no it is because of a policy that was not in place. Therefore our country has expended N\$300 Million on students that went and study at Universities that we are turning bogus. Honourable why are you worried, go slow? She was a Minister of Finance expending the money. We will take you to court. It is also we are made aware, we are fully made aware that over 500 more graduates are to qualify from these institutions. Who allowed these batch of students through NASFAF to get this approved funding?

Now there is one mirth that I want to demystify and this is this mirth that we are being told that these students that went to these Universities had to have 35 points in order for them to qualify and believe you me it is not our contention to impose lower standards on the medical fraternity nor are we

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pushing for an enforcement of these students on society but let us be factual and not be mendacious with facts. In a Namibian system or South African system you must have 35 points to be able to qualify for a special field of studied in science. It is a given but does that extend all Universities in the world, hell no. It does not. It is the same thing that in a law faculty students here in Namibia are required to have a certain mark but you can be able to go to England or other jurisdictions and go do what we call an excess course to bridge the points that you did not have and according to the research that I have made these students have done in their contention a fit to purpose test for them to qualify to study medicine, they had to do a fit to purpose test for a period for them to be able to be allowed in this University.

We are saying that these Universities are private institutions or the bogus slater and not recognized institutions but our research is finding results contrary to that and NASFAF has passed that proposition that these Universities are bogus and are not accredited because in Ukraine the University Telmerpel State Medical University has 106 years' experience in training Doctors. It is not a private institution. It is state University in Ukraine. Some Universities in Ukraine it is called Sami State University in China Dalian Medical University is the University of the State of China that was founded in 1947. In Russia Astrakan State Medical University is a University that has an experience of 100 years in training Medical Doctors.

Cremia Federal University my researched has proved that this University has hundred years of experience in training Doctors. Now which private Universities are we talking about and what is the academic audit done by the National Qualification Authority and you cannot accredit Universities of different countries in the same way. You cannot. Academically you cannot. Then you go to a particular University and accredit and then you cannot accredit an University through a phone later. When you accredit an academic institution you would come with an audit report, an academic audit report. Now we are being told all these children were a bogus or non-accredited Universities but where is the audit report of the NQA.

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Where is the audit report and if you audit these Universities, you could argue that a person who has studied for four years in Russia would be able to have maybe three years in Namibia medical University or a person who has studies in Ukraine his credits would be equal this amount.

Now we are seated with the situation where we do not have any credit systems. What we are saying is that these children had to have 35 points and because they did not have 35 points, whatever they have studied does not count. NQA must come to this House to legislate us and tell us where is the report? Every University's audit report that they do not need audited report. Honourable Speaker it is also worthy to know that these very graduates are for the past year attached at various health facilities hospitals, clinics, health centres and have been signed off by their MOs who also happen to be foreign trained Doctors as competent and ready for the medical practice.

Fellow Namibians, compatriots this is our young people. This is our children that we send out to foreign countries in hopes for greener pastures. Our nation has spent too much to simply write them off as incompetent and not ready for merely failing the pre-internship evaluation. Do their efforts and practice do not count for anything? Are they supervisors not competent to declare them competent for the job? It is fundamentally important that we work towards the development and harmonization of the curriculum of the medical practice because the diseases that plucks nations and Namibia do not necessary pluck other places in the world and I want to address this very fundamentally. The lack of study materials and the standardized curriculum across the board is a clear indication that the Health Professional Council has not done enough to ensure that the graduate are given a fair chance to prove themselves competent for the job.

Therefore it is not enough to merely argue or merely give a scope a curriculum must be developed and study materials provided to take us of the exams. Again, if you want to study if you have studied law and you want to do a JCC examination, no person who comes just from the

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University will go into a JCC examination and go pass. You need to study a curriculum with materials. After studying it you go pass that test and you become a lawyer. Every discipline has a curriculum developed for every level whether you are an auditor, whether you are an engineer you need to study something with books and then you are tested on the basis of what you have studied.

A medical graduate, do not defend the defenseless please. A medical graduate is given three opportunities to sit for the remedial program. If the graduate happens to fail three times, his or her degree is declared null and void. I would like the Health Professional Council to pronounce themselves on this matter through their line Ministry. As far as I am concerned the Act does not empower the Council to do so and I would therefore request both the Minister of Higher Education as well as the Health Ministry to furnish this House about this revelation.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members to day is not the time to politics the careers of our young people. Youth unemployment as it stands is increasing at an alarming rate. It is our duty as Namibian citizens to protect the future of this country the youths. In her response to a PDM special General and Member of Parliament Honourable Smit, Honourable Becky Ndjoze my sister indicated the following.

Firstly that over N\$230 Million was spent in five years from the year 2014 and 2018 on 450 students. This means that Government spent an estimated N\$102 000 each year on a single student for five years. What about the years before the period of 2014 and 2018? How much did Government spent and how many students were granted loans to pursue medicine and dentistry in foreign countries? The Deputy Minister also claimed that the students awarded loans in 2014 did not did so without verification on whether they met the requirements as well as the credibility of the institution they intended to study at.

How is it possible that such a blunder can be made by a Ministry that is considered crucial to the development of this country? Where there no

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mechanisms in place to avoid such mistakes? Those who were responsible for this verification have they been held accountable? Why was the vetting of these Universities not done by the Namibian Qualification Authority as per practice? What database was used which provided obvious misleading information about accredited institutions? What has the Ministry done since to ensure a fair chance to these medical graduates as according to the Deputy Minister's remarks, 'these graduates are the results of NASFAF policy'? Who approved these bursaries in these institutions that are not credible as alleged? Honourable Members youth unemployment rate is standing at 45% in the country and the national unemployment rate of our country stands at 37% and 30% of our population lives in shacks. 50% of our population lives without electricity and 40% without toilet and proper sanitation.

I am very concerned about the integrity and the competency of those who serve on Health Professional Council and their judgement when appointing moderators and invigilators to the exam. You cannot, yes I will. Thank you. You cannot moderate an examination paper that you have set up yourself. There must be a confident paper to moderate other examination. For instance how does one explain that in an examination that is derived from the Washington booklet and certain sections taken from an Indian booklet, what are we really examining these young people on?

Honourable Members in 2016 Cabinet decided to establish a remedial program under the Ministry of Health and Social Services with the intention to closet the gaps on what parent train graduates know and what they are expected to know. This program however has been used as a tool to prevent entry to Namibian foreign trained graduates since its introduction in 2016. According to the Minister of Health and Social Services the Honourable new Member of the House Doctor Shangula 'there has always been challenges with the program since its introduction. The participants experienced some challenges due to the fact that the program was not structured in anyway. It was left to the imagination of the department concerned. This problem was further compounded by the

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large number of foreign trained graduates thus putting more pressure on the already overburdened health system’.

What can we deduce from what the Honourable Minister said in the above quote but those responsible for paving way for these young graduate are firstly overburden and have interest in securing their own jobs. Also there was a task force established to investigate the remedial program in its current form and to make recommendations on how it could be structured to make it a success. Until now the said report or recommendation have not seen the light of the day. Due to a limited training capacity in Namibia, many students seek training outside our country. Upon their return as graduates they find it difficult to be fully integrated in Namibian health system.

It is important that we put our heads together to urge these young people out of this calamity as it may cause this country a great cost in human resources. Honourable Speaker our belief in the importance of education means nothing. We could not prioritize the creation of an enabling environment where these young people before and after their time of graduating can strive better versions of themselves to become economically active and contributors to the gross national product of our country. Certain assertions were made that need investigation in our view. Where is the report of a fact finding mission of 2013-2013 of the said University?

Who approved this bursaries in these institutions that are not credible as alleged? What is the interest of foreign trained Doctors in this matter and where did they themselves obtain their qualifications from because some of the people that are testing these young children themselves have studied in Ukraine. They have studied in the same Universities that they are claiming that these people are not qualified. Also the interest of foreign Doctors must be viewed in contest Honourable Speaker in contest of protecting their own jobs because if you have another lines of preparing Doctors of a country, many foreign Doctor will lose their jobs. So as Parliament we need to challenge the foreign trained Doctors to provide

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proof where did they study themselves claiming others have no, I will do that. Thank you very much.

How is it possible for the Health Professional Council tasked with such an important task not having the required time to dispense of its own merit? Where is the curriculum and study material and what period is given to the graduates before taking these tests? Honourable Members I want to address one thing and I do it with the necessary respect Honourable Shangula. Necessary respect even the fact that you are a new Member of this House, it would have known earlier, you would have known that I am a person who has conducted my life without most respect for people that are older than me but as a politician I want to challenge you that I am informed, my research informs me that yours truly is an allumnai of a body called Ran, Russian Allumnai Association of Namibia.

You are the president or you are an allumnai brother of the Russian Allumnai Association of Namibia. It is my research proves also that you were a former Vice Chancellor at UNAM.

HON SPEAKER: Not Vice Chancellor, no.

HON VENAANI: No, no, former Dean, Deputy Dean sorry. Yes, please correct me because I am saying it without research because I am putting an assertion on your name and I want you to defend yourself. No, no, the Vice Chancellor is just an error of writing. I want to come to a very important point that we are hearing two Universities already in Namibia foreign trade. Let me come to you first. Let me finish you because I made a very strong allegation against you. We are hearing that these RAN body that you are an Alumnai of is intending to create a remedial college for these learners. This body wants to partner with UNAM to create a remedial college to retrain these Doctors for financial gain.

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There is also another University that is teaching its children Russian. I do not want to mention the University. Maybe I must mention it IUM that used to belong to a former Minister of Education of this country. IUM is teaching students Russian. They want to bring a remedial courses to retrain these Doctors. We are hearing that. I am not saying it is facts. I am saying I am hearing. Yes, it is important to bring hearsay to the floor, yes. No, no, the owner can prove if they want. Now listen we are also hearing that foreign Doctors, there are a portion of foreign Doctors that are in the country want also to start a remedial school for these foreign trained Doctors. So Colleagues all we are saying is this matter demands the conscience of legislators. We need to get the facts every institution must defend itself. They should because why should people give N\$300 Million to student to schools that they are saying are bogus? Are you not even worried about that as Prime Minister? You cannot be defending that.

HON SPEAKER: No, no, please no dialogued.

HON VENAANI: I am on the floor. Tell the Prime Minister.

HON SPEAKER: That is what I am saying continue please.

HON VENAANI: So Honourable Speaker I will withdraw. So what I am trying to say is the following that there are so many matters that needs clarification. Too much was spent, young people are on the streets. They are not given opportunity and they are too much dilly darling. Therefore as a legislature we need to use our conscious to arrive at the crux of this matter. I therefore move that we have a Parliamentary inquiry into this

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matter and that this Motion be referred to a relevant Parliamentary Standing Committee to deliberate on the subject and to revert to this August House with possible recommendation. It is important that we understand those responsible for the approval of loans at the time and how this so-called Grade 12 poor performers were able to leave the country for further studies on the ticket of Government?

Honourable Speaker I so move.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Any further discussion, yes, Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services Doctor Shangula please.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Venaani I will come at a later stage to address the rumors you mentioned. Initially I want to put this matter in context. Then I will come back to your issues so you bail me. Honourable Speaker I rise to speak on the issue of what have become now as foreign trained medical Doctors an issue which have captivated the Namibian public as evidence in print, electronic and social media and of late also in the National Assembly. My intention is to put this matter in correct perspective thus enable this honourable House to debate the Motion before it from an informed perspective if at all there would be a need to discuss this Motion further.

First of all me the address the narrative of foreign trained medical Doctors. The University of Namibia established the school of medicine in 2009. The first intake of medical students happened in 2010. These medical students they graduated in 2016 after six years. They completed their two years internship training in 2017. As of now these home grown medical Doctors who are only 35 in number have only one year post

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internship experience. All the Doctors in Namibia who have been and are still working in hospitals both public and private hospitals and other health facilities including medical specialist they are all foreign trained Doctors.

There is no single medical specialist in Namibia who is not foreign trained thus the use of the first foreign trained medical Doctors should be used with great circumspection. So I wanted to put that in context first. The medical and dental Council of Namibia (interrupted).

HON SPEAKER: Let us listen. Please let us listen to the Minister responding.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: The medical and dental Council of Namibia is the established under the Medical and Dental Act number 10 of 2004 to regulate the registration of Medical Practitioner and Dentist and to specify the education, the training and qualifications of persons practicing such professions. When a medical graduate or a dental graduate wishes to do internship, he or she applies to the Medical and Dental Council of Namibia to be registered as a medical intern or a dental intern as the case maybe. Internship is a prerequisite for a medical graduate to be registered as a Medical Doctor in terms of Section 17 of the Medical and Dental Act.

As provided for under Section 2 of the regulations made in terms of the Medical and Dental Act of Namibia any person who hold the qualification of Medical Doctors must undertake training as a medical intern for a period of such years as determined by Council which in our case is two years. That is what the cohort that finished medical training in 2018 did last year. They applied to the Council to do internship. Further, in 2016 the Medical and Dental Council of Namibia decided to evaluate all foreign trained graduates and have done so ever since. There has never been any

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controversy before 2018 evaluation. It has been done before. There was no controversy. There was no noise until last year.

Evaluating health care professionals who obtained qualifications from other jurisdiction is not peculiar to Namibia but is a common practice worldwide. The University of Namibia school of medicine the graduates from there they are exempted from this requirement because its curriculum is approved by the same Council which is evaluating the others who were not doing it in Namibia. Now a medical or dental graduate is entitled to train chances of train internship evaluation per application. This is premised on an understanding that not all graduates have passed on first attempt and fail once is not necessarily the sense of poor training.

Let me give a very elementary example in order to illustrate this point. I am sure most of you Honourable Members have or you do not have what I am going to say. You say no, alright. Most of you Honourable Members must have gone, you must have driver's license. So you agree? Now you agree, alright. I hope that most of you when you went for the first test, you failed the driving test. Now I would be honest with myself. I have been driving without a license for some time. That was long time ago and then I went for the test but I knew how to drive but on the first attempt I failed but it does not mean that I do not know how to drive.

Now the graduates has a choice to enroll for twelve months practical training program which is a Government initiated strategy aimed at assisting graduates to bring the knowledge, skills the competence gaps in preparation for the great internship evaluation. I am emphasizing this word evaluation. It is not examination. It is evaluation. Now this practical training program mainly takes places in state hospitals and health facilities under the supervision of experienced medical and dental Practitioners and specialists who by the way they are all foreign trained.

On the 28th and the 30th of November 2018 the medical and dental Council of Namibia conducted a pre-internship evaluation on 207 medical graduates and you mentioned 240 which is not correct and they were

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trained in China, Russia, Ukraine, Algeria, Cuba and South Africa. You only mentioned Ukraine in your Motion but actually the countries are six. So only two of the medical graduates from one University in Ukraine passed all six modules. Of the 205 medical graduates, 42 passed three or more modules. 101 passed one module or two and 62 did not pass any module.

For one to pass the evaluation the one I am talking about, one must pass all six modules. In other words you must pass with hundred percent is when you are declared you have passed. That is why there was those two. They all passed with one hundred percent. Anything below one hundred percent is a failure but for argument sake if we say the cut-off point was 50% and not 100%, then about 44 could have passed as the first entrance because they have attained 50% and more but the requirement is that they must get one hundred percent pass.

Now as a result of the evaluation and the dates, no, after the results of the evaluation and the dates of the next evaluation were announced, the aggrieved medical graduates launched an appeal to Council to disregard the results of the evaluation as in their views it was a departure from previous evaluations. It was biased against them and it was unfair. I should also point out here that Council was only appointed and constituted in October 2018 and appeals Committee was not yet in place to consider the appeal. So subsequently the aggrieved medical graduates approached the High Court of Namibia for stay of the next evaluation which was scheduled to take place on the 21st and 22nd of February 2019 until their appeal is heard and further, the High Court directed health professional Council of Namibia to appoint and constitute an appeal Committee as provided for in the Medical and Dental Act.

I should also state here that the medical graduates understand and accept the evaluation the principle of evaluation. They have never demanded not to be evaluated. Before the initial evaluation they even participated in sessions and appear for the evaluation but their bone of contention is that the evaluation that was conducted was biased against them. They content

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that they are not against the evaluation but against the process that was followed. The matter between the medical graduates and the health professional Council of Namibia was settled out court. The appeal Committee is now constituted in terms of Section 12(3) of the Medical and Dental Act.

The appeal which was lodged by the medical graduates will be heard on the 18th of April this year. Now the second round of evaluation took place on the 21st and 22nd of February at which all the 205 were invited but only 105 turned up for this evaluation and 26 of them passed, 50 qualified for supplementary and 29 did not pass. All medical graduates who did not pass the evaluation and those who are yet to take the evaluation they have still a chance to take the evaluation. They have to go for three times. Those who so wish will enroll in the remedial program until they perform to the satisfaction of Council and then they are admitted as medical interns.

They will then undergo a two year internship program like anybody else before they are registered as medical Doctors. There are sufficient safeguards to ensure that those who would be registered as medical Doctors have attained the requisite skills and competence to practice as such. This has been the case all the years and it will continue to be as such. Now the Namibian Student Financial Assistance Fund they approved loans and grants on the basis of accepting letter from training institutions until 2014 and mind in this have been in training since 2012.

So since 2012 all what happened from 2014 I thought you have interest in your Motion. Let him not destruct you because I do not want you to come back and ask me questions. Thank you. So the graduates we are talking might have already been in training from 2012. Therefore they are not subjected to provisions which started in 2014. That is one point I wanted to make clear. Now let me also say that each institution of higher learning has its own admission criteria which means different from that one of UNAM. Most medical school took students from poor academic background through additional year of training where they are taught subjects which are relevant to medicine like physics, mathematics,

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chemistry and biology and only those who pass these subjects at those institutions will be allowed to proceed to first year of medicine.

It is here. It is not the question of standard of training and I can say that this was confirmed by the team that went to assess some of these training institutions well but there might be individual graduates who for one or other reasons may not be up to scratch just like we have good drivers and bad drivers. We have got good lawyers and bad lawyers, good lawmakers and bad lawmakers. It is everywhere like that. So we should not generalize. I wish also like to address the issue of the Grade 12 results. Much talk was made about Grade 12 results that are below 35 points which are applied by the University of Namibia as a cut-off point. I come from the University of Namibia and I must inform this August House that the 35 points at UNAM they are not the only criteria for admission. They are not the only criterial for admission to the school of medicine. Now among these graduates we are talking about, there are those who obtained 35, 36, 37, 38, 39 up to 42 points in Grade 12. They are among these ones who have failed. Now I want to believe that the Motion be held in this House is really premised on prior and inadequate information. Yes, you have already displayed to move a Motion and in your oral presentation. Alright, we can move on if you say no, then maybe there was misleading somewhere.

Now Honourable Speaker allow me also to address a different but a related matters that is of dental graduates. There is no single dentist who was trained in Namibia. The University of Namibia established the school of dentistry in 2018. The first cohorts of dentist is expected to graduate in 2022 and they are expected to practice as dentists only in 2024. So I just wanted again to bring you back to the marathon book foreign trained etc. So let us have this in mind.

On the 17th and 29th of November last year 30 dental graduates were evaluated by Council. None of them passed the three internship evaluation but 15 qualified for supplementary pre-internship evaluation. The supplementary pre-internship evaluation took place on the 21st of January 2019 and 8 graduates passed and were cleared for dental

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internship. Another evaluation took place on the 6th of February this year and five graduates step for this evaluation. Now these dental graduates were from China and South Africa. Now let me address some of the issues you mentioned in your oral motivation.

When I was at the University of Namibia I held the position of Assistant Pro Vice Chancellor responsible for the health sciences which I am answering your question please, alright, Honourable Venaani.

HON SPEAKER: Yes.

HON VENAANI: Honourable it is very important because it is who I am. I am not like you. This is Venaani low cost.

HON SPEAKER: Let us keep it brief.

HON VENAANI: Yes, on a point of order the rumour allegation that I put on the Minister I said with all due respect I am hearing a smoke and please could you clarify. So I have said it without casting any suspicion to his persona and I further said because he does not know me, I have a tendency of dealing with elders in a particular way but because he holds the office that is very cardinal, therefore I ask this question with all the caveat of respect.

HON SPEAKER: Now let us the Minister continue to respond please. Minister continue please?

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HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Yes, Honourable Venaani you admitted that you were talking about a rumour and I accepted as such that you are talking about a rumour and now it is just my, I feel that you need to educate him. I held the position of Assistant Pro Vice Chancellor responsible for health science campus which host the school of medicine, the school of pharmacy, the school of dentistry, the school of occupational therapy and the school of physiotherapy. That is number one. Number two you mentioned about Russian Alumni Association of Namibia.

I am not on Alumni of the Association. The Association does not have Alumni. It is just an association but I have been a patron of the association not on Alumni. Further the remedial program which you are talking about that is the Government program. It is not a program of anybody else outside the Government. As far as the IUM is concerned, the IUM has partnered with one University in Russia where they are teaching prospective students the Russian language. So what normally happens is that if you come from here from English speaking or French speaking or Portuguese speaking in order to study adequately, you go through a language course a one year language course because all your training would be in the Russian language but now instead of doing that year in Russia, you will do it here at home.

So when you go back, you just go straight in your main study. So that is the purpose. There was also I think I have addressed all your points which you mentioned. Let me finish. Let me continue with my presentation.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: Could Honourable Minister inform the Honourable Venaani that he should no longer bring rumours here.

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HON SPEAKER: Please Honourable Minister continue.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:

Honourable Speaker on the other hand I do appreciate the fact that Honourable Venaani brought the rumour to this House. Now if he did not he was going to bring it to some other places where I (interrupted).

HON SPEAKER: Can we go beyond the rumour and please Honourable Minister please continue with your presentation.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Yes because when he brought it here I got the chance to squash the rumours and he will no longer spread it anywhere else. So I salute you. Now having done all the explanation, having provided all the information in this matter, it is my belief that the House has been listening and now have got a better understanding of the subject matter and also when one look at the essence of the Motion, the main issues they have already been addressed. Therefore it is my considered view that the request for the establishment of a Parliamentary inquiry to go inquire into the matters which is known by everybody now will be a waste of time, will be a waste of resources. Therefore I would appeal to my Colleagues there to say yes, my question has been answered and will graciously withdraw the Motion. In the alternative, I honestly do not see what the inquiry is going to establish which is not known up to this stage. If that being the case, then I will reluctantly reject this Motion. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Next is Honourable Mike Kavekatora.

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HON KAVEKOTORA: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker for the opportunity that you have given me. I want to thank the mover of the Motion for tabling this very important Motion. It is indeed a very important Motion because it touches upon a number of issues and the mover also spoke eloquently about some issues that one has to perhaps interrogate further and I strongly believe that there is no way one can provide responses to this Motion in this House adequately because some verification need to be done, some testing of information need to be conducted, some reality test need also to be conducted. The issue of health is a very important issue to every single Namibian citizen and this is what this Motion is trying to address in many ways.

I want to take the House back to 1st of March 2018 when Doctor Haufiku was still the Minister of Health. I asked a question to Doctor Haufiku on that date about our ratio the Doctor to patient ratio in Namibia and how he compare to international norms and Honourable Doctor responded to say that the normal standard is one Doctor to 5 000 patients per annum and then the Doctor said yes, per annum per year in other words. The Minister also alluded to the fact that currently in our situation we are at 38%.

HON SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Minister on a point of order.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Just a correction to the Honourable Member. The ratio is expressed not in terms of percentage per annum but in terms of absolute number per population so that people do not get it wrongly. It is not per annum. It is per population. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Member please continue.

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HON KAVEKOTORA: First of all that does not make any sense. Secondly, I am copying a statement that I got from another Doctor. So if the statement is incorrect, then the two Doctors can come together and just correct it. I am stating factual statistics that was brought into this House while you were not here. Now let me go on.

HON SPEAKER: Please continue.

HON KAVEKOTORA: Just go and interrogate the other Doctor. The two of you are from the same profession. Maybe one is coming from a sub-standard level.

HON SPEAKER: There is no need to go to that just continue. Please just continue.

HON KAVEKOTORA: I said maybe. I am not going to withdraw. Honourable Speaker the Doctor also alluded to the fact that the majority of our hospitals are hovering between 38-70% except Windhoek Central and Okahandja and then the Doctor went on to say that the situation will improve because there would be a fusion of more than 100 Namibian graduates medical Doctors, about 160 registered nurses, 21 Pharmacist and 640 community health workers. That was the input by the Honourable Doctor when he was here.

Now this Motion Honourable Speaker is important because first of all last week if I am not mistaken or the week before last week, the Honourable Minister of Higher Education Doctor Kandjii when he came up with a

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Ministerial Statement to indicate how these foreign students ended up in those institutions they ended up alluding to the fact that some of these students went to these University through assistance from their parents and so on and so forth.

Subsequent to that and I am perfectly also not here in this House but I got information that Doctor Ndjoze also Honourable Deputy Minister also provided additional information onto this matter and she said that NASFAF a Government institution responsible for sponsoring some of these students did in fact sponsor some of these students to study in these foreign institutions. Now that is why I am actually saying that this whole thing calls for a real interrogation and investigation as to what is actually happening because the question that Honourable Venaani posed to say how do you classify an institution to be sub-standard at the same time commit resources to that institution? That is a question that need to be interrogated further because it is a question of who did that and why did that happen now to let a situation where our students are being rejected and perhaps they are being requested to get a retraining program or a retraining intervention.

Even if you can listen to the comment by the Honourable Minister of Health you will realize that a few month when the first evaluation was done and I believe that is the same group the same population, only two passed the test. At a subsequent testing of the same group of people resulted in a bigger number of people passing the test. I actually do not know what is happening. Whether these people who subsequently went for the second examination whether they were provided with material to study from or whether these people just went back home and came back and then through the mercy of God passed the test. I do not understand what is actually happening there.

Now I am also I want to address the issue of rumours. The reason why a particular individual is bringing rumours to this House is to verify and to validate the truth of whether that is true or not. So if it does not happen as the Honourable Doctor rightly said, then we would jump to our own

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conclusion and that is not good. We need to verify and to validate rumours and if it is a rumour, then we can shut it out. If it is validated to be the truth, then we can obviously work on that. The name Trustco comes into the rumour mongering offices that Trustco is also planning together with the Government perhaps an intervention to polish these medical students who are coming from sub-standards institutions.

Now one ask the question what would be the feasible interest of Trustco in medical profession. I do not see the link and then it is something that need to be validated for us. The reason some of these things are questionable Honourable Members is that Namibia is a very strange country. There is a lot of things that under normal circumstances does not happen in countries but it does happen in Namibia. So we had to have some sort of an assurance that things are not happening for reasons other than what have been put on the table. That assurance is very important for us to have. So those rumours of Trustco also need to be investigated for us to find out what is the truth about this whole thing.

We are also hearing that is the cash 22 situation. We are hearing a situation where it is being alleged that the Namibian, the medical students who are graduating from the schools of medicine in Namibia can only practice in Namibia. Whether that is true, whether that is not still need to be validated hence the importance of this Motion moving forward for all this information to become known to the Namibians and the truth can obviously set us free because if that rumour is true, then the question is that how can we as a sub-standard country test or complain about a student who is coming from another institution that is also sub-standard. There is a contradiction in my view.

So I think from that perspective you know it is really important for us to get to the bottom of this and the Doctor also Doctor Haufiku made one specific statement to say under the current circumstances and the rate that we are following brining in medical Doctors in our institutions, it will take us something between 25 to 28 years to be in compliance with generally accepted international standard. That is worrisome. So this Motion in my

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view is very important. My unfortunate the problem that I have is that where do we take this Motion from now from here because we need to get to the bottom and we need to get to the truth of what is actually happening and that can only happen when people are independent in the investigated capacity and capability and that is I think is very important for whichever Committee where this Motion is going to, to apply the rule of independency and prudence in the analysis of this Motion because it is not just as simple as what some of our Colleagues are trying to put it. It is a very important Motion. It touches upon the young people. It touches upon people who have spent time with the right intention which is now being repudiated by the Ministers of Higher Education with a right intention. These people went into these Universities with the right intention. Now they are now collecting dust like other Namibians who are collecting food in dust bins and what a view. So I think this Motion is very important. We cannot allow it just to be skewed here by the non-willingness of politicians to address reality. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Point of order. Anyway it is alright. We move on. He is no longer on the floor. Well I was faced with but you take the floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INNOVATION: I just wanted to call the Honourable Kavekatora. I actually have a lot of respect for him but he is using very harsh language in his presentation. We Namibia as a sub-standard country what do you mean and people are being thrown into the dust bin? The Doctor the Minister of Health actually set out the program that people are given first, second, third chance to pass. Would you rather have somebody who have failed three times to treat you who could not even pass a third time? So what we are trying to say is that this is a vetting mechanism. Do not put the whole country as a sub-standard country. We are not a sub-standard country. We are uphold high standards and I just wanted to draw this

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attention to that.

HON SPEAKER: Alright, thank you very much. Honourable Kavekatora you want to respond to that.

HON KAVEKOTORA: Yes, I will because the Speaker allowed the Minister, so yes, perhaps it is because of the interjections from Honourable Minister of Justice. What I meant basically I am actually following what you had already done the issue of sub-standard did not come from me. It came from you there so when I am just repeating what you have said I do not know whether you are now trying to repudiate your own statement or whether you are actually pointing a finger at me because your one finger is pointing at me but the three fingers are pointing at you.

HON SPEAKER: On a point of order Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Was he done speaking or not because the Honourable Ndjoze Ojo made a point of order asked for an opportunity to pose the question. He said he was done. Then immediately after the Honourable Member made a statement, she resumes the contribution.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Kavekatora I think you are done. Are you done?

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HON KAVEKOTORA: Yes, there was another point of order here.

HON SPEAKER: No, no, please you are now derailing the proceedings. Let us move on. Next on my list is Honourable Sacky Shanghala.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Speaker I would like to first thank Doctor Kalumbi Shangula for sanitizing, disinfecting and treating the rumour that came to this House. It is so sterile now that really there is no objective to be gained in pursuing this matter any further. In fact what has happened immediately after he spoke, the move of the Motion was answered by the Minister. Further rumours are emerging from the depth of the creative minds of the members of the opposition Trustco. We are going to wait for more to come and this is misinformation which some of our journalists will just go and splash on their headlines more conspiracies. Really we are not educating and helping the cause for which I thought the leader of the opposition rightly brought forth statement that what he brought here which has been thoroughly cured now, cured, cured.

I wonder whether or not the Speaker does not agree with me the part of Honourable Kavekatora's statement for squarely within Rule 88(e)(i) because he raised an issue already decided or which was answered fully by the Deputy Minister of Higher Education. That was answered fully, no, the part of his question was already answered. Then he referred he even admitted that there was a previous response done here by the then Minister Haufiku and now wants to prolong the discussion when nothing would be and I was wondering Honourable Speaker if there is any merit to be gained by considering Rule 31. Let me just make the suggestion first.

HON SPEAKER: Can I hear you? Can you check the Rule there? I do

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not have the book, yes, please.

HON MUHARUKUA: Honourable Member Minister of Justice is not telling the truth. He is quoting Rule 88 in contest of what is happening here. Rule 88 refers to what, be truthful. Do not telling other things.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: You know Comrade Speaker I thought I understood in the presentation of the contribution of Honourable Kavekatora that he was inquiring about something that was already answered. Well, you see you have your view. I am advancing the reason why I think it is the case and then on top of that he went to admit that there was actually a response given on an issue but yet he brings it, weaves it into this discussion which we are saying has concluded by the response given by the Minister present day. There can be no further authority than the Minister responsible for the sector was thoroughly contributed in the fashion and said that there are ongoing activities relating to the subject matter of the Motion. So the Motion is defunct and I was asking Honourable Speaker if Rule 31 could be put to this House the question of whether this Motion should continue at all and then we vote and dispose of it. Why should we continue allowing people to bring rumours, unsanitize, untested and untruth into this House?

HON SPEAKER: Please we are prolonging the discussion. Can I just inform the House? Let me inform the House where we are. I have got few Members who are ready to speak on the Motion. Let him conclude. I will continue and then at the end I will make a ruling not for now.

HON MUHARUKUA: My point is this I thought I was helping the

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Honourable Member but it seems to me he is going further into the woods. His submission with regards to the rules that he is quoting 88 and 31 relate to questions. Now there is no rule that says if the Minister has spoken in a debate, his words is God word final and authoritative. Well, he is misinforming and for him to be allowed on that trend whilst he is out of order, subject this House to ridicule. He is being ridiculous in his actions.

HON SPEAKER: I am hearing you but the Honourable Member is continuing to make his comment. He has started one. He is going to move on. Can you complete your intervention please?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Thank you for your response to my, yes, Comrade.

HON SPEAKER: I am now confused as to where we are because he did not say anything as yet. Honourable let me just get the balance.

HON IVHULA-ITHANA: Point of order Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Point of order for the earlier statement he made.

HON IVHULA-ITHANA: Yes.

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HON SPEAKER: Alright.

HON IVHULA-ITHANA: On a point of order Comrade Speaker procedurally a matter like the one that Honourable Venaani has addressed towards the line Minister because it helped personnel that were being discussed. Procedurally the line Minister was supposed to speak last. I am not attributing any blame anywhere. The Minister is also new and he is not guided and now Comrade Speaker for us to bring order to the House, we should allow the Honourable Minister to speak twice because there are new issues being raised from the floor and they cannot go unanswered. This Motion is very important. The mover said so. The Honourable Minister said so and therefore if the debate continues, then we should allow we should break our rules because each Member is supposed to speak only once on an issue. Now we are putting the Minister in (interrupted).

HON SPEAKER: Let us not have a dialogue please.

HON IVHULA-ITHANA: Yes, no dialogue please. I just wanted us not to intervene. The Minister is going to rise again and answer the new matters that will be raised. Will that be allowed? That is my question.

HON SPEAKER: Let me try and clarify the issues.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Speaker this was the

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reason why (interrupted).

HON SPEAKER: Let us have order. Please let us have order. Now I am going to speak now. Listen to me now. Please, please first I cannot create something which is not there. The Honourable Venaani presented his Motion. We all listened here. I did not have any other speaker to respond other than Honourable Minister. On that basis, I allowed the Minister to speak so do not come back to me to seek a refuge. That we are over that point, alright because we cannot roll back. Now what I think should be done I want to exhaust the list that I have here. Allow those Members who put their names forward to make their contribution and then after that, ideally someone should postpone the Motion so that if there is any issue that need to be taken up that occur during the debate, somebody can respond to that. Then Honourable Venaani will then have a right to respond to issues raised. Maybe that is the way how we could manage the debate but there is now way I would force anybody to take the floor in the debate like this. The Minister stood up and responded correctly. There were no other Members who were ready to take the floor according to my system here. So we cannot go back. Honourable can you conclude your intervention?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker I stood first to ask guidance because the second issue I was going raise is the reason why I raise the first issue which is why what Honourable Pendukeni Ivhuala-Ithana had raised hence the explanation of why I am saying we thought we had done no more intervention and Honourable Speaker I think the Minister did the right thing and the reason he did it is to deal with the toxicity of the matter and it has been dealt with. So I thought Honourable Speaker with the guidance that you have given, I would be very willing to postpone the debate so that the Minister can come with, hold on, hold on, I

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think it is an important matter we need to discuss. Colleague just listen to me. I think it is an important matter.

It is a matter of procedure which I would like us to just understand hence I was saying that the comment made by Honourable Muharukua my Colleague on the issue of the rules is to say look these rules are for the National Assembly. It is not the National Assembly for the rules. We are the lawmaking House here and the reason was because of the importance of the issue the Minister came I to deal with it in its rightness there and then. We can now allow the process he has articulated to continue. If for instance after the procedure he has indicated there are still those concerns, it is an issue that can be brought up I thought but now that it has been dealt with the response and I think inadequate more than I think anybody could have expected, I think this matter has now been presented with finality for the time being. That is the suggested I was making.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much but you see you are placing the chair in a very awkward position and I am saying this I have three more Members who would like to take the floor. Now what do I do with them? I cannot simply conclude and ask Honourable Venaani to reply because they are Members who would like to contribute so are you happy with that?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Sorry Comrade Speaker I did not consider that part under the circumstance I think your rule is fair.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I think with that, I am grateful to the Honourable Member for your understanding. Let us finish the list because otherwise, it will not auger well, Honourable Utoni Nujoma.

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HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Thank you very much Comrade Speaker. I just want to make a few comments and I am happy that adequate I should say these rumours that has been spread through media and also in this Parliament as we have seen today have been properly disinfected and also disinfected and then sanitized and sterilized. I use those three medical words and I would like to thank Honourable Doctor Shangula for adequately dealing with this matter in that medical terminology. You do not understand because you know as Doctor Karumbi was saying he was saying this is a caring Government, very caring Government. It has gone to the extent, it has been caring for everybody. It has invested heavily in education. Honestly speaking we must appreciate. You see even going to the extent of supporting these students. I do not care the number you are quoting whether it is 207 million, 300 that shows that this is a carrying Government.

We have admitted here that some of the students went on their own supported by parents and NASFAFA came to the rescue of all these students but with one main purpose just to make sure that we have adequate Doctors in our country. The goal is to achieve the ratio that patient to Doctor Ratio. We are on the right track. We are trying even we went to the extent of establishing our own medical school to cut on the cost so that we train. Now we have 35 that is an achievement. We must really applaud this Government. It is a carrying Government though the challenge as it was stated here and I am happy that Doctor Shangula also sterilized that rumour that the medical and dental profession is composed of foreign Doctors.

Everybody who sit on that, all those Doctors there is not a single one except for the 35 that we have trained. All of them are from everywhere in this world. So Colleagues let us be rational in our thinking. If there are shortcomings that is what we need to address and I think in my own view the medical and dental Council is trying to address those challenges, those shortcomings. We are not immune. We are human beings. Everybody can fault but we tend to take serious matters just for granted because we want to capitalize on a political statement. That does not bother us

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because some of you think there are 300 hundred students there who are not happy. Maybe let me capture them in election is coming. It is naïve and childish when you deal with serious matters of nation building. So we should not go to that route. I will end up here. I will come back again. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Doctor Itah Kandjii-Murangi.

HON MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INNOVATION: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I wish to than the mover of the Motion. It is indeed a very important Motion and I will also like to thank Honourable Shangula for a very concise contribution or response but Honourable Speaker I would like to seek the indulgence of the House to postpone the debate to tomorrow.

HON SPEAKER: Until tomorrow.

HON MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INNOVATION: Yes.

HON SPEAKER: Alright, thank you, Honourable Muharukua.

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HON MUHARUKUA: Honourable Speaker I have set through I believe 90% of the replies given. That is where the really essence is from the Minister of Health but just before I make my contributions, I want to state that when we are doing what we are doing here Honourable Shanghala, we must be aware and be mindful that whatever we do here affect people's lives. That is why people stand in queues for long to ensure that we are where we are. So when we childish held these insults at one another, little petty begging on important issues not personal, we are hurting non other the people that we are supposed to represent and the reputation of this very House. Having said that I want to thank the mover of the Motion. That is one but I also want to thank the Minister for his reply because the mover of the Motion something that I am aware of that I suppose someone who does not sit together with him and caucus would not be aware of is to ensure or was still is to ensure that we have the solution to the problem that is created by ourselves.

Whether we apportion blame on the students or on Government, it is a national Government. The students are part of us so the solution that comes about benefit us all because these things belongs to all of us. Now we are talking about disinfecting all this, sterilizing all these words that are aimed at insulting the mover of the Motion. Now the Motion was not just moved in a vacuum. The Motion was moved after questions. Questions were brought in good faith seeking and trying to induce an answer as to what the way forward is with this problem that was created. That was seeking that.

The answers that were proffered to this House, the answers that were proffered to the parents of these students, the answers that were proffered to these students who need a job was apportionment and blames that yes, NASFAF gave the money but the Honourable Doctor Namwandi at the time was the Minister of Education when NASFAF was doing these. It is not us. These are the things that was coming to the House. At no point (interrupted).

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HON SPEAKER: There is a point of order.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: That the statement of Honourable Muharukua that questions were asked in this Parliament asking what is being done to address the concerns of the young medical and dental graduates but the answers that were provided were in a form of apportioning blame to the students. I think that is incorrect because the issue of the placement of these graduates is not dealt with by the Minister of Higher Education. It is dealt with by the Ministry of Health and the Health Council and the Minister has clearly explained what is being done to address the issue and that answer is sufficient. It provides sufficient clarity to the issue and I think really that what is happening here is while the Honourable Member wants to say that the Executive side is showing indifference or not sensitivity to this matter, one gets an impression that there are some members of the opposition that actually; want to exploit the state of mind for these young graduates to gain political points and that is what is most unfortunate because it was already announced by the NBC itself that after the matter was taken to court there was a convergence of mind that the matter be removed from the roll so that the appeal of the youths can be heard and that is being dealt with.

HON SPEAKER: Alright PM you have your say, yes, Honourable Muharukua.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Yes, let him not further to the case it is being dismissed, it is not being dismissed.

HON SPEAKER: Please Honourable Muharukua continue.

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HON MUHARUKUA: Honourable Speaker I did not say at any point the Ministers that responded to the question is apportioning blame on the students. I did not say that. What I said is that none of the answers that were given came out and said while there has been a problem admittedly, these are the steps that we have taken and that is why I said that and this is the solution that we have. None of you did that. That on its own being responsible Members of this House, it is the duty of the mover of the Motion to induce to seek out that solution from Government. When where the Namibian people is supposed to hear what the Minister have said today, in fact I would go as far as saying that after Government has had no answer, was found with this conundrum, then went to a sleepless night and said look, what are we going to do and maybe came up with this answer, maybe.

I do not know but the points here is this it is not good faith. It does not speak well to the conscience of the members of this House to try and politicize or allege that others are politicizing a matter that is important when others are trying to seek answers for Namibians that need those answers. In conclusion Honourable Speaker now I am going to speak to the Minister's answers. Honourable Minister I am glad that even of course one is perhaps left wanting with more details of what is being discussed, perhaps that there is some sort of way crafted maybe more would come towards solving this problem but indeed the Honourable Nujoma has said something quite correct that Doctors are one of the things that we need in this country.

I have it under some sort of partial authority that there is some empty spaces on the UNAM medical school admission. The applications that they receive is something like 400 applications for this so 400 of these students are rejected. It is a problem when we really need truly Doctors. The Honourable Nujoma is right about that we need Doctors. So I hope and I trust that everything will be done, that people would seize to politicize a matter that has nothing to do with politics but has to do with the lives of Namibians that these students would be allowed those of course that should be allowed should be allowed to do what they studied

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to do because the public have expended or has expended money on them and it is important that that money does not go to waste and this is why that Motion is moved. Thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The subject has been dealt with, we will continue to deal with that tomorrow and so decided. We move on to the next item with the time is at our disposal. The second notice of a Motion is the one of the Honourable Venaani. Does the Honourable Member move the Motion?

HON VENAANI: I move so Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds the Motion, any objection, agreed to. Honourable Member you have the floor.

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HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker when we pray in this House everyday those are prayed by the Speaker we say to find solutions to problems facing us. So when Honourable Venaani comes to this House I come to this House to find solutions to problems facign the people of Namibia and some of you have this tendency to say this is our people. Why are they not my people? This is our people. We know we are Namibians and I am one Namibian who cuts across the country because

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Nambian not all of you, because Namibia knows that when Venaani and his team stands up, he is talking about problems facing Namibia. So for you to say that when I come to this House I am trying to politicize debates, debates that I did not even have the iota of bringing to the fore. That was brought by your own miscarriages of leadership.

Now let us come to the issue of, I am a veteran member of the House. I know the rules. I do not mind with the fights and I am very capable of carrying the fights. Do not think I am afraid of the fights. I am not a coward but let me come to the very important issue and let me say this. Right Honourable Prime Minister everything that this caring, the alleged caring Government.

HON SPEAKER: You are addressing the Speaker.

HON VENAANI: The Speaker, through you my Speaker everything that is governed by this carrying administration has a picky bag of corruption. Nothing happens in this country without corruption. Everything even inside to a level where officials do not have time to administer Government problems. What we are doing is inside trading to find where this person is going to get money here and get money here. Now let me come to PSEMAS. Honourable Speaker why Parliamentarians seeks for inquiries is because Parliament has a fundamental oversight function over the Executive and for Parliament to fundamental oversight the Executive, it must appraise it self with facts not fictions. Now let us come to PSEMAS.

When the IMF revealed in their financial risk report for Namibia dated 23rd November 2018 they said the following. PSEMAS have very significant challenges related to fraud in the system. Estimation suggest that fraud caused up to N\$900 Million per year due to fraud, abuse, waste

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and collision. This is abreast. Those that are perpeterual defenders of corruption are known. They contionue to do that. They are perpetual defenders of corruption but the minute that I have read this report, can I be protected Honourable Speaker?

HON SPEAKER: There is a particular problem. Honourable Member you referred to defenders of corruption. Are they to be found in this House?

HON VENAANI: Yes, they are.

HON SPEAKER: You want to name them.

HON VENAANI: I will do that for you later. After I have done I will name them. They are perpetual defenders of corruption in this House. When you stand up in this House and talk about corruption, prove it, where is corruption, defenders. They are defenders known and they know themselves. They can do that but me will not be found wanting and defending corruption.

HON SPEAKER: No, no, but Honourable Members I want to share something with you. You know the reference to defenders of corruption is such a strong expression. It really is a very serious charge and you know we are all here sworn to defend the constitution. Can I just say this? I am introducing something here. I feel obligated as a Parliament for us to

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know that we have people whom we believe are defending corruption, we are expected to hand them over to the Anti-Corruption Commission. Really to submit that because otherwise, if you do not do that people will be laughing at us. Honourable Venaani please.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker we are expected to debate corruption here and to debate it here. We cannot defend it and say let us not talk about it. Let us go report it.

HON SPEAKER: No, no, I am not saying we should not talk about it.

HON VENAANI: As policy makers we need to talk about corruption, the fears that we have about it, the perceptions that we have about it and how we are going to come down to addressing it. Those that are defending, you can stand up it is alright.

HON SPEAKER: Is that on a point of order.

HON MUHARUKUA: Yes, it is a point of order.

HON SPEAKER: Or is it a question? I did not give you the floor. You jumped up. Please you may.

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HON MUHARUKUA: Honourable leader of official opposition I want to ask you a question. Would I be correct to say that the Speaker of the Parliament is asking the Members of the National Assembly, he is asking the Members to report when Members in his August House are debating corruption and some Members are defending corruption to go to ACC and say that. When we sit in Parliament the Honourable, alright X is defending corruption.

HON SPEAKER: No, no, I did not say that. I said if we have known people who defend corruption who are actually was by implicating they are corrupt. That is what I meant.

HON MUHARUKUA: No, that is not what you meant.

HON SPEAKER: That is what I meant. Therefore we should actually report such cases to the Anti-Corruption Commission. That is what I meant. There is nothing wrong in that.

HON MUHARUKUA: Honourable Speaker it would have been relevant if you said they are corrupt Members here but then that would be relevant.

HON SPEAKER: No, no, but you see the accusation is so strong, yes, Honourable Venaani please continue with your Motion.

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HON VENAANI: Well, the Prime Minister is ignored for now. She is ignored for now. When I read, I do not know why the Speaker does not rule the Prime Minister out of order.

HON SPEAKER: Please address me, continue you have the floor. Please continue.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker everyday when we go home at night, we worry about the economic situation of our country, the challenges that many of our people are facing and sometimes when we are in this House all of us jokingly or in a higher note makes fun of the lives of the people of this country through our actions. When you are reading a report of an institution such as the International Monetary Fund that was leaked to me and there is such an allegation, it brings one to come it is a report not a rumour. There is a difference from a rumour and a report. International Monetary Fund report, is there no such a report? I have a copy of it. That is Calle now. Do not mind where the report comes from but the issue is the following whether the veracity of the reports could be argued that we are not losing, wait it is my right to motivate while speaking because I am just not reading. I speak from my mind. I write my own speeches.

Look at this Deputy Speaker this is how you behave. Then I am saying procedurally you cannot run this House but anyway I withdraw that. Honourable Speaker the fraud at PSEMAS corruption that is happening there need the attention of this House. What is happening there needs the attention of this House for a proper and thorough debate because first and foremost if you look at the amount of people that are on the Scheme we are spending close to N\$87 Million just to administer. I know you have interest there N\$87 Million.

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HON SPEAKER: Is that a point of order?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker one can take insults and inuendos to a certain level but the Honourable Member began first by blemishing in this House that there are Members who defend corruption simply for making the distinction that there is a distinction between precede levels that are in the fatal minds of those who believe it and actual levels and the actual reported cases. Now he continues and said that I have interest with. Let him go and make the statement outside. It is not my fault that you have such a setorical standard which is below one's mind.

HON SPEAKER: That point of objection is sustained. Honourable Venaani please contionue.

HON VENAANI: I think the Honourable Member wants to become so important. Whose name did I mention? How did I mention him? I never mention, no. You can be many people. If you say you, how many are you.

HON SPEAKER: Please continue your presentation Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Now Honourable Speaker I was talking about the N\$87 Million that we spend every year on administering a fund of close to 90

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plus thousand people. Now if you look at the amount of money that we spent on administering a fund and spend N\$100 Million just to administer the fund and while there is an administration of the fund, you are losing this kind of money where medical Practitioners are milking this system, milking it dry to a point where this fund could be declared defunct in a few years taking the amount of corruption that is happening there.

The other day there was a good story in the paper that even for female sicknesses, people are claiming that Henry Venaani has done whatever thing. Of course there are gender sicknesses. There are sicknesses that I cannot have like you could have and there are sicknesses that I could have that you will not have given our biological differences but you are having Practitioners doing this and yet the fund administrators cannot detect that hey, how is it possible that Honourable Bezuidenhout is pregnant and you are charged seven times. Seven times you are in the city. The other day you were pregnant and the other Pohamba, the other day Oshakati one person pregnant a male. These are the things that are (interrupted)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member no, no, you continue but you are saying that the administrators do not have the authority to intervene. Is that what you are saying?

HON VENAANI: Yes because I would have believed that if first and foremost fundamentally I believe that a fund so small cannot be administered at a cost of N\$80 Million. I believe that officials in the Ministry of Finance five-ten officials can be able to administer this fund to outsource it to private institution to cost us N\$80 Million and yet we have all these lapses where people are not finding out how the system is being milked out. Now I am aware due to the question that was asked by the progressive party to the Minister of Finance not OPO, DTA yes not OPO. Let us not go there, Let us not try to divulge important matters of our

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country into the politics. Let us leave it.

HON SPEAKER: Please continue.

HON VENAANI: Our politics is about changing the living standards of our people. No problem and I am very glad Honourable Minister Calle Schlettwein my dear cousin that you are attempting to do something about it but I want this Motion to further help you and help you in your Cabinet that more action is needed for us to re-configure this medical scheme. One, I do not believe that we need to pay N\$100 Million to administer this fund. It is a lot of money that they are wasting. We can internally administer this fund with dedicated staff. There is a fund in Durban a medical aid fund of 270 000 people which is administered at a cost of N\$25 Million in Durban.

Now I wonder how can this fund a fund that has 260 000 dependants is administered close to N\$25-N\$30 Million every year ours with less the people is three times more the price and I believe that money could be saved there. Secondly, our medical Practitioners are not doing this corruption alone. They are aided by us society. It is us who goes, take you mother whom you know is not on the medical aid and you say alright, maybe you have put the pregnancy of a man, put my mother on. So we should also address the fund beneficiaries that we should speak to our own conscience as beneficiaries of this fund that Doctors are colluding with and especially main beneficiaries of these funds and that way because most of the time when you enter into a Doctor's consulting room, you are just asked to sign a receipt that you attended a Doctor but you are never told what you are charged for and I think that is where the problem is.

That we need to create another system that before I leave the consultation I must know what am I charged for because you leave the bill open to the

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medical people to do whatever they are charging you. Most of the time some Doctors will give you a receipt to say that no, this is your contribution but those that have interest not in your N\$50 that you must pay but they want to make a thousand dollar, they would go and write a different disease that you have never have in your life for him to be able to claim more money. So I think there must be a system brought in place.

HON SPEAKER: Is that on a point of order, yes.

HON MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES : The alluded facts the Honourable is saying is it facts or assumption and if it is on fact, can the Honourable present that fact possibly to the House the fact to say that you are charging this but it is a cover up. Is it assumption nor is it a fact and if it is a fact, can Honourable possibly report this to ACC?

HON VENAANI: If you want to give that advice you must give that advice to Honourable Schlettwein. He gave facts on how this system is being handled in his answers. Were you not in the House? You go home if you were not here. So what I am trying to say is that Honourable Speaker this IMF report do not worry how it came to. Things do come to me have also underlined mitigation measures that can be considered by our Government and they were linked employee contributions to salaries, improve focastign of the cost of future benefits and budget for it accordingly, include a provision I the budget to manage unanticipated cost, eliminate any alliance with service providers, implement recommendations of the forensic audit team appointed by the Ministry, rationalize the Government structure of the system to allow for better coordination and timely decision making for preventing future financial prejudice.

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**ADJOURNMENT
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

According to the Minister N\$30 Million has been recovered and a further N\$23 Million is expected to be recover. That is a good progress but one wants to know how deep is the problem. The N\$30 Million is only a tip of an icebag judging from the enormous funds which Government is being defrauded. Apart from suspending some of these practices, recovery of money and handing over cases to Nampol what else does the Ministry intend on doing to mitigate the fall out and (interruption).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Venaani if it is still you have quite a long way to go, we can continue tomorrow.

HON VENAANI: Yes, let us continue tomorrow. I will restart tomorrow.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. With that brought us to the end of the day. If we all agree, we will continue tomorrow at the usual time. The House stands adjourn until tomorrow the usual time.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2019.03.14 AT 14:30

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important matter to the attention of this august House. I will not be able to respond to specific questions as most of the issues fall outside the mandate of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. However, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, I share the concerns you have expressed regarding the harvesting of timber in the northern part of our country. The protection of our biodiversity in partnership with other Ministries, organizations and even those is of utmost importance to the Ministry. Therefore this is the reason why the Ministry of Environment and Tourism does not support the life skill commercial harvesting of timber in Namibia especially without any value addition and in case in violation of our rules.

The questions raised here by Honourable Smit are indeed very specific even though it is the mandate of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism to promote biodiversity conservation in the Namibian environment and to monitor and promote the sustainable utilization of natural resources for the maximum social economic benefits of all citizens. It is important to note that forestry activities are regulated through the Forest Act, Act No.12 of 2001 which is of course under the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry thus a license to harvest timber is obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry not the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. On this basis, Honourable Speaker, none of the Questions posed by Honourable Speaker are more linked to this particular Act whereas administered and managed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. Consequently I would not want to go into details on some of the finer details of how the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry comes to its decision regarding the issuance of licences for timber harvesting without Environmental Clearance Certificate.

However, from the perspective of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism commercial timber harvesting is a listed activity in terms of Section 27 Sub Section of the Environmental Management Act, Act No.7 of 2007 Commercial harvesting of timber is a classic example of the removal of a living natural resource from the environment. It is mandatory that applications for commercial timber harvesting are submitted to the Office of the Environmental Commissioner prior to any

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issuance of harvesting licence. In this post it is required to do a thorough assessment of the impacts of the planned activities on all aspects of the environment. It is also required to identify and implement measures that reduce the impacts of basic activities on the environment.

Honourable Members, I would like to take this opportunity to remind this august House that the Ministry of Environment and Tourism is implementing a Cabinet decision dated 23rd of August 2018 which directed all organs of State, undertaking listed activities in the Environmental Management Act particularly with regards to resource removal including natural living resources, as per Section 27 Sub Section 2 (c) to obtain an Environmental Clearance Certificate before undertaking such activities.

Honourable Members with respect to the timber harvesting this provision of the Environmental Management Act has been largely ignored until it was decided to suspend the harvesting transportation, marketing and export of timber on 26 of November 2018. It is remarkable that since the suspension 231 applications for timber harvesting have been submitted to the office of the Environmental Commissioner with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry as per the requirement of Section 32 of the Environmental Management Act, Act No.7 of 2007 of which none of them has been issued with Environmental Clearance Certificate. The commercial harvesting of timber on small scale commercial farms in Kavango East and Kavango West is of particular concern to us as a Ministry. The trees formed on these farms are State owned resources and should be used for the benefit of our local communities S & Ts prescribed in different pieces of legislation including the Traditional Authority Act, Act No.25 of 2000, Communal Reform Act, Act No.5 of 2002 and Environmental Management Act, Act No.7 of 2007. What is happening at the moment is that the forestry resources on these farms are being destroyed for the short term gains of the few.

Honourable Members, coming back to 2,031 applications for Environmental Clearance Certificates that has been received it is notable

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that none of these applications have done any environmental impact assessment of the impact of these harvesting on the environment. Honourable Smit, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism shares your concern about a cumulative environmental impact of harvesting such a large volume of trees. We are also particularly concerned about the types of hardwood pieces being harvested. In many cases these are protected species and it can take hundreds of years for these species to re-grow and they cannot be sufficiently replanted in the short to medium term. The forest areas are also an important habitat for Namibia's wildlife and other forms of biodiversity thus also the Environmental Commissioner has not issued any Environmental Clearance Certificates for any of the 2,031 applications received for commercial timber harvesting. A decision was however, jointly taken to lead the suspension on the transportation of timber that was cut prior to the suspension issued on 26 November 2018 so that this timber can be transported and sold. The transportation of this timber is allowed until end of this month the 31st of March 2019.

Honourable Members, as stated in letter that suspended timber harvesting operations the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism are engaging to come up with a lasting solution to harmonize procedures requirements for the timber harvesting. In terms of our short term response the Ministry of Environment and Tourism conducted a field inspection to the affected areas during the week of 18 to 22nd of February 2019 in three most affected regions that is Kavango East, Kavango West and Zambezi Regions. Admittedly a number of concerns and challenges are being experienced on the ground. Further information was gathered during these visits. It is estimated that 390 permits have already been issued without Environmental Clearance Certificates in Kavango East only. Relating to timber harvesting and that about 8,000 trees have been harvested. This timber is exported to different routes including Walvis Bay, Border Post and Ngoma where export permits are issued. Further concerns observed from the field visits are that foreigners are being contracted by the farmers and there is very little monitoring of their activities as required by the law. The permits are issues of course by the

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Directorate of Forestry but there is very little monitoring and enforcement on the ground due to limited manpower in the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.

Also there are concerns that harvesting is being done randomly. Trees are not marked on the ground as required by the law and as supposed to be done. Although the Directorate of Forestry uses marketing permits as a tool to control the transport of the logs it is difficult to implement due to the high volumes of trucks and timber being exported. It is recommended that these trucks should be weighed at the weigh bridge as appropriate. It is also recommended from the Ministry of Finance to come on board regarding export of these and tax related to that operations time on timber harvesting needs to be restricted and carried out between 07:00 to 17:00. Timber operations are being undertaken at night time and this opens up opportunities of illegal harvesting. Animals may be displaced by noise which could result in any increased risk of poaching if activities are allowed at night time. The size of harvesting timber is questionable. Some are lower than 45 centimeter in diameter. Harvesters claim that there are more trees that branches from the main trees and these complicates the monitoring process because it cannot be verified because there are no officials that are monitoring there.

Several meetings have been held between officials from the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and a number of short term and more long term measures have been agreed upon and are being implemented to control illegal harvesting and transport of timber and to improve with policing of timber harvesting operations. These are particularly targeting improved monitoring and enforcement measures and a crackdown on illegal operations. Section 27 of Environmental Management Act, Act No.7 of 2007 not only created a legal norm but also created both criminal norms and criminal sanctions for those who contravene the Act. Hence for all those who harvested timber for commercial purposes without Environmental Clearance Certificate have contravened the Act and will have to face full wrath of the law. Ignorance of the law is not an excuse. I would, Honourable Speaker, I

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would like to take this opportunity to inform this august House that the Ministry of Environment and Tourism has a clear mandate to protect our diversity and eco systems in the Namibian environment hence it is the view of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism that a commercial harvesting of timber should not be allowed at such higher scale in Namibia without value addition to create local benefits including employment that is moving forward.

The scientific projection, I want you to listen to this, the scientific projection is that if timber harvest had to be permitted at such higher scale and rate it happened until last when it was suspended last year. It will take less than twenty years to be fowled to our only forestry dunes we have in the country less than twenty years. Namibia is an arid country. This means that our forests and hardwood resources even more precious that we need to manage them properly and sustainably. Namibia is not like other tropical rain forestry countries where you can undertake a large scale commercial timber harvesting.

At least I think Honourable Member, I attempted to answer your question, that this you are welcome to ask your questions to the relevant Ministries, thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Nico Smit.

HON SMIT: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for his comprehensive answer on this issue. But I want to say that what you said is actually more worrisome. It is clear that there is not a very good control over the harvesting of our precious trees especially in those three regions. So I would like to ask the Minister but ii will also come back with the question to the Minister of Agriculture, those that has not been answered by the Honourable Minister right now.

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But should it not be considered to stop to suspend the harvesting of our forests or our big trees especially those the other day I read in the newspaper that some of those trees it took them up to 300 - 400 years to go to that size that these people are harvesting and if those trees are also actually irreplaceable so it is not our main responsibility to protect that heritage those trees of ours as the Ministry of State and I think I also stated that we are a semi arid country. They only have that small part of our country where we have forestry in Zambezi and the two Kavangos.

HON SPEAKER: That was a supplementary, can I (*intervention*).

HON SMIT: So yes I just want to hear from the Minister what are the possibilities that we can suspend until everything is in place because what he said about the permits and harvesting and not licensed and all those kinds of things is really not very clear.

HON SPEAKER: Okay can I bring the Minister in to respond, before, okay (*interruptions*).

HON VENAANI: (Not on microphone).

HON SPEAKER: Can I finish this one?

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HON VENAANI: It is another (not on microphone). ...it is on both sides that we are all concerned but is it true that our people that are selling these things that they are selling one tree N\$2,000 per tree and the trees that Honourable Smit is mentioning about the knish your 60, 70, 80 and 100 trees cost N\$800,000 one wood N\$800,000, yes for furnisher. If it is the best of the best trees, I was just having a meeting with the Environmentalists that came to me from Europe claiming that one tree is sold for N\$2,000 and if it is the best tree it is sold in the perfect for N\$800,000 is that true?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister we have a very unusual (incomplete). If you are able to deal with that it is fine but if not (*intervention*).

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: I can deal with that, if the Honourable Member can listen here? Honourable Smit's question about the suspension of, the suspension has already been effected as from 26 November last year. As from there, there has been no issuance of licences by the Agricultural Ministry. The Forestry Directorate did not issue any licence and those licences that were issued they have also effected the suspension or they will withdraw those licences. There is no timber harvesting taking place from November. The trees that you see being transported as I have said in this is to allow those trees that were cut before 26th of November last year. Some of the trees we see they are originally not from Namibia. Namibia is a transit of some other. Some countries do that and then you know already that from there they use our ports so it is not all what you use on the road that is coming from Namibia. The majority of those trees are not from Namibia.

So Namibia is just a transit because they have a port. They use either from other next landlocked countries. But the suspension is done. We

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have agreed like this year between the two Ministries and our officials are working on the modalities to see way forward. But what I am saying here is that this has not been allowed that we are talking about from Environmental perspective. It has not been allowed by the law so therefore we cannot say until when, will it resume or not but our agreement between two of us as Ministries is that it should stop until things are done properly and procedurally.

Now the question of prices, it has not really been established so far but these are trees that are sorted highly in the world and we are talking about the trees that have been therefore 300 – 400 years. Definitely the durability of the product if you process it can go up to 100 or so years so that is why the prices of these are very high. It is a real lucrative business and other countries like also suspended that. They do not allow it because it was done at a higher scale commercial harvesting and definitely those are countries that are tropical countries. Not even semi arid country like Namibia. If tropical countries have stopped that including those in Central Africa what about Namibia and ours is just a small portion, a small part. There zone that are carrying these is very small. Can I first answer your question you are free to pose your question to the relevant Ministry as well. So therefore that is why we are saying first of

all assessment has to be done on the impact of environment before you do that. That is why I said here that we are just doing our work. I hear people talking, 'The Ministry of Environment and Tourism does not want people to harvest'. The Constitution, Article 95(1) and I want people to read it, that Article is very vital. Very vital to our environment and our mandate delighted of that. We are deriving our mandates from that Article and the Ministry is then doing its work. If you have not procedurally followed the process of course what will happen? The Ministry will have to take action on that one. So it is not to say we do not want people to have bread on the table but things must be done procedurally.

Listed activities are listed activities, in the law that is why I said yes

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Section 27 especially Sub Section 3 and Sub Section 4 created both legal norms and criminal sanctions. On those criminal sanctions it means that you have committed a crime you have contravened a law. So it is nothing like we just have to allow people to do that and eventually they go away with it or with impunity and that is why the Ministry is trying now to see to it that how they will make sure that those who have committed crime are brought to book. We are just doing our work and that is what I can answer and I end up there. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I think we should move on. Question number, oh, yes I thought the question was not direct but if you are happy to respond?

HON MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Honourable Speaker, there is no intention to directly create the impression that the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry is opening up a debate on a question that was not directly put to us but I think it is relevant that I say the following:

The administration of the Government of the day is driving on coordinated approach to our responsibilities, coordinated approach in the sense that when there are issues that might create an unintended impression within the public domain that we are not coordinating our activities it might cause us unintended complications. Now why do I say that? The Forestry Act is administered by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. It has also its own provisions in terms of the sustainable harvesting of timber like any other natural resources of this country is harvested, is provided for.

Now with the coming into being of the Environment Management Act the process of coordinating our activities is enforced. That is when the

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realization came to act as the two sisterly Ministries that we, after having observed that things are not going the way they should go that we had introduced the moratorium on continued harvesting of timber until such time that we have coordinated our activities to the extent that we can come to the nation and speak with one voice, for me that is important and it is absolutely crucial.

Now what have we done in the meantime? Under the auspices of the Office of the Right Honourable Prime Minister we have agreed that technical officials from the Ministries that can have a take in what we want to achieve as a nation with regards to timber, value addition thereto and all the issues incidental thereto can be taken onboard and that technical report from the officials shall be submitted to the Minister who would internalize it and eventually revert back to the Office of the Prime Minister for a collectively approach response to the public hence the impression is probably created within the public domain that the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry is keeping mum on the timber charter. No we are not keeping mum we are just disciplined in our approach so that once we have concluded then we can come back and engage the nation. I so submit.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. That was quite in order in the interests of the subject matter, I felt I should allow that. Yes Honourable Nico Smit.

HON SMIT: Yes the fact that the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry has chipped in on this I just want to ask the Minister, is there a moratorium right now on the harvesting of timber right now?

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:
They are in force.

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HON SMIT: Now in force, until such a time that you will come back to the Right Honourable Prime Minister and with the new sort of solution to this problem (*intervention*).

HON SPEAKER: I think we leave it at that.

HON SMIT: But just one thing Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Yes.

HON SMIT: At the hand of what the Minister of Environment and Tourism has said those numbers of truck that are passing through Namibia coming from the DRC or Zambia or wherever, with the exception that they are totally overloaded and damaging our roads terribly because our roads are not built for that weight, are they properly checked at our borders because we have the instance where some contraband was found in some of those containers and also the rumour, I say the rumour goes around that elephant tusks, rhino horns are also being stashed in those containers going through Namibia out of the country and we do not know where our elephants that are being harvested that way or poached and our rhinos so are those containers properly checked because it can only be checked by those scanners and we have been informed that most of those scanners are not working there at the border in Zambezi they are not working? So those containers are coming in without being checked what is inside there because you cannot offload those containers to check so I just want to know is there a system in place to find out what is in those containers that are passing through Namibia?

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HON ALWEENDO**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. That question actually Honourable Nico Smit I am not sure whether the question you are directing it to the Minister of Environment and Tourism because his portfolio does not cover Transport and Works and it is almost like a new question. I think the question is still directed to the Minister of Environment and Tourism. So if there is no response you can still put it in writing to the appropriate Ministry. So let us leave it at that. question number 5, Honourable Kavekatora do you put the question?

HON KAVEKOTORA: Yes I do.

HON SPEAKER: And the question is directed to the Minister of Urban and Rural Development who is not in the House nor is the Deputy Minister. So the question can stand over. Thank you very much. The next question, question number 6 directed to the Minister. Do you put the question and it is directed to the Minister of Mines and Energy?

HON KAVEKOTORA: Yes I do.

HON SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Minister you have the floor.

QUESTION 6:

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Thank you Honourable Speaker and let me also thank the Honourable Mike Kavekatora for

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HON KAVEKOTORA
HON ALWEENDO**

posing the question. Before I say I answer the question I want to say this and it is not a rumour it is true what I am going to say and since you are talking about diamonds I came across this line that says it is not that a diamond is beautiful by itself but only when a woman accepts it with love and looks at it with a wondrous and glittering eyes that it becomes beautiful. Is that true? I am going to ask from the ladies.

But Honourable Speaker, let me answer the questions as posed by the Honourable Kavekatora. I am going to repeat the questions but just to respond to the first question by saying that as we all know NAMDIA is Namibia's first wholly owned sovereign diamond sales and marketing company and NAMDIA buys only diamonds of Namibian original, mined only in Namibia by NAMDEB Holdings and it buys from the NDTC at 15% representative cut of all the entire diamond production. Therefore for the first time even through NAMDIA Government has an avenue through which it can sell and market unmixed parcels of Namibian rough diamond. This is important for various reasons. Firstly, Namibian diamonds have travelled through a turbulent and draft journey down the Orange River to the banks of the river along the border of South Africa and the positive on our continental show along the beaches from the mouth of the Orange River all the way to Luderitz, now because of that only the best survived that journey with high quality.

When these stones are cut and polished their yield is higher and there is little waste resulting therefore in their proportionately high value per carat. Just to illustrate this point the average value of Canadian diamonds for example is only US\$88 per carat. That of South Africa is about US\$134, Botswana about US\$1,500 and our diamonds are between US\$500 and US\$600 per carat. Therefore when our diamonds are sold mixed with those of other countries their intrinsic value is being dragged down whilst they uplift the selling potential of the quality production from other countries.

Honourable Speaker, the second silent aspect of NAMDIA establishment is that we now have an opportunity to create a footprint of the Namibian

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diamond throughout the diamond pipeline all the way to the end user. Currently apart from those stones all to NAMDIA all others lose their identity once they are mixed with those from other producing nations. I therefore with confidence say that NAMDIA is surely becoming Namibia's iconic diamond brand in the market. The saying gem quality diamond manufacturers all over the world especially in the high notch end of the dual chain are craving for our diamonds. Recently for example when NAMDIA invited bids for new buyers for their diamonds the response globally was quite overwhelming. What we are learning from this process is that the international market is able and willing to pay for a premium to get hands on exclusively in Namibian assortment of diamonds. For now NAMDIA is in the process of selecting new clients as I said a number of which have committed that they will from the Namibian brand further downstream. This would help increase margins further for Namibian gems and this really is an indication of a model for the future.

Honourable Speaker let me answer the second question. NAMDIA is a unique entity as I said that was established through the diamonds sales and marketing agreements signed between the Government and De Beers. It is therefore rather difficult to talk about industry norm because Honourable Kavekatora was saying can we compare to the industry norm. an ideal comparison to NAMDIA is in the region would probably the Okavango Diamond Company in Botswana. They also receive an allocation of 15% of Botswana production but they do not reveal their financial information to the public making it rather difficult to make a comparison regarding performance relative to NAMDIA.

However, NAMDIA does provide detailed financial information in their financial statements and it is one of the few SOEs so far that were able to pay dividends to its shareholders.

The last question, question 3 Honourable Speaker, NAMDIA is established under the Companies Act and as a result it is subject to an external audit by a public auditor registered with the Public Accountants

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and Auditors Board. This audit report from the external auditors forms part of the annual financial statements as we have tabled them in this Parliament recently. NAMDIA receive an unqualified audit opinion. It also complied with the requirements of the Companies Act and the International Financial Report and Standards by producing audited financial statements within the period of six months of its Financial Year's end for two consecutive years in exception. But obviously should be there any reason why the Auditor General would want to have an investigation about NAMDIA that of course the Auditor General has got a right to do that. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members those were the answers to the question as posed by Honourable Kavekatora.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Kavekatora.

HON KAVAKOTORA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker and I also thank the Honourable Minister for the answers given. Perhaps I just want to make one comment and that is I am happy to hear that our diamonds are fetching a higher price per carat comparatively speaking and I think that will also amplify the questions that I posed because I did look into the financials of NAMDIA and what struck my attention was the issue of the revenue versus the expenditure of NAMDIA because the revenue as I said here is N\$1,900,000 and the expenditure is N\$1,700,000,000 and this is the company that is basically marketing the most high valued diamond in the world. The gap, the profit margin or the gross profit margin for that matter to me is very limited. So that is basically the reason why I asked the question.

Number two, my last and the third question that I posed, I did not allude to financial audits because as I said I am actually looking at the audited financial statements. What I was looking at is the performance audit, the value for money audit because if you had such a small margin one would

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HON ALWEENDO**

want to have this question answered whether what we have done with the establishment of NAMDIA whether we really are getting our value for money in the sense that the gross profit margin is very close to almost breaking even, N\$1,900,000,000 in revenue and N\$1,700,000,000 in expenditure, that is basically why the question was based on that and the audit is not a financial audit I was exactly talking about a performance audit, thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Minister, a quick one.

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Yes Honourable Speaker, I understand where the question is coming from to say the cost is from the sales but one contributing factor for this ratio being what it is, is the fact that NAMDIA has to set up. Normally when it is a company when you set up normally your first three/four years your set up of course will always be much higher therefore it is to be expected and that would spend as it is. For example they had to spend on new building, they had to spend on new machineries, everything I think would be bought from scratch and therefore it should be expected that they should have cost what it is. So that is what all I can say for now Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I am sure Honourable Kavekatora the answer could go a long way. D'accord?

HON KAVEKOTORA: Yes, the Honourable Minister and actually what the Honourable Minister is actually saying now is that moving forward we should actually expect a much higher profit margin than what we are

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HON MUTORWA**

seeing now and that is what I am going to follow up and see whether that is going to materialize on that.

HON SPEAKER: Absolutely, in your capacity as the Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee you will keep an eye on that. Thank you. We move on to the next question number 12, the Honourable Nauyoma do you put the question and directed to the Minister of Works and Transport? Minister you have the floor.

QUESTION 12:

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you very much Comrade Speaker. the question or questions posed by the Honourable Nauyoma bring to the fore the debate about vision and reality, idealism, dreams and practical reality. Now every year and we are about to start with that process, the Minister of Finance tables and motivates the national budget in this chamber and we debate and eventually approves the budget. The budget is an instrument for development but once we approved the figures here then the reality comes in, that is now the practical implementation of both projects that have been budgeted for and that have been approved.

Now it also does happen in the middle of the year or towards the end of the year there is what is called the medium term review budget. Now that one must now look at the actual reality and at times, many are times and rightly so during the Mid Year Review Budget resources are shifted to some projects that are so urgent or some projects that have not been foreseen but that have just been made now. Like for example this year I can tell you we all hope that the rains will be good but the reality is telling us that it looks as if we are getting into the problem of drought. Now once

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we get there you do not go and blame the farmers because the farmers try. They plan but then the reality comes there is no rain.

So here also and it is not confined to the roads projects or capital projects resorting under the Ministry of Works and Transport. We are all Members of Parliament and we know when the budget review was done here. The Minister of Finance brings the reality to us and say that let us march that we have budgeted so much for this and that project, for some many trips to the regions, reality is telling us that we have to consolidate, we have to shift resources and time to have to cut to say that those projects that can wait until the next budget maybe they can wait. So it is not a question of planning. With regards to the roads that you made reference to although you did not specifically mention which roads are these, quite a number of roads have been completed this week from Monday up to yesterday I was down the coast there and I looked at the road that they are constructing from Swakopmund to Henties Bay first phase and then the second phase will be Henties Bay Uis, Khorixas linking up with Kamanjab they are busy working there. So it is true there might be some delays because as the economist and our Minister of Finance is telling us and he is not dramatizing, at times we have to shift resources and the contractors while waiting obviously they will come to the house but there is no project so far even though relate that has been completely suspended. It is a question of, if you get less money and then you continue. So I think it is the same also with us political parties which I give now political favour to your response all of us when we get into the arena of campaigning we go for the maximum. This House has how many Members, hundred and, Comrade Speaker? 104?

HON SPEAKER: 104 yes.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: So when we go out we compile a list of 104, all of us, all political parties that is now what

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is called the ideal. Then we campaign, we sell our manifestos and then the reality will come the electorate will say yes for APP, we give you these number of votes that translate into two representatives here. Other parties maybe one, SWAPO up there (laughter). So really I do understand the essence of the question but I was just trying to explain it to say what we approve here in terms of our planning is what we think must be the ideal but then reality will creep in, economic reality for example now which will force you to say that in this month that you have planned you have budgeted for your figure is saying maybe ten roads all over Namibia but reality will tell you, you are only able to go ahead and implement five roads and you have got nobody to blame for. So really that is what I think I must give this House as a response to that question, a good question but it is also a question that we must answer against the economic reality of the country. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Nauyoma.

HON NAUYOMA: No I am happy with the response from the Honourable Minister because my problem was always these penalties that come in between.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: The what?

HON NAUYOMA: The penalties, when they cannot pay the contractors and we are being penalized with some millions that could have done something else, that has been my worry and then we said no these millions are now, because you cannot pay us now everyday you pay a certain

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amount of money that could have been targeted for something else. That is worth a question of planning in my view comes in to say okay if you are not sure of this one it might cause us problems why can we not finish this one then further to avoid all these penalties that can cause again another amount of money that could have been targeted to other projects, that is the only issue that is there but all in all thank you very much Minister for those responses and we will continue watching the space.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Question number 14 from the Honourable Nico Smit directed to the Minister of Safety and Security, do you put the question?

HON SMIT: Yes I put the question.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Minister.

QUESTION 14:

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Comrade Speaker, honest this litany of questions which were put to me, okay only maybe this part and though he was complaining that I am not answering, they were too many. Okay you see one question has got sub questions. Now is there a law that prohibits? Okay I will go to that one. I cannot (indistinct). Is there a law not to prohibit a member of the public from making photos of Police officers carrying out their duties? There is currently no law prohibiting a person from taking photos of police officers in the execution of their duties. However, some scenes of crime may require further

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investigations and filming and publishing of such scenes of crime may defeat the purpose of investigations as they may be unknown subjects of investigations who may be alerted by such publications and in some cases such filming may lead to the contamination of the scene of crime. I did answer that one last week but Mr Smit you know these rules and so forth because you were also part of this as a policeman.

When reports appear in the media alleging police brutality are these reports noted and these allegations investigated by police?

When an allegation or concerns about the police and those personnel are brought to our attention they are phased and investigated to determine the merits thereof. Depending on the merits of each allegation criminal or departmental cases are open and referred to either the Prosecutor General's office for a decision or the Police Internal Investigations Directorate for Departmental hearings. I should however, point out that for reasons of possible unnecessary costs involved the Ministry of Safety and Security does not rely on media reports to investigate cases that we only act upon formal complaints and reports brought forward. If found guilty this special action taken on such members of the public material, in accordance with the Police Administration Manual Chapter 2 regarding the discipline of members.

If a member is found guilty of a misconduct the presiding officer after compliance with Regulation 17:11 may caution or reprimand the member subject to such Sub Regulation 2(a) recommend to the Inspector General that the salary or rank or both the salary and rank of the member be reduced to the extend indicated, imposed on the member a fine not exceeding N\$2,000 but the presiding officer on a suspend the payment of any fine or any part thereof for a period not exceeding three years or any condition relating to good conduct recommend to the Inspector General that the member be discharged or be called upon to resign from the force with effect from the date to be specified by the Inspector General. There are also now the interferences. Police who have committed these crimes discharge them every time appeals, lawyers appealing for members to be

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reinstated who have committed such serious crimes and they appeal to us the Muharukwas, you see, their exercises are to appealing to us to reinstate members citing, "He is the only breadwinner, he is what and what, children, house and a car and so forth". You know these things come from you people.

Can the Honourable Minister provide this august House with figures regarding the number of cases that have been investigated over the past 18 months and how many police members have been found guilty and actually punished?

The number of cases committed by police officers during the period in question in which police brutality was alleged are three. One, is on court roll it is in Otjozondjupa Region, another was in Omaheke Region for which the police officer was sentenced to 33 years imprisonment and one in Khomas Region in which the suspect a police officer committed suicide almost immediately after murdering his alleged girlfriend.

Can the Honourable Minister inform this august House what has been done to curb this alleged police brutality?

Police officers are at no point encouraged to brutalize members of the police whatsoever. In fact they are trained and encouraged to conduct themselves in conformity with the law at all times. Obviously the human beings you will find a few who contravene the law and the Police Regulations. Know some of these are your children and were not disciplined back home and you want us to discipline them. We discipline them in any form but then after. You have seen what somebody was doing these days, somebody was misbehaving you saw that.

So, on the other hand the police are mandated by the Criminal Procedure Act of 1977 Act No. 51 of 1977 as amended to use minimum force which is proportionate to the resistance or non compliance cooperation to an arrest. In most cases of course a victim is always an angel and the police is regarded as evil. Somebody has committed a crime the police wants to

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arrest them and then they resist. What do we do if you resist? We use minimum force and then they come to claim, "I was brutalized", but what about the crime you have committed and you only look at the crime committed and not the way somebody is behaving.

In every region the Namibian Police Force has an Internal Investigations Sub Division dealing solely with complaints against police officers. Any person who is aggrieved over the conduct of a police officer can always approach such office and where applicable launch a form of complaint. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Nico Smit.

HON SMIT: Thank you. I would like to thank the General, the Honourable Minister for his clear answers on all these questions. So I think it is not that I do not know these things I know just as he does but it is the people out there that do not know these things and I think the Minister was really clear in his answers and I would like to thank him. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Let us move on. Question number 16 from the Honourable Venaani, do you put the question?

HON VENAANI: (Not on microphone).

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HON SPEAKER: Oh they are not so that will stand over. Question number 17 is directed to, do you put the question? Thank you very much the question is to the Minister in the Office of the President.

QUESTION 17:

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker and I want to thank the Honourable Venaani for the questions. The first question was on whether there is a Bill regulating the benefits of the Presidency and whether it is true that the former Vice President is given lodging in the Government house located in Eros?

I must state Honourable Speaker that there is indeed a Draft Bill that is aimed at regulating time and benefits of former Presidents and former Vice Presidents. It is also true that the former Vice President is temporarily accommodated in a Government house.

In the second question Honourable Venaani wants to know which Bill empowers the retired Vice Presidents to live in Government properties.

Honourable Speaker as we all know the office of the Vice President was introduced by the Third Amendment of the Namibian Constitution and that office was filled immediately as required by the Constitution when the third President of our Republic assumed office. You may recall that it was the case that even though Dr Nickey Iyambo had assumed his responsibilities as Vice President, the salary and conditions of services all the Vice Presidents were not articulated in law for some time hence the administration went about to ensure that the appropriate conditions of service were crafted. Eventually this august House passed legislation that regularized matters. Once again upon retirement of the former Vice Presidents we find ourselves in the same position. Below is yet to be laid

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before the National Assembly for approval.

Somehow we have found ourselves in similar circumstances during the time of the retirement of the Founding President without enabling legislation. Eventually the benefit of former Presidents were regularized following the passing of the former Presidents' Pension and Other Benefits Act 2004, Act No.18 of 2004 and the conferment of status of Founding Father of the Namibian Nation Act 16 of 2005.

Honourable Speaker, for some time since I became a Member of this august House I picked up where my predecessor left off, had been consulting with the Prime Minister as Head of Administration and other Ministerial Colleagues and had crafted two distinct Bills. One will deal exclusively with the Presidents and former Presidents and later will deal with Vice Presidents and former Vice Presidents separately. In the interim arrangements were made as contained in one of the Bill with specific regard to the upkeep and security of the former Vice President pending the finalization of the Bill and passage by the National Assembly.

The third and last question was on how much rental fees is being paid on the property by the current tenant and the Honourable Venaani requested me to provide proof of payment?

Honourable Speaker as mentioned earlier the current arrangement represents temporary arrangements by the office while Government is working on the finalization of the Bill that will define and give effects to benefits of former Vice Presidents. We would not get ample time to debate the merits for the proposals contained in the Bills, when I present them here for adoption. It is what we determine upon I this House which will be the basis for any dispensation which you offer to the current and future Vice Presidents.

Having said that and based on the anticipation that the Bills will be finalized soon and such that the Bills will be tabled here shortly I would like to defer further discussion on the matter until the Bills are before the

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House. I thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, the office that is answering the question is the highest office in the land, highest office in the land. It has no legal basis to lodge a formal Vice President there is no Bill and yet it is doing that. If the highest office in the land which is the President is busy with illegal arrangements what should be the example of other subordinate offices? I would have agreed with you, I am asking you, the question is we brought in a Vice President, we specified the retirement benefits of a Vice President. Part of the retirement benefits did not include the residence. Now we are anticipating giving a residence, you are now drafting a Bill and before the Bill has become a law you are already practicing that Bill, now you want to come to the House to approve what you are doing illegally or what?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister do you want to respond or we leave it at that? You said you would like to leave the matter at that stage? I am in your hands? Please let us have order please? Order!

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I do not want us to politicize matters and I said earlier on the Bill is on its way here. It is on its way here so let us wait for it to come and then we discuss it in details because it has all the proposals contained in there. Let us wait for the Bill and that we can discuss in detail.

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HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Next question. Honourable Venaani you put the question, question number 18?

HON VENAANI: (Not on microphone) what is your idea anyway?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Defence you have the floor.

QUESTION 18:

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you very much Comrade Speaker. Comrade Speaker I rise to answer questions by Honourable Venaani but before I do so I would like to advise that wherever Honourable Members of this august House direct sensitive questions to the Ministry of Defence must always consider whether such questions are really in the best interest of the public and at the same to bear in mind our national security interests. The questions of Honourable Member especially question 2 and question 3 appear to seek answers that would be detrimental to our national security interests. I know Honourable Venaani is asking these questions on behalf of his constituency but we must always try to be a little bit patriotic and think about how questions and answers on specific matters could affect our national security.

I want to say Comrade Speaker that even though we really are in a free, independent and democratic republic of Namibia we must remember that there are matters that are not for public consumption and there are also State secrets in every country not only in Namibia. Therefore when questions are asking in public forum such as National Assembly these matters must be taken into consideration and to avoid compromising the security of our motherland.

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Honourable Members let me now answer the first question of Honourable Member and this is the question the Honourable Member asked about whether the Defence Museum in Okahandja that was built in 2004 since its construction was never inaugurated. When will it be open to the public and what was the cost of that construction?

This is a good question Honourable Member and I would like also to inform all stakeholders on this matter that the inauguration of the Military Museum in Okahandja was delayed because of the construction which took longer than projected due to the technical challenges such as collection of artifacts and other data. However, I am happy to report that the Military Museum is completed and therefore the inauguration will be done soon. The exact date will be communicated once it is determined and we will be happy to extend an invitation to the Honourable Member when that time comes. The cost of the construction of the Military Museum was N\$4,000,000.

The second question of Honourable Member wants to know about a North Korean company called Saltdai Overseas Project Group was initially building a military factory in Namibia. Due to the United Nations sanctions it was reported ceased and what is the status of this factory? That was the question. Has it gone into production? What is the actual cause of this project?

Honourable Member has correct information regarding this matter as an input if the previous contractor was initially building our military factory but due to the trade of the United Nations sanctions the contract was terminated and the rest of the details on this matter are not for public consumption. If the Honourable Member Venaani seriously wants to know more about this matter he is welcome to the Ministry of Defence through the right channel.

The third question of Honourable Member my brother wants to know about the same Northern Korean company was also to the Defence Headquarters what is the current status of this construction and who has

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taken over this construction?

Yes Honourable Member the previous contractor on this project has stopped all construction work for which it was constructed by the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Namibia and left Namibia. The construction of Defence Headquarters is ongoing and the main contractor is our own Namibian company that is August 26 Holdings.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I hope I have answered the questions to the satisfaction of Honourable Member Venaani, thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I want to, before I ask a supplementary question I want to alert you that I called the office of the Minister of Defence three times.

HON MEMBER: Office?

HON VENAANI: The office, of course I cannot call him I must call his office. Three times to ask for an appointment. I have written to the office but I have not received any response. So if I want to hear information, if you cannot give me appointments I will ask here but the questions that I posed to you are of public information. It is in the public domain but I will let it be there. But with regards to the Okahandja Museum in 2004, we are in 2019, fifteen years you are delayed, have you not forgotten

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about this project? I am sure when you heard this question is when you started asking the Generals, “Venaani is asking this when are we going to inaugurate”. Are you waiting for me to become President to go and inaugurate it and that is going to happen very soon?

HON SPEAKER: I will reveal something. Honourable Venaani actually as the Minister stood up to answer the question he made an observation about the outfit of the Minister and I thought the Minister heard him. I thought that was a compliment is it not?

HON VENAANI: Yes it was a compliment.

HON SPEAKER: Yes let us move on. Question number 19 from the Honourable Venaani do you put the question?

HON VENAANI: I asked for questions to the Minister of Environment.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister you have the floor.

QUESTION 19

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this very important House.

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Let me first thank my neighbour here Honourable Venaani the leader of the DTA (*interruptions*). Sorry P-P (*intervention*).

HON VENAANI: Of PDM.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: PDM okay, of PDM for the questions he has asked in this House and I will get to the questions straight away. Question one, the Honourable Member wants to know in total how many companies were given the EPZ status in the country so far, very important question.

The answer is, since the inception of the Export Processing Zone or EPZ regime in 1995 a total of 142, 1 4 2 enterprises were given the EPZ status. As I speak now there are 19, 1 9 enterprises that are operating under the EPZ status. You did not ask that one but I am giving that to you as a bonus.

Question 2, now what is the value of these companies individually and how much jobs have been created through the EPZ zones?

You will appreciate that I will not give you the 142 because they are nonexistent so I will give you those that are operational the 19 enterprises. I see you are nodding, you agree (laughter). So the 142 are nonexistent, where would they have the jobs? So obvious the answer is, the individual accumulative investment value and the total number of jobs offered by this 19 active EPZ status enterprises at present are number one, Namibia Press and Tools (Pty) Limited has an accumulated investment of N\$19,214,138 and this company has created about 23 direct employment opportunities for Namibia for instance where would they have the jobs? So obvious, the answer is, the individual accumulative investment value

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and the total number of jobs offered by these 19 active EPZ status enterprises at present are:

1. Namibia Press and Tools (Pty) Limited has an accumulative investment of N\$19,214,138,00 and this company has created about 23 direct employment opportunities for Namibia.
2. Boris Marking Systems (Pty) Limited has an accumulated investment of N\$14,560,390,00. Yes, 1 4 5 6 0 3 9 0 and they have about five jobs that it has created for Namibians. Only five, Boris Marking.
3. Namibia Oriental Tobacco CC has an accumulated investment of N\$10,446,873,00. Listen very carefully. Alright I will repeat this, that is N\$10,446,873,00. This has only created seven Namibian jobs.
4. Nam Zinc (Pty) Limited has an accumulated investment of N\$7,000,000,00, oh, this figure sounds a bit scary not N\$7,000,000,00, N\$7,764,013,000 Nam Zinc and it has created around 613 jobs, 6 1 3 jobs from that N\$7,000,000,000,00 value.
5. Dandy Precious Metals (Pty) Limited has raised an accumulated investment value of N\$3,203,025,000 and Dandy Precious Metals, Tsumeb has created 772 direct jobs from that N\$3,000,000,000.
6. The next one is Nam Gem (Pty) Limited has accumulated an investment of N\$29,050,918,00 with 82, 8 2 direct jobs.
7. Daiko Diamonds (Pty) Limited has created an accumulated investment value of N\$18,326,232 and it has created 74 job opportunities and
8. One Hard Stone Processing (Pty) Limited has an accumulated investment value of N\$89,633,729,00 and it has created 26 jobs.
9. New NU Diamond (Pty) Limited has an accumulated investment value of N\$18,578,665,00 and this company has created 63, 6 3 jobs.

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10. Deka Investment (Pty) Limited has an accumulated investment value of N\$1,145,380,00 with a staff compliment of 188, 1 8 8 jobs.
11. Trau T r a u, Trau Ross Diamond Namibia (Pty) Limited has an investment value of N\$7,826,674,00 with 41 jobs being created.
12. Is Charter and NamDar (Pty) Limited has an accumulative investment value of N\$6,739,117,00 and it has created around 36 jobs.
13. Company is called Ankit Diamond (Pty) Limited has an accumulative investment value of N\$1,211,821,00 and it has created 79 jobs.
14. Morris Investments (Pty) Limited has an accumulative investment of N\$3,651,477,00. However this company has put one on their operations.
15. This is a very difficult name to pronounce but I will try, Plakzenik Diamonds Namibia (Pty) Limited, has an accumulative investment value of N\$4,385,869,00 with about 93 jobs being created.
16. Is DYS Diamond Manufacturers (Pty) Limited has an accumulative investment value of N\$178,252,00 with 105 jobs being created.
17. Inerez Ghecko Grave Fights Namibia (Pty) Limited, has an accumulative Investment value of N\$429,636,000 with 99 jobs being created.
18. Company is Sky Investment (Pty) Limited, has an accumulative investment value of N\$969,508,00 with 35 jobs.
19. Trans Veko (Pty) Limited, has an accumulative investment of N\$23,636,601,00 with 4 employees only after having scaled down their operations.

The total investments for the three sectors highlighted under

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manufacturing, mineral processing and motor vehicle assembly amounts to N\$11,646,238,763,00. The total direct jobs created under this sector are 2,345. That is question number two.

Question number 3, can you provide the list of names of all the companies that are under EPZ category? How many of them are bigger than SMEs?

Well you will see the list that the individual cumulative investment value and the total number of jobs offered by these 19 active EPZ status enterprises are listed as I have just enumerated above. The list of operational EPZ enterprises is provided in the response above of which a copy you will receive. As you noticed all these companies are larger than our SMEs. With these words I once again thank you Honourable Venaani for this question and the Honourable Members for your attention. Thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: You are my neighbour and when you became a Minister of Trade I congratulated you because I know the versatility that you have but you are sleeping on the job on the EPZ and this is the question, how long do we want to maintain companies that are having values of billions on the EPZ? If you look at the amount of investment of N\$11,000,000,000,00 vis a vis the job created they do not speak to one another. But of course there are industries in a very sensitive areas but having companies that are having N\$7,000,000,000,00 and they are still getting EPZ benefit it becomes worrisome to us. What is the action that my versatile supposed to be neighbour is going to do to bring reform in the EPZ?

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HON SPEAKER: A quick one.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you very much for the follow up question that we share this with the Honourable Members, through Honourable Venaani's question. Last year Cabinet approved a new policy called Special Economic Zone. This policy would improve the entire investment climate. It is more comprehensive than EPZ. This policy would boost manufacturing investment in the country. This policy would have an EPZ as one small component inside it. Just to clarify EPZ was initially established to encourage manufacturing for export purposes that you may bring in your machinery or your technology. You manufacture. We have got jobs for export so that we can increase our foreign earnings but the reality now is we want also to benefit from those products being manufactured by this company. Under the EPZ regime if you were to sell locally you would be penalized because it is not in terms of the EPZ law but the new policy would allow you to manufacture for local consumption as well as for exports so that we demystify the myth of we consume what we do not produce and we produce what we do not consume so that the issue of import substitution gives meaning to what it says that we manufacture to substitute the imports because there was no clear provision made. Now there is provision in terms of that new policy. We will therefore start with the policy which is comprehensive that would cover not only in mineral or manufacturing sector but also to promote the warehouses, the bond houses, tourism, film industry, etcetera that policy would be in place soon. We are working right now on the nitty gritty to realign it with our existing laws in terms of tax as well as the imports that is not, it is already the policies now approved. So thereafter we will now enact into a law but at least the policy framework has been prepared. I hope I have responded. Thank you very much.

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HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I think we should move on because of time. Question number 20, Honourable Venaani do you put the question?

HON VENAANI: I put the question.

HON SPEAKER: And it is directed to the Minister of Mines and Energy.

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Honourable Speaker I am not so sure whether the rules allows that, before I answer I can answer Honourable Venaani your question (*laughter*).

HON SPEAKER: Yes you may try.

QUESTION 20

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Honourable Venaani I have noticed that you have posed a number of questions and I am wondering moment ago you just revealed your ambition to become the President and inaugurate the Okahandja Museum, does your questioning have anything to do with that ambition of doing that (*laughter*)?

HON SPEAKER: I think we normally gather that as a preamble. That is a preamble.

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HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Honourable Speaker, let me answer the question and it is to do with energy, I think we all understand and agree that energy is quite an important element of our solar generation but I was not quite sure the clarification needed but let me just say the licensing of all the power generation licences are done by the ECB. The ECB will assess all the applications. They will receive but the Minister of Mines and Energy is the one responsible for issuing those licences and therefore the Minister also does that in terms of the Electricity Act of 2007 but the evaluation as I say is done by the ECB. To date a total of 19 generation licences have been issued for solar and one for wind. 17 of these licences have signed power purchase agreement with NamPower and two licences signed with the Regional Electricity Distributors specifically as NORED and CENORED. Sixteen (16) of the licences are in operation with and they are currently producing solar energy with a total combined capacity of 120 megawatts and the wind one is for 5 megawatts.

Question 2 was about regarding the cost and who are the companies that got the licences and the duration of their licences. Honourable Venaani I am not so sure now whether you are looking for the name. I have got a list here of all the names but if I were to read the names people do not mean much really. But all I can say here the table is about all the 19 are here and all of them have got a duration of 25 years. That seems to be the standard of 25 years.

Question 3 is about, how many megawatts are needed to generate the needed demand or local demand and I think it is behind this expression just to say yes we all recognize that currently we are importing a lot of energy and therefore the desire and efficiency for us that we should replace the import. So for example the current demand is about 640 megawatts as it was actually established in 2018, that is the current demand that we have got and of the 640 demands currently we have got the installed capacity of 620 megawatts that, is to be understood that the installed capacity is necessarily what is being consumed, there is a difference because for example in 2018 the country consumed 4,800 Giga

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Watts per hour for that is exactly the nature of how much electricity we are consuming and we consume 4,800 Giga Watts per hour of which only 1,300 Giga Watts per hour which is only about 28% is generated locally.

Now it is the Government's objective to reduce the import dependency and develop more local power plants and to this effect we have got a programme to storm 220 capacity locally generated by 2021 and that will bring up the Giga watt hour consumed from 28% to 45%. If you think about the way you have brought the demand of 640 and then the capacity of 620 but yet you are still importing a lot, that is to be understood in view of the fact that most of the added generation locally generated is actually solar and solar unfortunately is only available during the day and therefore at night you still have to import most of what you need and that is why it is quite important for us to make sure that as much as we need to have renewable electricity there is a limit to how much you can really have power coming from solar only unless one day we find a storage or where we can actually store as we receive from solar otherwise if you put much or you can have too much only from solar and you can only use that during the day and you still have to have a shortage at night.

But I think it is very important to say yes we need to make sure this now the supplies achieved and this is what we are working towards now. But the other thing I need to mention is the fact that as much as we want to replace important energy we also have to make sure that actually we do not have to replace that at all cost we also need to make sure at least you do not end up then having locally generated power that are unaffordable. Therefore we also make sure at least when people or Government suggest power plant as investment we make sure that at least of the tariff that can come from those investments are still with what is affordable by the consumers.

Honourable Speaker, I hope I have provided some information to Honourable Venaani.

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HON ALWEENDO**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Venaani. Good, may I take two more questions and then revert back to the Order Paper because I am trying to balance so that we have gone halfway with the questions or what do you think, just to be fair? Yes Honourable Witbooi?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER, EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Thank you. First there is for questions so I will propose that let us keep it like that (interruptions).

HON SPEAKER: Ha?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thursday is normally that way we do it.

HON SPEAKER: You want us to confine ourselves to questions?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER, EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: (Not on microphone).

HON SPEAKER: Are you worried about the quorum because I think we have it. We are okay.

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HON VENAANI
HON ALWEENDO**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Of course traditional Thursday is for questions but we have already created precedence where we divide time, questions and we stop at a certain time and go to the Order Paper otherwise there was no point of us having an Order Paper. But it is okay because there is only a few minutes before we *chaela*. Maybe we can just finish questions today.

HON SPEAKER: Okay let us, after all the time is not on our side. Next question is the one from the Honourable Venaani. Do you put the question?

HON VENAANI: Yes I put the question.

HON SPEAKER: Yes the Minister of Mines and Energy?

QUESTION 21:

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker this is a very easy one and a very short one because Honourable Venaani just want to know who are the companies awarded this project and at what cost?

Honourable Members as we know this is a project that we have started as Government constructing way back in 2015 and the idea of this project is actually to increase our security of supply of fuel in the country because currently all the fuel that we are using are imported by private sector companies and therefore there is no provision where we can have some

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strategic stock in reserve for what we might need in terms of emergencies and the project has been awarded to a joint venture company between a company called China Harbour and Engineering Company and a local joint venture company RCC and Baby Face Civils Closed Corporation. Those were the joint ventures to the Chinese company.

The initial tender amount was N\$3,700,000,000,00 as it was awarded but in the course of time since there were some changes with the design the current cost is now N\$5,400,000,000,00 and is expected that the project is going to be finalized or be completed by May. But I also want to say this is quite a very important project and I think at times because the way it is being talked about because not all of us have witnessed what has happened or what has been constructed and therefore I would like maybe to extend an invitation to all the Honourable Members at some point for us to arrange a visit to this particular project. It is very impressive for us to see what it is and to appreciate the amount of investment that we are talking about. So with that Honourable Speaker, I would like to thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Let us move on to the next question from the Honourable Agnes Limbo, do you put the question?

HON LIMBO: They are not here.

HON SPEAKER: Oh they are not here, the next question?

HON MEMBER: They are not here.

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HON !AUXAB
HON WITBOOI**

HON SPEAKER: They are not here. Next question is the, you put the question? Thank you and the Deputy Minister is here, thank you. Now you get it, Deputy Minister you have the floor.

QUESTION 24:

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER, EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Let me also thank the Honourable Member who is absent for the question. I will not repeat the questions. I think both questions are basically the same because the first one is asking long awaited Child Care and Protection Bill and then also four years you said four years is too long for the country not to implement the law.

Now the answer Honourable Members: The Child Care and Protection Act, Act No.3 of 2015 was gazetted on the 30th of January 2019 and through the Honourable Member to Honourable Auchab working on regulations for an Act is a process. It is not a one day activity. So the formula took place, consultations were held with the relevant Ministries and different stakeholders to agree on the best practises that will guide the service providers in service delivery. In the best interest we normally take into consideration the best interests of the child when they are dealing with children's issues.

Then the announcement on the enforcement of the Act was done by the Honourable Minister Doreen Sioka on the 4th of March 2019 at the Safari Hotel in Windhoek. Children's advocate was already appointed in the Office of the Ombudsman in November 2018 and Honourable Member that person is not our first children's advocate and the way forward is the training of our social workers, service providers and stakeholders on the provisions of the new Child Care and Protection Act and the establishment of the national Advisory Council on children that will advise Government on matters relating to the protection and care of our children under this

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HON !AUXAB
HON TWEYA**

Act and any other law relating to our children. These are my answers to the questions of the Honourable Member, I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. We leave it at that. Thank you that was Question number 25 from the same Honourable Auchab. Do you put the question?

HON MEMBER: Yes.

HON SPEAKER: And the question is directed to the Minister of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development.

QUESTION 25:

HON MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALIZATION, TRADE AND SME DEVELOPMENT: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I cannot see Honourable Auchab, is there a fake Auchab in the House (*laughter*), but that is okay, always fake news, I do not want to be associated with fake Auchab and fake response. This is a genuine response not a fake response.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, thank you for the question that the Honourable Member wanted me to enlighten this House how much the concerted efforts by both the private and public sector are needed to identify goods that can be produced and sourced locally not only to reduce the Import Bill but also to diversify the domestic economy? Here is my response.

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Honourable Speaker, concerted efforts by both public and private sector are not needed today only but were needed way back as yesterday already. Namibia continues to be faced with a Colossal Import Bill of even the basic food and commodities that we should produce. The situation is no longer acceptable and it is not only goods alone but even services are being imported. It is our convictions that much progress is to be achieved if we treat the private sector as a stakeholder rather than an adversary on this matter. The private sectors have and are developing goods and services for both local and export amidst the Colossal Imports and their economies of scale advantages. There are many goods and services being produced locally such as poultry, who of you are buying Namibian poultry or chicken. You get in there and you rush for the so called braai pack because apparently it is cheaper and you leave a Namibian organic, oh, there you come. Okay we are already producing these locally poultry, wines, there is Omaruru in Erongo Region and I am going to see them tomorrow with all the produce where they are already producing from traditional stuff, champagne from *embe* you know that business. Amarula from *embe*. We are already producing dry gin from devil's claw, brandy from our dates. There are already many things happening but you would rather go for South African or any other wine instead of the local so I am just listing them, chocolate, plastic products, sanitary products, cosmetics, arts and craft products even in the face of big imports in order to ameliorate the situation. We have to look at both hard measures and instruments within our reemits as well as other softer approach such as stimulating innovation. My sister here is encouraging innovative, the creation of new. When you go there, "No I do not know this one I would rather go for the one that I know". These are innovative products we must support them. So with this as well as with our private sector stakeholders we can also not discount the work by stakeholders such as what Team Namibia does.

However, if we have to ensure effective reduction of the Import Bill we will have to institute a mandatory retail charter. The one that we have is voluntary. It is not giving us a desired result. We should perhaps move towards making it mandatory as 'a buy local' policy.

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Last night I watched one channel where they are already promoting 'buy local', will you support us when we come with this policy? My Honourable there already said it is expensive. It will not help us to come with the policy we will first be the ones to object to it, 'buy local' policy and an industrial policy that is revised and with local content requirements preference.

Question 2: The Honourable Member is asking whether I will agree with him that for Namibia promoting and applying new technologies to substitute energy imports with energy sources available in the country will reduce the Energy Import Bill permanently and support the domestic economic activities. And if I say yes, when is the Ministry ready to advance the logic?

Now my colleague here the Honourable Minister of Mines and Energy has just elaborated on this issue of energy. (*Intervention*).

HON VENAANI: (Not on microphone).

HON MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALIZATION, TRADE AND SME DEVELOPMENT: No, there is one team that scenage. I agree fully that we need to ensure applying new technologies to substitute energy imports with energy sources available in the country. To recent the Ministry in support of SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap as well as in collaboration with the Ministry of Mines and Energy were instrumental in ensuring the creation of a very long and I will first read it in full, Southern Africa Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREE). SACREE which is a SADC institution but that is in Namibia. One of the main objectives of SACREE is to assess the deployment of such newer technologies to not only promote energy efficiency but also industrial efficiencies for our industrialization efforts. Ministry of Industrialization,

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HON SHIFETA**

Trade and SME Development (MITSMED) as part of our work hosting the 2018 SADC Industrialization week also primed the SACREE at the event.

Secondly, it is important to know that the Ministry hosts the National Ozone Unit which promotes the eradication of harmful gazettes. Some of the products that are prime to be substituted as we regulate shifts the focus towards energy saving technologies such as low global warming potential equipment, air conditioners, fridges and other cooling systems. This has the potential to reduce the energy consumption and Bills and at the same time reduce Green House gases that contribute to climate change. The work under the National Ozone Unit will also open up manufacturing opportunities of such technologies such as heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration industry.

Once, now that the Kigali amendment to the Montreal Protocol is ratified in this House for which I want to thank you once again for doing that, one second, the same efforts are also applied to some of our past beneficiaries under the industrial upgrading and modernization in the fisheries sector where industrial upgrading support was geared towards industrial and energy deficiency intervention. We will continue to advance the same logic, Honourable Auchab as guided by both our growth at home, implementation framework as well as the National Energy Policy. I thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. We move on to the same to put the question. Thank you very much, Minister of Environment and Tourism question number 26.

QUESTION 26:

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Comrade Speaker, thank you very much and Honourable Members. I want to thank

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the Honourable Member who put the question. The first question was that may the Honourable Minister share with this august House the progress of implementation of the N\$60,000,000,00 project funded by the Adaptation Fund for desalinated underground water at the Bethanie and in //Karas Region?

The answer is we pursue to address the impact of climate change Namibia has secured approximately N\$60,000,000,00 from the Adaptation Fund to implement a pilot project on the underground water desalination using renewable power and mental and technology at the Grünau Settlement and Bethanie Village located in //Karas Region. The project aims to assist the treatment of poor local ground water quality to a level that complies with the national standard for drinking water using sun and wind to power the process known as the reverse osmosis. Today the following milestones were achieved such as the initiation of the Project Sterling Committee which was constituted in January this year. The Project Sterling Committee comprises of key different stakeholders representing this Research Foundation of Namibia, NamPower, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, //Karas Region Council, Grünau Village Council and the Bethanie Village Council. Furthermore other major growth such as the desalination plants designs and the Environmental Impact Assessment also started.

Finally the implementer that is NamWater is busy with the process of acquiring additional land and to appoint a contractor latest September 2019 to construct the power plant. The entire project is expected to be completed in May 2021.

The second question, also the requested N\$5,000,000,00 to rely on economic widely National Adaptation Plan. Can the Minister also appraise this august House how the summit record reached 196 pages hotline plant for common rule book for all countries who hold richer nations legally liable to access for causing climate change.

The answer is, the Green Climate Fund, the Financial Mechanism of the

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United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and then the Piracy Agreement dedicated in supporting global report to respond to the challenge of Climate Change under one of its readiness support window the board of the fund has allocated up to US\$3 million which is approximately N\$32,000,000,00 per country for the accumulation of the National Adaptation Fund or the other adaptation planning process by the national designated alternative in this case is the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. This support will facilitate the development of National Adaptation Plans with saved national priority for measures to address the Adaptation Climate Change. Namibia is in the process of admitting its requests to access these resources to get a National Adaptation Plan Working Group has been constituted. The working group consists of different line Ministries and their role as to give guidance on the development of this plan. Honourable Members (interruptions). Climate change has changed now.

Honourable Members, parties to the United Nations on Framework Convention on Climate Change met in Katowice, Poland at the 24th Conference of the parties three years after the signing of the Paris Agreement. The main aim of this conference was to adopt a set of rules that is what we call Paris Rule Book which is the operating manual needed for operationalization of the Paris Agreement expected to enter into force by 2020.

Honourable Members, the Paris Rule Group, agreed in Katowice, Poland last year. Obligated countries both developed and developing countries including Namibia had to communicate to the rest of the world what they are doing to reduce emissions and to meet their nationally determined contributions targets and it is determined a basic procedure and it is a nationally determined contributions contained the information they should provide and technology transferred to those countries in need additionally describes how countries are required to calculate their Green House gas emissions as well as how they should be reported and verified.

Furthermore developed countries agreed to give more information on their

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past and future financial contributions to developing countries. They also agreed to start discussions in November 2020 on stating a new collective climate finance goal going beyond an earlier target that is US\$100,000 by 2020.

Honourable Members the last COP Conference of the Party to finalise the Paris Rules Book is scheduled towards the end of this year in the Republic of Chile. Question number 3, can the Minister share with the Kunene Region resident the designed and candidate activity agreement worth N\$140,000,000,00 between Government Fund and our Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia to support Climate Change adaptation and Disaster Risk Management in Kunene Region?

The answer is, Honourable Members, as you may be aware the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia which is the National Accredited Entity for Namibia to access funding from the Green Climate Funding has secured about N\$140,000,000,00 from the Green Climate Fund to implement a project titled, improving Anchorland and Eco System Management Practices of small holder farmers under the conditions of climate change in Sesfontein, Randfontein and the Warambad. The funded activities agreement was finally entered into between the Environmental Investment of Namibia and the Green Climate Fund on the 5th of December last year during the COP24. In Ketosis, Poland the Project Management Unit is currently being set up in order to kick-start the implementation of this project in the Kunene Region. I thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Question number 27, I take it the Minister of Land Reform and the Deputy Minister both of them are not in so that question stands over. Question number 28 is the one from the Honourable Mbai and do you put the question? Thank you. Minister of Finance? The Deputy Minister of Finance.

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HON MBAI
HON SCHLETTWEIN / HON ITHETE**

QUESTION 28:

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, Honourable Asser Mbai raise questions on the impact of fish credit rating revision of the outlook on the rating from stable to negative. He made reference to the impact on job and the provision of Public Service part as reduced school supply and the payment of wages to civil servants. I wish to respond as follows:

Honourable Members let me go straight to the questions and instead of motivating there was a motivation (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Absolutely, the preamble does not need to come in, straight.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: The first question was, what is the course of the negative fish rating in terms of the increased borrowing costs and pressure on the fiscas?

Honourable Speaker, the Credit Rating Assessment fundamentally deals with the credit within its rating and the outlook on the rating. The defining aspect is the rating itself as it defines the quality of creditworthiness and attract-ness of investment destination. The outlook on the rating pertains to the future expectation on the rating and the balance of the factors which could wait on the rating. As per the published rating opinion by fish it is of significance to note that fish has affirmed the country rating at the same level since 2017 and revise the outlook on the long term bond on the basis of the revised broad outlook.

The revision of the outlook has not significantly reflected on the limit and spreads. A day before the release of the rating review long term foreign

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bond traded yield of 5.54 and 5.58 two days later, this is not specifically different from normal market functions.

The second question was, what is your plans to take the economy out of the current slump?

In this regard Honourable Speaker, when the Minister of Finance tabled the Mid Year Budget Review in October last year we have revised the growth estimates for 2018 to a contraction of about 0.2% indicating that the economy remained under the recession pressure. This is differentiated across economic sectors and elements of final demands with indications that the recession is gradually fading with a projected moderate recovery this year going forward. Fish also projected a gradual recovery this year. The Medium Term Policy Statement tabled during the Mid Year Review put forward the policy interventions strategic to support the growth and their continued provision of service to the public.

The third question was, what is your plans to stop the bleeding of Government coffers through bailing out of unproductive Public Enterprises?

On this matter Honourable Speaker, the measure to reform Public Enterprises are broadly contained in the Public Entertainment Bill as well as the targeted measure within the budgetary framework as announced. Transfers to Public Enterprises are now to be considered on the basis of targeted and specified productive programmes to avoid expenditure allocation to operational bail out especially for commercial entities. The Public Enterprises Reform includes assessment of availability of business models so that plans are designed with the objective to realize economic gains for the shareholders instead of made (indistinct).

The other remaining questions Honourable Speaker are on the measure to contain the Public Sector Wage Bill and supporting private sector's jobs. Since 2016/2017 Financial Year a number of measures have been taken to reduce the wages and wages related expenditure. The measures are to be

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enforced for effective-ness period of five years and includes among other combinations of natural situations lower than CPI Wage Adjustments and Vacancy Replacement Rule.

The enforcement of those measures will be extended to the Public Enterprises especially those who depend on Government budget for operational expenditure. Private Sector's development is addressed through the development financial institutions in addressing those investment climate and supply side constrains. I thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Jahanika, thank you very much. Well I think that basically brings us to, there are a couple of questions but they are so detailed and the time at our disposal would not permit us to continue. Can we conclude happily? So we have come to the end all what is left for me to remind you about the Ministry of Youth, Sport, might be busy organizing the event for tonight to which we are all invited. Am I wrong? Deputy Minister Agnes Tjongarero are you on? The event tonight is it on? You are confirming? Thank you. So at Country Club 19:00.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE: One thousand?

HON SPEAKER: I am sure they can regroup around the table or two. I am sure they will take care of us and we pay, I think so. All what is important is that we are there. Ha? Yes please? Order, please do help us?

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ADJOURNMENT
HON TJONGARERO

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE: Thank you Honourable Speaker, N\$1,200 per person, thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Even if we are to group together? Anyway let us leave it at that. The House stands adjourned until next week the usual time.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2019.03.19 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
19 MARCH 2019**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

**ANNOUNCEMENT IN TERMS OF RULE 20(A)
OF THE STANDING RULES AND ORDERS**

HON SPEAKER: Welcome back Honourable Members just few announcements. I have been informed by the Honourable Doctor Tangeni Iyambo that he has been designated to serve on the following Parliamentary Standing Committees. I think the question is quite a valid one. On further reflection can I put the announcement on hold and we will deal with it when the time comes so decided. Thank you. I am actually pleased that you are paying attention to every move I am making. Thank you very much. We need technology to function. Honourable Members the, I am not quite sure each time I turn to my list, the people I am supposed to deal with are not there. I just got the information from the Honourable Minister of Justice. He is not in the House and I was told he has got some visitors who are here.

I am not sure whether they are actually here. Do we have visitors, yes? So you are the people I am looking for notwithstanding that the Minister concerned is not in the House. Nevertheless we have Ms Mazibuko founder and National Director of the Albinism Society of South Africa. She is a former Commissioner in the Commissioner of Gender Equality of South Africa and I can point out she is here with us. Then next to her Minister Shikwanda the campaign for Amnesty International in Southern Africa and then we have Ms Ntinda. She is Legal Advisor as the Law Reform development Commission of Namibia. He is accompanying the

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

delegation that are currently visiting us in Parliament. We have send a warm word of welcome to the three of you.

We are delighted that you are here and we very much appreciate the work you do. I just want to simply say keep up the good work, well done, welcome. Honourable Members and I just want to for the record purpose would like to acknowledge the fact that yesterday we received a petition from members of the Affirmative Repositioning otherwise also known as AR and that petition has been received and I would like to inform the Members that document has been referred to the Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs for appropriate action. I just wanted to put on record that has been done. Reports of standing and select Committees, other reports and papers, notices of questions, yes, 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 following.

- (i) The Namibian Competition Commission for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2018
- (ii) Education Development Fund for the Financial Year that ended 31st March 2018
- (iii) Namibian Agronomic Board for the Financial Year that ended 31st March 2018
- (iv) Town Council of Oshakati for the Financial Year that ended 31st March 2018

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON PROF KASINGO**

- (v) Town Council of Oshakati for the Financial Year that ended 30th June 2017
- (vi) Town Council of Okahao for the Financial Year that ended 30th June 2016
- (vii) Town Council of Ondangwa for the Financial Year that ended 30th June 2018
- (viii) Regional Council of Oshana Region for the Financial Year that ended 31st March 2018
- (ix) Regional Council of the Hardap Region for the Financial Year that ended 31st March 2018
- (x) Town 1 Council Nkurunkure for the Financial Year that ended 30th June 2018

I so move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Next is Honourable Deputy Speaker.

**TABLING – REPORT ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
OMBUDSMAN FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 2017**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members I lay upon the table in terms of Section 6(3) of the Ombudsman Act number 7 of 1990 an annual report of the Ombudsman for Financial Year ended 2017 for information and note taking.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON VAN DEN HEEVER**

I beg to move.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Table the report please. We are now onto notices of questions, notice of Motions, oh, sorry, I jumped the gun, Honourable Jennifer Van Den Heever.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 39:

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I hereby give notice that on Thursday 28th March 2019 I shall ask the Minister of Poverty Eradication Honourable Kameeta the following:

Few weeks ago I was asked to give my opinion on the delaying distribution of food parcels caused by an internal administrative error as given by the Ministry of Poverty Eradication. I distinctively expressed my concern about the condition in which this delaying delivery was going to leave the food parcels in especially at delivery.

We have been reliably informed that the Ministry has been distributing drought relief aid food parcels for example maize-meal meant for the year 2016-2017 to the local community. I thus ask:

1. Can the Honourable Minister please furnish this August House about this development and whether this rotten and expired food is the alternative your Ministry has come up with while locals await for the distribution of the delayed food parcels by your Ministry
2. Are you aware that these alternative food parcels have long expired but someone in your Ministry felt the need to even go as far as

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON SMIT**

3. indicating a new date in turn that deny the actual expiry date of these food and I am having a photo of that. I unfortunately did not have.
4. Are you aware that these might be rotten and causing health action such as vomiting and diarrhea
5. What is your Ministry doing to resolve this very pertinent issue that could be life threatening

I so submit Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Nico Smit.

QUESTION 40:

HON SMIT: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker I give notice that on the 28th of March 2019 I shall ask the Minister of Public Enterprise Honourable Leon Jooste the following:

With a common knowledge of the financial state of Air Namibia and with the information recently published in the media quoting a report issued by the General Manager commercial services, analyzing the performance of Air Namibia by routes and equipment thus I ask:

1. Honourable Minister do you not see that the time has come to face the fact that the Airline is irredeemable and should immediately be converted to a pure domestic operandi.

QUESTION 41

HON SMIT: On the same day I will ask the Minister of Urban and Rural

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON SMIT**

Development Honourable Peya Mushelenga the following:

According to a local media it has come to our attention that in the list of the disastrous housing shortage in Windhoek 362 completed Government houses are standing empty in Outjomuise. This has been the case since 2015 despite the desperate pleas by the homeless or access to these houses. The reporting Monday's Republican newspaper in which the Executive Director of the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development Mr Daniel Ngedhinwa tried to explain why this is the case has left us totally confused and in the dark thus I ask:

1. Can the Minister explain to this August House what the exact reasons are why these houses are not connected to the Municipal services so that they can be occupied
2. Why did the Windhoek Municipality allow the Ministry to build an erven that were not correctly zoned
3. Why did the Windhoek Municipality allow the Ministry to build on erven where no services have been provided
4. Can the Honourable Minister inform this August House when these house would be available for occupation
5. Can the Honourable Minister tell this August House exactly how much money the mass housing program has cost the taxpayer
6. Exactly how many houses have been built in each town and are occupied and how many are standing empty
7. Will the Honourable Minister agree with me that the plans for this mass housing scheme are in fact fatally flawed

QUESTION 41:

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON SMIT**

HON SMIT: And on the same day I will ask the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry Honourable Alpheus !Naruseb the following:

According to media reports a total of 231 applications to cut down 195 553 Namibia over five years has been received. These applications are being entertained by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. In his reply to my questions last week Honourable Minister Shifeta made it clear that he is not in favour of issuing clearance certificate for the harvesting of our natural resources. He also declined to speculate on how the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry find it possible to issue harvesting permit for our trees in the absence of such required clearance certificates. This propose house and destruction of Namibia's very limited forestry poses a huge danger to our continued existence thus I ask:

1. Can the Honourable Minister inform this August House on what ground his Ministry issues harvesting permits in the absence of clearance certificate in accordance with the various laws although there is a moratorium that they will still issue.
2. Can the Honourable Minister supply to this August House the names of the current forestry Council members as well as the most recent copy of the national forestry registry as required under the Act
3. Can the Honourable Minister explain why a law first passed by this August House in 2000 took another eight years to be implemented on 28th December 2018 and another eight years to produce the 215 forestry regulations thereby taking 16 years to implement a single law
4. Can the Honourable Minister explain to this August House why all 19 community forests have been proclaimed but not one of the said forests for which the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry has received a budget every year since they took over management of state national forests resources from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism

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HON SMIT**

5. Can the Honourable Minister explain why the illegal logging has been allowed on commercial scale by the beneficiaries of the resettlement farms in Kavango, the two Kavangos, Zambezi and Otjozondjupa in knowing an open violation of the Forest Act despite of being repeatedly warned against the grievous violation of the very law they are meant to implement and enforce
6. Why even the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry failure to implement the Forestry Act should the Directorate of Forestry not remove immediately back to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism
7. Has any scientific research been done on the impact that the cutting down of our forest will have on environment for instance global warming and dissatisfaction
8. How many trees that can be harvested actually exist in Namibia
9. If a research have been done, how many trees can be harvested annually without denuding our forest
10. What are the criteria on which a decision is made to harvest a particular tree for instance age, height, circumference etc
11. How long does it take for the various species to reach this criteria
12. What plan is in place to replace every tree that is harvested
13. Whose responsibility is it to do this replacement of our trees the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry or the person who does the harvesting
14. Is there any control in place regarding a replacement of trees
15. In general and since Namibia is an arid country with few trees, what policy is in place to plant more trees all over the country

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON HAMBYUKA**

I so move.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Next is Honourable Hambuyuka.

QUESTION 43:

HON HAMBYUKA: Honourable Speaker on Thursday the 28th of March 2019 I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Urban and Rural Development Doctor Peya Mushelenge with regard to the Municipal services charged by the City of Windhoek. Since December 2018 until today March 2019 the City of Windhoek served its residence with ghost bills for water and other services. As we all know that December falls under festival season. Most of the residence of the City of Windhoek went for holiday outside Windhoek. Surprisingly or interestingly the Municipality charges for water and other services for December was extremely high. In the same instance in some incidents it went up as much as N\$5 000 or more in one month.

Imagine during this time most of the house were occupied by either two or one person only but yet the bill was exorbitant. The worse of the matter is that during the month of February 2019 the bill went further went and amounted to N\$10 000 per month. Now one wonder whether there was an increase on municipal services or was it an interest that was added on. Now my questions to the Honourable Minister are as follows:

1. Can the Honourable Minister tell this August House and the public out there as what happened with the City of Windhoek to serve its residence with such bill
2. Did the City of Windhoek increase its Municipality tariff, if so, how can they increase with more than 150%
3. For how long will it take for the City of Windhoek to rectify this error

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON DIENDA**

4. Lastly what will happen with the amount overcharged to the affected residence

I so submit Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Submit the questions. It looks as if the Honourable Hambyuka is speaking on behalf of so many people, people within this Chamber and beyond. Next is Honourable Dienda please.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Dienda has an oral question to the Minister of Home Affairs.

HON SPEAKER: Can you give me the gist of it?

ORAL QUESTION

QUESTION 7:

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker I was approached by a pensioner yesterday in my office and she said that she applied in 2017 for a certificate of citizenship of materialization in 2017 and she said she received a letter last week to say that she must pay N\$1 000 for that certificate to be issued and I want to hear from the Minister how was this information communicated to the public, this information that as from now on you must pay for citizenship. How was it communicated to the public because if it is in the Government Gazette, then I have a problem because not all of us, some of us never know, buy that Government

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON DIENDA**

Gazette so how will the citizen senior person buy that one and then I want to advise the Minister if you know about it, this lady applies in 2017.

Can you not go back and say that for those application who were there before this thing came in for them at least afterwards to introduce the thing and not for the ones who have applied two years ago and this thing only comes in now because they apply long time ago. Now she is a pensioner. She do not know where to get this thousand from. Thank you. The other one is I just want to know the dress code that the Minister was talking about on TV how we must dress when we visit Home Affairs office. I just want what is official to go to Home Affairs office and what is because we are not doing. It is not the case. Can I finish my question?

HON SPEAKER: I accepted the earlier question. I did not know you have a second one.

HON DIENDA: This is one is also an urgent one. I want to go tomorrow so I want to know how much I will be dressed. It is not a courtesy call. I am just going there for service. How much will I dress just for service? Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Alright, thank you. Let us have some order. I think anyone who goes to Home Affairs and apply for any official document there must be, no, no, I am not talking about dress code, no but I am assuming the Minister will deal with that but I am assuming that if you apply for official document there must be a list giving us how much you are expected to pay for these documents or that document but I will leave it to the Minister to deal with that question. Honourable Minister you have the floor.

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**RESPONSE TO ORAL QUESTIONS
HON KAPOFI**

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker thank you very much. I would like to thank the Honourable Dienda for asking a question about the cost of the services that the Ministry is rendering. We published this official information in Government Gazette. It is normally and those the cost or the amount you have sighted was equally part of those additions that we have just published. We have published them about last year or so. So it is very unfortunate that the member of public has chosen to come to you. I supposed she is maybe from your constituency. She has that right but also the Ministry of Home Affairs is there for her and she is most welcome if there are difficulties to engage us and we will look at the difficulty she has in paying for the bill but the stipulation is clear in the Government Gazette but if we need to publish more of that information, I am not sure whether she did not know but maybe just the cost but if she did not know, it is a pity but if she has some kind of inability to pay, the Government is there for her.

I supposed I have dealt with that. The other one was more by the way question but I do not think you really expect me to answer but what I am appealing to the citizens of our country and our visitors is just respect the authorities when you present yourself to that authority of your country. We are not saying you should be in a car or a very high passion dress or anything but we are saying just be decent, very casual, presentable, smart casual. You know that is what we are saying. It is not that but we want and I supposed Honourable Dienda also like some kind of order and I was doing that on behalf of all of us here in Parliament to say our institution you have created must be respected. Thank you Comrade.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Let us move on, notices of Motions, Minister of Finance.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON SCHLETTWEIN / HON IVHULA-ITHANA /
HON NGHIMTINA

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker I give notice that on the 27th of March 2019 I will move that leave be given to introduce a Bill to appropriate amounts of money to meet the financial requirements of the said period of Financial Year ending 31st March 2019.

I so move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Pendukeni Ivhula-Ithanal

HON IVHULA-ITHANA: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker on the 4th of April 2019 I shall move that this Assembly discuss and deliberate the state of driving on our roads and the consequent carnage and injuries sustained therefrom. That this Assembly further discusses measures that can be put in place immediately to save off the loss of lived and injuries, to further prefer this Motion to the relevant Standing Committee for further investigation and consultation with relevant stakeholders and authorities in the public transportation business and to report back to this Assembly as soon as possible before the effluxion of tenure of this National Assembly.

I so move Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Next is Honourable Erkki Nghimtina.

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker I give notice that on the 26th March 2019 that I move that this Assembly in accordance with Section 6(1) of the Affirmation

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON SHANGHALA**

Action Employment Act 1998, Act number 29 of 1998 recommend the appointment of Mr Otiniel Bodwick as a member of the Employment Equity Commission for the period of five years commencing 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2024.

I so move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Let us move on, message from the Head of State, Ministerial Statement, the Minister of Justice. By the way I did acknowledge the presence of your guests and all what is left is to give you the floor.

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT IN TERMS OF RULE
98 OF THE STANDING RULES AND ORDER**

**ISSUES AROUND PEOPLE WITH ALBINISM AND
THE UNFORTUNATE REALITIES THEY
HAVE TO FACE ON A DAILY BASIS**

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you Speaker. Due to other commitments I was caught up in meetings with Honourable Colleagues some of them from this House. Honourable Speaker as we know albinism is a rare non-contagious genetically inherited condition which is present at birth. In short the absence of melanin is the main cause for this condition. I take this opportunity to address you on the issues around the people with albinism and the unfortunate reality they have to face on a daily basis. I am prompted to deliver this Ministerial Statement as a result of a recent visit I received from representative of Amnesty International who has

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graced this session with appearance in gallery today and were advocating the end of violence against people with albinism and for the protection and promotion of their human rights. Namibia's approach could be a benchmark on the social protection and prevention of violence against people with albinism and since we are the chair of SADC, I am of the opinion that we use this position to promote the notion of a possible declaration on people with albinism to be adopted by Heads of State at the next Summit in August 2019. This would be in support of the action plan on people with albinism adopted by the United Nations independent expert on people with albinism. Some sub-regions in Africa such as the East and African community have adopted civil declaration in support of this plan but as SADC we have not done so despite the fact that we have the highest incidents of albinism in the world.

In a resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council in March 2015 on 'enjoyment of human rights per persons with albinism' tabled by the African group. We Namibians expressed deep concern that various parts of the world persons with albinism continue to face barriers in their participation as equal members of society and violations of their human rights. We are conscious that greater attention is needed to be given to those challenges. As members of that Council we further recalled General Assembly Resolution 69/170 of 18th December 2014 by which the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization decided 'to proclaim with effect from 2015, June 15th as International Albinism Awareness Day'.

We also recalled Resolution 263 the African Commission on Human and People's Rights of November 5th, 2013 on 'the prevention of attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism'. It is thus clear that we have the necessary political will to support efforts to promote the wellbeing and protection of people with albinism. Honourable Speaker there are some 1 206 people living with albinism in Namibia making the incidents of albinism in this country one of the highest if not the highest in the world per capita. The Namibian Constitution in Article 10 prohibits discrimination and promote equal treatment of all persons.

This is particularly true when it comes to people with albinism. The rights

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of people especially children with albinism to equality and freedom from discrimination is one of the most important rights. Ignorance is most commonly manifested in the neglect of the special needs of people with albinism. This neglect in turn results in the inability of the person to develop to use useful potential. People with albinism in Namibia are particularly susceptible to some burn as a result of the climate and this exposure invariably causes skin cancer which results not only in early death but also in marginalization and discrimination.

Luckily the Namibian Government has been highly progressive in this regard as Comrade Uutoni said it is a very caring Government and provide with sun screen and moisturizer to Namibians with albinism in cooperation with private companies in compliance with the cooperate social responsibility. You cannot have Panadol if there is no sun screen. Successful Ministers of Health have made sure that this is the position in Namibia. Namibia is further a front runner in ensuring that people with albinism are included in provided through the provision of disability grants of N\$250 for children under 16 years old and special maintenance grants to parents with disabilities Board and ministered by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare. Even though there are rumours of persecution, no recorded evidence of violence against people with albinism in Namibia has ever come to the knowledge of Government and I hope it remains this way. In comparisons to countries where the persecution of people with albinism is prevalent, Namibia is an exception. On the other hand acts of violence against persons with albinism may not be experienced but neglect still remain critical. Currently we classify albinism under the concept of disabilities although it is not formally listed as such.

People with albinism are often victims of organized crime syndicates and are victims of murder, kidnap and adaption, grievous body harm and trafficking as a result of the appalmist that their body parts can cure diseases and bring good luck. This is unfortunately a common belief on our continent. It is our duty as a nation to do something to help them dismiss this mirth and stopping the carnage of people with albinism. They are not animals. They are human beings and no price tag can be placed on

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HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

their body parts and their lives. In this regard I ask for your support in tabling this Ministerial Statement. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Minister. We thank you for that statement and the subject that you are presenting to the House is important and we hope we can count on your full support as you network for institutions and individuals who are involved in this particular matter. Thank you. We move on, yes, Honourable Ncube. Wait for the microphone, yes.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DISABILITY AFFAIRS: Thank you very much Comrade Speaker. For me is just to cement on the Ministerial Statement of the Minister because I will feel indepted if I do not do that. It is following also my Ministeral Statement on the 13th of June whichb is the Albinism Day and subsequent meeting with civic groups rights holder. I welcome thes Statemetn by the Minister of Justice and I will also like to give reference in August. I met 52 participants from 12 countries in SADC reegoin who had delivered for two days asking ourselves as chair of SADC to end attacks, discrimination, hate against persons with albinism.

Since Namibia's policy is informed by Aganda 2063 and nationally the Harambe Prosperity Plan of living no one behind, we must commit ourselves by reaching the furthest marginalized and this include people with albinism. We should then use the roadmap between now and the SADC Summit that we maximisew the opportunity to ensure that SADC Summit adopt a common prospective framework on criminal justice social protection and accountability. Thank you very much Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much Deputy Minister for that

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HON BEZUIDENHOUT**

supplementary statement and of course we know that the SADC Summit will due take place in Daar Salem in August and I am sure at that important gathering, we should ensure that this case is highlighted, Honourable Steve Bezuidenhout.

HON BEZUIDENHOUT: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I am a bit out of order but the people got up too far. The Minister of, I just want to seek clarity. The Minister of Labour, Industrialisation and Employment Creation just introduced a Motion today for the 26th. The very same Motion is our order paper for today. How did it end up there. What is the difference between that one and this one? Just clarify.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. You are very observant. It actually that was incorrectly done. What the Minister has done was the correct methodology in terms of what ought to have been the case so we take note of that. Thank you.

The Secretary will read the first order of the day.

**RESUMPTION OF RECONSIDERATION – PUBLIC
ENTERPRISES GOVERNANCE BILL [B.15 – 2018]**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Reconsideration – *Public Enterprises Governance Bill* [B.15 – 2018].

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Public Enterprise move that the Assembly now goes and reconsider the Bill.

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HON JOOSTE**

HON MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: I so move Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. It is moved that the Assembly now goes into Committee and I leave the chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
The Whole House Committee is called to order. The Committee has to reconsider the Public Enterprises Governance Bill. When progress was reported on Thursday the 7th of March 2019 in the arrangement sections of the Bill, an amendment by the Minister was put and agreed to. We are now going to proceed with clause 2, any discussions, I recognize Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: Thank you Comrade Chairperson. In caluse 2(a) substitute the words preceding paragraph (a) with sub-clause 1 with the following words, the Minister may with the approval of Cabinet by notice in the Gazette declare and sub (b) sub-clause 4 with the following sub-clause the Minister may with the approval of the Cabinet by notice in the Gazette determine that the body seized to be a public enterprise and utter such declaration in determination under sub-section 4(2) is deemed to have been withdrawn and the provisions of the establishing law for documents applied.

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HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Please submit the amendment. Any discussions on the amendment put forward? I recognize the Deputy Minister Honourable Witbooi.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER AND CHILD WELFARE:

I just want to correct.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Your microphone.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER AND CHILD WELFARE:

I just want to correct the Minister read as follows, he read (b) the second sentence sub-section but here there is only the word section but he read it like sub-section.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Alright, we thank you but the reading submission is correct as he has stated. You should take note of that. Any further discussions on this, I recognize the Minister of Justice.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I make comments previously. I am just going to record my concerns that the two sentences the one in (a) has no comma after the may or after the Cabinet that the two mean two different things and I raise my concern apparently not taking into account. Secondly, I trust that when we say with the approval of Cabinet, it means

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Cabinet not a Committee of Cabinet because Cabinet is the collective not a Cabinet Committee so that it may not be heard that certain Cabinet Committees are stronger than Cabinet so that I am entering the same to the record so that I am on record. Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Sorry, what is your concern? What is your objection? It is supposed to be what?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: First thing I said it that the sentence in (a) difference in meaning from (b) because there is a comma at after the may and after the Cabinet means something different from the first sentence and if that intention is deliberate, I am only recording the distinction. Secondly, I am saying that apart from where the approval of Parliament ascertaining the constitution when it is elsewhere uses with the approval, it is with the approval of the President not with the Cabinet because if you follow the argument that I made last time, it is the President who have the powers in the constitution to create offices Ministries in consultation with the Cabinet. Now here it says the Minister with the approval of Cabinet so hopefully it is not a Cabinet Committee on the Public Service or a Cabinet Committee on something. It is cabinet in its totality and I only wish to record so that if that understanding is given that that interpretation be in the Hansard for posterity.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I recognize Honourable Minister of Finance.

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HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you Honourable Chairperson. I just wanted to get clarity on a comment that I made during discussion and that is why we use wording of may that leaves discretion with the Minister whether to do it or not in my understanding and I clearly that and maybe the Minister can help me why we have may there as a discretionary power and I thought that is not proper. It should either be must or in consultation that it is and compelling provision and not a discretion. Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any further discussion? With that, Honourable Minister you would like to comment on the comment made by your Colleague.

HON MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: Thank you Comrade Chairperson so on the comment of the Minister of Justice those have been discussed with the office of the Attorney General as well. So they are noted. On the comment from the Honourable Minister of Finance on the use of the word may if that were to be substituted with must, I would have no reservation. This was entered as such by the legal drafters. So be compelled to perform that function rather than may making it more optional would as far as I am concerned not add any legal complications.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: With that because since you agree with the comments by your Colleague for example may to be replaced by must, so you agree that this sub-clause will stand over so that you can make correction and you bring it back probably tomorrow.

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HON MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: I would agree to that to make sure that there are no unduly consequences as a result of changing that.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
So he will consult you too and he will bring the amendment.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Chairperson I do not want to be a hinderance . I have not only recorded this in the House but recorded it in writing. If it not taken account of, it is fine but I just want to ensure that I am on record. The commas means something and their absence means something. The Minister has not alluded to why the distinction or what the distinction is. So I understand that apparently he will discuss it with the AG it was noted. I rest my case.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I know that you are Minister of but there is no harm if the Minister just agree. Let us just allow the clause to stand over and he will bring it again tomorrow Honourable Minister. We proceed to clause 4, clause 3 actually.

Now we proceed with clause number 3, any discussions, I recognize Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: Thank you Comrade Chairperson. On clause 3 the following substitute clause 3 with the following clause and I quote 'the application of Act to bodies that are not

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public enterprises under clause 3, the Minister may, with the approval of Cabinet, by notice in the Gazette declare any provisions of this Act to apply to any Board, Committee, Fund or any other institution purporting to perform any function under any law if such institution has acquired or administered money that does not form part of the central revenue fund whether such acquisition of power has been granted locally or not provided that the section does not apply to a local authority or a regional council.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Please table the amendment. Any discussions, I recognize Honourable Minister of Justice.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Chairperson equally I would like to reiterate my concern with this sub-clause. What does, it gives the Minister the power by notice in the Gazette to make funds with funds which ought to have been in the central revenue fund whether they got them lawfully nor not to become the property of that fund. The Constitution under 125 says all funds are going to the state go to the central revenue fund unless the law says they do not go to the central revenue fund. Here we provide that the Minister by notice in the Gazette I have equally raise this concern but I hope that it is understood that it is captured in language that is not unconstitutional. I thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Any further comment? I recognize Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you Honourable Chairperson. I think two things. I agree with the Honourable Minister of Justice that to

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HON DR NDJOZE-OJO**

determine whether monies are belonging to the state and to draw to the state account which the constitution actually obliges us to do to divert from that by way of a regulation empowering an entity to circumvent that in my opinion needs further interrogation. I believe that that is in fact not possible because usually says by a law that can be circumvented but not by a regulation but I am not a lawyer. So I do believe that it is interrogated by the legal mind and secondly, it is very important power and to make that discretionary is again a question why is it may. It implies that the Minister may not and I believe that that is another aspect that needs to be further interrogated just like in the previous paragraph also. Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Any further discussions, I recognize Honourable Doctor Ojo.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, TRAINING
AND INNOVATION:**

Thank you. I have Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee I seem to be noticing that there is need for further consultation on this issue because these are certified by the Attorney General and these amendments and yet the Minister of Justice is raising the concerns and also the Minister of Finance and we as a Government ought to consult so that when we present it is collective. So I am just wondering whether we would not ask because as you can see also in this particular clause, the word may is consistent and where you give allowance for the Minister to may or may not is also a problem. So I am just proposing craving the indulgence of the Minister of Enterprise to further consult with the Minister of Justice so that there is a collective presentation from us. Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

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Any further discussions on this before I, who is whispering? Honourable Minister any response?

HON MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: Thank you Comrade Chairperson. So if I may reply to those. In this particular case there is and this was raised last week when we had the same provision on the floor. So we requested clarify from the Ministry of Justice on the logic of this particular clause from a legal perspective. They are examples. So the purpose of this is in the case so let us split I will come to the may. Let us split and talk about the application of this. There are particular examples where funds have been created or set up without specific statutory provisions in place. So what this will do, it would allow at least for those and whether they were done rightfully or wrongfully is not my place to determine but this provision would allow that the provisions of this Act may apply to any of those and it does not say that all the provisions have to apply. It says that in your preparations may apply to those and there are specific examples of such funds that have been set up that are not currently regulated by unique statutes. So that is the purpose of that. On the may in this case I would agree and I would defend using the word may because there maybe very specific reasons why that Minister would want to not have any of these provisions. Remember it makes if you read this, it makes if very awkward. It says apply to any Board, Committee, Fund or any other institution purporting to perform any function under any law.

So exactly to prevent any form of potential conflict of duplication, one would want to give that discretionary powers to the Minister again now not in consultation with the approval of Cabinet to have any of these provisions apply. So if it says must, then I can tell this House that there is a list of potential more than 300 different entities that arguably could qualify to fall within one of these categories and I for one would not want to be forced to have these provisions or some of them applied to all of those. That is why in this case the word may is relevant and is correct. Thank you Comrade Chairperson.

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HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Any further discussions on this? I recognize once more Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Chairperson I think the problem that I have with this clause is that it mixes Boards and everything with funds and we are treating a fund equal to a Board and the power of the Minister to amend the Board or whether it is equal the power to amend how these public funds are managed. The Article in the constitution that I am referring to is Article 125 which under sub 2 says that all income accruing to the Central Government shall be deposited in the State Revenue Fund and the authority to dispose thereof shall rest in the Government of Namibia. Then it goes on and 3 says nothing contains in sub-Article 2 thereof shall preclude the enactment of any law or application of any law which provides that the Government shall pay in particular monies and then it goes that we can by an Act of Parliament says that certain monies are paid into another fund.

Now why it is of concern is the other provision in the constitution that it is the National Assembly's function to appropriate public money. Now if we now allow an Act where a Minister by regulation may determine where the money goes, we are undermining this fundamental power that was given to the National Assembly and if there are funds existing that are also at the law, then I would like to know them then Treasury can close them immediately and make sure that these funds are paid into the State Revenue Fund as per the provision of the constitution. It cannot be an excuse if there is an illegal fund that is not correct that that can be then legalized by introducing of paragraph like that. Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I should it will benefit us as lawmaker when we make provision of any Act.

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It should be clear not to be subjected to more than one interpretations. Henceforth I agree that pardon me that this clause also stood over so that consultation can also be done between the different Ministry concerned. We have nothing to lose, so agreed.

I put clause 4, any discussions, I recognize Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: Thank you Comrade Chairperson. In clause 4 substitute the word preceding paragraph (a) of sub-clause 2 with the following words, despite the provisions of any other law the Minister has the power to determine with the approval of Cabinet.

I so submit.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Please submit the amendment. Any discussions, order, order, I recognize Honourable Minister of Land Honourable Uutoni. You must push your microphone.

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: With regard to this clause, I think this clause also has a bearing on clause 3 so it is despite the provisions of any other law, the Minister has power to determine. I think it has a bearing on the other one. So because of the confliction issues that has been raised by the Minister of Finance, I think we should also leave this one for verification so that we do not waste really time. Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: So you are of the opinion that this clause links to the other one. Can it stands over, alright, so agreed? You have a floor Honourable Minister.

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You have a floor.

HON MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: If I may respond to that. This one is very different from the previous one because this one purely deals with the functions of the Minister related to the Boards so no other implications other than the Boards of public enterprises and the amendment is to make it compulsory for the Minister to perform that function with the approval of Cabinet. That is the only but the rest of the provisions are all from even the current legislation. So those are not new. The only change is that the Minister must perform that with the approval of Cabinet but the rest are even current legal provisions in the current law.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Cabinet Ministers will panel beat this. What is your comment to panel beat this Bill? What is your comment, yes, Honourable Minister of Lands.

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Not on the microphone.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Alright, I recognize again Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Chairperson I do not want to be a hinderance but if a law says notwithstanding any other law, then it overruns every law including the State Finance Act which has

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provisions of how Boards and secondary bodies that have funds are regulated. So I think one must be careful it is not only speaking this in this instance to the statutes that establishes the Boards.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Can we listen please to the Honourable Member.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: And entities, the wording that is notwithstanding any other law includes State Finance Act and other laws that also have a bearing on public entities how they are run. So I think we must recognize that and maybe it is therefore correct what Comrade Utoni has suggested that we have the approval.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

That that provisions it links to the other one to stood over. I recognize Honourable Sankwasa and you can press because you are Deputy Minister of this Ministry.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. I have only one problem there.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Can we listen?

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: If the constitution states as it states under Article 125 you cannot go and make another subordinate law that challenges already and conflict with the constitution. So the issue of revenue for the state is regulated constitutionally and we should leave it as such. Therefore this provision is in conflict with the constitution. Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Is there somebody or Honourable.

HON NAUYOMA: No, I thought I was relying on the Attorney General. Maybe he can come in to clear up some of these misunderstandings because I know this thing was send back every now and then and we expected the Attorney General to make consultation with the other Colleagues to come clean and then to let this case go because it is postponed because of the consultation. Is it true that the consultation was not done or where are we because it was postponed because supposed to be consultation with other three Ministers if you can remember but like now there was no consultation. We are still back to square one. What is the situation? Maybe the Attorney General can help us.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Sorry, it is alright that is why the Chairperson of the Whole House Committee called for any discussions. Any person who feel that they want to make a comment, they can make a comment. You are just right to comment as a Member of Parliament. I recognize Deputy Minister of Public Enterprises.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: Comrade Chairperson I take note of what you just said now but as a lawmaker I feel that we must come here and address issues of serious nature. Those particular issues were here I think two weeks ago and this matter was adjourned for the purpose of consultation so coming here and try to go around the bush and start doubting, there is either explicit indication because what I am observing from my Comrade Shanghala.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Around the bush I do not think it is a good phrase really.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: I have no problem Comrade Chairperson but it is English. A bush does not mean it is a bush.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
No, no, can you sit down.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: Alright, around the paper it is the same meaning. So Comrade Chairperson I really suggest, I really sincerely suggest that the persons as indicated two weeks ago that this thing be taken off, that the Justice Attorney General and the Minister concern and whoever then so that when we come here, we have a clear understanding of things. We do not come here again and question what is already questioned. I really so submit Comrade Chairperson.

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HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Very good, so you would like to propose that the rest of amendments stood over and being panel beaten by the Ministry concerned. I should it is a prudent move, so agreed and I humbly requesting the Ministry concerned, the Minister of Justice, Attorney General, Minister of Finance please assist. Minister of Finance, Attorney General, Justice and any other concern assist the Honourable Minister to come up with a proper terminology so that we can move on.

ASSEMBLY RESUMES

I will report progress.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Honourable Speaker I report progress and leave to sit again.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. We are back and we are moving on.

The Secretary will read the second order of the day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND READING – ARMS
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SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – *Arms and Ammunition Amendment Bill* [B.12 – 2018].

HON SPEAKER: When the Assembly adjourn on Tuesday the 12th of March 2019 the question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Deputy Minister of Safety and Security that the Bill be read a second time. Honourable Dienda adjourned the debate and I now give her the floor.

HON DIENDA: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker I will go specifically to what is written in the Bill. On page 7 Honourable Minister on page 7, section 2(b) subsection 2 it is written that ‘requirements to apply for license to possess arms or competency certificate is fit to possess an arm’. That word is fit Honourable Minister I just want to know in the definitions, you did not clarify this fit to us and even to refer it to say this fits referred to section so and so. So that is missing so for me as a lay person I want to know what is it to be fit to be in a possession of an arm and then Honourable Speaker on the same page I may have a concern. There is a word that I want us or attention to be insert and the wording must be not to have any criminal record. I do not see it here and why I am specifically talking about a criminal record like for instance people who are stealing our cars daily and night, there are rich people. They do not specific those issues as people who do not qualify because if you are criminal, you are involved in crimes every time. You are the one or they are the ones who are actually making use of guns to get these cars or to stole these cars. So I just want us to insert the sentence must not have any criminal record. Then again on page 7(2)(b) is eighteen years of age or older except for members of the service. Honoureaable Speaker I am having a concern with this age of 18 years because these are kids who are still in school and my concern is if we are giving now these children who are in school guns, our schools might become a war field.

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Are they really fit enough these boys, these kids of eighteen years to have a war or to have a gun. So can we not at least make it 21 years and not 18 years old. 18 years is too young.

They are at school. They will not know what to use it for. Honourable General you must answer me listen. The constitution does not say you must have a gun at 18. It is not what the constitution is saying. It is not saying that. Honourable Speaker I continue page 8(7), Honourable Shanghala I hope he is right subsection and whatever and it is written as follows. 'No person other than a person referred to in paragraph (l) of (m) of subsection 42 shall in terms of subsection 1 be issued with a license or licenses and sighting such person to possess more than four arms. Each of the difference law full caliber or such a greater number as the Minister upon application and on good causes shown may approve'.

Honourable Speaker are we saying in my house we have seven people who are older than 18 years old and all seven of us can have a license for four guns in this house. Is this what we are saying because this is what it is saying with a license? It says that each person can have four license from different calibres. So in the house where they are seven people, you are saying that all those seven people can each one have four guns. This is ridiculous Honourable Speaker honestly speaking. We will kill each other left, right and centre in those houses. Why do we not just commit to one gun license per family? Why do that licence not before the family? People who are just fighting and now the gun will come out and we will start killing each other. No, no, no, this domestic violence is how it started. The people who are being killed is women and children. Let me have my say and you can all have your way when I finish. I do not like people to, let me also have my say.

HON SPEAKER: On a point of order.

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HON DOCTOR KAWANA (ATTORNEY GENERAL): Honourable Speaker I am sorry we are at good terms with my sister there. Just to ask a question. Honourable Dienda are you aware that in some families there are some of the family members who are literally criminal who even abuse drugs so if you say a license per family, do you not think that that is dangerous?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member continue.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker you are right but the licence the person who will register you must make sure that the other family members must not also have a licence if they are already four people. I am coming to that Honourable. My problem also with this oen is several ownership oif firearms Honourable Speaker as I said they are too many people, women who are being killed through these guns. Why should we discourage the limitation of guns to civil . Why can we not do it? Then on page 9 of the principle Act, page 9 Honourable Minister of the principle Act not the amendment one, not the Amendment Bill on the principle Act.

Honourable Minister I have realiseed that you do not even touch this section for any amendement. Now let me tell you why I am having a problem with it. It says any person other than a person under the age of 18 years or a disqualified person may with the prior consent of the holder of a license to possess an arm whether or not such consent was granted in an agreement of lease borrowing. So it means that if I am having any person, it says any person other than a person under the age of 18 years and disqualified, me I do not, I never applied for a gun so I was never disualified. I was never screened but yet I am borrowing it is a lease a gun from somebody who has a license for that gun. I am borrowing that gun but I was not tested to be fit.

I was not screened to be fit but I do have in my hand I do have a written

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consent letter which a holder of a license gives me permission to use that gun. My concern with this one Honourable is does it now mean that every Tom, Jack and Harry who do not qualify will be carrying guns with consent letters of section 8(1). This is what it did. All the taxi drivers will have these consent letters and the guns which they borrow. Me myself, everybody will have it. What are we trying to say through this consent letter? I think we must speak to only people who qualify and who are screened and who are fit to have it and not any letters of consent should be done.

I also want to go further. If somebody who has had gun and a consent letter are involved in any criminal activity, who will be charged? Is it the owner of the gun or the one that we know who is not fit? Who will the charge be against? Then Honourable Speaker I am going to page 12 it goes to dealers and brokers in arms and ammunition. Check section 8 dealers and brokers in arms and ammunition. My concern is Honourable a person who applies for a licence to receive or undergo training for the proper handing of firearms granting a license, you cannot just sell a gun to anybody. I need training first and then comes the fitness certificate and it must be included the training. When these dealers are selling these guns, they must send the people for training before they hand over those guns.

Then of course we have to protect our people. These domestic violence in this country is because of people who are sitting with with guns who are not fit even to how to handle these guns. This is our problem. We are being shot by you left, right and centre. Honourable Speaker on page 26 the Arms and Ammunition Act the principle Act section 40 I have to bring in the principle Act Honourable Speaker because I realise that it seems that we were selective what we were bringing in here and it is saying Honourable I am reading. 'Any person or under fingerprint, any person who for the first time made an application in terms of this Act shall have his or her fingerprint stated in the prescribed manner if the Inspector General deems it necessary'. Any person Honourable. I am going now to this one. What about companies who only who have for instance 25 employees and yet they apply for 100 licenses, will the fingerprint of the

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employee be taken or the fingerprint of the owner of the companies? Whose fingerprints will be taken? This is my first question and then my second question is security firms.

Who will be responsible? Who will be the responsible persons for the fingerprints if these security firms are changing employees on a monthly basis? We know on a monthly there is always another security. Now you are saying each and every person fingerprints must be taken. I am coming to that Security Act. I read it the Security Act but yes, you must clarify it to us because you are only saying fingerprints of everybody but you are not specifically to say that company or you refer to the Company Act what. So we must bring in that part also refer in your principle Act. You did not refer to any Security Act. This is why I am bringing it up.

You did not refer. So for us it is a non-issue. It does not exist and then Honourable Speaker also on the same thing. My belief is that political parties their members also need to be protected. Now if a political party applies for a license to have guns, yes, we need to be protected so if political party applies to have a gun for security. These firearms Honourable Speaker would be distributed to individuals within the party. Honourable Kawana it will be distributed.

HON SPEAKER: Point of order. The microphone is not on.

HON MINSTER OF LAND REFORM: Individuals I mean political parties we are all members of political parties and we joint these political parties as individuals. So what is preventing you as an individual to apply and the Minister of Safety and Security determine that you are fit for the purpose or you are not fit for the purpose. That is the overall thinking that whether it is the people who are responsible for Security Company. I am answering now on behalf of the Minister. The people who are responsible

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for security companies they also have that responsibility. They must take fingerprints and the individuals who join them as workers must also take fingerprints. It is very important. So do not complicate matters that are not complicated. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker listening is a skill. Honourable Uutoni can you listen to what I am saying before you jump up. I said yes.

HON SPEAKER: Continue.

HON DIENDA: Listening is a skill. I was very clear. I said in the principle Act you are referring to fingerprints but you are not referring to the Security Act to regulate it. That is my concern. So who are the people who you are talking about and then to continue with this one where Honourable Nuujoma comes in. Honourable Nuujoma you and your Ministers you are enjoying the security of state paid VIPP people. So you are protected. I am talking about in your political party. There you have your people who are not being protected and then your party wants to safeguard. He also needs to be safe. So why if it is a party's responsibility to keep him safe. He does not have a bodyguard paid by the Government. So it is our party's responsibility. So it is the party who must apply for that license. It is the party.

Honourable Speaker now we are giving those. It is the name of the party and yet we are giving these individuals these licenses and these

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individuals were not tested, were not screened whether they are fit or not and after the person resign now and went with the gun also and so on, this person can commit crime. I know I have joined Swapo so I will use this gun from PDM to kill everybody because I am angry with PDM. I joined another party but I have moved with it. So I am saying everybody needs to be screened.

HON SPEAKER: Is it a point of order? Clarity in a form of a question, is the Honourable Member willing to entertain a question?

HON DIENDA: Yes.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: Yes, we discussed about it. I just want to ask a simple question but I think it is important. She made a very good example that when they applied for the guns given to their member, their member join now Swapo, they are now angry, they are now going to shoot the PDM people. They are now going to shoot. Does it mean that within their fall, they make each other angry and does those two carry revenge and kill each other when they are gone? I just want to seek clarity. I am just seeking clarity.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member please continue.

HON DIENDA: You must be the last person to talk about making people angry. You are angry every day in the newspaper. So keep quiet when it

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comes to angry. You are the last person to talk about it. Honourable Speaker my next comment is on and it is not in the principle Act and Honourable Minister, no, my dear. My dear me I read the whole document on behalf of the party.

HON SPEAKER: Is that a point of order or is it a question?

HON VENAANI: It is not that I want. I need it. Honourable Dienda I did not mean to on a point of information talking about parties. Last night I was listening to the news item, I hope you were not drinking wine. You were also listening to it. In South Africa in a particular region called Kwazulu Natal the members of the same, an ANC Mayor for a particular town was discharged with murder of a former Secretary General of the ANC in the province. So the question of party security and guns is quite very relevant. You cannot decide that parties do not need guns on the basis of your analysis. We also determine our own security detail.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Let the Honourable Member continue please.

HON DIENDA: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members I have a concern and I saw something.

HON SPEAKER: Order please.

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HON DIENDA: I am just reading here that people must go and whatever will clarify this matter. I want to bring in appeal Boards here. Let me explain to you why, to review licenses or to look into the appeal cases and this appeal Board Honourable Minister comprising of different stakeholders including the civil society. Honourable Minister we cannot always only depend on your Ministry. We must include other stakeholders when it comes. I said it. You did not listen. It is a skill. Honourable including civil society so they are people who are dealing with these matters on a daily basis. Let them be involved. Why are we scared to involve Namibians in Namibians issues and then Honourable Speaker my point number seven on the principle Act page 7?

They are saying the police will make sure that these guns if you apply and you want a license that you must have a place of safety. How will your police follow it up? Will you first follow it up before you give the license or you first want to give the license then you will follow it up because you cannot give somebody a license if you do not physically went out, physically not by asking questions. We will and look whether this place of safety is there. We are talking about the protection of life. So that parties I want to bring it in.

Then Honourable Speaker another concern is are family members in my house consulted when a person applies for license and are their concerns taken into consideration before a person is issued with a license? Statistics have shown that women are killed with these firearms at home and therefore consultations with the family and society is imperative. I might know that my husband is unstable but you will not know my husband is unstable. So if at least you can consult me and say your husband have applied for a gun, how do you feel? I would say I do not want to be killed but now you are giving him in secret a license and he will come and every moment when he is fire, he will just threaten I will take. So consultations with family members before you.

It is women who are being killed. Then Honourable Minister I do not know. Before I came on board nobody wants to say anything anymore.

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Honourable Speaker I want to thank the Honourable Minister. In your presentation you acknowledged the contribution of the gun dealers and other civil association but there is only one that you have consulted because you did not mention any other name in your presentation. You only talk about gun dealers and hunters. I saw loopholes here or maybe it was just by mistake that you did not mention it.

Last but not least what program are in place that are looking at strengthening that the capability of the law enforcement when dealing with this illegal guns? These illegal guns what programs do you have in place? I thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Any further discussion, yes, Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker I want to briefly just take part in the debate addressing two or three elements and it is not on the specific articles of the Bill but just a general debate on guns and gun laws as they are affecting our country and the global community at large. A few days ago we have seen what have happened in New Zealand.

HON SPEAKER: And yesterday in Netherlands.

HON VENAANI: And yesterday in the Netherlands. So ordinary weapons have become weapon of mass destruction if they are used by the wrong people and I want us to differentiate about the type of guns we are talking about because if you put farmers, hunters as the rightful category into an ordinary category of guns, then you are not going to do justice in

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trying to regulate gun laws in the country. If you look at the specific nature of rifles for example a farmer who is farming in the deep end of Kavango in Chivichivi as an example who is inaudated by leopards, probably lions, wolves and that person is owning a particular rifle whether a shot gun or a rifle 308 or 306 it does not matter the rifle.

You cannot compel the same rules of applying that rifle to a person owning a hand gun and we should also look at our statistics should be able to inform us that between these different categories of weapons, what are the weapons that want to really regulate on and I would advance an argument and aspose a thinking that we really want to regulate small hand guns and these are the weapons in my view that are a threat to the communities in which we are living in. What are the weapons that are being used on a daily basis murdering women. I doubt I have not seen probably one or two instances where I have seen a 303 rifle being used to kill family members but the weapons that does it mostly are the small hand guns your pistols, your revolvers and all the other small guns.

They are not easily accessible. The whole, you see that is why I am trying to talk about how to access them because guns are accessed currently in a very same way whether you want to buy a pistol, you want to buy a shot gun or you want to buy a rifle is the same way and that ought not to be the same. Why, for example in our country we do not permit individuals buying submachine guns and machine guns. It is a different category. Now for example in jurisdiction such as the United States of America the western hemisphere if I must put it in that way. In the western hemisphere in many countries in the western hemisphere a young boy of 18 that would be a boy in our own classification, you son could walk into a shop and buy MIR50 and he wants to shot birds or he wants to shoot for fun with it and that person can be able to access that gun and that is why we have a situation such as the one that is rearing its head in New Zealand or the one in the Netherlands on the tramp shooting.

It is because people mean be able to access machine and submachine guns in those jurisdictions. Now in our country we do not allow but I am trying

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to push for a narrative that says should we regulate and perhaps one should ask the Minister this question. Should we regulate rifles the same way that we are regulating hand guns and I beg to differ that we must not regulate it the same way. Now with hand guns this is what is happening. Any person that has access to N\$1 500, any Namibian who has access to N\$1 500 can access a hand gun and I agree with the propositions made in the Bill to say that we must make it stricter and we must be able to review but I do not think that if farmer Namoloh the farmer at Ondope is having a 303 that was inherited from your Omtékuro whoever and now this old man who is just there to protect his cattle from stray animals or his goats would be asked now to come from Ondope come to Eenhana after four years to come and re-register this rifle while we all know in this country rifles are not the biggest problems that we have.

I do agree that we have a category of what do you call these people that collect gun smith, collectors of weapons. In fact we are the only country that says you must have four guns. In fact any individual who lives the kind of life that we live would need more than four guns because you would need a hand gun, you would need for snakes you would need a short gun. If you are hunting, if you like hunting like I do you would want to have a good rifle maybe 7mm Remington, a 306 but you would want to have more because if it is a passion, you would want to have more rifles but for a person who is the Speaker and has four rifles, his rifles are not a threat to the society or to anyone for that matter but the person who is Nekundi from Oshana. I know exactly where it is. Now Nekundi from Oshana is having a hand gun that he acquired in a very easy process and his hand gun is much more a threat to society as opposed to the farmer. So I am trying to say that Honourable Minister regulation is not bad at all but over regulation and unnecessary regulation creates problems or what Honourable Nuujoma has said. The very few times that I agree with him. He said something very fundamental, very fundamental and I underlined what he said. He said that do we even have the capacity for the regulating of guns because if you start regulating 200 000 that we have in the country, our police stations will no longer take cases of rape and cattle thefts. We will start dealing with gun pros.

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So I am trying to say that yes, the regulation is important. We need to bring discipline in acquiring our weapons but let us categorise the kind of weapons that are giving us problem. In conclusion when it comes to automatic and semi-automatic rifles I see a number of security companies especially in our neighbouring country South Africa. I mean nearly in Namibia all security guards most of them have shot guns one not even the double action, the one action shot gun but in South Africa most security companies use the shot guns. Everyone has a semi or an automatic rifles. Now automatic rifles in their own context create instability nations.

I see some security companies in the country accessing AK47. I have seen them but the minute that one security company acquires say 3014 sub or automatic rifles, that person can be able to destabilise a security of the town I mean you can take over with 40 automatic rifles you could destabilize a town like not Gobabis. Gobabis is quite a bigger town but you could destabilize Otavi for example to regulate that. So maybe I have not read it in full but I think that law must really horn in because sometimes the person can be able to acquire weapons to have a security company but the main reason why you are acquiring these weapons you are robbing. That is why South Africa has a problem with robbers, ATM cash hike is because they have weapons that they are not supposed to be there in society.

So I am saying that our regulations should be focus on the horning to regulate against those vices that may arise but do not punish a man who is in Ondope who wants just to protect his cattle over wolves that are coming there periodically and you want him to go to Eenhana or come to Oshakati to come and re-register. So I am trying we should strike a balance in our regulation but generally I support the intention and the motive of the Bill. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Any further contribution? In the absence of

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further contribution, oh, yes, Honourable Steve Bezuidenhout.

HON BEZUIDENHOUT: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I am missing a very particular environment in the Bill and that is the environment I am referring to is cyber space. We can today manufacture a gun a secret in my house with a 3G printing technology. 3G printing technology can be obtained without the knowledge of a police or any, even my neighbours. I can obtain that in my house. I can download the components of a gun from the internet because many knows how to put them together. I have seen videos where people have practice with 3G print of guns. I do not say it can happen in Namibia but the possibility is there. I think the Bill must also include that specific area of our lives 3G printed or technology printed guns. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. That is a very important point or reference. We will leave it to the Deputy Minister to deal with that. Next is Honourable Doctor Shangula please.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SCIAL SERVICES: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I have a very brief contribution nto the Bill. I do support the object of the Bill. It is very laudible and I would like to say that if there are some issues which need to be amended, it should be really issues that will strengthen the spirit of the Bill and not to dilute it. It is my observation that I have been uphold by the casual attitude people have towards guns, very casual, treat them probably like a toy but I can say that a gun is your best friend and your worst enemy. It can kill your worst enemy but it can kill also your best friend. So I think what is also important is the awareness of people who are having guns. It is not just sufficient that you have a gun but you must understand the

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essence of the gun and how you relate to it and how you treat it. It is safe but it is dangerous. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much and thank you very much for that warning. Deputy Minister you wish to reply. You have the floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members for your contribution to this very important piece of legislation. I will respond to some of the issues. I have noted that there is a lot of interest in this Bill to an extent that at least more than 20 people have spoken on this Bill. Just to illustrate the importance how important is this Bill to be passed and probably the urgency thereof. I would like to start off by giving statistics before I answer the questions. The statistics that relates to crimes that involve guns for attempted murder in 2002-2003 they were 488 cases of attempted murder using a firearm which is and 2004, 326 and 2004-2005, 268. That is attempted murder. The actual murder that is being committed in those years is 54 for the first review and then 71 and then 76 so that is a period of three years and then pointing of firearms is 530 and 517 and 590 and armed robbery for the same period 494, 478 and 401.

Coming to 2018-2019 attempted murder is 227. I am talking about cases that are involving firearms the ones that are reported. Others might have gone uncaptured. Then we have 2015 to 2019, 227 and then 203 and then 118. So the actual murder during the same period 50, 35, 30 and 44 that is 44 for 2018-2019 and pointing of firearms 426, 425, 345, 312 for 2018-2019 and robbery, armed robber 377, 356, 402 and for 2018-2019, 334 so that underlines the seriousness and the urgency for this Bill to be passed and be enacted into a law.

Now to the special question the first one that I have to answer here is the

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question from Honourable Muharukua. Honourable Muharukua is interested in knowing why competency space and whether it is necessary when we do not have the facilities to do the testing in the country. My response to that Honourable Members is that firearms are very dangerous items that need to be handled with care in order to prevent death and injuries to persons due to mishandling and negligence handling of this very lethal items. They are just too many weapons in this country and they are just too many people that have fallen victim to the use of weapons or of the firearms and therefore with or without the testing facility available, this regulation cannot or this law cannot be delayed any further because that is tantamount to keeping business as usual.

So and compromise the security of our people. We can no longer afford to dish out weapons to each and every person including those who are not fit and proper and therefore, the issue of competency testing cannot be compromised. With regards to the claim, I call it a claim because it has not been proved as yet that there are more cases of mishandling of firearms and accidental discharge of shots among trained people than they are in among the untrained civilian. My contention here is this claim is simply not true unless otherwise we will have to be provided with credible statistics not only statistics but credible statistics to implicate to substantiate the claim.

Otherwise, our report points to the contrary. On the proposal still to establish training facilities. That is good idea. However, it will not be fair for the Honourable to ask the Minister of Safety and Security to establish such training facilities just because we are concerned and proposing the amendment to the legislation. However, one must mention that for the general public including the Members of this House the acquisition and possession of firearms license is a private matter. These firearms are obtained from gun dealers which are commercial and probably it will be a business opportunity for those gun dealers and for all those who know how to handle firearms to establish such facilities for as long as they undergo a vigorous test to determine their capability of providing such training.

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I think that is the approach. So one would say this is the business opportunity therefore for those of you who knows how to train and those of you who knows how to handle the firearms whilst the requirement for reapplication.

As a question I could not recall which Honourable Member has asked this question but the issue here is the amendment make provision for the renewal of the license every five years and the purpose of that is for us to be able to test the competency of the license holder. Let me give an example if you are tested today and you are found to be fit and proper and you have sound mind but there is no guarantee that you will have the same competency in the next ten years and therefore if your circumstances change, youi will then fall in a category of people who do not qualify to possess firearms. Suppose in the current legislation a license is issued for life, let us have a scenario here. You have applied in 1990 at the age of 70. As we speak the license holder who was issued in 1990 a license 29 years down the line would be 99 and remember the license is issued to a person not the family.

Now 99 years old, an old man or woman does he still have the capacity and capability both mental and physical to handle a firearm? So that is why we want to make it a renewable item. So that is the purpose of retesting. Honourable Nekundi was interested in the usage of the word renewable that a license is valid for five years and it renewable. This contention is that if we use the renewable it makes it mandatory that the Inspector General must automatically renew the license. This question was responded to correctly by Honourable Shanghala and I would like to leave it at that.

He further wanted to know what is meante by members of service. The member of service refers to the members. Before I go to that, what is means by member of service and why are they exempted from competent certficiate? So the answer here is members of service the defence, the police and the correctional service and they are only exempted from the competent certificates when receiving their service weapons and the

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reason for that is during the training, competency have been taken care of already during the training but when it comes to the issuance of license for private firearms nobody is exempted. That is how we understand the provision.

Honourable Kooper indeed thank you very much for the support. There are a lot of crimes happening including poaching. You rightly put it that way. Thank you for the support. So we leave it at that. Comrade Uutoni Nujoma thank you for th support of the Bill. We have also taken note of your caution not to over-regulate but we find it very necessary that there is this piece of legislation is introduced in order to curb the scourge of misuse of firearms and the proliferation of those weapons. I thank you very much for that one and the Honourable Members also wanted to increase that they suggested that the period of five years within which one must renew the license be lengthened but we believe the five years is more reasonable to keep abreasts with the changes that might have occurred after a person have been given a firearm.

Because remember the provision here says if you have been found guilty of an offence you shall not have been given a firearm. So if we do not check within the five years, so we will have people that have committed crime. Maybe they were not related to the firearms but they have committed crimes and they went to jail and they come back and they find their firearms and they will continue to use those firearms thereafter. Honourable Shapwa wanted in fact supported the Bill and thank you very much for your support and there was a question about instead of selling the weapon when you were find that you are no longer fit and maybe you are old so you cannot handle the firearm anymore. Can one donate it to the daughter the exact word that were used. Well, both the principle Act as well as the Amendment have not made provision for the donation but there is sufficient provision with regard to the disposal of the firearm if it is not wanted that the other person does not want it. So we thought that those kind of provisions that are there for now are sufficient but we shall endeavor to include to prescribe more on the procedures in the regulations.

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So that one goes together with that one the question the concern of Honourable Utoni to say what are the procedure if I want to sell? If I fail the test and the firearm must be sold, what are the procedures that are involved? That one will take care of them or of that in the regulation. Honourable Billy Mwaningange is concerned with the number of firearms that are allowable under the current Act to an individual and that question has also been asked or that concern has been raised by Honourable Dienda and my response to that one as a Ministry responsible for safety and security we would be happy if this Parliament decide that to limit the number of firearms per individual. It can be one.

We are going with an idea of coming up at a later stage with another kind of amendment or repeal of this whole law to ensure that there are no hand guns issued to civilians but we are still consulting on that one and we have an idea of coming up with that and that will also cater the concern of Honourable Venaani on differentiating between according to the types of firearms that we are talking about. We actually want to make it more tougher and if it is possible limit and prohibit completely the issuing of hand guns so that Honourable Mwaningange still your suggestion the suggestion to use in the Bill there are times where they use millimeters and some others at some places we use feet and some others we use whatever but it is an inconsistency in the use of the measurement.

So that is we have taken note of that and thank you very much. The question by Honourable Murorua about the, actually the concern also kindly very well with that one of Honourable Dienda on the age. Honourable Murorua is proposing that the age the minimum age for one to be issued with a licence must be increased from 18 and above. That the answer here is originally this is what we wanted in the first draft. That is what we wanted. We actually wanted to put it to 21 years but we were advised otherwise that the age of majority in Namibia is 18 and we need to be consistent with the constitution. So that is what we were advised but for us on our side we would be happy if you tell us to say even up to 50 you do not qualify. For us we want fewer guns.

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Honourable Murorua also had a concern. Before the concern he has also expressed the difficulty that would be there because of lack of accredited cardet training in the country and he felt that the testing is not necessary. That I have already answered that part of the question but the other concern is that while you are waiting for your license to be renewed, the weapon or the firearm must be kept in safe. We agree with that but the provision for reapplying within 90 days is to cater for that period. So while you have applied your license is still valid and you can still use your firearm but should it happen then maybe you forgot to apply and then the application was not granted, the permission was not granted or the renewal was not granted until the expiry date of your license, then you are duty bound to surrender that firearm to the nearest police station until such a time you have received your license but the 90 days really is to cover you up to a sufficient time to make an application. So the other concern which I believe does not belong to the Arms and Ammunition Bill is the concern that an intruder will come into your house.

The moment you shoot that intruder you would be criminally charged. That I believe it does not belong to the Arms and Ammunition Bill but probably to the Criminal Procedure Act and that it is something that has to be dealt with within the justice system. Am I finishing, yes, there was also a question why to say or a suggestion to say well, the security companies will they be subjected to testing. Yes, everybody, every person what that is a natural person or a juristic person there has to be a natural person who is to be tested. For example for a security company and this is coming in the provision that in another Act or in another Bill that is coming soon within this session.

For you, you can register your company as a security company. That is fine. We are not concerned but you will not be permitted to commence business of provision of security until you have been registered in the terms of the law that is coming next. So the person who want the owner of the company must undergo a test and be registered as such as a security provider and the people that are going to work as security as an individual have to be certified. First of all you have to undergo a training and you

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need to be certified as a person capable of handling a firearm and as a person of capable of performing security function.

So that law will come to cover that one with careful not to make too much of cross referencing because it will confuse people. It also maybe I shall be amenable to answer the question of the proposal of Honourable Dienda also here that is asking for the creation of appeal Board in the case of a license has been refused and the Honourable Member went on to say we cannot rely on your Ministry. An answer to that it might be good but the security cannot be outsourced. I am one of those people that do not believe in creating bodies to regulate security outside the framework of the security apparatus of the state and for us we believe when security issues are handled within the Ministry and within the parameter of the security cluster that is the best in the best interest of this country.

Honourable Kavekatora has a concern that our testing will only subject the law abiding citizens. Well, that might be true or might not be true but we in terms that for everybody who is handling a firearm must at least have undergone the testing. To say it is only the law abiding citizen will come, well the law will catch up with you when it finds you with an unlicensed firearm later. That is all I can answer on that one and there was a question of the technology to trace the firearms. The Amendment makes a provision for us for the Inspector General to subject all firearms to what is called ballistic testing and ballistic testing is like taking fingerprint.

I must take an opportunity to tell this House that firearms have profiles just like human being. So when it is testing, it tested ballistically we will be able if we pick up any pieces or any projectile fired from that particular firearm, we will be able to follow the footprint of that firearm to the owner. So that is the technology that is available. The other questions of Honourable Dienda I think I have answered quite a number of them in the process. Unfortunately, the Honourable Member took a lot of time discussing the principle Act and not the Amendment and I find it difficult to follow exactly what are these because I was not prepared to come and discuss the principle Act.

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So I had problems. However, I want to answer on the question that says that refer to section 40 of the principle Act which says about the fingerprints. So we are saying here every person who is applying must undergo the testing. Even if it is a company. The members of that company the applicant must provide proof that they have capacity to handle firearms and they have to be subjected to the same testing and that includes the Honourable Member of the opposition party who wants the party to procure firearms. We subject you to testing. Appeal Board I have said something about it so the requirement to keep the firearm in safe is an old requirement. It is already is there. We do not need to re-regulate it.

When you go to a gun shop before you are issued, you pay there, you must buy a safe and if you go to the police and there is no proof that you have bought a safe, the license shall not be issued. It is already in place. So that safe thing is already provided for. How will the police know that I am not keeping my firearm in the safe? We will not know. The police will not know but it is your duty to keep your weapon safe if it is not on you. What other thing, yes, Honourable Bezuidenhout I think it is a very good piece of advice that you gave but we have tried to make provision in the Amendment to prohibit the production or the manufacturing and or the repair or modification of any firearm and firearms is defined as any item that has capacity to discharge to expel or to emit any flying projectile.

So whatever you do there whether you use your phone and it is able to expel any projectile, you have no right to do that unless you are given a license to do that and that license can be issued in the same condition that you undergo the test. I am too sure if I have finished or yes, the consultation when the wife is buying a firearm, the husband must know the wife is buying or the way round so the other party must know. Well, during the process of screening there is a provision that we conduct interviews with families and with friends to ascertain that this person is not a problem to possess a firearm. If we get the indication that that person is a problem, then that becomes questionable. You may not pass the test. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members I think I have attempted to answer most of the questions and thank you very much.

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HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Yes, indeed Honourable Dienda you want to come back. Please a quick one.

HON DIENDA: I just want to hear from the Minister please Honourable Deputy Minister listen to me please. Honourable Speaker I am having a problem when Amendments comes to this House on piece by piece. I have a problem with it. There are issues in the principle Act which need to be discussed. You cannot say Honourable Speaker at least if the Minister will say we will look into these issues and come back but just to say because you mention it and that is not relevant, I did not bring my paper. I am one of the Members of Parliament. I cannot sit with an Amendment and I do not know what the principle Act is saying. I need to put things in context. This is my concern. So Honourable Deputy Minister I am not satisfied with you not answering my section 8(1). I am not satisfied because my concern is if you are giving a letter of consent to somebody who is not screened to handle a license, you are putting all of us in danger because every Tom and Jerry can have or sit with this concern. So Honourable at least if you can say so now is only this. We will look into the matter, scrutinize or what but just to no, no, it is non-issue. No, no, I am not satisfied.

HON SPEAKER: Just forgive me. You are speaking on a specific point that was not sufficiently responded to. Alright, because I do not want to reopen. The Deputy Minister responded to questions. Now I am seeing a number of Colleagues wanting to take the floor, very unusual but I am going to permit that within the time available for people to be so specific and it is up to the Deputy Minister to respond or to give an explanation and then we wind up, Honourable Charles Namoloh.

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HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: To wind up.

HON SPEAKER: No, no, you are not covered in my comment because I knew that you would reinforce your comment.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Comrade Speaker what we are presenting to you now is that it would be more stricter than before to issue firearms if you see in this Bill. If you dealt with previously the way weapons were being or firearms were being issued it was not more stricter than now. Any police officer at the station can recommend somebody to say at least he is capable of handling a weapon and send it to you through like that but in this case now with confidence test, we are going also to in the regulations we will put it also that certain levels of police officers only those who would be allowed to recommend someone to be able to get a license.

There were so many loopholes. Some people even try to hide their criminal records coming to us and then of course when it is refused, everybody, when refuse the license, it comes to the Minister from the Inspector General and the Minister will look at it and ask also question if these people can provide this and this and this and this and then when they go to the records is when they find that these people have got criminal records to do that. So I think it is going to help us to control. If you look also the year we say the statistics of the issuing of weapons like hand guns you will see that 2017-2018 there were less weapons given because everybody now these young people when they are working, when he buys a car, I want a pistol because I am protecting my car, to protect my house and then somebody ask also a hand gun that he has got animals and he want to protect them from lions, a pistol to scare the lions. I think then you have the ground to refuse it. I think we must only strengthen it as we are doing and then it would be stricter and we will have less weapons but

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of course it is on the statistics also. It is many people who are being killed in Namibia is by knife or any other like the statistics we have now.

Only 40 or 30 people who died in gun shots but over 200 in knife stabbing is the most killer weapon is the knife. What are we going to do with coppice also? We will put laws or what but also in our kitchens we have knives also and they take it from our kitchens also. So we want to thank you for contributing to this Bill and I think it is a concern for all of us that we must control guns in Namibia and one day we may have a society without firearms. I thank you Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. A quick one Honourable Murorua.

HON MURORUA: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. Mine is just for clarity. In fact it is three questions that I am having. The first one is on the statistics that were provided by the Deputy Minister. You were giving statistics on the number of firearms that were used in crimes and robberies and whatever but I think there need to be a differentiation between legalized firearms that were used in such instances and unlicensed firearms that were used because as it is now it is very general in my opinion and it looks as if the licenses firearms are being used by the owners in robberies and those kind of things. Therefore Honourable Deputy Minister, Honourable Speaker it is very much important in my opinion that the differentiation has to be made so that we would know how many people are going around with unlicensed firearms.

Now it seems as if people are just acquiring firearms to do mischief or crimes with them which is not the case. The second one Honourable Minister is when the state is going to dispose the firearms of a person when he or she is not competent enough. What I would like to know is

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there is no provision in the Amendment whether these firearms when they are going to be disposed is to be done against compensation because these things cost money and a firearm nowadays is not the thousand five hundred that was mentioned here. It is not even a hand gun is above N\$6 000.

The third one when it comes to disposing of a firearm of a person, I think we need to give consideration to the constitutional provision Article 16 which statest hat all persons shall have the right in any part of Namibia to acquire, own and dispose of all forms of immovable and movable property individually or in association with others and it does not say when it says all that the person has to be competent or not competent. Therefore I think consideration has to be given there in this case. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Murorua actually this is the second time you are taking the floor. No, the rule is that you have made your contribution already and after the Deputy Minister responded, you as a person who made the contribution earlier should not be taking the floor again but given that since you were not aware, I just wanted to leave to finish but that is the rule, Honourable Venaani. Honourable Nekundi have you spoken before? No, no, then honestly please then in fact the Deputy Minister cannot come to respond to that because we are gone over and I am just giving you any last word from your side. These are rules.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURTY: Honourable Speaker I need to probably apologise to my sister there for not responding in a specific question. It is no my intention. It is an ommssion. As I say that was on the issue of, where did I put it, on the consent letter. For the time being we shall as I said we will come back. There are so many issues that we wanted to include this Amendment but

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because we were advised because of these particular ones were very urgent. We must first come with those ones and then we are coming back with an overhaul of the Arms and Ammunition Act. Probably the repeal thereof. So we will take care of that one. My apology.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you so that is the answer. All said and done, I now put the question that the Bill be read a second time, any objection, then it is agreed to.

The Secretary will read the Bill a second time.

ARMS AND AMMUNITION AMENDMENT BILL [B. 12 – 2018]

SECRETARY: *Arms and Ammunition Amendment Bill [B.12 – 2018].*

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. In view of the time I think we have come to the end but before we leave the Chamber, I made a bit of homework by consulting through the Whips and directly through the Chief Whip about the sitting for tomorrow. The view that have been conveyed to me is that in view of the big day before us the 21st of March most of you are preparing to fully partake in the national celebrations and therefore the House is not sitting tomorrow. Is it so agreed upon, 'daccord'. Well, thank you very much. The House stands adjourn until next week the usual time.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:48 UNTIL 2019.03.26 AT 14:30
