

**LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

SPEAKER

Dr T-B Gurirab (Mr)

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

Ms D Sioka

THE CABINET

MINISTERS

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

Mr N Angula	<i>(Prime Minister)</i>
Dr L Amathila (Ms)	<i>(Deputy Prime Minister)</i>
Dr G H Geingob (Mr)	<i>(Trade and Industry)</i>
Dr N Tjiriange (Mr)	<i>(Minister of Veterans Affairs)</i>
Dr A Kawana (Mr)	<i>(Presidential)</i>
Dr N Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Safety and Security)</i>
Rev W Konjore (Mr)	<i>(Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture)</i>
Mr J Mutorwa	<i>(Agriculture, Water and Forestry)</i>
Mr H Angula	<i>(Works, Transport and Communication)</i>
Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwah	<i>(Environment and Tourism)</i>
Ms S Kuugongelwa-Amadhila	<i>(Finance)</i>
Dr A Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Fisheries and Marine Resources)</i>
Mr M Hausiku	<i>(Foreign Affairs)</i>
Dr R Kamwi (Mr)	<i>(Health and Social Services)</i>
Ms R Nghidinwa	<i>(Home Affairs and Immigration)</i>
Mr N Mbumba	<i>(Education)</i>
Mr C Namoloh	<i>(Defence)</i>
Mr J Kaapanda	<i>(Information and Broadcasting)</i>
Ms P Iivula-Ithana	<i>(Justice and Attorney-General)</i>
Mr I Ngatjizeko	<i>(Labour and Social Welfare)</i>
Mr A !Naruseb	<i>(Lands and Resettlement)</i>
Mr E Nghimtina	<i>(Mines and Energy)</i>
Mr J Ekandjo	<i>(Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development)</i>
Ms M Mungunda	<i>(Gender Equality and Child Welfare)</i>

DEPUTY MINISTERS

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

Mr G Shihepo	<i>(Safety and Security)</i>
Mr P Shifeta	<i>(Youth, National Service and Culture)</i>
Mr P Smit	<i>(Works, Transport & Communication)</i>
Mr I Katali	<i>(Agriculture, Water and Forestry)</i>
Mr L Jooste	<i>(Environment and Tourism)</i>
Mr T Tweya	<i>(Finance)</i>
Ms L Lucas	<i>(Foreign Affairs)</i>
Ms P Haingura	<i>(Health and Social Services)</i>
Dr R Ndjoze-Ojo (Ms)	<i>(Education)</i>
Mr V Simunja	<i>(Defence)</i>
Mr R Dinyando	<i>(Information and Broadcasting)</i>
Mr U Nujoma	<i>(Justice)</i>
Mr P Iilonga	<i>(Labour and Social Welfare)</i>
Mr B Esau	<i>(Mines & Energy)</i>
Mr I Katali	<i>(Lands and Resettlement)</i>
Mr K Kazenambo	<i>(Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development)</i>
Ms T Mushelenga	<i>(Trade and Industry)</i>
Ms Muharukua	<i>(Gender Equality and Child Welfare)</i>

SECRETARY

Mr N Goabab

DEPUTY SECRETARY

Mr F S Harker

LIST OF MEMBERS AND PARTIES WHICH THEY REPRESENT

CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS (COD)

Ms E Dienda	
Mr T Gurirab	<i>(Deputy Whip)</i>
Ms N Schimming-Chase	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>
Mr B Ulenga	<i>(Party Leader)</i>
Ms L Kaveri	

DTA OF NAMIBIA

Mr J De Waal *(Chief Whip)*
Mr K Kaura *(Party Leader)*
Mr P Moongo
Mr M Venaani *(Deputy Whip)*

MONITOR ACTION GROUP

Mr J Viljoen *(Chief Whip)*

**NATIONAL UNITY DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION OF NAMIBIA
(NUDO)**

Mr A Mbai
Mr K Riruako *(Party Leader)*
Mr A Tjihuike *(Chief Whip)*

REPUBLICAN PARTY

Mr H Mudge *(Chief Whip and Party Leader)*

SWAPO OF NAMIBIA

Dr L Amathila (Ms) *(Deputy Prime Minister)*
Dr M Amweelo (Mr)
Mr N Angula *(Prime Minister)*
Mr H Angula
Dr S C Ankama (Mr)
Ms L Basson
Ms A Bayer
Ms C Bohitile
Mr H Booyis *(Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House
Committee)*
Ms H Christian
Mr Dinyando *(Deputy Minister)*
Mr J Ekandjo *(Minister)*
Mr B Esau *(Deputy Minister)*
Dr G H Geingob (Mr) *(Minister)*
Dr T-B Gurirab (Mr) *(Speaker)*
Ms P Haingura *(Deputy Minister)*
Mr M Hausiku *(Minister)*

Mr P Ilonga	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms E Ipinge	
Ms P Iivula-Ithana	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr A Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr N Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr L Jooste	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr J Kaapanda	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr E Kaiyamo	
Dr R Kamwi (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms L Kasingo	
Mr I Katali	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms J Kavetuna	
Dr A Kawana (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr K Kazenambo	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Rev W Konjore (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms S Kuugongelwa – Amadhila	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms L Lucas	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr N Mbumba	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms A Muharukua	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms M Mungunda	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr P Mushelenga	<i>(Assistant Whip)</i>
Ms T Mushelenga	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr J Mutorwa	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr T Nambahu	
Mr A !Naruseb	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms E !Nawases-Taeyele	
Mr I Ngatjizeko	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwah	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms R Nghidinwa	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr E Nghimtina	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr U Nujoma	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr P Shifeta	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr V Simunja	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms D Sioka	<i>(Deputy Speaker)</i>
Dr N Tjiriange (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr T Tweya	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr R /Ui/o/oo	

UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT (UDF)

Mr J //Garöeb *(Party Leader)*

Mr M Goreseb

Ms G Tjombe *(Chief Whip)*

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

Mr R Diergaardt

Ms I Hoffmann

Ms A Manombe-Ncube

Mr C Namoloh *(Minister)*

Dr R Ndjoze-Ojo (Ms) *(Deputy Minister)*

Mr P Smit *(Deputy Minister)*

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
25 JUNE 2008
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I, on behalf of this august House of the people wish, filled with so much joy and happiness, to congratulate our Minister of Health and Social Services, Dr Richard Kamwi, and his South African counterpart, Dr Manto Tshabalala Nsimang and their collaborators for making Namibia's history in the medical field.

Namibia's Cardiac Unit at the Central Hospital has accomplished the extraordinary feat by successfully performing open-heart operations on three or more patients. By this wonderful feat Namibia has become only the second SADC country after South Africa and a third African country, Egypt, being the other on the continent. Let us not forget to thank as well the former Ministers of Health and Social Services for having paved the way to this day as well as various countries, including in addition to South Africa, Kenya and others for their help and mentoring us over the years. So much for that.

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers. Any Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**ROAD TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT AMENDMENT
BILL: RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING**

25 June 2008

**ROAD TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT BILL
HON SMIT**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – *Road Traffic and Transport Amendment Bill*.

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, 18 June 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport that the Bill be now read a Second Time. The Deputy Minister has the Floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I only want to thank the House for its support to make this small Amendment to the Bill to allow those people who could not change their licences yet to do so. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Minister. I now Put the Question that the Bill be now read a Second Time. Any objection? Agreed to. The Secretary will now read the Bill a Second Time.

SECRETARY: Road Traffic and Transport Amendment Bill.

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

**CONSIDERATION: NATIONAL INTEGRATED EARLY
CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT POLICY, 2007**

SECRETARY: Consideration of National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy, 2007.

25 June 2008

**EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT POLICY
HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, 15 April 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare. Honourable Gurirab adjourned the Debate and I now give the Floor to the Honourable Member. Any further discussion? Honourable Minister of Environment and Tourism.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members. At the onset, I thank and congratulate the Honourable Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, Comrade Mungunda, the Deputy Minister, Comrade Muharukua, the staff to the Ministry and all those who were involved in the development and the finalisation of the policy under discussion. They have done a commendable job and produced a document that, if well followed, will help us to make a breakthrough in our call for skills development and to achieve our goal of a knowledge-based society.

Since Independence, human development has been at the centre of the Government development programme and no doubt, one way or the other much has been achieved. Through the National Literacy Programme Namibia's literacy rate has grown from 65% in 1991 to an estimated 85% in 2008. Similarly, the current rate into Grade 1 has reached over 90 or 95%, while more learners do progress to Grade 10. Thus, as a Nation we need to commend ourselves for those achievements.

At the same time we are aware of the challenges facing us. Among others, we need to improve on the quality and the output of our education. No doubt, the Integrated Early Childhood Development has a major impact if we have to make significant improvement on the quality of our education. It is scientifically proven that a child with a strong early childhood development has a better chance to do well in his or her career. That is so because the first 6 years of life are very crucial in the mental development of any child.

The Policy has also brought to light an important element when it defined early childhood to mean a period of a child's life from conception. As a mother, I know pregnancy is not a sickness, it is a natural responsibility that needs to be recognised and to be given special attention by the one who is pregnant and those who are around her. Family members and the community at large must create necessary support and a conducive environment for pregnant mothers.

25 June 2008

**EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT POLICY
HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

It is recorded that a child born from a mother who abuses alcohol or a smoker is at risk of being born with health problems of one sort or the other. Similarly, indirect smoking also has a negative impact on the unborn child. Therefore, it is advisable that to expose an expecting mother to high-polluted areas with smoke must be avoided at all times.

Against that background, husbands or partners need to stop smoking during pregnancy or to make sure that no smoking at areas mostly used by the rest of the family during that time.

Shouting and violent behaviour also has a negative impact on the growth of an unborn baby. A child born in a family where drunkenness and fighting between parents is the order of the day stands a chance to grow into an aggressive person and a potential criminal. Therefore, parents have to safeguard against such behaviour if we are really to implement the policy under discussion.

Therefore, as part of the implementation of the National Integration Early Childhood Development Policy as a Nation, we must fight smoking, especially in public places that is still going on despite the policy which bans smoking in public places.

We also need to put up a strong campaign against the abuse of alcohol and the use of drugs. Parents and communities must control their anger and find non-violent ways of solving differences. We are building a Nation and we want a caring, responsible, peaceful and non-violent Nation. The Ministry of Education may even consider integrating conflict resolution in our education system.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the policy is also looking for an early childhood development to become a profession from a Diploma to Post-Graduate Degree. That is a commendable vision. For that vision to be realised, the community must be ready to invest in early childhood development. I am not sure if we are able to convince many people with diplomas or degrees to work in a community-run centre with thirty children each paying N\$5 per month, and to make things worse, you might find that there are more than one person working at that centre. Definitely, with such monthly contribution from the community it will not be possible to pay for the person who is a professional in the area.

25 June 2008

**EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT POLICY
HON HOFFMANN**

Once IECD becomes a profession, that I fully agree it must, a mechanism needs to be worked out to match up the community contribution, especially in the rural areas and poor communities, if professional educators are to be kept in those centres.

The integrated approach that is defined to mean, “*viewing all aspects of child development holistically*”, also calls for holistic preparations when people apply for their children or their babies.

Honourable Speaker, the private sector also needs to invest in IECD centres. This is because they have to prepare for the young ones to become useful in the labour market. Companies can set up those centres near their working places and ensure their sustainability in addition to supporting centres in other parts of the country. Companies in the same vicinities can jointly use and support one centre and then their workers can make use of those places. In this way, space will be created for the Government to support centres in rural areas.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, as I have said at the beginning, the National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy is welcome. It is a key to our goal of a knowledge-based society with the necessary skills. As Members of Parliament, we should therefore put our weight behind its implementation.

I thank you for your attention, Honourable Speaker.

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

HON HOFFMANN: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I am more than delighted to be afforded an opportunity to express my views and concerns on the integration of early childhood phase, the ages of 5 and 6 years, into formal education.

Some of you might be aware that I founded a crèche in the year 1984 and therefore, rise to speak on this matter with background and experience in this field.

25 June 2008

**EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT POLICY
HON HOFFMANN**

The news of the integration of pre-primary school into formal education struck the administrators and owners of various kindergartens in Namibia in various ways. It was met with mixed feelings since changes, even those brought by Independence might be different to different people. I strongly feel that the efforts and sacrifices of the initiators of the community responsive economic development projects must be valued, appreciated, and treated with deserved caution. I must underscore that I have started consultations and negotiations as far back as March 1993 when the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Comrade Nahas Angula, who was still the Minister of Education.

The then Minister of Education informed me that Government regards pre-school education as part and parcel of family and community development. Against this background these ventures were expected to be self-funded through contributions by the consumers themselves. In many societies these initiatives were started by a group of poor, formerly marginalised women under harsh economic conditions. It is habitual that women are care-givers, love-givers and custodians of support of children in our communities.

Honourable Speaker, kindergarten administrators in principle do not have any problem with pre-primary being taken over by Government, but have several social and financial reservations in this regard. Let me put it categorically clear that the integration of ages 5 to 6 years has two or more great negative effects on kindergartens in general in terms of the reduction of the total number of children enrolled at particular kindergartens' pre-school and the financial gain that goes along with that. In other words, the number of children goes together with expected income, which, at the end of the day, may result in unwarranted job losses. Some parents may argue that kindergartens are expensive, but at the same time, they must remember that these schools are self-sustainable and self-reliant to obtain the primary objectives of the education policy.

I agree with the Government that this phase is very important and needs a solid foundation for the sake of progress and continuity. We say charity begins at home and parents need to play a very important role in the education of their children and laying the correct foundation with regard to respect, religion, manners, etcetera.

In terms of our Constitution, children have the right to a safe environment, education, the right to life and health.

25 June 2008

**EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT POLICY
HON HOFFMANN**

Through the various communications I had with administrators of kindergartens, I have observed that they were ill-informed and sitting with number of uncertainties relating to job losses, the fate of their resources, etcetera. Kindergartens fear that competition would become stiffer if Government takes over the children aged 5 and 6 years and the individuals who started this initiative under very poor situations will be at the receiving end.

The project custodians are afraid that the risk of running the kindergartens at a loss will be very high in comparison to subsidised Government schools. The fact of the matter is that children aged 5 to 6 years are in the majority in most kindergartens, which will obviously mean a decline in revenue for these establishments.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it will therefore be beneficial to revisit certain terms and conditions of the envisaged integration to ensure a smooth transition.

Another concern is that the current teachers in kindergartens who have got certificates in Early Childhood Development were told that they are not qualified to teach in Government pre-primary schools, even though the courses leading to the attainment of those certificate are recognised by the Ministry of Education. Kindergartens are concerned about the training offered by Government. It is not clear how and when they will receive training. They are also concerned about the future in general with regard to this integration.

It is of vital importance that we should ensure corrective institutional mechanisms to enhance the integration process as a prospering young democracy. Equally, it is important that we create a transparent forum for problem solving, information dissemination and frequent consultations amongst relevant key stakeholders. I must stress that we must ensure that we establish channels to enhance communication and interactions between stakeholder partners.

As the implementation phase of the integration phase progresses, most people would prefer subsidised Government schools above individual kindergartens, because it will obviously be cheaper.

Honourable Speaker, I am adamant that there are some areas throughout the takeover process, which the Government should perhaps subsidise, such as the facilitation of training progress to prevent job losses and subsidise salary

25 June 2008

**EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT POLICY
HON HOFFMANN**

dispatches. Furthermore, I am duty-bound to report on some of the findings, which surfaced during the research. Not all administrators of kindergartens were equally consulted, informed and involved from the start of the integration process. Most, if not all, kindergartens have seen and heard of this process through newspapers, radio, etcetera. It has also surfaced that the transfer process merely started at Cabinet and ministerial level.

It has also emerged that the integration process will take place over three years and that the operation of the rest of the kindergartens will not be affected in any way during these three years.

I appeal to the Ministries concerned, on behalf of the kindergartens and crèches and the Government, in particular, that the original initiators of this self-empowering community responsive development projects are not hurt financially through the integration process.

I have sufficient reason to commend the Ministry of Education for how the upgrading of courses in respect of the Basic Education Teacher's Diploma and similar courses for unqualified teachers in formal schools was handled over the past years. As leaders, we must collectively ensure that the future of our children, who are the leaders of tomorrow, are secured. I have noticed in various towns and rural areas that children of either pre-primary or primary ages do not attend the appropriate institutions of learning. The issue raises more questions than answers. Is it perhaps due to hunger, poverty and unemployment?

I strongly propose that all stakeholders, including kindergarten administrators and principals come together urgently at one time for a scrutiny of this integration exercise and come up with an acceptable final working document for common good.

Once again, I will fail in my duty if I do not take a look at parents who do not take full responsibility for their children in terms of maintenance and proper upbringing of the children, which results in street children. If we have all the relevant laws in place, then the law enforcement agencies must take these parents to task. We cannot afford to groom *botsotsos*, thieves, murderers and criminals.

We must ensure that these kindergarten crèches do not die a natural death due to financial constraints or lack of funding, because these kindergarten crèches are the ones, which have laid a solid foundation during the past years after

25 June 2008

**EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT POLICY
HON P MUSHELENGA**

Independence on which many primary schools have built and are building.

What these kindergarten crèches are doing is benefiting the whole Nation and has taken the burden away from Government who otherwise would have been sitting with the problem they have been facing for the past years. All that the current kindergartens need from Government is assistance and we need to give them the necessary assistance. I thank you all for listening.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for her contribution. Honourable Mushelenga.

HON P MUSHELENGA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I am going to be very, very brief because mine is just to seek clarity on one aspect in this document.

Primarily, I would like to commend the Minister for tabling the National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy. Every child that is born is integrated into society and depends on the community when you grow up. If you ask many of my contemporaries, especially the men will tell you that when they grew up they were initiated into tending to their fathers' cattle. That is what my culture is all about. The ladies would tell you it was about pounding mahangu.

I was looking on page 33 of the document at the composition of the Constituency IECD Committees. When I looked at the current composition, I was thinking of the rural communities set-up and most of the rural communities have great respect for Traditional Authorities – Headmen, Senior headmen, etcetera. I thought that among the members of the Constituency IECD Committees would, for example, be a representative of the Headmen of the particular Constituency, where it is applicable, because headmen play a very important role in our cultures, they are representatives of their respective Senior headmen, *hombas*, *Ombaras*, *Aakwanirua* and so on and they are the custodians of their respective cultural values and norms.

Therefore, I only need clarity from the Minister whether consideration would be

25 June 2008

**EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT POLICY
HON DIENDA**

given to give representation in the Constituency IECD Committees.

With these few words I would want to express my support for policy. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Dienda.

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I only have some questions that I want to pose to the Minister. Firstly, I want to know whether the intention of the Government is to take over all the existing kindergartens and if the answer is yes, how will it be done? Is it only the teachers and will the owners of the buildings be reimbursed and if no, then it is fine? Will the owners have a choice whether they want to be part of this integration process or not and will the Government assist those owners who do not want to be part of the integration programme with training?

Then on page 30 of the Policy it is mentioned that the Ministry of Education, under the Education and Training Sector, will take responsibility for the pre-primary school services for children between five and six years. Does it mean that every school in Namibia will have pre-primary facilities for our children?

Then on page 40, it is mentioned that all the educators will be trained. I want to know whether everybody will be included in this training, whether you have Grade 12, Grade 1 or 4, but as long as you are part of the kindergarten, you will receive training. I know that in some kindergartens they do not have any education at all.

Page 42 deals with the standards. You are saying that you will ensure that all the facilities and programmes would adhere to set regulations and to meet specific standards. The standards are safety, health, secure environment, and etcetera. Will those kindergartens, which will not be part of this policy be given a timeframe to make sure that at the end of the day will have the standards required from them?

Page 44 is about the parents' fees. You are saying that the community will in principle be responsible for funding their own IECD programmes. This will be done through parents' fees, contributions from organisation, etcetera. Will the

25 June 2008

**EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT POLICY
HON RIRUAKO**

Ministry have uniformity in parents' fees or will it be like the present school development funds that each and everybody has his own rate that we have to pay or will be there a standard payment? I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Chief Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: I have listened to the previous speakers, but I differ. I have just come from Otjiwarongo where there is a retired lady, almost fifty-six years old, who organised the street kids and put them in a house. A few of them are Basters, a few of them are Coloured, a few of them are Hereros, Ovambos, Kavangos, Caprivians and they are more than forty. Some of them did not complete any grade. She trained them first and put them back in school again and she takes care of their homework. Some of them have reached Grade 7, 8, 10, 11, just like that, street kids! Their behaviour is quite different from normal kids – if I can call it that way – in their respect, their outlook, their behaviour. They have proven that they have been taught correctly and it is not just one or two children, a whole lot of them. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: The House will rise for refreshments.

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

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Speaker, my intention is to give the name of that lady in Otjiwarongo and her address and everything. Whoever goes to that area has to visit that lady and see what kind of people they are, how she has developed those kids to the point that you are impressed by their attitude and the reception you receive from those kids. I do not want to exaggerate, but those who have kindergartens must learn from that lady. That is my proposal.

25 June 2008

**MOTION ON POLICE AND PRISON SERVICES
HON P MUSHELENGA**

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Chief for his contribution. Honourable Ncube.

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: Honourable Speaker, I move that the Debate be adjourned until Tuesday, next week.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? None. The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until Tuesday, next week. The Secretary will read the Third Order of the Day.

MOTION ON POLICE AND PRISON SERVICES

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on the need for human resource development and other related matters of the Namibian Police and Prison Services.

HON SPEAKER: When the House was adjourned on Tuesday, 17 June 2008 in terms of Rule 90, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security. Honourable Ulenga adjourned the Debate. Any further discussion? I call on Honourable Mushelenga.

HON P MUSHELENGA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I rise to make my contribution to the Motion introduced by Honourable Dr Nickey Iyambo regarding the human resource development of the personnel of the Namibian Police as well as the Prison Services.

Honourable Speaker, the human resources development has many phases. One is in terms of professionalism, one is in terms of resources for providing the tools of trade of the police.

Starting with professionalism, first, I should commend the Namibian Police personnel who, despite limited training sometimes, are able to perform their duties and I have to say something about limited training.

25 June 2008

**MOTION ON POLICE AND PRISON SERVICES
HON P MUSHELENGA**

Sometimes the problem is the attitude of the members of the public towards members of the Police Force and it can be demoralising. The attitude we express when we find them at the roadblocks, the attitude we express when we find them at the charge offices sometimes is not very good and it is very much demoralising. At times, we look down upon their profession as policemen and women, which is not very good. If you put yourselves in the shoes of these people, they need motivation by the public in order to execute their duties.

Resources are very much important for the police to execute their duties, starting from vehicles, starting from the environment in which they are working. Some Stations are dilapidated and when a person is working in such an environment, he or she will not be able to have a smile on his or her face. Something needs to be done to renovate those places from where they operate, so that when someone comes to the workplace, you will feel comfortable and feel motivate and be proud of your work.

I would probably have no problem if you tell me the City Police are better paid than the Namibian Police because the City earns their income from the Windhoek Municipality, but why should Police officers employed at the Anti-Corruption Commission be remunerated differently from the Namibian Police? It is the same Government, the same Public Service Commission which looks at the conditions of service of public servants, knowing what the Police officers are getting. These discrepancies do not augur well. They are trained by the Namibian Police, they leave to go to the Anti-Corruption Commission and it demoralises those who are training them.

Honourable Speaker, as we now debate these conditions, coming to Prison Services, in many instances the conditions...(Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Mushelenga, you are saying that they receive unequal pay from the same Government. Members of Parliament are employed by the same Government and so are managers, Chief Executive Officers of Air Namibia, NamPower, TransNamib and others. Are they paid the same as Members of Parliament?

25 June 2008

MOTION ON POLICE AND PRISON SERVICES
HON P MUSHELENGA

HON P MUSHELENGA: Right Honourable Prime Minister, I know you are asking the question in the form of a joke. To answer the question, Members of Parliament are employed by the Namibian Government, but the Air Namibia managers are employed by Air Namibia, a company. NamPower employees are employed by NamPower, a company. The Anti-Corruption Commission is not a Parastatal, it is a Statutory body in the same manner that we have the Ombudsman and the Auditor-General. It is not a Parastatal. That is why it is hundred percent funded by Government. If we are told the Anti-Corruption Commission is not a Government body, then I do not expect the Honourable Prime Minister to table a Budget for the Anti-Corruption Commission here next year. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: Half of them is owned by the Government but the people who give them the money are underpaid and nobody says anything. The Civil Servants are our bosses, they have all the means, cars, opportunities and everything one could mention, but we are silent. They are paid beyond the President of this country. Did you know that?

HON P MUSHELENGA: Honourable Speaker, I am not here to cry about my own salary in comparison with the salaries of members of Parastatals.

Coming to the salaries of the police, I wish to address an issue, which has been addressed here a few years ago by Honourable Ilonga and myself, namely the Budget for the VIP Protection Unit. Currently they get allowances when they travel on duty from their Ministry, but the programmes they are undertaking are not for their Ministry of Safety and Security. I am talking particularly about the ministerial drivers and bodyguards. We need to cater for particularly those attached to political office-bearers under the Ministries and Offices where they operating. Sometimes the Minister and Deputy Ministers have their programmes, but it takes a long time to have the allowances of drivers and bodyguards approved at the Ministry of Safety and Security. They should rather be attached, in terms of the Budget, to the respective Ministries where they are serving.

Honourable Speaker, with these few words, I support the Motion of the Honourable Minister.

25 June 2008

MOTION ON POLICE AND PRISON SERVICES
HON ULENGA

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Ulenga.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, I thank you very much. The other day we were caught by the clock and I could, therefore, not finish. I am referring to the Motion by the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security.

I was saying it is a very good thing that for a change the Honourable Minister has brought this kind of Motion to the House. To me it somehow indicates some change of approach, which is very welcome. I hope it goes on like this from other Ministers as well.

When the Minister introduced this Motion, thanked a string of his predecessors and I was feeling that perhaps some of these do not really deserve a lot of thanking... (Interjection). No, I will not get into names. I am just looking at the situation as it has evolved now. We more or less have a crisis within the areas covered by the Ministry of Safety and Security and I think one of the factors why we are in such a situation is perhaps due to the neglect that has gone towards the Ministry and these areas of State operations under whose care these Ministries have been put.

However, there is more or less a crisis and it is good that the Minister has brought this issue up so that we can address a number of challenges which are facing the areas of especially Police and Prison Services.

One of the Members who have spoken before me pointed out the importance of prioritisation. I can only agree with this Member. It is very important that priorities for Government are set aside and that they are respected as priorities. There are so many things to be done and so little to do them by. It is important, therefore, even though we look at the Government programme of Museums, State House, Heroes Acre, etcetera, which are most probably important, they cannot be as important as the human resources, the technical resources, the infrastructure, the tools and equipment, which a Ministry such as that of Safety and Security and Prison Services have to use.

Honourable Speaker, one of the challenges that the Police and Prison Services are faced with is the challenge of good training. Training is like a process of value addition. We have in our country several factories where diamonds are cut and polished. We wonder why do we need to cut and polish diamonds, they are good

25 June 2008

**MOTION ON POLICE AND PRISON SERVICES
HON ULENGA**

stones, they come from the earth, they are made by God as crystals. However, working on a diamond like that is really to bring out the value. The crystal will shine and the gem will now come from the inside and show itself as the gem it really is. The same thing is supposed to happen when a Police officer goes through training, it is to polish them, to cut them, to turn them into the representatives of the state that they should be.

Honourable Speaker, people are recruited into the Police Force from wherever they are, from all walks of life. You will have country bumpkins walking in the rural areas out there, people from all kinds of places in the country. They are not exposed to the workings of the State. What training needs to bring out from these people whom must serve the State is the realisation that they are representing the State and not the village, they are the so-called *long arm of the law*.

I am saying this because when you listen to the police officials in this country, almost all of them will be telling you about nepotism, tribalism sometimes, sentiments and “isms” and characteristics that should not be within a national Police Force or within a national Prison Service.

Only recently there was a case cited in the local media of a policeman and woman who were recruiting from their families, from their villages. These people that are in uniform are in State uniform and they should at all times act as representatives of the State. Now, only good training can bring that out. I think there is something wrong with the training that we give to our men in uniform and the Minister is not here today, but I am sure he will pick this up. It is not only a question of making physical resources available, it is also looking at the quality of training that the members of the Police and the members of the Prison Services are receiving.

In this country the risk of the village bond becoming greater than other important issues is very much there. As I was trying to relate the other day, I visited one of the prisons in the country on one occasion. When I was there, one of these young prisoners who was from the same village as the prison guard who was guarding over him, started of course to relate the jokes of the village. You could see how the man in uniform was so captivated by the jokes from the village, that he completely forgot that he was the State. He was wearing his cap and his uniform and he was rolling around laughing because perhaps for a long time he has not been listening to the jokes of the village.

25 June 2008

**MOTION ON POLICE AND PRISON SERVICES
HON ULENGA**

It is very important that the people in uniform completely take out of them the village, because there is nothing as bad as a prisoner, a criminal, an accused person who holds sway over a State official. I can tell you that firsthand because I was in prison for some time and no matter what you do, the prisoner always has the ability of walking half a step ahead of the system and of the Police and of the prison guards. If the prison guards allow themselves to come to the same level as prisoners by listening to jokes, listening to stories, shaking hands, even touching, then the whole State is in danger of collapsing, of being controlled by criminals and prisoners.

It is very important that the Ministry and the Government in general look at the quality of training and look at this whole issue of ethics of the man in uniform. They must stand apart, they must stand separate from the mob, including the criminals that they have to control.

Honourable Speaker, another issue that I felt I needed to put emphasis on is the question of the four P's – Promotion, Professionalism, Pay and Pride. These four need to go together with the people in uniform.

On a recent visit, thankfully in a neighbouring country, I lost my passport and I had to go to the Police Station to make a statement that I had lost my passport. The Police officer was very civil, he received me, he took my statement. At the end of it all, he asked me for an amount that was equivalent to N\$50. I looked around, I remember that I am a Member of Parliament and even if this man looks like he must get, I must make sure that I do not corrupt this person any further. I looked around, I said, *“was this a trap, was somebody perhaps trying to get me into this situation while they are taking a picture or what?”* Then this man looked into my eyes and said, *“so what do you have, do you perhaps have N\$30 for me”* and he was now urgently whispering. I said, *“no, I am not supposed to give you any money.”* Then he started to plead, then he started to discuss remuneration and he told me that as he left home that morning, the kids could not eat the *pap* because they did not have sugar to sprinkle over the *pap* and he did not have the money to buy the sugar that morning. He said to me, *“take it or leave it, that is why I am asking you, if you do not have it, it is alright but I know that you have it, you are a diplomat”*, because I told them that my passport was a diplomatic passport. *“Yes, you are a diplomat, you are from another country, it would be so easy for you just to give me N\$50.”* I was almost ashamed of myself because in the end I realised that this man was not asking for a bribe, no he has

25 June 2008

**MOTION ON POLICE AND PRISON SERVICES
HON ULENGA**

done his job, and then he felt this is another human being and he needs N\$50, can he not ask, he seems likely to have N\$50. (Interjections).

I will cut the story short and just say that we should not allow a situation to develop where our Police officers will have to ask each and everyone who looks like they can afford the N\$50, to give them a N\$50. It is really bad. That is one part of the four P's. (Interjection)

HON KAURA: So you gave the N\$50?

HON ULENGA: The most important part of the story I have told. Pride – one thing to keep Police officers proud is to make sure that the Police Force the Prison Services stays above politics. So many officers in this country just have the perception that someone political is watching them. Note my words I can lay that accusation.

We must fight as hard as possible to take out the perception out of our people that they are being watched politically, that they are where they are because of some political favours, that they are there because they were in exile, that they are there because they voted for a certain Party – even though nobody knows how you vote when you go into that box. The Force must understand and this can only come from the Government or from the Minister. The Force must know that whatever their political attitude is, whatever their backgrounds, they are there to serve the Nation. I see some people are shaking their heads.

I was approached by a young woman at Oshivelo, she had applied for a job in the Police Force, she was a Grade 10 dropout. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Why you?

HON ULENGA: Well, I was there at that time when she wanted to approach somebody. Her complaint was that people who are semi-illiterate were being recruited into the Police Force simply because they had gone into exile. She had

25 June 2008

MOTION ON POLICE AND PRISON SERVICES
HON ULENGA

applied, she had not qualified, and her understanding was that the only reason that led to her disqualification was that she had not gone into exile. Now you can say it is true or not, even if I said it ten times, this is how the person felt. She felt she is inadequate.

Actually, so many people in this country forge the Lubango returnee documents. They have even learned by heart the names of the camps, that they were in this camp and that camp, because they want to appear to be more qualified.
(Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may I ask Honourable Ulenga a question, please? Honourable Ulenga, I will not try to forge my identity that I was in the camps, it is just a small question. I have listened to your contribution carefully. The more you explain, the more I start getting the impression that perhaps there is something that is more tangible rather than the nice icing on the cake that you are talking about. Could you perhaps just go deeper, so that we understand exactly what you are trying to say, because I do not want us to create wrong impressions that there is nepotism going on. If there is something to that effect, let us discuss it, let it come on the table and discuss it, rather than creating this impression that if you were not in Lubango you will not get a job or something like that.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, if the Member wants to hear more about nepotism and tribalism, I am already past that point and I referred the House to a recent case in the media where not just one, but two Police officials...(Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. Honourable president – with a small ‘p’ – Ulenga of the CoD is well aware that at a certain point Government had to adopt what was called a Peace Programme and integrate ex-combatants into society and one of the initiatives taken under this programme was the creation of the Special Field Force which exclusively recruited ex-fighters. What was so difficult for Honourable Ulenga to tell the lady that there was a special programme aimed at those who are saying that they were abroad to address a special problem, but that is not all, the normal Police Force recruitment was taking place all the time, so that she does not confuse these two things. What was the problem for you to do so?

25 June 2008

MOTION ON POLICE AND PRISON SERVICES
HON ULENGA

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, the two issues are so clearly separate, I cannot confuse them. I am talking about the favouring of people for their political affiliation, for having been in exile. I am not talking about the Peace Project, I am aware of the Peace Project, I do not have to get into the pros and the cons of it now.

Honourable Speaker, I was talking about the four Ps. It is very important that Government must now know that they must stop disregarding these four Ps. Pay I have discussed already, Plight I have also touched on, Professionalism:

Until now, the approach or the attitude of Government has mainly been that people are policemen and women because they are entitled to be Police Officers. The emphasis was never put on being professional and therefore, there has never been an effort. You do not see the effort from the Police to be professional officers. You see the way they behave, the attitude and the way they accomplish things. You see the money, which is put aside by Government over the years, and we have stood up here and we have spoken about it. Now at least a Minister realises that there is a need to up things a bit. It is very important to make sure that there is professionalism in the Force. Of course, when there is no promotion the other three Ps fall aside.

In 1976, how many years is that ago, 32 years ago, I woke up in a cell somewhere in this country with a young policeman of most probably 20 or 22 years guarding over me. Honourable Speaker, very recently I walked into this Police Officer again, at the beginning of this year. At the time when he was guarding over me in 1976, he was a Constable. Today he is a Warrant. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Black or white?

HON ULENGA: Yes, black or white. This man has spent the last thirty-two years just moving from constable to Warrant. (Interjections). That just show if the Members of Parliament do not even know what a 'Warrant' is supposed to be. (Interjections). I do not want us to get to the degeneration of the Debate like when we were talking about condoms the other day.

25 June 2008

MOTION ON POLICE AND PRISON SERVICES
HON ULENGA

The point that I am making, Honourable Speaker, is that it is necessary to show value of the work that is done by Police Officers and others by promoting them in terms of rank. There is nothing more demoralising than seeing people that you train rising from under you and becoming your commanding officers. Again, the overwhelming belief that is out there and I am just limiting myself to that even though Honourable Tjihuiko does not like it, the perception is there and it is real that people get promotions for political reasons.

Yes, yes! You must take that perception out by promoting people on a fair and equal basis. This man that I am talking about is alive, he is not a story and he has done the training of almost each and every officer in this country and yet he is still right now a warrant officer.

Constables who have been constables since 1990 are dealing with some of the very important cases in this country, including the Onderombapa case. This is the 18th year of Independence and these are not people who had the history of serving the South African forces. They are young men who were recruited in 1990 and they are still constables today after 18 years. Why not get them out of the Force? (Interjections) Women are just as important, the young women, young men, some are not so young any longer.

Honourable Speaker, this matter cannot be over-emphasised. Without promotion there cannot be professionalism, there cannot be pride. It is important that this comes from the Government itself and not necessarily only from the Opposition benches, that the call must be there that the Police must be beyond politics and the people must be able to move within the Force.

Because the four Ps are lacking there is a lot of low morale, there is no motivation. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I would like to ask the Honourable Member a question with regard to the expression that he made now, that promotions in the Police Force are done on a political basis and that should be discontinued. Is the Honourable Member saying that the promotion system within the Civil Service is done differently from the promotion in the Security Forces? If the Honourable Member is saying that, that within the Civil Service everything is fine, the problem is only in the Security Forces, maybe he wants to say that those members are not able to utilise the structures that were established

25 June 2008

MOTION ON POLICE AND PRISON SERVICES
HON ULENGA

by the public sector to handle grievances. If he is saying that it is the same, my question would be: Why do those members who feel that they are being discriminated against not lay their complaints with the structures that were put in place to handle those grievances?

Why does the Honourable Member not assist any such member that he knows is actually facing such type of discrimination in order to have these things handled at the appropriate offices, rather than just creating wrong impressions here that there is something that is not right and there is nothing that can be done unless Parliament intervenes with some sort of resolution?

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, the best thing that Parliament could actually do is by having this Motion brought to a Committee where hearings can be conducted, so that Parliament could hear from members themselves and then Parliament can make up its mind whether there is something that requires action or not. I am not saying you should take my word for it. One thing that you can do is go there and find out. Let us go there and find out on our own.

Honourable Speaker, it is not a secret that many good policemen and women have left the Force because of that low morale and that lack of motivation that I have referred to before. For this last year, I cannot remember how many times I received calls from within the Police Service. (Interjections) Listen to this, my mobile phone rings, “*who is speaking*”, “*it is so and so*”, “*how are the people at home*”, “*no, I am actually not at home, I am locked up, I am in the Okahandja police cells.*” “*How did you come to call me?*” (Interjections) My number is public knowledge. Again, you want to deny reality. The fact of the matter is that people who get arrested end up having means of communication with the outside world and that is what should be stopped. This results from a situation where the police are demoralised, they are not doing the job properly. I have gone to police officers to confront them with this, how does it happen... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Ulenga, I am sure if you ask Members of this Parliament how many times they received calls from the cells, I am sure you are going to get zero, apart from

25 June 2008

MOTION ON POLICE AND PRISON SERVICES
HON ULENGA

yourself. What is it that makes the prisoners call only you and nobody else while they are in prison? Why is it that all the prisoners in the country call you?

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker... (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Speaker, the other day I was saying that the prison wardens take the prisoners to their girlfriends outside. More than five women became pregnant by people who are in prison. It happened, it is a true story, and it is not a ghost story like yours. Your prisons are not well run, you allow the wardens to take the prisoners to impregnate people outside. Five of them were pregnant!

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, I can only thank the Honourable Chief Riruako for putting that matter beyond doubt and that having been said, I can only conclude by saying that this Motion is... (Intervention)

HON DR AMWEELO: May I ask Honourable Ulenga a small question? Honourable Benjamin Ulenga, please tell us the truth and only the truth, how did the prisoners get your Cell phone number? I know that the Cell phone numbers of all the Members of Parliament do not appear on their business cards. Tell us how did they get your cell phone number to call you?

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, I did not want to get back to that one. They have an expression in Afrikaans which goes, *jy het die pot lelik misgesit*. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: *Ja, ek sal ook sê, Benjamin moet nie die bobbejaan agter die bult gaan haal nie.* I however think they got his number because he was also a prisoner in these prisons and those years he engraved it there. He also gave some information while he was inside to Comrade Witbooi and Maxuilili and he taught them what to do, so that is why they can reach his number.

25 June 2008

**MOTION ON POLICE AND PRISON SERVICES
HON ULENGA**

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, I was just about to conclude and if the Honourable Members would allow me... (Intervention)

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** On a Point of Order. Comrade Speaker, I have a problem, every time I approach here, Honourable Mudge runs away. It is not the first time, just check. He always runs away when I come here. (Laughter)

HON ULENGA: In summary, Honourable Speaker, I think this last one sort of epitomises the kind of challenge that we are faced with as a country and I am sure the Government will admit that it is also a challenge to Government and this is the question of some of people having a situation that it does not make any difference whether they live inside or outside prison.

Last time when we visited one of the prisons as part of the Committee that deals with security, including the situation in the Police and Prison Services, we visited the prison in Walvis Bay. In one of the sleeping halls on one bed – and they have such narrow beds – there were four people squeezed together. Many of them were sleeping on the floor, it really looked like an uncomfortable situation to me, and I was thinking that the Government should make more money available so that at least every prisoner could have a bed.

Then very recently, I visited an area in Okahandja Park, in Katutura. (Interjection) They are sleeping in a communal cell, about fifty prisoners are sleeping on rows and rows of beds and on almost every bed there is more than one person. The real point I want to make is that you then go to Okahandja Park and you look at the housing and the type of beds where ordinary Namibians have to sleep and you look at the type of breakfast they have, then you realise why a young man will easily leave the conditions of Okahandja Park to get to the conditions of the Windhoek Prison. This is a real challenge. (Intervention)

HON NAMBAHU: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Ulenga, you are saying a person from Okahandja Park prefers prison above the situation he or she lives in, in Okahandja Park. If that situation frightens you so

25 June 2008

MOTION ON POLICE AND PRISON SERVICES
HON VENAANI

much, what do you say about a person in Europe who during snow time comes to you, knowing a Police Officer is near and hits you hard, just to be caught and to be taken to prison? Is that situation unique to Namibia?

HON ULENGA: No, I am not saying the situation is unique to Namibia, I am saying it is a real challenge because we have a situation where on the one hand you have to look after people who are under your care and you have a situation where the general social and economic conditions of the people in the country are such that they easily would not see a difference between living on their own or living in prison.

Honourable Speaker, I support the Motion and I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I rise to add my voice to the Debate, supporting the Motion as motivated by the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security and raising a few concerns on the situation of the human resources of our Police Force.

Honourable Speaker, we have great experience around many countries where the Force is a law and the law runs the jungle. A few years ago, I was in a particular country and I remember a Police officer telling me that one paper is missing, so you have to put something there. (Interjection) '*Oga, one page is missing*', but I am telling it in the accent that they do.

Honourable Speaker, the one issue that I want to raise that I think is very deplorable and which was also alluded to by the Honourable Minister, is the deplorable situation in our prisons.

A person is presumed to be innocent until proven guilty by a competent court of law and when a person is taken to prison, the situation is so deplorable that the people inside there have a system of treatment. Whether you were caught rightly or wrongly, when you go to prison on this cold night, you will be asked to shower, because the people that are there are criminals and they like to

25 June 2008

MOTION ON POLICE AND PRISON SERVICES
HON VENAANI

misbehave. Now imagine that you are innocent but being accused and taken to a police cell to wait for bail the next morning and then you are forced to take a shower in the cold winter. In addition, in the Prison Services, the guards are there and they are just watching this treatment because they do not have time to discipline them. That is really a very deplorable situation. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: And after the shower?

HON VENAANI: After the shower it is the other things and I shall not venture into.

The other issue coupled to that is the abuse of power and when we address the problems facing our people, we should be very honest and very candid in addressing them, as they are unfolding in front of our eyes.

There is a situation in this country where a house of a top official of the Police is easily recognisable, because of the number of police vehicles at that particular house. We know that there is a car allowance system, but very senior, high-ranking police officers are in possession of one or two vehicles, whereas when you call a particular Police Station, you will be told that they will find a car in the morning. This abuse of power cannot be linked to salaries, because I would assume and any person of ordinary fairness would be able to assume that a high-ranking official should be fairly well paid. However, there is a continuation of abuse of power and that issue needs to be addressed within our Force. That leads to the decay of morale in the Police, because some of those entrusted to run the Force are not up to standard to make sure that their juniors follow the rules of discipline.

The Honourable Colleague before me spoke of training. I vividly remember a few years back bringing a family member who was a victim of a very horrendous crime at a Police Station and while a statement was taken by this very able lady she would go into a dictionary. Somehow, I respected her way of doing, but she goes to the dictionary to look for a word that is so common at a Police Station. She is looking for the spelling of this word and I am sure she deals with those cases every day. We must accept the reality that we have people that were not properly trained, but it does not excuse us from retraining them. Even if they

25 June 2008

**MOTION ON POLICE AND PRISON SERVICES
HON VENAANI**

have come from exile or from within the country, we are duty-bound to make sure that we have a well-trained Police Force in this country.

Coming to the salary structure – and it is not only the Police – this country needs to re-look at the salary structure and what people are earning in this country, because some of these structures and even in the Public Service do not make sense. We are saying it is only the Police, with a problem but the whole Public Service has a problem with salary structures and we need to re-look at it. I am very bold to say that even the Commission that we have appointed has also disappointed a lot of us, not because we wanted increases but the mere fact that they did not make any recommendations.

The idea of remunerating somebody is to commensurate the duties and functions that he is performing. It can be argued that our Police are lowly paid, it is true, but even those who are highly paid are also wrongly highly paid. As long as we do not address the question of overhauling the salary structures and readdress the problems, some of us will be overpaid and others underpaid. If you are not doing your work, you will end up being overpaid. It is important that your pay is commensurate with your work.

Honourable Speaker, we are talking about promotion and whether our Colleagues on the other side of the aisle agree or not, it is a very relevant issue. There is a Police officer and I will not mention his name, and I know the House would laugh when I say the following – when you say ‘in our days’, people think that your days are so recent and what is the difference, but I also had my little days.

I just visited a particular school this morning, I was addressing students on a particular matter and I was in the staff room and the teachers were walking in, “hallo, hallo”. A teacher would walk in but you would think that this chap is probably a taxi driver, but it is a teacher. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Member a question, please? I think the Honourable Member is doing extremely well, but if the Honourable Member is saying this particular teacher looked like a taxi driver, could he just describe what this teacher looked like?

25 June 2008

MOTION ON POLICE AND PRISON SERVICES
HON VENAANI

HON VENAANI: I used to be a part-time taxi driver in Windhoek and when you are driving a taxi, you always dress casual. A teacher comes into a staff room and you will not be able to identify this person as a teacher. It starts with respect. When you see a teacher over a weekend, you would be so afraid because a teacher was authority; *Meneer, Mitiri, Juffrou, Mister*

Even in the Police Force, some of them are an authority, but when the colleague wears a police uniform and shirt is hanging out, the shoes are loose, he is not displaying the respect... (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable Venaani a question on the pay and dress code? (Interjection) That is very much for the capitalists. When the capitalists promote their economy, they will always do something flashy. The question is, we all get the same pay here, some even get less than some of us but they are better dressed. Is there a relationship between salary and the way you dress? Are you sure there is that relationship?

HON VENAANI: Honourable Prime Minister, I did not talk about the relationship between pay and how you are dressed. In the case of the Police officers their dress is complementary... (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. Honourable Speaker, you would see a CEO who is barely 32 years old driving a vehicle of nearly a million here in the streets and the Government sees all these things. His income is higher than that of the Prime Minister and the President and just within a few months he would be seen driving a Cadillac.

What is that? I mean what I am saying; a new Mercedes just like that and the house being built is two million and a half. Is that fair? Why is this man being paid to that extent? (Interjection) The money I spend on the Nation is beyond his money, he never spends a cent on the public. Look at the whole thing now, we have Parastatals, go and look at them if you want to and look at their power, the extra power given to individuals. Who gave those powers, who gave that money for them to have things like that? Is that fair?

25 June 2008

**MOTION ON POLICE AND PRISON SERVICES
HON VENAANI**

HON VENAANI: The issue that I wanted to raise, Honourable Speaker, is the dress code. (Intervention)

HON DR AMWEELO: May I ask the Honourable Member a very small question? Honourable Member, you are referring to a teacher dressing like a taxi driver, but are you aware that taxi drivers all over the world are the people who are well-dressed? If you agree with that, would you agree that we should educate our taxi drivers to wear smart clothes like other taxi drivers in the world? If you say that the teacher looks like a taxi driver, it means that the taxi driver is dressed casually. All over the world taxi drivers are smartly dressed and driving very clean and nice cars. Are you aware of that?

HON VENAANI: Well, I am sure you have more international exposure than me.

I am referring to a particular Police officer who has worked here for a couple of years and when he enters Parliament you see a Police officer in him. He might have all the weaknesses that are needed for promotion, but when you see a person, he reflects that respect of an officer of the law. It is important that we really have to invoke discipline within our Forces and every time that I pass him I would ask, “are you promoted yet?” It has been some time now. Just go around this place and you will see one or three officers.

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Member a small question? Honourable Venaani, you are talking about a Police officer here in Parliament – “he”. I have seen a number of Police officers in this building, men and women, well-dressed, well-kept and polite. Why are you only referring to “he?” What about the “she?”

HON VENAANI: I am not saying that I have problems with the staff working here, but I am talking about this particular person with exceptional qualities and he is an example of our Police officers.

25 June 2008

**MOTION ON POLICE AND PRISON SERVICES
HON VENAANI**

HON RIRUAKO: What about “she?”

HON VENAANI: Chief, if you have a “she” you want to say something about, please say it yourself.

The other issue that I want to raise central to the Police is the question of service delivery. One thing that really perplexes a soul is when you take a case to the Police and then your docket goes missing and the problem is not only the dockets, it is the filing systems at our Police Stations. Your docket would be put there and you know it is bound to go missing and you are told to come and make a new statement. It is really not proper and this has to be addresses.

The other issue is the colleagues working in the Stock Theft Units and I must be very bold and very frank.

HON MEMBER: Is that Epango?

HON VENAANI: No, not Epango. Epango was a different administration, quite an effective one for that matter. But be that as it may, Honourable Speaker, I am raising the question of the Stock Theft Units.

You would find speculators buying cattle, some of them are deliberately buying stolen cattle, and they have an organised Police cartel. A poor woman would report that four of her cows are missing, “let us go to a particular farm” and then the Police officer would say, “no, we have to do the investigation” and the cattle will be missing. There is an element of corruption and the Stock Theft Units are a disappointment to many of us.

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Member a question, please? Honourable Venaani, when you are referring to this process where dockets get missing, is that only happening now or did it also happen under the previous Ministers of Home Affairs?

25 June 2008

MOTION ON POLICE AND PRISON SERVICES
HON VENAANI

HON VENAANI: I was told that some people are intimidated, when they see certain people they get out. I do not want you to start running away, so I will not answer your question.

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. There is a white man next to Otjiwarongo and that white man took more than thirty cattle from Okakarara area. The Police of Okakarara knew about the cattle, the owner of the cattle identified the cattle to them, and until now, those cattle are gone. They never arrested that person. It happened that way. While these things happen, they report it to this House or to whoever is close to that, but it is never taken care of. What is the problem?

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I always want to be factual and give credit where it is due and on this occasion I want to give credit because I have raised this issue a few years ago of certain people getting promotion. I have seen an improvement in the number of regional Police commanders from other ethnic groups, because I was very adamant on why it is only from one ethnic groups I have now seen some different people in some areas and it is a good thing.

However, the question of village promotion still exists. This is a tendency we have to address in this country. When you get an office, you make sure that all your cousins surround you. (Interjection) Many of our people do that. When you ask, “what is your position, where do you come from?”; it would be the same village the boss comes from. I do not believe that competence can only come from one village.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: The statement you are making is very serious. It can be true, it can be a deception, but the most important thing is really that when you discover a situation like that one to alert the Anti-Corruption Commission. Two weeks ago there was a report in a newspaper about a Police officer who allegedly – or I think it is true because she was dismissed – replaced the names of people who were legitimately recruited with the names of people from her own village and this person was dismissed from the Force. If you see a thing like this, which you are suspicious about, why can you not ask the Anti-Corruption Commission to investigate?

25 June 2008

**MOTION ON POLICE AND PRISON SERVICES
HON VENAANI**

HON VENAANI: I agree with you but I have a different view on these perceptions. I think the best way to fight them is to mention them in this House, so that people know that we are aware of certain situations and desist from that practice. When the structure is so well organised, you may report a case and they will say that person was appointed because he is competent. However, he had information about the job before the advertisement of the post and because the cousin works there, he was already tipped off that these are the questions that are going to be asked and he is already in an advantaged position.

Therefore, it is difficult to report, because in one circle you would find only people from Onyaanya.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. Onyaanya has been declared as the least corrupt area.

HON VENAANI: I know these are sensitive issues and we feel bad about them, but if we want to build this Namibian Nation, we should really raise those issues as they are unfolding in front of our eyes.

Honourable Colleagues, the other issue that I want to raise is the question of Police barracks and the Minister has said there is a problem. Sometimes it is asked why poor countries also have these fights and turmoil and I always argue that most of the time why we have turmoil is because we have nothing to protect. If you have no house to protect, a car to protect, a job, you are bound to take very bad decisions because you do not care.

It was raised by the Minister very candidly that we really have to address the question of Police barracks, because I visited barracks in Swakopmund and Swakopmund... (Interjection) Not "Swapomund". There is a rumour that SWAPO is trying to create a "Swapomund" but we are talking about Swakopmund. When you see the Police Station in Swakopmund, and mibd you Swakopmund is one of the most beautiful towns in this country, if you look at the barracks behind the Police Station... (Intervention)

25 June 2008

**MOTION ON POLICE AND PRISON SERVICES
HON VENAANI**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a Point of Order. This is an Honourable House and if the Honourable Member is really an Honourable Member, he will not spread rumours in this House that SWAPO wants to create a “Swapomund”. He must withdraw that. SWAPO is not creating a “Swapomund”.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I spoke of Swakopmund, not “Swapomund”. Therefore, if the intention of the Member is to have a “Swapomund”, it is Swakopmund. I have not spoken about SWAPO, Swakopmund.

HON SPEAKER: You did mention that you understood that SWAPO was busy building Swapomund. That is the part the Honourable Member wants you to withdraw.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I withdraw without delay.

HON NAMBAHU: On a Point of Information and a question. Before the Honourable Member completes his speech and sits down, docket theft is a serious crime in Police circles and it should not go out as if it is something that is taken lightly. Whenever a docket enters your office, it is signed for and it is signed out. If it disappears between your office and somewhere else, it is really something that should be followed up and it is something that is taken seriously. It is not something that just disappears as easily as that. If it happens it is regrettable, but it is punishable.

Now the question: Honourable Venaani, you talked about something I would wish you to elaborate upon before you sit down and that is the issue of retraining. Sometimes we do not have sympathy when we talk about the Peace Project. We seem to have given these people a job but we do not look at how best we can make use of them by retraining them to make them better officers. You mentioned that word and I would wish you to elaborate on that and probably to call on others to have sympathy in that direction.

25 June 2008

**MOTION ON POLICE AND PRISON SERVICES
HON VENAANI**

HON VENAANI: I agree with you...

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. On the docket disappearance, humans disappear while they are waiting at the court and a docket is only paper. Now you are asking about dockets, but what about humans who disappear at court? How did it happen?

HON VENAANI: I know the disappearance is punishable by law, but we had a 100 tons ship docked at Walvis Bay that just disappeared.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Venaani, since your arrival in this House you have only talked negatively about the Police. What positive things have the Police done? For five, six years that you have been in this House you have always been negative about the Police. Can you also mention positive things done by the Police?

HON VENAANI: The one negative thing that I talked about is when you were the Minister of Safety and Security and you did not respect the Police officers, you had contempt for court.

When I talk about an overhaul of the structures of the Police, it is something important.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** On a Point of Correction. The Honourable Member mentioned that I never respected the Police. Can you prove that I never respected the Police? That is what you said.

HON VENAANI: I can prove it, yes.

25 June 2008

**MOTION ON POLICE AND PRISON SERVICES
HON VENAANI**

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** When I was the Minister of Home Affairs, which Police did I not respect?

HON VENAANI: Let me prove it. It is very regrettable that I have to go this far with my father on the other side of the House, so I will leave it at that. I can prove, just as you are saying that I have not said anything positive, I agree and I have respect that you are an aging senior politician in this House, but when I am saying positive things it is probably passing your ears because of all the other factors. But I have said a lot of positive things about the Police.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Order. The Honourable Members of the House are adults, including his own President. Therefore he should withdraw.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I shall withdraw on condition that I am not referred to as what the Right Honourable Prime Minister yesterday called me. I withdraw.

Now on the question of the dockets which is a very serious issue... (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: On that note the House stands adjourned until tomorrow afternoon at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:47 UNTIL 2008.06.26 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
26 JUNE 2008
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

**TABLING: REPORT ON CONFERENCE OF
ORGANISATION FOR PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS**

HON HOFFMANN: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table the Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security on the Conference of the State Parties of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons held at The Hague, the Netherlands from the 2nd to the 9th of November 2007 for discussion. I so move, Honourable Speaker.

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

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 67: ...

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 3rd of July 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Labour and Social Welfare the following questions:

26 June 2008

**NOTICE OF MOTION
RT HON N ANGULA**

At the congress of the Agricultural Employers Association, the Honourable Minister accused the commercial farmers again of the following:

- Not paying their workers minimum wages;
- Inhuman behaviour and abusive language against employees;
- Illegal dismissal of farm workers and dumping of these workers along the road.

Honourable Minister:

- (a) Is it possible to submit the names of these culprits in each of the aforementioned categories to this Honourable House to enable us to take this matter up with the guilty people?
- (b) Were these accusations verified and tested by an objective body or person?
- (c) If no names can be submitted, will the Honourable Minister agree that he was misinformed and that the accusations were meant to put all farmers in a bad light?

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

NOTICE OF MOTION

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I give Notice that on Tuesday, the 1st of July 2008, I shall move:

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to amend the State-owned Enterprises Governance Act, 2006, so as to make different provisions for the date with effect from which the constitution of the boards of state-owned enterprises and the appointment of members of such boards must be effected in accordance with the provisions of that Act; to validate the appointment of certain members of such

26 June 2008

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON VENAANI
HON KAZENAMBO**

boards purported to have been made in accordance with the provision of any law or any constituent document or memorandum of association and articles of association pertaining to the state-owned enterprise which have been repealed or amended by the State-owned Enterprises Governance Act, 2006; to impose on the boards of state-owned enterprises an obligation to submit for approval to the portfolio Minister within a specified time a statement on investment policies, standards and procedures of the state-owned enterprise and to provide for incidental matters.

I so move.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Prime Minister please table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? We shall now commence with Questions. Question 16 is one by Honourable Venaani. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

QUESTION 16:

HON VENAANI: I Put the Question.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: May I again ask for the indulgence of this House for this Question to stand over?

HON SPEAKER: In the interest of time, would that apply to all questions?

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

26 June 2008

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON TJIHUIKO
HON MUTORWA**

HON SPEAKER: The Question will stand over. Question 28 is one by Honourable Dienda. Does the Honourable Member Put the Question?

QUESTION 28:

HON DIENDA: I Put the Question.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Honourable Speaker, there are still consultations between the different Ministries on this issue and I will come back with an answer on this issue.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Deputy Minister. Question 35 is by Honourable Tjihuiiko. Does the Honourable Member Put the Question?

QUESTION 35:

HON TJIHUIKO: I Put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Sir, Honourable Members of the National Assembly.

Honourable Tjihuiiko's questions deal with bread and butter issues, especially and directly for the producers, the farmers and the processors, the abattoirs in this particular case. I would like to thank Honourable Tjihuiiko for raising these questions to enable the Executive Branch of the State, meaning the Government, Cabinet, to explain the nature and appropriateness of relevant Government policies to the Namibian Nation and to other residents in our country through this Honourable House as per Article 40(e) of the Namibian Constitution.

Let me paraphrase the question by putting it in a particular policy or political context first: Resolution 41 adopted by the Third SWAPO Party Congress, the Ruling Party, held at the University of Namibia from the 21st to the 26th of August 2002, under the heading "*Value-Addition*" reads as follows:

26 June 2008

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON TJIHUIKO
HON MUTORWA**

“Congress noted with concern that a huge amount of unprocessed minerals, such as raw copper, semi-precious stones and animal products like hides, skins and livestock on the hoof are exported. It was observed that such practice is depriving the Namibian economy of the benefits of diversification and job creation. The Congress resolved that the exports of such raw materials and agricultural produce should be discouraged and that instead the exports of value-added and finished products be encouraged.”

Vision 2030 aims to promote the development of Namibia by utilising its human and natural resources. Industrialisation programmes within the context of the national development programmes are at the centre of making Vision 2030 a practical reality. It is important to mention at the onset that Namibia shall not realise the noble vision of becoming a prosperous industrialised Nation by the year 2030 if the country continues to export her natural resources in unprocessed form. With continuous exportation of its natural resources in the raw form, we cannot expect to redress the prevailing situation of high unemployment or low growth of our economy. We need to promote a vibrant and growing economy, capable of creating a diversity of products through value addition to our natural resources for both the domestic and foreign markets.

Namibia’s trade policy, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, is also in line with the above principles that I have just sketched. It is for that reason that the SACU Agreement to which Namibia actively participated in terms of drafting, a special provision for infant industry protection under Article 26.

At the same time, the World Trade Organisation also provides for special and differential treatment provisions, which, amongst others, give flexibility to developing countries, including Namibia, to protect the infant industries and thereby promote industrialisation in developing countries. Such provisions recognise that a symmetrical approach is essential if countries at different levels of economic development are to achieve equitable economic growth. It is this principle that should guide our quest for industrialisation in the context of bilateral trade and industrial relations with our more developed neighbours, inclusive of the Republic of South Africa.

In 2003, the Government of the Republic of Namibia undertook to develop its industry in the areas of meat processing, manufacturing of leather and leather products. The above policy position was taken with the broader objectives of promoting industrialisation through value addition products and markets.

26 June 2008

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON TJIHUIKO
HON MUTORWA**

In addition, processing and manufacturing contributes, as we all know, to job creation and generation of higher foreign currency earnings relative to exports of raw materials. This well-meant initiative was not welcomed generally by speculators and some livestock producers who may not have an appreciation of long-term and sustainable strategies for developing the agricultural sector across its entire value chain.

After consultations with the relevant stakeholders and in line with the existing laws of the country, including the SACU Treaty, Government introduced levies on the exports of live animals and unprocessed hides and skins in the year 2003. However, the three-year levy exemption was given for exports of weaners and goats. This exemption was made with due consideration of the grazing situation at the time and of the fact that the domestic goat meat market was not well developed, while the external markets for goat meat were also not identified. During the three-years period it was then expected that the following things would have happened:

1. Capacity of abattoirs would be expanded through new investments by the private sector to enable them to slaughter all slaughterable animals in the country locally.
2. Private investments, supported by Government, to develop feedlots so that weaners would be weaned and slaughtered locally. The small stock market would be developed in order to diversify export products, including goat meat and the different destinations.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the scheme was to be implemented by an implementation and monitoring committee consisting of relevant Government Ministries and stakeholders, inclusive of the producers and the abattoirs and this particular technical committee was and is chaired by the Ministry of Trade and Industry. The implementation monitoring committee held a workshop in Otjiwarongo on the 23rd to the 24th of November 2006 to review the scheme and the workshop found the following:

1. The capacity for large stock was sufficient to slaughter locally.
2. No new investment in feedlots was made since the introduction of the scheme.

3. No new market for sheep and goat was developed by the industry at that stage.

Therefore, the Otjiwarongo workshop recommended for Government to grant levy exemption for the exportation of weaners and goats for an additional period of one year.

Regarding sheep exports, the Otjiwarongo workshop recommended a 6:1 ratio. In other words, for every six sheep slaughtered locally, a producer is allowed to export one sheep. On the basis of those recommendations from the Otjiwarongo workshop, Government decided on the maintenance of levies for exports of live animals, new exemptions as well as the 6:1 ratio for sheep exports.

In 2007 the drought situation was anticipated for the period April 2007 to July 2007. Based on this anticipation, Government decided on a three-month relief for sheep exports, allowing producers to export more sheep than under the 6:1 arrangement. While the levy relief was ongoing, the Meat Board of Namibia commissioned a study, which the Honourable Member is making reference to in the question, through PricewaterhouseCoopers, which is now a source of dispute. The major source of dispute is the suggestion that that particular study, to use the South African small livestock prices as a reference price. Such suggestion does not consider the different levels of economic development of the two countries, nor does it consider the different levels of industrial development in the two countries. The study does not take the developmental aspirations of Namibia into account. As such, the study tends to argue for the immediate but short-term benefits for small stock producers through the continued exports of sheep to South Africa, based on high prices, meaning the producers accepted the recommendation of the particular study, but the abattoirs were and are still against that recommendation. This is where the source of the dispute came.

It should be noted that the exports of live animals to South Africa on the premise of high prices constitutes a short-term benefit - there is no argument about that - that would keep Namibia vulnerable to potential market shocks that may not be in our control one day. Cases in point are the fact that Namibia under the SACU and SADC currently is negotiating for free trade agreements which are expected to further liberalise the SACU and SADC markets, thereby exposing Namibia's commodity exports to South Africa to foreign competition.

26 June 2008

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON TJIHUIKO
HON MUTORWA**

Therefore, it is important for Namibia to promote industrial activities in the domestic market through value addition to its natural resources. Such activity will create goods that would be less vulnerable to export market shocks and less volatile to price changes.

In addition, Government is spearheading a process of finding alternative markets for our products in order to lessen our dependency on, and vulnerability to single markets. It should be borne in mind, Comrade Speaker, that it is the responsibility of the Namibian Government to create an enabling environment for economic development and growth. Government is committed to create an enabling environment for the entire private sector development that is beneficial to producers, to abattoirs, to tanneries, to processors and manufacturers. We know it is a complex matter but it is something that we must strive for. It is the mandate of Government to design policies and programmes that will be able to generate employment opportunities for the people of this country.

Therefore, this Government shall not be expected to have policies permanently promoting export of natural resources in an unprocessed form. When I came to the Ministry, my predecessor was already involved in trying to get the producers and the processors, meaning the farmers and the abattoirs, together under the mediation of the Meat Board to try to find a middle way. That is the situation that I found there and I endorsed it. Therefore, on the 16th of May this year, I wrote a letter to the Meat Board, to the livestock producers, to the two unions, the Namibia Agricultural Union and the Namibia National Farmers Union as well as the Abattoirs Association of Namibia. In the said letter, I urged them to do the following:

“Start a dialogue on both the small stock marketing and general levy under the chairpersonship of the Meat Board and make your recommendations to the Ministry before the 15th of June 2008.”

I went further to say in that letter: “It is the commitment of this Ministry and Government to have the decision made and finalised at least before the end of June this year. In the absence of consensus, the Government shall have no option but to make the decision which, in our view, shall serve the national economic interest.” That is an extraction from the letter that I wrote.

Instead of consensus, what we are receiving and my file is already full, what we are receiving are letters from both the producers, on the one hand, and the

26 June 2008

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON TJIHUIKO
HON MUTORWA**

abattoirs, restating their positions, they do not want to move. They are only restating their individual positions.

So, what is currently the position? The position is that the Meat Board is currently trying to summarise all these positions of the producers, on the one hand, and the processors or the abattoirs, on the other. They would then make a recommendation to our Ministry for the further consideration of the Committee that I referred to, consisting of the Permanent Secretaries of Agriculture, Trade and Industry and Finance. Eventually that Committee will now make a recommendation that will eventually be considered by the Cabinet, which will make a final decision on the matter.

We would like to use of this particular platform to urge patience and understanding from both the producers and the processors or the abattoirs. What is at stake here is not only the interest of the producers or the abattoirs, but is also the national interest of the country and eventually I hope Cabinet will make a decision, which decision will be in the interest of both the producers, the abattoirs and the national interest of the country's economy.

Comrade Speaker, this is the response to these very, very important questions that were raised by the Honourable Tjihuiiko. I appreciate the questions despite the political jabbing here and here, but these are very important questions and I hope that I have my job to provide at least the policy position and the factual situation on the ground with regard to this particular matter. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for his reply.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Allow me to thank the Honourable Minister for an elaborate answer. I believe that it was not an answer to me but an answer to the Nation and I think he has done that with flying colours and I hope the others will follow your good example.

26 June 2008

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON KAURA
HON HAINGURA**

HON SPEAKER: Question 37 is by Honourable Kaura to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Does the Honourable Member Put the Question?

QUESTION 37:

HON KAURA: I Put the Question.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: I rise to give response to the questions raised by Honourable Kaura, the President of the DTA.

Indeed, our High Commission in Zambia notified the Ministry about the Depo Provera incident in that country, which the Honourable Member made reference to.

Once we received this information, we tasked our officials in the Division: Pharmaceutical Services to check the product on our medical list in Namibia. I was informed that the Namibian Public Health System makes use of Medroxyprogesterone acetate from Fresenius Kabi, a South African based company. For your information, Honourable Kaura, Medroxyprogesterone acetate is the generic name of the active ingredient of Depo Provera, which is the brand name used by the United States based company for its product. Therefore, on the question whether we in Namibia get any Depo Provera donations from the USA, the answer is no.

It is a requirement of my Ministry, through the Medicines Control Council of Namibia, that each product used in Namibia is registered in the country of origin or the country from where it is imported. This serves as a safeguard to ensure that the quality of the product is assured from where it is coming and further confirmed by the local Quality Assurance Laboratory.

To further clarify what I am trying to say, medicines are manufactured based on Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP). GMP ensures that quality of the product is maintained from the moment the raw material of the medicines is received at the warehouse of the manufacturer until final medicinal product leaves the storage warehouse of that manufacturer. All these processes are documented and the documents are kept on site beyond the expiry date of that specific medicine.

26 June 2008

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON VENAANI
HON MUTORWA**

Apart from the quality side of the medicine, the Human Immuno-deficiency Virus has been scientifically shown not to be able to survive in non-life sustaining environments, such as the environment created by the medicines in question.

Taking all of the abovementioned into consideration, rest assured that the product used in Namibia is safe and the chances that it may be contaminated with the HIV virus is almost non-existent by the quality control checks which are in place. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Deputy Minister. Question 38 is by Honourable Venaani. Does the Honourable Member Put the Question?

QUESTION 38:

HON VENAANI: I Put the Question, Honourable Speaker.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Again, I would like to thank the Honourable Venaani for putting these questions that would enable us to provide the factual information.

Let me start off by saying that the main objective and function of NamWater is to supply water in bulk to customers in sufficient quantities of a quality suitable for the customers' purposes and by cost-effective, environmentally sound and sustainable means as stipulated by Section 5(a) of the Namibia Water Corporation Act, 1997 which was passed by this Honourable House. Therefore, NamWater functions include planning, designing, constructing, extending, altering, maintaining, repairing, operating, controlling and disposing of waterworks.

In order to carry out the above functions with a view to fulfil the Corporation's mandate, it is essential that a portion of NamWater's revenue is put in reserve or in contingency. This can be utilised to attend to emergencies and carry out the necessary repairs of damages to water supply infrastructure with a view to minimising any disruptions to water supply. Yes, it is true, NamWater does have a contingency or reserve fund.

26 June 2008

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON VENAANI
HON MUTORWA**

I can quote some of the emergencies, for example the breakdown of the pipeline conveying water from the Von Bach Dam in Okahandja to Windhoek. Recently during the floods, we experienced damages to the canal supplying water from the Kunene River to Oshakati and to the whole of the North-Central Regions of our country. It was not anticipated and in such a situation you could not expect to go through the normal budgetary procedures and it is in such a situation where the money in this reserve or contingency fund is utilised.

The Act requires NamWater to be run on business principles by empowering the Corporation to determine and levy, in consultation with the Minister responsible for water, tariffs on a full cost-recovery basis for water supply. Full cost recovery means that all capital as well as operation and maintenance costs are recovered from the customers.

The Corporation is not expected to generate profit as such because its mandate is to supply water necessary for supporting life. It is required for drinking and other household uses, for watering of animals and crops. However, the creation of a reserve fund for emergencies has to be accepted as a way of guaranteeing security of water supply to communities, settlements, villages, towns and municipalities at all times. NamWater supplies water also to mines and irrigation schemes.

This fund should not be regarded as an investment but as a standby fund to attend to emergencies. My information is that by January 2008, this fund stood at N\$290 million and it is held at NamPost, First National Bank, Bank Windhoek and Standard Bank.

Again, in conclusion, I must stress, it is not a fund that is there to generate profits or to be utilised for other activities, but specifically to react to emergencies when they occur in terms of the water infrastructure. I thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister. Honourable Venaani?

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I want to thank the Honourable Minister for his eloquent reply. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Question 41 reminds us of the sadness we sustained in this House. I should have said the same when the questions put to the late Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing appeared on the Question Paper. I had the dilemma as to whether I should put the Question for history and record purposes, but we have passed that. Question 41 we have agreed will stand over and I put Question 42. Does any of the Members of CoD put the Question?

QUESTION 42:

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Speaker, I put the Question.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Question 42 was put by the late Reinhard Kalla Gertze. I rise to respond to the question of late Honourable Gertze regarding traditional healers.

I wish to begin by expressing my sincerest wish that his soul has been reunited with the Almighty God and that he will rest in eternal peace.

In memoriam, Honourable Gertze will be remembered for his exceptional skills in deliberations. His capacities to reflect, analyse and temper arguments and ideas for consideration in this esteemed House should be emulated by us all. Indeed, his farewell gift to us in the form of a Parliamentary Question, is no exception. Honourable Gertze posed a poignant question and I will herewith humbly attempt to respond, while brief, in a manner fitting to his memory and comparable to the exemplary standard he has left us.

In response: All health practitioners are accountable under various legal frameworks, which regulate and bring them to account in terms of their practice, their finances and their premises and so on. Therefore, in particular reference to Part 4 of late Honourable Gertze's question, if such a traditional healer is a foreigner, he or she is subject to the stipulations and requirements of the Immigration Act and should he or she be soliciting fees for services, he or she is subject to the Income Tax Act.

In specific reference to a regulatory framework that would govern traditional healers, the Traditional Health Practitioners Bill is currently being worked on and will come to Parliament during the fourth quarter of 2008.

26 June 2008

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS
HON HAINGURA**

At that time, this august House will have the opportunity to delve with more scrutiny into the framework that will bring our Nation into a position where, through the legitimisation of traditional healers, we will be protecting the health of our people. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Deputy Minister for answering the question. The House shall rise for refreshments.

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:42
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:25 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

HON SPEAKER: The first Notice is the one of the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. Does the Honourable Minister Move that the Bill be now introduced?

**PLANT QUARANTINE BILL:
INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING**

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? Who seconds? Will the Honourable Minister please table the Bill? The Secretary will now read the Bill a First Time.

SECRETARY: *Plant Quarantine Bill.*

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

26 June 2008

**PLANT QUARANTINE BILL
HON MUTORWA**

**PLANT QUARANTINE BILL:
SECOND READING**

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: I

Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I am rising to motivate the Plant Quarantine Bill in this Honourable House as part of the mandate of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry to create the legal environment for the production and development of plants and plant products in this country, amongst others.

Agriculture remains the mainstay of our economy and with the advancement of research and development. There is a great prospect for our country and the Nation to prosper through the application of Science and Technology and plant production sub-sector of our economy.

We are also aware, Comrade Speaker, that the advancement of Science and Technology has resulted in the production of genetically modified organisms which sometimes may result in the destruction of our indigenous plants, genetic resources and biodiversity which has been a source of livelihood for our people for generations.

It is for that reason that the individual Member States, Regional Economic Groupings and the International Community are preoccupied with the development of measures, regulations and laws to govern the management of movements of plants and plant products between and among Nation States.

In Namibia, the movement of plants and plant products in and out of the country has been regulated so far by Act 3 of 1973, which is not only outdated, but does not also take into account Namibia's new development objectives and its commitment to the International Instruments, Conventions and Agreements to which Namibia is a signatory. These include the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, the World Trade Organisation, the International Plant Protection Convention, Codex Alimentations and the Southern African Customs Union.

This Bill was conceived through prolonged consultations with all stakeholders in the Plant and Animal Production Industry, which has started since 1996.

26 June 2008

**PLANT QUARANTINE BILL
HON MUTORWA**

The Bill provides for the prevention, monitoring, controlling and eradication of plant pests, to facilitate the movement of plants, plant products and other regulated articles within and into or out of Namibia and provide for the certification of the phytosanitary standards and plant products exported from Namibia and to provide for incidental matters.

With regard to the implementation of this law, a National Plant Protection Organisation shall be established in the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, which will then be the authority to regulate the movement of plant and plant products and to liaise with other national, regional and international bodies.

Technical capacity shall be created within the Ministry and the country to be able to undertake surveillance, diagnostic treatment and disposal measures of unwanted pests and diseased plants. Infrastructure for quarantine purposes will also be created.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, this Bill is one of the instruments that will allow Namibia to guarantee food security for its people with the looming food scarcity and increase in food prices. The only viable option available is to increase Namibia's domestic food production as a guarantee to food security.

Apart from agricultural mechanisation, seeds and fertilisers are some of the agricultural inputs that may be needed to increase food production. Without an appropriate enabling legal instrument, Namibia will not be able to prevent and contain the introduction into Namibia of foreign pests and diseases that may destroy or be harmful to our biodiversity through destruction of food crops and biodiversity.

We have also taken note as a country of the competition between food crops, bio-fuels, oils and essential plants. This Bill will, through the intended capacity building, provide the country with an opportunity to understand these dynamics and to manage effectively plant production initiatives in the country.

Therefore, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is in light of the above highlighted explanations and motivation that I now seek the support of this House in passing this Bill in law. I thank you.

26 June 2008

**MOTION ON RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME
HON VENAANI**

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

HON AMWEELO: I Move that the Debate be adjourned until next Tuesday.

HON SPEAKER: The Debate stands adjourned until next Tuesday. The second Notice of Motion is the one of Honourable Venaani. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion? Who seconds. Objections? Agreed to.

MOTION ON RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, let me start with some words once said St Francis of Assisi, which I think are really just particularly apt at the moment: *Where there is discord, may we bring harmony. Where there is error, may we bring truth. Where there is doubt, may we bring faith. And where there is despair, may we bring hope.*”

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members at various occasions during Debates on the question of land reform in this House I raised the important issue of managing our resources in such a way that they become sustainable and productive for the benefit of all our citizenry. Land reform remains a very complex matter, as redressing wrongs of hundred and more years cannot be done over one night. The emotional attachment of land to many of our people is as real as yesterday. Therefore its management is paramount to ensure equity and justice.

However, we should never flinch from difficult decisions that this House and country must take in the face of stark realities.

Honourable Speaker, I want to submit that the national resettlement system, as it is implemented, is in a total chaotic situation, to say the least, and the factors are manifold. The current difficulties experienced by our national resettlement programmes are not only worrying, but are bound to fail the Nation’s opportunities to optimise cost benefit of land and cannot ensure food sustainability at all.

26 June 2008

**MOTION ON RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME
HON VENAANI**

Land hunger, to many of us in this country means different things. One may argue that one can be classified as a person with land hunger because as a citizen your forefathers or you were suppressed by colonialism and suppression and, therefore, you need land, or any unemployed Namibian who also suffered under the latter qualification feels that he needs land. Indeed, there is an inherent reality in some of this understanding of land hunger as we omitted the concept of ancestral land claims at the founding land conference of our Republic.

Whereas we are trying to balance all these different categories of needs and social balance, some factors are and ought to reign supreme, such as the question of sustainability, optimal utilisation, wealth creation and food productivity that need to be answered by our land reform programmes and especially the resettlement scheme.

Honourable Speaker, the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement is mandated to acquire farms in commercial areas for resettlement purposes as per the provisions of the Agricultural Commercial Land Reform Act 6 of 1995. This Debate will focus on this mandate and category of resettlement and the proposals of how to move forward.

The stark reality that we are facing is that close to 80% of resettlement programmes are failing the country and they have become an eyesore to Namibia.

One is that many farms are currently being vandalised and owners are not caring for these properties and the lands are lying idle without any supervision and control. I must submit that there are farmers who received resettlement farms who have never even seen or set foot on those farms.

Farmers are poorly stocked and many farmers are, therefore, subletting this land to others who can afford to pump water and supply labour.

Thirdly, there is also a lack of political sensitivity in allocating farms and at times there is favouritism and abuse of power in allocating these lands, as over 155,000 hectares of land belong to only 25 households.

Paramount to the failures is the weak capacity of training of resettlement farmers since much lack commercial farming skills.

26 June 2008

**MOTION ON RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME
HON VENAANI**

Lastly, the Ministry itself lacks expertise in terms of maintaining farm infrastructure and hence, they over-rely on the Ministry of Agriculture which has its own targets and other priority areas.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the danger of all these is our own statutory making of allocating a 99 years leasehold to a farmer who knows for a fact that whether he is productive or not, whether he does something on the land or not, this land belongs to him for the period of 99 years. We are talking about roughly two generations and we have to re-look at that. Let me give you the tip of the iceberg: A few years ago, we expropriated Ongombo West, but when we today go to a farm that used to produce and bring foreign currency into this country, the people on those farms cannot feed themselves. I am talking about a resettlement that addresses the question of food sustainability. The whole world is talking about Africa as a target area to produce its own food, but if our farms are run at low capacity and people on the farms cannot feed themselves, then we have to address that problem.

I want to raise a very paramount issue that we as leaders have to re-look and it is the question of who should qualify for resettlement and what categories. I have contended that one cannot resettle a Permanent Secretary, giving him a farm for 99 years, a person who can work in the Public Service for twenty years to come and who will be able to afford a farm one day, to be given carte blanche to stay on farm for 99 years without paying anything. That is wrong. Police and Army Generals, Deputy Directors, Members of Parliament, Regional Councillors are sitting on these farmlands. (Interjection) Mine is not a resettlement farm.

Honourable Speaker, I asked the Table Office to distribute a list as I want to elucidate a point.

Honourable Speaker, there is one current serious problem that is seeing light in the country and it is the number of Regional Councillors, people who have to make sure that people get land, who are allocating land to themselves.

HON MEMBER: They are also Namibians!

26 June 2008

**MOTION ON RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME
HON VENAANI**

HON VENAANI: I will address that question of “also Namibians”. I am coming to that. If you look at this list that I am talking about ...

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Who gave you the list?

HON VENAANI: It is not a secret it came from the Ministry. One person owns 12,000 hectares of land, one family, a resettlement farm. Two families are sitting on 20,000 hectares of resettlement land. Look at this list! (Interjections). I am not talking about corruption, but I am saying there is abuse of power and favouritism within the scheme. Some of the households are camped onto 1,000, 2,000 hectares or 18 families on 6,000, but one person has 9,000 hectares of land.

If you justify that a particular family can live on 11,000 hectares of land, then you are telling me that this person must have stock on that land. There are some serious problems and looking at this list, I would want to urge and advise Government to put a moratorium of blocking further implementation of the resettlement programme as it is. (Interjection). Just look at these farms and then talk about carrying capacity, look at Erongo. I do not want to specify a particular farm so that it be taken to the media, but look at the last farm in Erongo, 18,000 hectares. (Interjections). You cannot allocate a desert to a person. If two families are living on 18,000 hectares of land, what does it tell you?

HON MEMBER: Carrying capacity.

HON VENAANI: Yes, carrying capacity in Erongo. Do you know Erongo? Do not defend these things. They are wrong!

Colleagues, we have families who have been living on these farms for more than 12, 15 years and yet they are not resettled. They went to those farms in illegal ways, probably during the drought, and I remember the drought of 1996, and up to now they are living on these farms, they have not yet been resettled and they are not recorded on this list.

26 June 2008

**MOTION ON RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME
HON VENAANI**

Colleagues, I do not want us to be narrow-minded and be an inward-looking club of leaders if we want Namibia to move forward, we must charter towards wider horizons, as others before us, to reach our noblest objectives.

We cannot create a situation where we want to resettle a target of 50,000 families while the target of applicants are over 200,000 families that want land. If you go and tell Namibians that we have 280,000 people that are suffering from land hunger, who need land and who need to be resettled, if I give you the size of Namibian commercial land and divide it by those households, you will never be able to reach that target. It is not reachable, it is pure scientific, the size of land, the families that you have to put on land for them to survive and taking into account the arid situation of Namibia.

We must be very honest, we are creating a culture in this country, not everybody can become a farmer. Even if all of us want to become farmers, not everyone can be a farmer or have land available. Hence, those that are given these opportunities must be given support and guidance to ensure the sustainability of others through revenue generation and food security. When you are given land, you have to secure that one day a family living in Windhoek can get meat or food from your farm.

The current programme, as it is, turns viable commercial areas into under-productive communal areas due to vandalism and lack of control. Coupled with the programme is the reality of sky-rocketing farming prices in the region in general. The farmers are asking high prices for land. We do not have enough resources to acquire land.

Therefore, it is my fervent submission to ask this Honourable Assembly to consider the following two categories to be able to mitigate some of the problems experienced by the programme, to ensure that the programme can partly self-sustain itself in terms of funding:

Option 1: I propose that out of the 100% of the total amount of money we are spending on the land reform programme, 25% must be put into the following categories:

- An option where a family or household be given land for between one and maximum 15 years; a family with more than 50 productive head of cattle or equivalent of small stock to be considered for resettlement.

26 June 2008

**MOTION ON RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME
HON VENAANI**

- Before entering the land, this family must undergo an extensive programme on farm and livestock management.
- They must enter a performance contract with the Ministry of Lands, as the custodian of land, to ensure the sustainability of infrastructure development and management of land.
- That this family must be assisted by AgriBank with a ten year low interest loan scheme for stock upon entry, of which he must only sell for repayment of the loan and feed purposes only.

If Honourable Kazenambo has fifty productive cows today and he is given a loan for an additional 80 cows plus his fifty for ten years to repay the 80 cows, by the ninth, tenth year this person would have saved enough to be able to acquire his own farm. If this person by the 15th year has farmed well, then this person could come to the Ministry of Lands and say, "I now no longer need to be under a resettlement programme, I qualify to become an affirmative action commercial farmer and buy a farm, so that the next family can be given an opportunity to be on that land for another fifteen years. That is category A.

Option B:

Ten percent of the farm should be used for this category:

A family with more than 50 head of cattle, productive cows or equivalent of small stock must be considered for resettlement, plus having a substantial salary income of a level of Deputy Director or equivalent. This is the category of Permanent Secretaries and Generals.

If a General has 50 cows today, give him a loan to buy additional stock, but give him 10 years and after 10 years he has to get off this land because he has an income and other poor people must come and use this land. (Interjection) I am proposing what I have done, just do what I have done, buy your own farm.

I want to emphasise the question of training. Before a person enters a resettlement farm, he must have a certificate on Farm and Livestock Management. He must be able to know how to run a commercial entity. He must also enter into a performance contract, because Government is spending N\$50 million every year on property, purchasing very expensive properties.

26 June 2008

**MOTION ON RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME
HON VENAANI**

I want to give an example in this House, I went to one particular farm, the person lives in Lüderitz, he got 2,000 hectares of land, he took all the roof-sheeting off the houses to build a *kambashu* in Lüderitz, he never went back to the farm and it is his farm for 99 years. We cannot give carte blanche to people, they have to sign performance contracts, that if you are going to stay on the land, this is what we expect from you.

Honourable Members, because this category of people has an income and some cattle, they must be given ten years. If after ten years you have messed up the farm, you must leave and another person who wants to prove himself, must be given that land. If you do not go and buy your own land, get out and go to the communal areas but we should not keep people for 99 years unabated without any performance contracts.

Honourable Members, these two options, in my opinion, would ensure a recovery of 30% of the input by Government on land and would ensure that we are not going to make all the communal areas pure reserves. If we ask Honourable Kaura today – as an example – if Government buys a resettlement farm next to his farm, he will become worried and try to sell his own land and that ought not to be the case. All of us who are farming are fearing resettlement farms next to us because you know that if a resettlement farm is bought next to yours ...(Interjection). I am done, I am just raising a very emotional issue, because it hurts to give a farm to somebody who has five chickens. The point I am trying to raise is that every commercial farmer fears a neighbouring farm to be purchased for resettlement purposes because of vandalism, because of no control and that ought not to be the case.

There is no way that you give somebody a property worth roughly N\$4 million or N\$8 million and they start using the *droppers* as firewood. I have seen resettlement programmes where the *droppers* have been used as firewood and how long can we give N\$8 million to somebody for 99 years free of charge without any performance contract?

As for the rest of the programme, I would submit that there is a need for the resettlement programme to help the poor farm workers that are dumped on the corridors, the poor families and there is the question of ancestral legacy. If you go around the southern areas there are farms belonging to white commercial farmers but that have greater significant relevance to communities living around those areas.

26 June 2008

**MOTION ON RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME
HON VENAANI**

If you go to Khorixas, the people of Khorixas and Usakos have places of significance to them that they really want to occupy because of historical reasons. I know a colleague of mine, but I will not mention his name. His forefathers fought a battle at a particular place and every time that we pass there, we always have to stand and I do not know whether it is for posterity, but we always stand at that place. That is the attachment that we have to land and the value that we attach to it.

Honourable Speaker, I agree that we run 80% of the programme as we are doing it, but do not put a person on land costing N\$8 million without giving him a credit line to sustain it. You are doing a disservice to a person like me if you give me a Mercedes Benz if I cannot fill it up and take it to Okatjoruu. It is important for us to couple the programme with an assistance package and a proper staff complement in the Ministry that would be able to manage the cattle that are on loan to the people. They can give the people loans, but they will start selling these cattle and the Ministry of Lands should even brand those cattle and every auctioneer would know that a cow of the Ministry of Lands is not supposed to be sold. These are some of the measures we can put in place to make sure that we assist our people.

However, to try to pretend that this programme is really working and it is not working, it is not sustaining us and we have to review it and I ask the indulgence of the Members of this House to refer this Motion, after debate, to the relevant Committee, to go and to study, because some of my proposals need refinement and subject also to various Amendments and to do a land audit on the current programmes.

Honourable Speaker, finally, as in the words of St Francis, “*and where there is despair, may we bring hope*”, I believe by putting up these added categories to the scheme, we will bring hope where there is despair. Honourable Speaker, I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for his motivation of the Motion. Chief Riruako.

26 June 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON LUCAS**

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Speaker, this Motion cannot be rushed and I move that the Debate be adjourned until Wednesday, next week.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? If not, the consideration of this Motion stands adjourned until Wednesday, the 3rd of July 2008. The Secretary will read the Third Order of the Day.

**MOTION ON CURRENT SITUATION IN
ZIMBABWE**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on the situation in neighbouring Zimbabwe which has experienced alarming escalation of political violence.

HON SPEAKER: When the Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, 10 June 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Ulenga. The Minister of Foreign Affairs adjourned the Debate. Deputy Minister.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I am rising to make a contribution on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to the Motion tabled by Honourable Ulenga in this august House.

Since the Motion is dealing with foreign issues and, indeed, a country with which Namibia has excellent relations, I deemed it necessary to make a contribution on the 12th of June 2008 before attending to other national issues abroad. However, Comrade Speaker, since the discussion of this Motion could not take place on that date, I have therefore requested my Deputy Minister to read my statement as written and that is what I am going to do, Comrade Speaker.

Comrade Speaker, this Motion is addressing issues, which concern a Nation under very, yes, very serious political and economic difficulties, causing hardship to the Zimbabwean people. Indeed, Comrade Speaker, there is no logic in believing that the Government of Zimbabwe and its leadership would wish such a

26 June 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON LUCAS**

situation for their fatherland and people. It is with this in the back of my mind that I feel duty bound to analytically discuss the Motion objectively.

In the first place, let us look at what the Motion is requesting the National Assembly to do by way of quoting it verbatim:

“That this Assembly –

- (i) *Urgently debates and takes* a stand on the situation in neighbouring Zimbabwe, which country has been in a state of political limbo for the last three weeks, since national parliamentary and presidential elections were held there on 29 March 2008, and which has since experienced alarming escalations of political violence and thuggery, including murders, beatings and arrests with more than 400 opposition political activists arrested in the last week;
- (ii) *Condemns* the political violence and political arrests and the violation of the rights of citizens going on in Zimbabwe;
- (iii) *Not condone* but take stand against any shipment and/or transportation of arms and/or ammunition destined for Zimbabwe through our territory, which arms and ammunition may end up being used against the people of Zimbabwe;
- (iv) *Urges* the appropriate authorities in Zimbabwe to end the political deadlock by releasing the results of the presidential and other elections in accordance with Zimbabwean law; and
- (v) *Urges* the Namibian Government to use all influence at their disposal to bring the political crisis in Zimbabwe to a close.”

By way of reminding ourselves, Comrade Speaker, allow me to refer to a Report I submitted to this Honourable House on 22 April 2008 by the Namibian Observer Mission to the Zimbabwe elections in March. Like all international observer teams, the report described the campaign and the elections as being free and fair. Indeed, the Report noted that there was a need to encourage the Zimbabwean nationals to guard against any action, small as they may be, which could disturb the peaceful and calm situation prevailing prior and during elections.

26 June 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON LUCAS**

While the delays in counting and verification of the votes and the announcement of the results caused legitimate concerns, the good news is that political role-players and the people of Zimbabwe finally accepted the results of both elections. Surely, Comrade Speaker, this was an important achievement by the people of Zimbabwe. These are some of the positive developments, which should give us hope that the situation in Zimbabwe could change for the better with the right assistance from true friends and neighbours.

Comrade Speaker, the Motion under discussion totally and deliberately ignores all these positive elements which need encouragement.

In the first Paragraph the Motion characterises the situation by the use of words like “*thuggery*”, “*murder*”, “*beatings*”, etcetera, which by all standards are not only libellous and totally negative, but also border on insults when used without verified information. This, Comrade Speaker, is not of any help to the Zimbabwean situation.

The motivation of the Motion on Page 3, Paragraph 3, accused the Government of the Republic of Namibia of being “*an accomplice in the trampling of the political rights of a neighbouring sister country.*” Comrade Speaker, this is a baseless accusation which has no place in serious parliamentary discussions.

The role of the Namibian Government has been very clear.

We have and will continue to assist Zimbabweans to resolve their political and economic problems. Namibia has, and will continue to encourage the international community to convince those powerful Nations to lift sanctions against Zimbabwe. Yes, Comrade Speaker, Namibia has participated in discussions within the SADC family on the Zimbabwean issue. Similarly, Namibia has continued to actively participate under AU structures in issues concerning Zimbabwe and other conflict situations in order to seek peaceful settlements.

As indicated earlier, we observed the elections in March as well as the verification process, which led to the final announcement of the results. Namibia has dispatched a team of twenty election observers to the run-off election scheduled for 27 June 2008. We have been and will continue to encourage the Zimbabwean people to accept the outcome of the run-off.

26 June 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON LUCAS**

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, why should the Government be labelled “*an accomplice?*” What wrong did the Government of our Republic do which warrants this type of accusation? I will conclude by simply saying, “*nothing*”.

During the motivation of the Motion, Honourable Kaura raised a Point of Order on the issue of referring to Heads of State with the necessary respect they deserve as prescribed by our Rules. Though Honourable Kaura’s Point of Order could not stand, the records and the introductory speech show clearly that President Thabo Mbeki was referred to as “*Thabo Mbeki*” on Page 13, Paragraph 2 of the records as well as on Page 2, Paragraph 1 of the introductory speech. This Honourable House should uphold its Rules, because it is only by so doing that it will keep its dignity and respect at all times.

Comrade Speaker, the most disturbing statement in the motivation of the Motion is the following quote: “*Mr Tsvangirai for the first time publicly reveals how Thabo Mbeki and, therefore, his other SADC counterparts have known the evil machinations of the Mugabe Government against its own people.*” Mr Tsvangirai has accused Mbeki of a lack of neutrality. “*In the light of the MDC leader’s letter to President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, we must recommend to President Pohamba to withdraw Namibia’s endorsement of Mbeki as the SADC mediator in Zimbabwe.*”

What a U-turn, Comrade Speaker. The same Government characterised as “an accomplice” on Page 2 of the motivation is now being asked to withdraw our own endorsement from decisions we consciously and willingly participated in. Let me once again reiterate that Namibia is a Member of SADC and is party to all relevant political and economic arrangements which the regional body has put in place.

Comrade Speaker, Namibia cannot exonerate herself from the resolve by SADC to assist the people of Zimbabwe collectively to find a lasting solution to the situation in that sister country. In that connection, the SADC Troika on Politics, Defence and Security, to which Namibia was a member at that time, proposed to an Extraordinary SADC Summit in Dar-Es-Salaam to appoint His Excellency Thabo Mbeki, President of the Republic of South Africa as mediator to Zimbabwe.

During President Mbeki’s mediation process, the Government of Zimbabwe and the two factions of MDC were able to hold talks on several constitutional and

26 June 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON LUCAS**

electoral issues of their country and ultimately agreed to harmonise the elections in Zimbabwe. This is a fact, which is deliberately ignored by the critics of the SADC Mediation in Zimbabwe. The fact that the political opponents in Zimbabwe agreed and produced jointly an Electoral Law and other legal mechanisms...

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question, please? With due respect to what the Honourable Deputy Minister has been saying now, it is an old story that we have already read in the newspapers. Can the Honourable Deputy Minister, before she concludes, inform this august House and the public out there of the Namibian foreign policy and the position of the Namibian Government, not the things that she is talking about that we have already read in the newspapers.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Comrade Speaker, the purpose of me taking the Floor is to correct the misconceptions which you read in the media. Just listen very carefully.

This is fact which is deliberately ignored by the critics of the SADC Mediation in Zimbabwe. The fact that the political opponents in Zimbabwe agreed and produced jointly an electoral law and other legal mechanisms for harmonised elections is an achievement by the mediator.

Comrade Speaker, what is so difficult to see this obvious and important contribution by President Mbeki and our own regional leaders? It should be clear, Comrade Speaker, that Namibia shares the SADC common position on Zimbabwe and cannot disassociate herself from that. Ours is a duty aimed at assisting in finding a solution to the overall situation in Zimbabwe. We do so without any influence from all interested parties. Yes, we do so despite pressure from those who have deliberately imposed sanctions on the Zimbabwean people for one reason only, which is laying claim to what is theirs – their land.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, may I conclude my intervention by calling on all to wait for the outcome of the presidential run-off elections and express the wish that a winner will emerge to lead Zimbabwe.

26 June 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON LUCAS**

HON MOONGO: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? Will Namibia still support such an election after 90 people have died?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Comrade Speaker, as a Government representative I do not believe in rumours. As I indicated earlier on, Namibia is part and parcel of the common position of SADC.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? Honourable Deputy Minister, through the Speaker, you are talking about our Government abiding by the SADC decisions. The SADC Troika has recently asked for the delay of the elections.

Yesterday Mugabe asked for the delay of the elections because of the credibility and the violence and now you are saying the Government of Namibia is waiting for the presidential run-off to take place tomorrow. Which SADC decision are you abiding to?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Comrade Speaker, I do not know what the Honourable Member is talking about, but I just want to reiterate that Namibia is part of the common SADC position. (Interjections).

Comrade Speaker, I just want to educate the Honourable Members who do not know the common position of SADC that was taken in Tanzania. The SADC position, which I am reiterating is the one which mandated President Mbeki to continue his efforts on the Zimbabwean issue until a lasting solution has been found.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? Honourable Deputy Minister, what you are now saying is that the Government of the Republic of Namibia sticks to the decision that mandated His Excellency President Thabo Mbeki to take the lead in negotiating a settlement in Zimbabwe, but you do not recognise the one of yesterday. Is that what the Government of Namibia's position is? It has come out clear on that

26 June 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON LUCAS**

yesterday. We are not talking about two or three months ago, we are talking about yesterday. Come out clear and give the Government's position on that one.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Comrade Speaker, I do not want Members of the Opposition to put words in my mouth. The Report of the Troika they are talking about, which met in Mbabane yesterday, has not yet reached my office. Therefore, I am talking about the common position, the one which mandated President Mbeki.

HON VENAANI: On a Point of Information. The Honourable Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, is making a very serious statement, saying that a country such as Namibia, with an accredited High Commissioner to South Africa, accredited to Swaziland, that a decision that has been taken a day or two ago has not reached her office shows a lack of communication. (Interjections).

You are not Foreign Affairs Ministers. We are not trying to be clever. The Minister is saying her office has not received communication from Mbabane.

Honourable Speaker, with all due respect, the Minister is demonstrating the problem that Venaani has already raised four years ago about the Foreign Affairs Office.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Comrade Speaker, I said I do not...(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT , HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a Point of Order. What Honourable Venaani is trying to demonstrate here and what he wants the public outside there to believe is not true. You cannot base a Government's position on newspaper reports because some of the decisions are communicated procedurally, but before they are announced publicly, some

26 June 2008

MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON LUCAS

newspapers may publish them. I am not talking of this specific one but generally. It seems there is confusion on that.

HON VENAANI: The decision of Mbabane has been reached by SADC.

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question before she concludes? I do not want to create an impression, that is why I am asking the question to you so that you can answer it. The newspapers which were not in the meeting 3 days ago have the information.

Are you really trying to tell this House and the Nation out there that the Foreign Ministry has not been informed in one way or another as to what has taken place at that meeting?

The second question: How long does it take the Foreign Ministry to be informed on an important crisis issue such as this one? 10 days, 25 days, how many days do you wait to be informed officially?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Comrade Speaker, as I indicated earlier on, I do not want to comment on issues, which have not been communicated to my office. Until such time that the outcome of the Troika... (Interjections). Honourable Speaker, I know that some Honourable Members on that side of the House are looking for positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which will not be possible.

Let me conclude by saying that we should encourage the Zimbabwean people...(Intervention)

HON T GURIRAB: On a Point of Information. I did not want to participate in this Debate because I will still dwell outside this Chamber on this matter. I was reading the *Republikein* today where the Right Honourable Prime Minister is quoted on this very issue as saying that the Namibian position is the same as that of the Troika, but the Deputy Minister is now telling us something different. I do not know which one we as citizens should now believe. I would hope that before the end of the year the decision will be communicated to the Minister's office. My point is that the Prime Minister is quoted in the paper as saying that that is

26 June 2008

MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON LUCAS

Namibia's position, that we support a position that the elections be postponed and the Deputy Minister is telling us something else.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Comrade Speaker, I cannot speak on behalf of the Prime Minister, he is here to speak for himself. Members are at liberty to confirm what the Prime Minister said.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question, please? Honourable Deputy Minister, are you now trying to say that what you are now saying, which we thought you are putting the Government's position, including the Right Honourable Prime Minister, is your own story and the position of the Prime Minister could probably be the Government's position? Is that what you are saying?

HON SPEAKER: She did not say that.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Comrade Speaker, as I said earlier on, the Prime Minister is here to speak for himself.

In conclusion, Comrade Speaker, let us encourage the Zimbabwean people and all parties involved...(Intervention)

HON MOONGO: May I put a question? Do I understand the Deputy Minister as saying that the Namibian Government wants to encourage the people of Zimbabwe to be tolerant while being killed this way? Is that the stand of the Government of Namibia?

HON SPEAKER: The Deputy Minister did not say that.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Comrade Speaker, let us encourage the Zimbabwean people and all parties involved to be peaceful,

26 June 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

avoid all acts of violence and finally accept the results as they did in the first round of elections. I rest my case.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Deputy Minister. Honourable !Nawases.

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to contribute to the Motion on Zimbabwe, introduced in this House by Honourable Ben Ulenga.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, let me from the outset say that this Motion on Zimbabwe is biased. This Motion on Zimbabwe is highlighting that there is an economic crisis in Zimbabwe.

In addition, Honourable Ulenga's Motion is focusing on what he perceives as a political crisis, led with violence and intimidation prior to the 27th of June. (Interjection).

Honourable Speaker, I was saying this Motion is focusing on what he perceives as a political crisis, led with violence and intimidation prior to tomorrow's presidential run-off.

By excluding the economical plans, Honourable Ulenga is tactfully trying to avoid exposure of Zimbabwe's fundamental problem which has born the negatives, exhibited as political crisis.

Honourable Speaker, can I be given a chance because I will not entertain Points of Order.

HON SPEAKER: It is your prerogative, Honourable Member, you can decline questions if you want to. However, if in the democratic spirit you allow the other Members to put questions, that they can do.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question, please?

26 June 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: No. Comrade Speaker, in a larger sense in my contribution I also wish to direct this Motion as proposed by Honourable Ben Ulenga to a greater front talk on the economic and financial freedom of the people of Zimbabwe.

HON TJIHUIKO: On a Point of Information. Honourable Speaker, I just wanted to inform the House that if a youth organisation of a Political Party could bring in a Motion that they do not trust certain leaders and certain Ministers, can somebody really be allowed, before they explain which people they do not want to see leading the public, to stand up and speak on a moral issue like this one of Zimbabwe?

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: Honourable Speaker, I was saying that in a larger sense in my contribution I also wish to direct the Motion as proposed by Honourable Ulenga to a greater front talk on the economic and financial freedom of the people of Zimbabwe and Africans in particular.

As is well known, the principle endangerments towards the development are the interference in its economic planning by Western leaders and their Bretton Woods institutions. It is my considered view that the Zimbabwe cause is an African cause in the sense that His Excellency, the President Robert Mugabe is being harassed and intimidated by the Western agents and their primary representatives in Zimbabwe and elsewhere, including here in our country, because he stood firm where others wavered in distributing the land back to its rightful owners in the name of Zimbabweans. Indeed, it is a calculated racist attack against an African patriot who is resilient to empower the Zimbabwean people through agrarian efforts.

My wish is that Namibian Parliamentarians, including Honourable Ben Ulenga, will understand that the revolution that we are witnessing today in Zimbabwe is of the poor people wanting to return access to the wealth of their ancestral land.

HON MOONGO: I would like to know whether the Honourable Member is aware that the policy of this Government is to solve problems by peaceful means.

26 June 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

That is the foreign policy, but since she is new in Parliament she probably does not know that. The Namibian Government could never return the land illegally, you should obey the law.

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: Take the Floor, do not take my time, I am already running out of time. How long shall we stand aside and look whereas our wealth is being plundered by the Western world? In addition, why should Parliamentarians like Honourable Uenga sing choruses and criticism of Zimbabwe in the same tone as those sung in the far-off places – Australia, Britain and United States of America?

I vividly recall the words of frustration, yet careful advice, to the African people by the Speaker of the Ivorian National Assembly in the name of Mamadou Koulibaly during an interview with Ruth Tete of the *New African Magazine* in July 2006 on the economic war that was orchestrated by France in the same year when he uttered and I quote: “*Paris is using this war as a pressure device to commit us into agreeing not to challenge the 1960s cooperation agreement signed between our countries and France. Paris is also insisting that the Ivorian Government must guarantee that it will respect these agreements and only then will it leave us in peace.*” That is *New Africa*, July 2006, No. 453, page 40.

Therefore, before tackling the political crisis referred to in this Motion, I would want to briefly remind this august House that Zimbabwe is a hot spot today because that country has progressed with its national revolution to empower the previously disadvantaged majority. The land redistribution programme was started by His Excellency President Mugabe in 2000, following Britain renegeing on its 1979 Lancaster House commitment to pay compensation on white-owned land designated for resettlement. Government unilaterally resettled 300,000 families of Zimbabwe’s 75% land occupied by 1% of the population.

The British and their kith and keen have employed all the detailed programmes to replace ZANU-PF with another Government. Thus reports of political crisis being tabled by the Honourable Member are no other than propaganda.

It is absolutely necessary that this august House gets to hear the other side of the story and in fact, I will start with the electoral process itself.

26 June 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

As is well known, Zimbabwe held harmonised Presidential-Senatorial-Parliamentary and Council elections on 29th March 2008.

Contrary to Honourable Ulenga's assertion that MDC won the majority votes, it was announced by the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission that no Political Party won a majority in the 210 seat Parliament – ZANU-PF – 97, MDC Tsvangirai – 99, MDC Mutambara – 10 and a single seat for Jonathan Moyo, an independent candidate. Three parliamentary seats were not contested because of the death of some of the candidates. The popular vote went to ZANU-PF which won 45,94% of the votes and MDC Tsvangirai got 42.8%, while MDC Mutambara got 8.3% and the independent candidate managed to secure 2.7% of the vote.

The Zimbabwe electoral law provides for a run-off in the event that no candidate sets the 50% plus one vote majority. The Minister of Justice extended the 21 days run-off period to 90 days as per constitutional provision. The Zimbabwean Electoral Commission announced that the run-off would be tomorrow.

The pre run-off period is the main focus of Honourable Ulenga's Motion, which alleges an environment not free and fair to hold elections. This has already been the British Prime Minister Gordon Brown's strategy to discredit the presidential run-off. It is clear that CoD is only echoing what the United States and British envoys in Harare have reportedly been saying and it is not without reason.

HON T GURIRAB: On a Point of Information, Honourable Speaker. I am just rising to share information with the Honourable Colleague, that indeed it is not only CoD, but it is the United Nations Security Council, the Secretary General, the SADC Troika, the ANC who are all saying that there is political violence. Therefore, CoD is happy to be in good company.

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: The allies of MDC fear Comrade Tsvangirai will not win the run-off, an unfortunate situation which will enable them to perpetuate sanctions on the Zimbabwean Government if ZANU-PF wins the election.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, the issue of violence and intimidation started on 2nd of April 2008 when MDC-Tsvangirai declared; themselves winners

26 June 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

of presidential and parliamentary polls. They mobilised and activated the Democratic Resistance Committee to encourage riots in the cities.

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Member a question, please? Honourable Member, I am very impressed by your contribution, but may I ask you a question? Can we assume that what you are saying is the position of the Party that you are representing?

Secondly, should we also take it for granted that since this is the position of the Party that you are representing, we should also expect to see the things taking place in Zimbabwe taking place in this country... (Interjections)

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: I declined the question, there is a Point of Order.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Honourable Member of the youth, in about 1966, Honourable Kaura, the Honourable Speaker and I were youth and we wanted to demonstrate at the UN when the General Assembly opens. We were told to be careful, orderly and not go and cause trouble there. Honourable Kaura said, "*I am a youth, I am a revolutionary, I want to stage a peaceful demonstration*" and he went there and made noise and was arrested. You are talking like a youth, keep on.

HON SPEAKER: You will have an opportunity to continue on Tuesday and by then the air would have been thoroughly cleared. On that note, the House stands adjourned under Rule 90, automatic adjournment.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:48 UNTIL 2008.07.01

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
01 JULY 2008
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

TABLING: REPORTS OF AUDITOR- GENERAL

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

- Town Council of Okahao for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2007; and
 - Municipality of Grootfontein for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2007.
-

HON SPEAKER: Will the Deputy Minister table the Reports? Any further Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? Minister of Health and Social Services, Honourable Kamwi.

01 July 2008

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: CARDIAC UNIT
HON DR KAMWI**

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. It gives me great pleasure to rise and to report to this august House on the most recent progress made with the establishment of cardio-thoracic services at the Windhoek Central Hospital.

In February this year, I made a statement to inform the Nation that all things being equal, in June 2008 we will have our first open heart operation performed in Windhoek Central Hospital Cardiac Unit.

Honourable Members will recall that on numerous occasions some Members raised concerns regarding the long overdue operationalisation of the Cardiac Unit. Similarly, concerns were expressed with the fact that Namibians have to travel outside the country at great expense for life-saving operations. The same issue was raised during the Debate on Vote 13 of my Ministry.

I am sure that Honourable Members followed the reporting on this very historic event for the Health Services of Namibia in the various media. Indeed, on the 23rd of June the first operation was successfully performed. I am pleased to confirm that during the week of the 23rd to the 29th of June 2008, nine patients received open-heart surgery in Windhoek Central Hospital. As I speak, all of them are making very good progress and are cared for in the new Cardiac Intensive Care Unit in the Windhoek Central Hospital. All the patients received cardiac valve replacements. Because of this life-saving operation, they will now have a normal life expectancy. Like any other serious operation, successful recovery largely will depend on the individual capacity to respond to treatment. It must be noted that most of these patients could hardly walk or lead a normal life due to their heart conditions despite their young age. All of them had heart valve disease mostly due to rheumatic fever, which they contracted during childhood or early adulthood.

01 July 2008

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: CARDIAC UNIT
HON DR KAMWI**

I would like to confirm that a team of cardiac-thoracic surgeons, nurses and technicians from Groote Schuur Hospital, Cape Town, South Africa, conducted all the operations. They worked in close collaboration with our staff in the relevant units in Windhoek Central Hospital. Indeed, I wish to inform here that within the team we have a Namibian who is a thoracic-surgeon specialist.

Honourable Members may recall that the world's first heart transplant was performed at the Groote Schuur Hospital in 1967.

We are, therefore, honoured and privileged that through collaboration with our counterpart, the Ministry of Health of South Africa, we were able to mobilise such leading experts from the Groote Schuur Hospital on this historic undertaking.

I am equally pleased to report that during last week my Ministry was blessed by the visit of my South African counterpart, Dr Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, who expressed her fullest support for this undertaking. She was accompanied by senior officials and experts from her Ministry. We held a number of consultations, charting the way forward. At the end of her visit, we signed a protocol that sets out the main points of our mutual agreement and clarifies the next steps in our joint undertaking.

We also had the privilege to brief His Excellency the President of the Republic on a number of issues related to our mutual agreements. Because of this agreement and as an immediate follow-up to that visit, a technical team comprised of doctors and administrative support staff from my Ministry will visit Cape Town to finalise the detailed implementation plan and a twinning agreement between Windhoek Central Hospital and Groote Schuur Hospital later this week. To be precise, there will be a one-day working day for the two technical teams this coming Friday. As part of this agreement, a team from Groote Schuur Hospital will be visiting Windhoek every four to six weeks to perform further open-heart surgery.

As part of our ongoing capacity building, my Ministry will identify young Namibian professionals in medicine, nursing and relevant technical fields for training in the various fields at Groote Schuur Hospital. Our stated objective and commitment will increasingly take over from the Groote Schuur Hospital team. I intend to keep this august House abreast of further developments from time to time.

01 July 2008

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: CARDIAC UNIT
HON DR KAMWI**

Honourable Speaker, Sir, I wish to use this opportunity to thank His Excellency, President Hifikepunye Pohamba for his continued interest and support, my Cabinet Colleagues and Honourable Members of this august House for supporting Vote 13 which enabled my Ministry to undertake this life-saving project, the Cardiac Unit. This project would not have materialised without the invaluable support of the South African Government through their Ministry of Health.

When I approached my counterpart, Honourable Dr Manto Tshabalala-Msimang with the request to identify an institution with which we can collaborate in the field of cardio-thoracic services, she did not hesitate to suggest the Groote Schuur Hospital as the best starting point. In no time she invited me together with my team to visit that hospital with a view to initiate formal discussions.

I would, therefore like to make use of this opportunity, on behalf of the Government and the people of Namibia, to extend our heartfelt appreciation to her and her experts, namely Professor Peter Zilla, Professor Johan Brink and Dr Rossouw, assisted by a team of relevant specialists who performed the first open-heart operation in Namibia.

In the same breath, I also wish to pay special tribute to the following people: My predecessor, Dr Libertine Amathila and Dr Shangula, Dr Johan Rossouw and several others who identified the need for a cardiac unit and were, therefore, instrumental in planting the seed for the realisation of this dream.

I would be failing in my duty if I do not wholeheartedly commend the staff of my Ministry, in particular those of the Windhoek Central Hospital for having made this dream come true. I am particularly indebted to Dr Ismael Katjita, Head of Internal Medicine, and Dr Manojkumar Kampell, Head of Department of Surgery, who tirelessly worked around the clock and many long hours, capturing the thinking and ideas and relaying them to their South African counterparts at Groote Schuur Hospital about what needed to be done. I also wish to thank Mr Ernest Breith, our only Medical Technologist, with assistance from other local and international experts for putting together the conceptual design and layouts for the project.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Cardiac Unit at the Windhoek Central Hospital is indeed a national project. No doubt, its success and long-term sustainability will very much depend on the cooperation and support from all

01 July 2008

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: CARDIAC UNIT
HON DR KAURA**

stakeholders. Our nurses, doctors and visiting experts will need the support and cooperation of the patients, family members and all key role-players in the health sector.

I am pleased to say that so far we have received immense support and cooperation from all. I wish to thank them all most sincerely.

I also wish to thank the private sector, in particular the ISOS, E-Med Rescue, Roman Catholic, Rhino Park and Medi-Clinic Hospitals for their continued support. Such spirit will indeed make Namibia a winning Nation. I commend them and encourage them to keep it up. I thank you for your kind attention.

HON SPEAKER: In your physical presence, Honourable Minister, we once again thank you for the major breakthrough. We did recognise your achievements – by you, we mean yourself, your predecessors, your collaborators and all those instances that you have now enumerated. We thank you. You have made us proud that we have joined two other African countries to be able to save lives. Once again, congratulations.

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, I just want to congratulate the Minister for having been the midwife to implement this programme, which we have advocated through the years and the twinning with South Africa. Because when we were advocating this, Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, you were looking at that point in time at South Africa through a different prism, you were looking at South Africa as if it was a pariah and we advocated this... (Interjections)

HON SPEAKER: This is such a wonderful opportunity for us to say all the good things necessary to the Minister and his team, to his colleagues who have collaborated with him and to all those instances that have provided assistance in one form or another, hospitals, the private sector and operators. This is not an opportunity for us to politicise such a wonderful thing.

01 July 2008

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: CARDIAC UNIT
HON KAURA**

HON KAURA: I am congratulating the Honourable Minister and we are on record in this Parliament that we have advocated that through the years, but you do not want to give credit to the fact that we have advocated that.

Therefore, we are giving credit to the Minister ultimately for having been the midwife to implement this programme, which was started by Honourable Dr Libertine Amathila. We congratulate the Minister, and South Africa now is no longer a pariah, we are looking at her through a different prism. Thank you very much.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Honourable Speaker, I am sorry to seem as if I am insisting, but I just want to invoke Rule 89(b) which says: “No Debate may arise on such statement by the Speaker, but the Speaker may in his or her discretion allow short questions to be put to the Minister making the statement for the purpose of elucidating it.” Only questions, but no Debate, no remarks. This is what the Rule says. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Minister, that was not necessary, but what is in the Bible is always necessary. Thank you for reminding us. The First Notice of Motion is one of the Honourable Prime Minister. Does the Honourable Prime Minister Move that the Bill be now introduced?

**STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES GOVERNANCE
AMENDMENT BILL: INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING**

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

01 July 2008

**STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES BILL
RT HON N ANGULA**

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds? Any objection? Agreed to. Will the Right Honourable Prime Minister please table the Bill? The Secretary will now read the Bill a First Time.

SECRETARY: *State-owned Enterprises Governance Amendment Bill.*

**STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES GOVERNANCE
BILL: SECOND READING**

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

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. The Honourable Prime Minister has the Floor.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members of this august House will recall that in 2006 this House enacted the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Act. This Act came into force in December 2006. However, when the Act came into force, the necessary regulations defining the procedures and processes for the appointment of the

01 July 2008

**STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES BILL
RT HON N ANGULA**

Boards of the State-Owned Enterprises were not in place. The Act, however, required that the Council of the State-Owned Enterprises approve the appointment to the Boards of the State-Owned Enterprises. In the absence of gazetted regulations, the Council found itself in a predicament. This Amendment, therefore, aims at regularising the situation until such a time that the required procedures are in place.

The Amendment further seeks to legalise the Board appointments, which were done on an *ad hoc* basis.

Thirdly, the Amendment seeks to simplify the investment procedures of the State-Owned Enterprises. In this regard, the Boards of the State-Owned Enterprises should take full responsibility for the investment decisions and the Minister of Finance will oversee such decisions.

Honourable Members, I beg your indulgence to support the proposed Amendments. I thank you for your attention.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister for his motivation. Any further discussion? Honourable Gurirab.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Speaker, I Move that the Debate be adjourned until tomorrow afternoon.

HON SPEAKER: The consideration of this Motion stands adjourned until tomorrow afternoon. The second Notice of the Motion is by Honourable Venaani. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion? Seconded? Objections? Agreed to. Honourable Venaani has the Floor.

01 July 2008

**MOTION ON WINDHOEK BUS SERVICES
HON VENAANI**

MOTION ON WINDHOEK SCHOOL BUS SERVICES

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. Let me from the onset extend my welcome back to the Secretary-General of the Ruling Party. We wish her all the strength. Welcome back to the House.

Honourable Speaker, this is a very brief Motion and it is pertaining to the question of trying to mitigate the current problems that we are experiencing due to high food prices and oil prices that are escalating.

Recently the international media informed us that oil has reached a peak of U\$143 per barrel and as a society we must look for measures and ways how we could mitigate some of these problems, which are experienced by our citizenry.

Honourable Speaker, school-going children of Windhoek and, I believe, elsewhere in the country are experiencing serious problems of distances. Where the family might live is not where the best schools might be, most parents living in Windhoek are experiencing problems – and this Motion is talking about Windhoek because it is proposing a Windhoek bus service.

Our greatest problem is that all parents who have vehicles might live in one particular street, every parent having his own house and a car. For example, there are thirty children living in that street, thirty parents with thirty cars and all of them are doing the very same thing – taking the children to the same school in the morning, come back lunchtime and take those children back to school again. Of course, we cannot continue as if these fuel prices are not affecting our homes, our families, our relatives and the citizens of this country.

The Windhoek Municipality is running a bus service fleet taking the citizens back and forth and as far as I am aware, they have about 56 buses and only 52 are currently operational. However, this bus service is not profitable as many people are not using it. Why do we not consider using five, six or seven buses in Windhoek to help families ferry children from their homes to school? All what the parents would want is the assurance that the children are safe on those buses, which their children are not going to be bullied by older children on these buses.

01 July 2008

**MOTION ON WINDHOEK BUS SERVICES
HON NAMBAHU**

However, there is a need for us as a country and as a people to try to live according to the means of the economy.

What is worrisome, coupled to the problem of ferrying schoolchildren back and forth to school, is the way we come to work. Your neighbour drives a kombi, you are all coming to the centre of town, but yet his wife and husband are each driving their own cars and no person is willing to share while the fuel prices are escalating.

People in India ride bicycles, but in Namibia very few of us are willing to ride bicycles. I have already bought one, Abraham Iyambo has also purchased one, and from now on, we are going to ride on bicycles. These are some of the measures we can use to try to ease the burdens that are put on us by high fuel prices.

I further urge that this Motion be tested with the general citizenry of Windhoek, whether they feel that this proposal is feasible, so that this Motion be referred to the Committee on Human Resources to further consult with the Municipality and the citizenry of the city on this Motion.

Honourable Speaker, with these few remarks, I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for motivating his Motion. Honourable Nambahu.

HON NAMBAHU: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. Let me join my Colleague in welcoming Comrade Pendukeni and echo the words by the previous speaker.

In the first instance, allow me to support the Motion for one specific reason. The first part of the Motion is actually calling for a bid to resuscitate the ailing bus services to introduce a Windhoek school bus service. The Mover of the Motion is actually calling us to do that with the purpose of alleviating the fuel problem that Windhoek residents are facing. I would wish him to add another dimension and

01 July 2008

MOTION ON WINDHOEK BUS SERVICES
HON NAMBAHU

that is that in my view such service could ease the crime, taking place in Windhoek.

I do not know how many of you are aware of the crime being committed against commuting students between UNAM and the city centre of Windhoek. How many people have lost their properties and even their lives around that area? I think it is really time for us to see to it that something is done, that some protective measures be put in place to protect the students commuting between that area and the City of Windhoek. The same goes for the informal settlements.

In recent months people on their way home from work have been ambushed by criminals and I believe that if the bus service of the Municipality of Windhoek could be overhauled and improved to cater for the needs of the residents of Windhoek, that would go a long way to remedy the situation.

I do not need to elaborate much because one hears people complaining on the call-in programmes about the absence of buses to the informal settlements and young kids going around in gangs to pickpocket and beat people. I was told in areas such as Havana and others people do not even use cell phones at night. I am not trying to dramatise this, but I would only wish us to look at it from that perspective and definitely call upon all the stakeholders in this process to look at bus services as one area that could alleviate the problems of crime.

Maybe we could even organise ourselves into a brigade of some kind to clear the bush surrounding UNAM. If the Boers during those days were able to clear the bush from the Kavango border to Kunene just to protect their army from ambushes, why is it that we cannot do something to protect our students against those criminals who overnigh there?

With these words, I really support the investigation and the hearings into the possibility of a bus service in Windhoek. Thank you very much.

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

01 July 2008

MOTION ON WINDHOEK BUS SERVICES
HON ULENGA

HON ULENGA: I thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would also like to welcome the Minister of Justice back to the House and stand up in support of the Motion by Honourable Venaani.

Honourable Speaker, one thing is certain and that is the fact that the public transport situation in Namibia in general and specifically in Windhoek as a city is really appalling indeed. Many other cities of the same size as ours in other parts of the world have better and cheaper, more efficient public transport systems. The Municipality of Windhoek has not in this regard been acting in the interest of especially the poorer public. Ever since they have come into existence, they have acted in such a way as to leave the task of transport of the public to private citizens. That is why even today there is no rail station in a place like Katutura where most of the work force of the city is situated and where most of them, because of the absence of public transport, have to get into private vehicles.

There is some measure of assisting each other with transport, but it just is not sufficient, it just does not meet everybody's needs.

I feel Honourable Venaani is to be commended for raising this matter because through it we can call to order the City of Windhoek and ask them to look more towards the poor, especially when it comes to establishing the facilities for public transport.

I see that the emphasis of the Honourable Member is more on the transportation of schoolchildren, but I would say we should actually expand the spectrum a little more. Windhoek is in need of a properly established public transport system. There is a need for the bus stations to extend beyond the present stations and there is a need to increase these buses because most of the workers in this city actually have to walk. Many of them have to make use of very unreliable taxi services, where many are attacked, get robbed and are treated very badly and this is all because there is no attention from the elected representatives of the city to the creation of public transport.

Honourable Speaker, I do not have to go on and on, it would be a very good thing if school-going children have special buses that take them to school. Especially this time of winter, the children from as far afield as Okahandja Park have to get to schools in Academia at the other end of town. Either mothers have to pay more than N\$300 to N\$400 per month for a special taxi or some of the kids just have to walk. There are kids who walk about ten kilometres to get to school and

01 July 2008

**MOTION ON WINDHOEK BUS SERVICES
HON T GURIRAB**

it is high time that this situation is addressed and the best way of addressing it is for the Municipality to create a proper public transport system.

With these few words, Honourable Speaker, I support the Motion.

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

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Speaker, I shall be brief. I rise in support of the Motion. I believe that the assistance, which could be rendered to the poor children to get to school, is something which we must support. After all, we are a pro-poor Government.

Honourable Speaker, I am saying this because there are many impediments for the poor to get to school and to get the necessary education. One of these, because we are talking about children and school, remains the school development fund. In spite of the Minister's reassurance to us here, many children going to school are still being asked to make a contribution to the school development funds and their inability to contribute, prevents them from getting an education. I say this because transport is another one, the means to come to the school, it also prevents you from getting access to school which is supposed to be free, at least until the age of sixteen.

Honourable Speaker, the Motion specifically talks about problems in Windhoek, but I believe this problem is countrywide. It is not only pupils in Windhoek who are facing this problem, particularly those from the poor families and poor households, but this problem is a countrywide problem and I think we should look at this in that context.

There are schools which have enough facilities where some students go, but there are those who cannot afford and I am not quite sure whether the responsibility is that of the City of Windhoek alone or whether there is indeed a role for the Ministry of Education to help and assist to ensure that students from these households acquire an education.

01 July 2008

MOTION ON WINDHOEK BUS SERVICES
HON NUJOMA

Only two or three weeks ago this Honourable House was debating – I read in the papers – a VAT Amendment Bill which was meant to have some of these categories of citizens, which you are talking about help make a living; and the fuel prices, which have gone up does not look like they are about to come down soon or come down at all. The fuel price rise is not a passing phenomenon, it is something which will be here for a long time and forever. We need to look at a comprehensive manner of helping the poor. I was unfortunately not here during the VAT Debate, I am not sure to what extent VAT will help the poor. But where we can identify poor households, we have identified the categories, which can be helped and help them directly. If I were here during the VAT Debate, I was going to say that I do not need my bread to be subsidised because I can pay for my bread. However, in a category like this one, you can identify the poor, those who are unable to come to school because this group is clearly identifiable and help this group, because after all, we are pro-poor and I do not need my bread to be subsidised by removing the VAT from my bread. I can pay VAT on my dry beans when I need to eat them.

While I am saying this, I think that the Ministry of Education, working with other Ministries and Agencies, should be looking into this problem if we want these children from the poor households to get to school and get an education.

Honourable Speaker, I support this important Motion.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker, I also rise to support the Motion and before I make my contribution, I would also like to join the other Colleagues in welcoming my boss, the Secretary-General of the mighty SWAPO Party and Minister of Justice and Attorney-General back to the Chamber.

I fully support the Motion of Honourable Venaani and I agree with him, but I think we should broaden the whole concept of these services to the whole country because when I was listening to Venaani it seemed that almost everybody thinks

01 July 2008

MOTION ON WINDHOEK BUS SERVICES
HON NUJOMA

in terms of Windhoek only or the big cities. However, when you look at our young school-going children in the rural areas that is where the serious problem is. Children have to walk long distances of up to 40 kilometres to attend school in unfavourable weather conditions sometimes.

When I looked at this Motion, I remembered that as a person who has grown up in Windhoek that we used to walk from Ou Lokasie to town because it was just one kilometre, but when the people were moved to Katutura, there used to be scheduled bus services. You could board a bus at a certain time to go to Katutura and back to the city, but these bus services died down gradually. I do not know whether it was because of competition by the taxis. (Interjection) No, it is not the SWAPO Party Government, SWAPO brought many buses into this country, the yellow buses. Transport was not available during the time when Honourable Kaura was in office.

I was coming to the point, do not disturb me. If you disrupt me I will fire the missiles.

I was saying that the idea by Honourable Venaani is a sound one, it must be extended to all the Regions, districts, and towns in the country so that we can alleviate the problem of these young children who are suffering. I have seen them running and joking in the rural areas for almost 40 kilometres. I do not know how we are going to address this problem, maybe through the ETSIP programme, it is a good idea, but when you come back to the cities, you again have competition with the taxis.

I do not know whether the City of Windhoek was forced to reduce their services because of competition by the taxis. The taxis became so numerous, everybody who wanted a licence could get a licence, and maybe the City of Windhoek was not making enough money to be competitive, and that could be reason why they have reduced the services.

It is a good idea, let us look at it. I was going to suggest something that is closer to my heart and which I would like everybody to look at, namely cycling. In the olden days, people in the North and Windhoek were cycling to work and to school, but all these have died down because we have not made provision for safer and better roads. We should look into the future and really ensure that we provide some pathways for bicycles from Windhoek to Katutura. These pathways will enable the people to cycle.

01 July 2008

MOTION ON WINDHOEK BUS SERVICES
HON NUJOMA

As Honourable Venaani said, people and even Ministers in India, in China and in Holland cycle to work. Why can we not do the same? The problem here is safety. The taxi will be the first one to hit you and that is the problem. That is why I am saying that in future planning we must make sure that we provide for the safety of cyclists, so that everybody who wants to cycle would have an opportunity to do so. It is not because people do not want to cycle to work or to Katutura to visit their relatives, it is because of the lack of safety.

HON T GURIRAB: May I ask a question? Honourable Speaker, this question of cycling is very important and would like to know whether the Deputy Minister thinks that cycling to work would be good for the health of Ministers and Deputy Ministers?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Tsudao, I agree with you, people like us need those opportunities and that is why I am saying it is close to my heart, I want to do it, but I know that I will become a victim. Especially given my background, I would probably be the first target of Tsudao Gurirab.

The other point I wanted to raise is that we must think beyond providing bus services, but the City should also plan. Windhoek is such a small, nice city, one railroad, one rail for a tram service. I am talking about a commuter trams around the city, which is just going around. You get on in Katutura, go to Windhoek West, Windhoek North, going to the University, the city centre and it goes back to Katutura. It will be the cheapest means of transport and I agree with those who said the cost of fuel is going up, it will never come down again. Therefore, we

need to plan ahead so that we can take our children from Katutura to the University of Namibia, to the city centre.

That is my small contribution and I support the Motion. I thank you.

01 July 2008

**MOTION ON WINDHOEK BUS SERVICES
HON DR TJIRIANGE**

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Deputy Minister. The House shall rise for refreshments.

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:12 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I was pleasantly surprised that many Members were contributing the same things that I was noting down here, particularly Honourable Ulenga.

First, let me also support the Motion as tabled by Honourable Venaani, but I would have liked to have this Motion dealing with public transport in general for the following reasons:

I think it is just not good enough, it is part of it but it is not good enough to confine it to the buses that will be used by schoolchildren, the whole system needs to be attended to.

The whole system needs attention, we have been talking about these things for the last eighteen years, I am sure, because I remember we discussed it in this House at one point.

Just look at how efficient public transport in some small cities in Europe is. People sometimes just deliberately leave their cars at home, because it is more convenient and easier to go by public transport and you reach every part of the town within this system that has been created at an affordable price and fee.

For example, take a small town like Geneva, which can be compared to Windhoek, there is no part in the town of Geneva where you will not find transport to go downtown or elsewhere. The buses are there, at the bus stop they indicate the hours that the bus will come. Come that time, the bus is there. Even if there is nobody boarding this bus, the next one will come.

01 July 2008

**MOTION ON WINDHOEK BUS SERVICES
HON DR TJIRIANGE**

I do not know whether our system here is profit oriented or service oriented. There are certain things you can do, not necessarily because you are driven by profit, but solely because of the well-being of the people. Nevertheless, if it is necessary for the people you have to do it.

This thing of the bus standing there for an hour because it must first be full also discourages people. There is no system for a bus to be there at this time. You know exactly that if you are there five minutes to five, there will be a bus that time and it will go. It is so predictable, so scientific. As I said, even if there is nobody at that bus stop, it will come and stop and it will move to the next bus stop. People are used to this and the more efficient the system is, the more the people will use it. It is not true that people do not want to board these buses; it is only that they are not predictable, the system is not functioning, but if you have a better system, you will see many people using it. Nobody runs away from good service.

I am trying to emphasise that we have to discuss this issue in a holistic manner, including as a part of it the buses for children. We could even include the taxis, for example. You are now in this country subjected to travel with people in the taxi whom you do not even know.

You look at the person next to you and say, "What, who is this", because they have to collect everybody before they move and someone is going in this direction and then the taxi cannot move because he must first fill the taxi and then you have to go around, dropping these people all over the place. Even if you were the first to enter, you will be the last to be dropped off.

Therefore, if you go into organised transport systems, you can sit in your taxi in peace and there is a meter, "take me to Okuryangava". You only read the meter and pay the money at the end of the journey and you are safe, you are alone, you go where you want. Now the taxi driver says, "No, I am not in the mood to go that side" and then you go to another one who says, "I will take you but I have to pass via Otjomuise first." The whole system is archaic, the whole system is not working well and we have to sit down and have a blueprint for the system to serve the people. I can tell you that if you have an efficient system, you will get more people making use of public transport and leave their cars at home because the public transport is delivering.

01 July 2008

MOTION ON WINDHOEK BUS SERVICES
HON H ANGULA

Therefore, it is in this spirit that I say we must talk about it in general terms as a problem. In addition to that, we can do what the others have said that we do not confine it to Windhoek alone but as a policy, so that whatever town council will know that this is the desire of the country and this is what we have to strive for so that we could have a uniform, well-prepared, well-serving system for public transport.

Therefore, while supporting, you may probably raise another one when we are going to discuss the issue in the context I have just said. Thank you.

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

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I also rise to support the Motion tabled by Honourable Venaani. I guess this skyrocketing petrol price, accompanied by the food price crises and other economic crises, come as a blessing in disguise. At least for now we see decision-making leaders thinking rationally and, therefore, probably will influence public opinion in starting to think rationally.

The setup of towns in Namibia is actually a consequence of colonial mentality and economic rationale. They were not made to address the well-being and interests of the vast majority of the people. Therefore, buses are not part of the towns and cities, it is just one of those things, because the privileged in those days did not need buses. There were very few that had the economic means to cater for themselves individually and the rest of the discriminated and dispossessed were considered to be normal to walk on foot and did not need to be attended to with transportation.

As you see, these cities were made in such a way that there were not residential areas and especially the black folks had no business in residing in towns.

Therefore, you could not get that planning that adjusts to living in towns and cities.

01 July 2008

**MOTION ON WINDHOEK BUS SERVICES
HON H ANGULA**

In those days of the colonial era in the early sixties, some of us were working to supplement our families. We could work in towns after classes and of course, you had to have two permits to work, one from your teacher to authorise you to work and one from the Native Commission to authorise you to be in town after 18:00.

My first work was at the so-called German Deutsch Club, SKW, and we used to start at 15:00 and knock off at 21:00. When you knock off at 21:00, you are not allowed to look to the side or backwards. You must just face the location and then one of the notorious gentlemen Snyman, the police of the time, whose cars we knew the sound of, even if it was three kilometres away we knew that was Snyman's car and sometimes we were ambushed at *Omuramba* there and if he caught you, no questions were asked, he just said, "*bend*", he always had a whip and you received good ones at the back. He would also say, "*I am beating you and I know your teacher will beat you tomorrow because I know you have not learnt anything, you were just washing glasses.*"

These towns were not made for folks like ourselves. The tragedy is that we continue to think the same way, so we do not make provision for parks for people to rest, there are no provisions for running courses for people to jog, there is no provision for bicycles because the bicycle belongs to the poor and the poor have no business to be in town. There is no provision for trams, commuter trains because there is no business for the poor one to be in the city, they are exiled.

That time Katutura was in fact very far, it is only because of development that the two towns are now adjacent. They were very far apart, but we were forced to walk there.

In fact, one of the reasons why some of us left the country is because we refused to go to Katutura, because it made no sense to go over every day to work in the so-called Kaiser Street. Yes, my family's house was bulldozed in 1967 when I was already abroad and they were told to go to Katutura.

The time has now come to change this ideological situation of our city planning, but unfortunately, it cannot be done without the assistance and active participation of the central Government and other political leaders of this country.

We cannot leave it to the Town Councillors alone. As you are aware, the influence of the town planners within any given old town is so strong that the

01 July 2008

MOTION ON WINDHOEK BUS SERVICES
HON H ANGULA

town Councillors themselves really have no ability to argue and motivate for structural change of our towns set-up. If, however, the leaders unite – as we seem to be uniting on this Motion – and come out strongly with directives how the towns in Namibia, and in this particular case, Windhoek, should be restructured, only then could we maybe have a departure point.

The question of introducing school buses for children is so cardinal at this point in time. Many Governments in the world are subsidising their citizens during this crisis, but we again have been indoctrinated seriously to believe that subsidising is not a good thing, that all things must be profitably run or else they should be left to go to tantrums. That is not realistic in any given situation, particularly in the situation where there is so much inequity in society.

Short of direct subsidy for fuel, we can do better and introduce this indirect subsidy to fuel. I have just returned from Luanda, Angola yesterday and I can tell you that they are still paying 54 American cents for a litre of fuel, but they are producing barely 54 percent in terms of refinery of their own. They have to import a lot of fuel. Therefore, Government still subsidises the supply of fuel to the public. (Interjection)

That is correct, we may not be able to afford it, but we have to introduce initiatives that are *in tandem* with our own economic capacity and capabilities. To do nothing is not a solution in itself.

Therefore, if we take the bull by the horns, and introduce the buses, we will not only save more money, because the importation itself is actually paid by the public anyway. So if we save by cutting the cost of petrol by cutting the volume used, we would be saving money, we would be cutting down on carbon and there should be no reason why that could not be done. Routes could easily be established through which these buses would run through the suburbs and stop where the schools are at those critical times and thereafter the public could use these buses. I am sure there would be a shift from individualistic transport method to public transport... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Honourable Minister of Works and Transport and also

01 July 2008

**MOTION ON WINDHOEK BUS SERVICES
HON H ANGULA**

Secretary of SWAPO Party Transport, will it really be feasible? I recall the last time Honourable Smit, the Deputy Minister of Works, Transport and Communication, mentioned in this House that during the colonial time when the situation was so tough, I do not know whether it was when there were economic sanctions against South Africa for refusing to implement Resolution 435 of the United Nations Security Council... (Interjection) or the oil embargo against South Africa, they introduced stringent measures in this country. Maybe this will be a very unpopular thing for people like Honourable Mbai who drives a BMW X5 and Honourable Ulenga who has an ML 500 Mercedes if Namibia introduced a compulsory speed limit of about 100 kilometres per hour.

HON ULENGA: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? (Interjections)

HON KAURA: He has the Floor on a Point of Order. How can a third person be on a Point of Order?

HON SPEAKER: I do not know, maybe it is some technical correction to the Deputy Minister. If it is a substantive intervention, Honourable Ulenga should wait until the Minister had an opportunity to respond to the Deputy Minister and then Honourable Ulenga will have an opportunity and he would indirectly refer to what the Deputy Minister is saying.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: The question is, will it be feasible to introduce those stringent measures given the situation in the world now with the oil crisis? Today it is 143 or 146 and it is likely to be 170 or 180 and how will we survive? The question is whether there is a possibility to introduce a

01 July 2008

**MOTION ON WINDHOEK BUS SERVICES
HON H ANGULA**

speed limit of 20 kilometres per hour in towns and 80 kilometres per hour on the highways.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you very much. By January, many of us were speculating that before December this price will reach 150 dollars per barrel. As we speak today, it is 143 and we are no longer speaking of September and maybe we will speak of 250 by December and that would be catastrophic.

Of course, we all know the reason for this. It is because the war against Iraq has disrupted the production of oil. Secondly, the threat against Iran is causing the traders to stockpile because of this uncertainty. The events surrounding supply from Nigeria is another factor, but even more so it is the feeling of the traders who cannot guarantee safety and security of supply in the short and medium term. Therefore, it is very difficult to control or to stabilise the price and the poor countries do not have much leverage... (Intervention)

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Minister a question, please? Honourable Minister, seeing that none of you sitting on that side pays for your own petrol or diesel, not only being subsidised, but being wholly paid for by this side of the House and the public at large... (Interjections) That is exactly the question, why is a minority not only subsidising but also paying?

In addition, given especially the very interesting suggestion from the former speaker on the other side of the House, is it possible that Government could consider also paying for the fuel of this side? Is it possible that you now start putting your money where your mouth is and pay for the petrol of everybody else?

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Comrade Speaker, from the beginning I said that I hope that through this Motion we can rally unity and come up with a national rational proposition. If people want to engage in politics

01 July 2008

**MOTION ON WINDHOEK BUS SERVICES
HON H ANGULA**

of the Third World, I do not want to be part of that, I want to raise this Debate to some higher level.

I was saying, the disruption of the supply from the Middle East, the unprecedented growth of the economies, almost two billion Chinese, one billion Indians - if you do not appreciate how this contributes to the demand, then it is a problem. Every year 56 million Chinese are getting cars, which they never had before, but these cars must be fuelled and they cannot be fuelled by petrol from China, they will be fuelled by petrol from all over the world, including America, Canada, Nigeria.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask a question? I know that the Chinese have become the punching bag of everybody, but are you suggesting that the Chinese are not entitled to have a better life, or what are you suggesting?

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Yes, I think my Prime Minister gets excited before I have explained, because it is not that I am punching the Chinese, it is that the demand in China will affect you price-wise. They will buy from the same source you are buying and if the same source has such a high demand, it will up the price. It is not because you must like the Chinese or hate them, you will have to... (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. Why do I not hear people in this House complaining about big American cars, but every time it is about the Chinese? Why do you not complain about the big American cars?

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Again, I am saying that there is a total misinterpretation. I am not complaining about the Chinese, I am stating the fact that every year there will be 56 million Chinese acquiring cars and

01 July 2008

MOTION ON WINDHOEK BUS SERVICES
HON H ANGULA

30 million Indians acquiring cars. These did not have cars before. This is not happening in the US because in the US the demand and supply is more or less constant.

HON DR AMWEELO: May I ask a small question? Honourable Ulenga said he wanted the Government to subsidise fuel and petrol, do you think this will solve the problem? I know that the price of fuel will keep on escalating, it will never return to where it was. Do you not think there is another alternative in the market, because I know that there is even a water engine, which might come on the market or other alternatives to fuel? The price of fuel will never return to where it was. Do you maybe think about water engines or are you aware of the water engines, which might soon be available on the market?

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: I do not prescribe to direct subsidy to motorists. The Honourable Member is asking whether I support some Members who are calling for Government subsidy to individual motorists. That is not what I was saying from the beginning. I am saying, indirect subsidy by way of providing buses to those who are transporting the children. I am not saying this must be restricted to the National capital, I am saying this provision should be introduced in terms of long distances, to subsidise those companies or enterprises, which are transporting people over long distances, to reduce the consumption by small cars, in the meantime maintaining the mobility of our population. This will reduce the imports of petroleum and petroleum products, which eventually will reduce the bill for doing so.

However, I am not for stringent regulations to cut supply for the country and especially the provision to the industry because that will then go to an economic slowdown, which we cannot afford at this time. What we need is to cut down on individual consumers rather than an embargo on all kinds of economic activities.

However, I also support those who expressed themselves on the need to introduce tram traffic around the cities and towns of our country. Of course, when you speak to Councillors, you would find that many of them, being born, bred and

01 July 2008

MOTION ON WINDHOEK BUS SERVICES
HON H ANGULA

groomed at home, you do not expect them to really appreciate and understand what is meant by trams. Therefore, there is a need for the leadership, as we gather here in the National Assembly, to be able to advise and propagate these ideas, because it is from this leadership where you have been exposed to these other models of transport operations in your experience with other countries.

With regard to the issue of safety of cycling, the Ministry of Works has been preparing a Road Traffic Bill and it will make provision to oblige the town planners to take into account pedestrians as well as cyclists. This is very important if we want to cut on consumption of petroleum, because it is true, there are many people who are ready to buy a bicycle, as it is costly to run a car. As you can see, a lot of cars and houses are being seized and you cannot buy a BMW at an auction because people are no longer able to afford the interest payment, not to talk about petrol.

That is why I am saying that this is perhaps a blessing in disguise that in terms of planning, in terms of politics, in terms of ideologies, we can now tell people things that we could not tell them two or five years ago. We can now say that is not good business to buy these huge cars, it is not good business to have three cars, one for the wife, one for the husband and one for the children, because you cannot afford to fuel them anymore.

It is so obvious that there will be many candidates for those who now want to ride bicycles, including those who have serious problems in shaking off some of the public opinion.

Again, this will not happen soon, not tomorrow, because you again need to have money and the problem in this country is that we like to work alone. Once the City has no money, then nothing will happen.

The central Government will say that is the business of the City, we have nothing to do with that. This is a national issue, you can no longer apportion this responsibility to one unit of Government; it will have to be a joint effort. The City must do it, but they must do it with the active participation of the central Government and the private sector. The private sector must play its role, join the partnership, putting up the railway for the tram from whatever point to Katutura.

Definitely, in the short and medium term there will be no profit making. You have to reconcile with the fact that this for public use, in the interest of the public

01 July 2008

MOTION ON WINDHOEK BUS SERVICES
HON H ANGULA

and for security. If you say there must be a break-even point, forget it. Nothing will be done and you and everybody will continue to suffer. It is better to have a subsidised enterprise rather than to have no enterprise at all.

I do not want to talk more, because I will talk about those who are against the subsidy to Air Namibia, which is in my opinion, the same thing. If you do not subsidise this enterprise, you will not have aircraft flying here, you will not have spare parts for the mining industry, and it will have to go through other countries. You will not have spare parts for the maintenance of many things.

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: I just want to advise the Honourable Minister that Honourable Henk Mudge must listen to that.

HON SPEAKER: Let us leave Air Namibia for now and speak to the Motion.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Honourable Abraham, I was not targeting anybody, I am just saying anyone of us who think that all things on earth must be profitable will fail, and profit is just one of the things, which must happen in life. It must not be the final motive for living, because when you and I send our children to school and to university, it is not for a profit motive but for the good of you and the child and for the good of the country.

Therefore, we need to make this Motion multi-partisan, but please do not spoil it by trying to settle scores, otherwise it will not see the light of the day.

I think it is in the interest of everyone of us to see buses passing in front of our houses, picking us up for work, not being worried about parking and knock off, get into the bus and go home. Thank you very much.

01 July 2008

**MOTION ON WINDHOEK BUS SERVICES
RT HON N ANGULA**

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, I just want to add my voice in support of this pro-learner mobility Motion. As you know, Windhoek is divided into two when it comes to school achievements. Schools on the western side of Independence Avenue perform badly and schools on the eastern side of Independence Avenue, as far as Independence Avenue goes to the Simon De Witt Bridge, perform better.

Therefore, if we want bright children from Katutura, from Havana, Otjomuise, Hakahana and Okahandja Park to go to Windhoek High School, Concordia, St Paul's and others, public transport is critical. I think for the sake of creating a just society, we should impress upon the City of Windhoek to provide proper public transport, at least to support the school population.

I know that the City of Windhoek is living in the past culture whereby transport used to be a means of controlling influx, taxis and buses were only provided for nannies and domestic workers and gardeners. Being an early bird, I always see these buses at 6:30 that is the only time you see them. The next time you see them is 17:00 to take the people back to where they live, so that there are no undesirable people in Central Windhoek. That culture is very archaic and destructive.

If we could for now at least start with support to the mobility of the scholars, I think we will do a good job. Then we can now use that also to provide a pro-worker public transport system, whereby workers can be brought to town near to their workplace by buses. Right now, they are put on big trucks to go to their place of work. It is not good.

Then we move from the pro-learner mobility to pro-worker public transport, then to pro-poor and the pro-poor transport system is the one which enables the poor people to come to town and compare prices of products, so that they are not only confined to shops in Katutura and can also go to China Town where things are cheap. Therefore, I think this Motion needs the support of all of us.

I know the City of Windhoek will say they do not have money, we also have to provide them with ideas where to get money. To get money, is to do as they did with the City Police, namely to add one dollar to the property tax so that the property owners will subsidise the poor and the schoolchildren. I think that will make patriotic sense if they can do so – just one or two dollars by the property owners or five dollars.

01 July 2008

**MOTION ON WINDHOEK BUS SERVICES
HON TJIHUIKO**

What I am trying to say here is that this Motion is important. I think we have to give practical expression how it can be implemented. Thank you.

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

HON TJIHUIKO: I thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. There is only one reason why I decided to participate in this Motion and that is to support the Motion, no question about it. It is a Motion that was brought at the right time, a Motion that was brought in by a young person, who seems to have a vision.

I think the issue that we are talking about here, Honourable Venaani, with due respect, is not a question of buses, but I think we are talking about transport, we are talking about an easy means of making transport available to our people.

I know that you have narrowed it down to Windhoek, which I do not have a problem with, but it is a National problem. Therefore, your Motion has two elements: One is the question of us as lawmakers to look at our laws and see whether the current laws are compatible with the new conditions on the ground. The second question is: It also opens up an opportunity for serious business people to see the niche in the market, where they could come in and start businesses and provide affordable services to the community. I think we need to look at it from those two angles.

The second point that I have just mentioned, is an idea because I cannot start it, I do not have money. Therefore, I will go for the first option of us as lawmakers to look at creating an environment that would enable those people with money to get into the market and see how best they can provide services to the community.

I am not sure about the laws regulating the number of taxis we have on the road now and I do not know whether all of them have permits to provide services to the people. I have seen that if you bring in a bus and you have an illegal taxi standing next to you, people will jump into the taxi instead of waiting for five

01 July 2008

**MOTION ON WINDHOEK BUS SERVICES
HON TJIHUIKO**

minutes to fill the bus because it is quicker and they do not even know whether this taxi is legal or illegal. They are not coloured, you cannot say that is a yellow taxi or pink taxi or blue taxi.

That is problem number one. It has to force the Municipality to start thinking in terms of investing in buses. Are we going to make money out of it? I think it is a question where we need to sit down with the Municipality and try to find out whether these buses are profitable or not. Only then, will we be able to say that yes indeed, the Municipality should provide buses to the people.

If the current services cannot provide for maintenance of the buses, somebody has to come in and subsidise that, then I think we are moving in the wrong direction. We should not think all the time that Government should subsidise – like Honourable Ulenga. It is not a solution, it is creating a problem rather than solving the problem. Those are the things we need to look at.

The second point that I would also like to touch on is the question of the seriousness and commitment of the City of Windhoek in providing services to the people.

Last week in this very same Chamber, we passed a law that is zero-rating VAT on the things that the poor people need on a daily basis. Today I see in *The Namibian* newspaper everything going up – electricity 12,3 percent up, water – 10 percent; sewerage – 12 percent, bus fares up to N\$6. On the one hand, Government is being put under pressure to do something about the poor and as soon as the Government does something about it, then another problem is being created. This is what I was saying last week, that unless communities and business people are serious about the well-being of the poor and help Government, there is no way we can try to solve the problem. It is exactly what is happening now.

Government reduces VAT. The Municipality is increasing rates. What are the reasons why they are implementing these increases? Nobody knows.

I think by talking to the Municipality through the reference of the Motion to the committee, it will help us understand the reason why the Municipality was pushed to the point to increase water by 10 percent.

01 July 2008

MOTION ON WINDHOEK BUS SERVICES
HON TJIHUIKO

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: May I ask a question? Honourable Tjihuike, you are on the right track, I just want to know what advantage do we have as lawmakers to legislate on those things and force those people who are doing those wrong things not to do it?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Minister, it is very difficult. One would appeal to the conscience of our people. As we are standing here we are speaking on behalf of the people. The ones that we are talking about are the very same people in Katutura who cannot afford butter. What Government needs to do is to appeal to those who can afford and I do not think that the City of Windhoek will always survive by increasing water by 10 percent. It is that commitment that all of us as communities, as people can join hands, private sector, individuals and Government, and try to make sure, especially in this critical time, that our people are benefiting.

I think it was the Right Honourable Prime Minister who mentioned here jokingly that we make a commitment of N\$5. As soon as we make a commitment of N\$5, the City of Windhoek will increase water by 15 percent and it will also not help.

What I am saying is that it is not everyone who expects Government to do something about our people, we are the people and we should be seen to be doing something about it.

The last point that I wanted to mention, Honourable Speaker, is that the Ministry responsible for transport needs to look at our laws and regulations. Young people have been coming to my office, trying to find out why they are not allowed to have permits to transport people from Gobabis to Windhoek. The reason that they are given is that a permit has been given to the buses. There is a need for smaller cars to transport people between Gobabis and Windhoek, but the law does not allow these people as much as they are trying to get permits to do that. What do they do? They operate illegally.

We have now created a market for illegal traders and maybe we need to revisit our laws and see how best could we try to open this niche in the market where people can trade legally and pay taxes and be controlled and if something goes wrong, to withdraw the permit, rather than the situation that we have today.

01 July 2008

**MOTION ON WINDHOEK BUS SERVICES
HON TJIHUIKO**

There are taxis travelling between Otjiwarongo and Windhoek, all of them illegal. They are not contributing, they are putting the lives of people in danger.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: May I ask a question? Honourable Tjihuiko, those municipalities and the other entities that you are talking about have a run-away authority, they can do things that we cannot control. What I am saying is that we are the people here who have enacted the laws under which those institutions are working. Can we not make a law here to say that they can have liberties in these areas, but certain areas, like the ones you are talking about, must come back here so that we can control the institutions?

HON TJIHUIKO: It is something worth looking at and if the Motion is referred to the Committee, let us request the Committee to also look at that option.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, I agree with Honourable Uutoni Nujoma when he was referring to the yellow buses. I remember that time before the yellow buses started operating between Windhoek, Oshakati and Ondangwa, there were many problems, and to some extent, the yellow buses have provided reasonably good services. I am not seeing them on the road anymore, maybe they are parked somewhere and perhaps they are going to come back.

HON NAMBAHU: Through you, Honourable Speaker, do you not think, in answer to the question of the Honourable Minister, it would be helpful if we were to ask guidelines for entities like NAPTA, the City of Windhoek and all transport undertakers to have a pro-poor approach?

This could be incorporated into guidelines, so that when they are making by-laws, they are actually being informed by this kind of philosophy? Do you not think that could be helpful if you were to incorporate that into your answer to the Minister?

01 July 2008

MOTION ON WINDHOEK BUS SERVICES
HON MUDGE

HON TJIHUIKO: In fact, the reason why I did not say that in my answer to the Minister is that I knew that you would help me.

HON P MUSHELENGA: On a Point of Information. Honourable Tjihuiiko mentioned that the yellow buses are no longer on the road, perhaps they are parked somewhere. They are there, new luxurious buses with leather seats. Therefore, those are the buses now.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, that is very useful information because I was wondering. As I said, obviously it was providing a good service to our people, making the Ruling Party very rich. That is another issue, the issue is that it has provided a good service. Thanks, Honourable Mushelenga.

Let me conclude by saying that maybe we need, apart from what Honourable Nambahu has just said, to get some kind of advice from the Office of the Attorney-General based on what the Honourable Minister has said. We need to look at these laws and regulations and try to see how the responsible Ministry could be advised to advise the various municipalities, especially since now the Honourable Minister is back. We are now comfortable, we were really looking for legal advice in your absence but we could not get it. Thank you very much that you have come to provide that service to us. I know the Deputy Minister is growing up, he will help us one day. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: I thank Honourable Tjihuiiko for his contribution. Honourable Mudge.

HON MUDGE: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, there is very little that one can say after what has been said already, other than to fully support the Motion of Honourable Venaani.

01 July 2008

**MOTION ON WINDHOEK BUS SERVICES
HON MUDGE**

I think what is important to keep in mind is the fact that the people who are really affected by the cost of transport from places like Katutura, Khomasdal into Windhoek are the poor people and they are already affected, as was said just now, by the rising cost in basic services like water and electricity. I fully support any programme that would reduce the cost of transport for what I consider to be the grassroots level to get to Windhoek.

I also fully agree with the Right Honourable Prime Minister when he said that the bus service in Windhoek is archaic. It is true and I also think that the way in which it is being run and looked at by the City of Windhoek is a problem. To solve that problem the City of Windhoek will need to renew their minds completely and start afresh and put in a completely new system. There are many taxis and transport systems and you were talking about the orange buses and I can let out a secret that they are very close to my house and I know where they are if you want to know. They are few, they are not that many anymore.

What I am saying is that I think the whole system of transport should be re-looked in Windhoek. It needs a completely new mindset to have a service implemented, as the Honourable Minister of Veterans Affairs has stated, where you know that if there is a 13:30 at that bus stop, then you know the bus will stop at 13:30. People cannot afford to be late for work and when going home, wait an hour for the bus.

The one thing that I do support and I am very happy that Honourable Nujoma mentioned that, because this is something that has been discussed for quite some time, is the rail system. I think we must never underestimate what that can do to the traffic system in Windhoek. If you have a tram service it is actually a shuttle service, where you have the engine and a few carriages running early in the morning and the afternoon, but that can do a tremendous service to transport.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Honourable Mudge, you have mentioned the yellow buses. Are you aware that some organisation, including some that are represented in this House, were frustrating the efforts of those yellow buses when they were going to certain areas, Okakarara being one of them, by telling their members never to board these buses because they are going

01 July 2008

**MOTION ON WINDHOEK BUS SERVICES
HON MUDGE**

to make SWAPO rich, instead of looking at it from the side of providing transport.

HON SPEAKER: Yes, there is consensus that they are delivering a wonderful service.

HON MUDGE: Honourable Speaker, I will not discuss that issue. The SWAPO Party made a lot of money from the other people, but if you provide a service and the people use that service, then whose fault is it that you are making money? Therefore, you cannot blame anybody for providing the service if other people are using them.

Why I am saying this, Honourable Speaker...

HON SPEAKER: I understood that it was a good idea that the SWAPO Party provided the services, they were yellow before they were orange now and they continue to provide a valuable service to the community, whatever the politics might be in respect of the ownership. Honourable Mudge, continue.

HON MUDGE: Honourable Speaker, what I said was about the rail system, I honestly feel that the Government, together with the City of Windhoek, should look into that very seriously, but not to let it be a project for the future. People should be appointed to start doing the feasibility studies as soon as possible, because there is another side to this problem.

It is a fact that if you look at the number of taxis and the Honourable Minister was referring to the number of cars being bought by the Chinese and the Indians,

01 July 2008

**MOTION ON WINDHOEK BUS SERVICES
HON KAZENAMBO**

but if you look at the number of vehicles coming into Windhoek every morning, it is causing quite a congestion of traffic in the city centre and Katutura. Then if you want to solve that problem, then you have to improve your road system, you have to build some more roads coming into Windhoek. There is a lot you can do to improve the public transport system to reduce the pressure on the infrastructural problems that we have in Windhoek.

I just want to say in conclusion that it is important that a bus system should be introduced also for the schoolchildren because I know the amount of money people spend per month for themselves, their wives and then their children to go to school. The amount of money that they spend on taxis is unaffordable if you take what amount they earn.

I think if anything will be subsidised, then one can subsidise the cost for the children to get to school and/or build more schools closer to the areas where the people live. That, as far as I am concerned, and the road system is a must and the sooner we start with that, the better.

With that, I fully support the Motion and I hope something will be done about it very soon. I thank you.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. Let me also make my contribution to this very important Motion. I wanted to tell a joke but I will reserve it because of the seriousness of the Motion.

Let me also support the Motion like all others have done, but I want to make certain observations.

Firstly, I would like to agree with the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport, Honourable Angula, that this Motion needs rational thought.

01 July 2008

**MOTION ON WINDHOEK BUS SERVICES
HON KAZENAMBO**

We need to leave our emotions aside and all of us agree that it must be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resources and Community Development. I think that is the way to go, that we consult widely the various stakeholders – community leaders, politicians, non-Governmental organisation and civic organisation of the private sector.

I say that we need to consult widely on this Motion because the saying goes that “it is easier said than done.” All of us will stand here in the public eye in front of the camera, saying things easily, but when it comes to the practical implementation, we start showing our real colours. This is really a very serious matter because we are not coming from similar economic backgrounds, we are coming from different social and economic status and therefore it needs wide consultation.

The impression one gets from some interventions is that this is a Motion that does not want us to point fingers or blame one another, but it is one of those Motions to analyse critically the situation and come up with critical and realistic suggestions.

The City of Windhoek, in a bid to resuscitate its ailing bus service and the municipal bus service to be linked to the issue of school buses, needs clear clarity and distinction. Why am I saying so? This service was definitely originally created to cater for a certain specific purpose. As it was said, these buses originally catered for the people of Katutura who were coming to work in the suburbs and the city centre.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Kazenambo, I have never asked you a question and this is my maiden question to you. When the Human Resources Committee visited your town, Gam, it was very interesting. There was a meeting at 14:00 and from 13:00 you saw all the people coming to the meeting with donkeys, big man on a small donkey. Do you think there is any transport problem in Gam?

01 July 2008

**MOTION ON WINDHOEK BUS SERVICES
HON KAZENAMBO**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, Honourable Viljoen.

There is a need for transport in Gam, there is a need for transport in the former colonial Bantu reserves that were underdeveloped, that were not given the services that were provided in city centres like Windhoek. There is also a need for transport services in Katutura and elsewhere. This is what we are saying and that is the background.

HON KAURA: May I ask the Deputy Minister a question? Honourable Deputy Minister, could you maybe retract that issue of Bantustan, because Gam came after Independence, it was never a Bantustan.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: I am not going to retract that because Gam is in the former Hereroland and that was a reserve. What we are saying is that services should be provided to all the people in an equal manner. This is what has been said here by many speakers, that it must be balanced. However, we today find that imbalance in the provision of services and you know, a big man is not riding a donkey by choice, it is because of the economic skewedness. It is not by choice. Those men you saw in Gam could also wish to fly in a jet, they could also wish to drive a car.

HON MEMBER: Petrol!

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: The skewed economic conditions made them what they are, not the question of petrol.

01 July 2008

**MOTION ON WINDHOEK BUS SERVICES
HON KAZENAMBO**

I am not to be distracted by that, that is why I am saying that this Motion is very important and it does not need us to point fingers or blame one another, blame the City of Windhoek, but it is a question that needs rational thinking, as the Minister of Works and Transport has said. It needs consultations with the stakeholders, it needs inputs from various stakeholders and I am saying that consistency is needed.

Here we are bringing in many issues, such as education or schools, transport, etcetera and they are all important, they are all linked to this Motion, but we need to tackle this Motion point by point. If we are discussing the skyrocketing price of petrol, how does it relate to school buses? Let us not discuss it just for the sake of it.

We all know very well and Honourable Tjihuiko has also said that this matter involves the private sector, but why am I saying that it is easier said than done? In the public eye in front of the camera, many of us will say we need to create a bus service for schoolchildren, but we will still drive our Mercedes Benzes there – we will not be consistent. Some of us – not everybody – may be consistent and some people have tried. Can I relate a story here?

There are some remote areas in this country where people tried to introduce a bus service, even kombis and that is why I am saying that this matter needs education, education, education and the creation of a culture which would depart from psychological poverty to really use resources in a frugal manner and be economic. How do I define psychological poverty? Even though walking is healthy, some people believe that by walking you are demonstrating that you are poor and therefore they have to drive – even a distance, which they could have walked. That is psychological poverty.

You would find that some business people have introduced a bus service, for instance, to Gam. Instead of the people saying, “We need to support this service in order to support ourselves”, what do they do? The people will ask for a hike from other cars and eventually this service will come to a standstill. However, if people are educated and understand the need and importance of this service, the people will wait, they will not jump... (Intervention)

01 July 2008

**MOTION ON WINDHOEK BUS SERVICES
HON KAZENAMBO**

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? Honourable Deputy Minister, the woman who works in somebody's house, earning N\$500, and she has three children going to different schools and she has to pay every taxi N\$200 per month, does she really need to be educated to prefer a bus where she might pay N\$100? Is the Honourable Deputy Minister trying to insinuate that the poor people are not intelligent enough to realise that a bus is cheaper than a taxi?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you for asking that, because if my intervention has created that impression, it is wrong, it is not what I am saying. That is definitely not what I am saying. I fully support and will always support anything that goes to the poor.

The point that I am making is that we should have targeted programmes on this one. I am not saying that this important programme should not go ahead, but if you introduce this Motion without consulting widely and without putting stringent measures in place, the very rich will make their children benefit from that and we should guard against that. I am saying, if it is for the poor people, let us put measures in place to sustain that proposal and while we are doing that, let us not blame one another that so and so has failed. Let us come up with effective measures. However, this topic has moved from school buses to services during the discussion. People are saying that we must subsidise schoolchildren.

When I was a student, you were requested to show a student passport and then you paid a certain fare and these are the measures that we need to introduce, that we identify the children of poor families. The problem in this country of ours is greed. I hope you and I will not also become poor and I was not speaking on the part of the poor people, I am not intelligent, but I am saying, let us consult and consult widely, come up with stringent measures, and close the loopholes watertight so that we do not allow this issue to be manipulated.

We are talking about the students of UNAM and Polytechnic and that is why I am emphasising the point of education. Some efforts have already been made, but we are generalising and categorising, putting things into categories, talking about poor women and elders, but there are buses running between UNAM and the

01 July 2008

**MOTION ON WINDHOEK BUS SERVICES
HON KAZENAMBO**

Polytechnic and I know some people were given money by their parents, but instead of paying the bus fee, they buy cell phones. These are the things on which we have to educate our community and create a certain culture.

Dr Tjiriange was talking about buses departing on specified times and it is the culture of those people there, they are used to these things and we can even tell our people here these things. I am not saying that we are not intelligent, but it is a cultural departure.

Honourable Nujoma mentioned the introduction of a tram service which would require town planning. If tomorrow they plan the route and my house in Olympia is in the way because this town has already been planned and they say I must make way for the tram service, I will consult my lawyer, I will ask three million and it is not consistent with what I am saying here. It should be consistent and if there is a need for me to give way for new development, I should cooperate. This is the education I am saying. It involves consultation with various stakeholders. Let us stick to what Honourable Venaani says in this Motion.

Some people will say, “over my dead body, my child will not get on that bus.” I will prefer my child to be in a luxurious car, but we should also educate one another and cooperate.

HON SPEAKER: You will continue tomorrow afternoon. The House stands adjourned until tomorrow afternoon, 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 14:46 UNTIL 2008.07.02 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
02 JULY 2008
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Honourable Schimming-Chase.

**TABLING: REPORT ON THE 23rd SADC PARLIAMENTARY
FORUM PLENARY ASSEMBLY SESSION**

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Speaker, I herewith table the Report by the National Assembly of Namibia on the 23rd SADC Parliamentary Forum Plenary Assembly Session which was held in Blantyre, Malawi from the 18th to the 27th of October 2007.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Report? Other Reports and Papers?

**TABLING: REPORT ON TRAINING WORKSHOP AT
OROPOKO LODGE**

02 July 2008

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MOONGO**

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table the Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts on the Training Workshop which was held at Oropoko Lodge on the 25th to the 27th of April 2008.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Report? Any Notice of Questions? Honourable Moongo.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 68:

HON MOONGO: Mr Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 10 July 2008, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following:

It is a fact that Namibia established a sovereign democratic Government with fundamental human rights and freedoms;

1. What is the good reason that Article 19, "*to promote, enjoy, practise any culture and tradition*" is not fairly implemented?
2. What is the Government policy concerning installation of kings and queens in Namibia?
3. Is the Prime Minister aware that some royal king families or clans are still in hiding out of fear of being victimised for their forefathers' past deeds?
4. What action will the Prime Minister take to liberate them from fear, to install the new innocent kings and queens in Namibia?

02 July 2008

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR KAWANA**

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Questions? Any further Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? Dr Kawana.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, I rise to make a Ministerial Statement. This Statement is in response to the remarks made by the President of the Congress of Democrats (CoD), Honourable Ben Ulenga, alleging that His Excellency, Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia, supports and encourages corruption.

On the 7th of June 2007, the CoD held an extended National Working Committee meeting in Windhoek. During the said meeting, the President of CoD made certain allegations against the President of the Republic of Namibia. The statement of the Honourable Member was widely reported in some newspapers.

As the highest office in the land, the Office of the President could not react to what was reported in the newspapers without verifying the facts with their author. The correct course of action was, therefore, to contact the President of CoD to verify what was reported in the newspapers, particularly *The Namibian* newspaper of Monday, 9 June under the heading: “*President Condone City Debts, Ulenga Claims.*”

When the article was shown to the Honourable Mr Ulenga, he confirmed that it more or less represented what he had said. Apart from verifying the article with the Honourable Member, he was also requested to provide a copy of his statement, which he did.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to take this opportunity to thank the Honourable Member for providing a copy of his statement. Upon scrutiny, it was established that the statement of the Honourable Mr Ulenga was issued or made on 7 June 2008. Allow me, therefore, Honourable Speaker, to quote relevant parts of the

02 July 2008

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR KAWANA**

statement, which are of particular interest to the subject matter. I will quote parts of paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of the statement on page 2.

Paragraph 2 on page 2 of the statement reads as follows:

“More than a year ago we have challenged President Pohamba’s so-called anti-corruption credentials while he virtually had turned a serious blind eye to corrupt practices amongst the ranks of politicians and high Government officials.”

The third paragraph of the statement on page 2 reads:

“In the recent past we have learnt that Ministers and other Government and municipal officials enjoy free water and electricity, subsidised by the poor, while the houses of the poor are auctioned.”

Part of paragraph 4 reads:

“I charge that this is a situation supported and promoted by President Pohamba himself.”

I repeat: *“I charge that this is a situation supported and promoted by President Pohamba himself.”*

Honourable Speaker, the CoD is the Official Opposition in Namibia. As such, it enjoys certain privileges, which include consultation with His Excellency the President at short notice. Indeed, given the open-door policy of the SWAPO Party Government, the Honourable Mr Ulenga has visited the State House several times. In the past the Honourable Member has taken advantage of such an open-door policy to raise issues of National interest with our President. In this regard, the open-door policy applies to all our citizens.

It is for this reason that our President meets representatives of all kinds of organisations as well as individual citizens, ranging from political personalities, community activists to ordinary citizens. Allow me, therefore, Honourable Speaker, to put it on record that Namibia is a State founded on the Rule of Law and democracy. It is a State, which has institutions tasked with certain functions. Such functions are either contained in the Namibian Constitution, Acts of Parliament, of which Honourable Mr Ulenga is a Member, or the Common Law.

02 July 2008

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR KAWANA**

In this context, the rule of law means the supremacy of regular as opposed to arbitrary power.

Let us take the example of Honourable Bernhard Esau. Contrary to the allegation that he owed the Municipality of Windhoek an amount of more than N\$34,000, the truth is that he has a credit of N\$1,405, and I repeat; he had a credit of N\$1,405.

With the permission of the Vice-President of the SWAPO Party and the Minister of Trade and Industry, Honourable Dr Hage Geingob, I can also confirm that he entered into an agreement with the City of Windhoek, within the letter and spirit of the city's credit policy.

For the information of the Honourable Members, I have a copy of the City of Windhoek's credit policy here and it will be circulated to the Members for their information. A copy of that agreement was also made available to His Excellency the President.

I can also confirm that the Honourable Dr Hage Geingob, contrary to what was reported, has more than honoured the agreement by paying in advance more than what was agreed.

Honourable Speaker, I must also apologise on behalf of other comrades who were mentioned in that newspaper because it was not possible to consult each and everybody because of the time factor. These are the two examples I can give to prove that contrary to what was reported, the facts on the ground are different.

It is, therefore, unfair to expect the President to take action on the allegations contained in the newspaper. Such action would be tantamount to a Kangaroo court. I wish to inform the Nation that the matter of the City of Windhoek bills raised by the Honourable Mr Ulenga is receiving the attention of the Anti-Corruption Commission, an institution that was established by Act of Parliament. In a democracy such as ours, it is only courts of law or tribunals, legally constituted, which are competent to try to find a person guilty of a wrong. A newspaper has no such power. The President cannot act merely based on a newspaper article, when there are state institutions which are established for such purposes.

May I point out that in an independent Namibia, there is no place for Kangaroo

02 July 2008

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR KAWANA**

courts? Our Supreme Law, the Namibian Constitution, states that a person is innocent until proven guilty by a legally constituted court or tribunal. It does not say, if found guilty by a newspaper.

The Office of the President, indeed the Government, has full faith in the Anti-Corruption Commission. Therefore, I appeal to politicians, particularly members of the Opposition to allow the Commission to do its work without interference. The credentials of the President on corruption are well known to the Nation. It is only those who have a hidden political agenda who may harbour a contrary view.

Honourable Speaker, for the interest of Honourable Members, please allow me to state that where houses have been auctioned, it was done, as I said, in terms of the credit policy of the City of Windhoek.

This policy was provided to the Office of the President through the Line Ministry. The following information is pertinent for this august House and the general public:

According to the information provided by the City of Windhoek through the Line Ministry: In 2005, a total of seventy-four houses were advertised for auction after the court process in order to recover debts on municipal services. In 2006, the number was 124 houses, while in 2007 the number stood at 154 houses. The number for this year, meaning 2008, stands at 34 houses. This gives a total of 386 houses from 2005 to this year and I would like the Honourable Members now to pay more attention.

However, out of this number, only 19 houses were sold by auction during the entire period, namely from 2005 to present. According to the City of Windhoek, these 19 houses were sold after all avenues of recovering the debt owed to the Municipality were exhausted. Not all clients who concluded an agreement with the Municipality were affected. This means that 367 houses were not auctioned because clients entered into an agreement with the Municipality to pay the outstanding debt.

We are informed that in an attempt to recover the debt, the Municipality first targets movable property before resorting to immovable property.

Honourable Speaker, I will refrain from expressing my views as to whether it is proper to auction houses to pay the municipal debts. My views on these issues

02 July 2008

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR KAWANA**

are well known and were articulated last year when a Motion was moved in this august House on the matter. During my legal training, I was taught that a man's dwelling is his castle. As such, it requires an extraordinary situation to disturb the enjoyment of the right to shelter.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, I would once again like to express my dismay on the statement made by the CoD regarding the stand of His Excellency, the President in fighting corruption. It is very unacceptable for the CoD to allege that the President of the Republic of Namibia supports and promotes corruption. All Namibians, especially Members of Parliament, have the duty to defend, protect and promote the rule of law and democracy in our country. This Nation will never tolerate Kangaroo courts, therefore His Excellency the President cannot be expected to take arbitrary decisions on information that appears in a newspaper.

In addition, the President cannot be expected to investigate when there is an institution created by Act of Parliament, namely the Anti-Corruption Commission. Otherwise, it would amount to interference in the work of the Commission.

Honourable Speaker, I have included a copy of the credit policy of the Municipality of Windhoek for the information of Honourable Members. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for his important statement. Any further Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**ROAD TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT AMENDMENT
BILL: COMMITTEE STAGE**

02 July 2008

**ROAD TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT BILL
HON SMIT**

SECRETARY: Committee Stage -*Road Traffic and Transport Amendment Bill.*

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport Move that the Assembly now goes into Committee?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: It is Moved that I leave the Chair. Any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. The Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee will take the Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Committee has to consider the *Road Traffic and Transport Amendment Bill.*

Clauses 1 and 2 put and agreed to.

Clause 3 put.

02 July 2008

**ROAD TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT BILL
HON SMIT**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I am not sure whether procedurally it is the right way to do it, but under Clause 3(a), the third sentence that reads “*sub-section (5) described by Sub-section 2(a)*” there stands “*hoider*” instead of “*holder*”. Can we please replace the ‘i’ with an ‘l’, that it reads, “*any holder of a driving licence.*” It is a spelling mistake in the Bill as it stands. Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any further discussion? Any objection? Agreed to.

Clause 4 put.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I would like to Move an Amendment of the Road Traffic and Transport Amendment Bill 2 of 2008: In Bill No. 2 of 2008, insert the following clause after Clause 3 and renumber the existing Clause 4 to 5:

“Amendment of Section 87 of Act 22 of 1999:

(iv) The principal Act is amended by the substitution for Section 87 of the following section:

Presumption in regard to mass ascertained by means of a weighing device:

87(1) Notwithstanding any provision in any other law (and then it remains) *in any prosecution for an alleged contravention of this Act, evidence to prove such contravention is given of any mass as ascertained by means of a weighing device, such mass shall be deemed to be correct in the absence of any evidence to the contrary, provided there is produced in respect of such weighing device a certificate.*”

02 July 2008

**ROAD TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT BILL
HON SMIT**

Then replacing the following: *“Purporting to have been issued by an inspector as defined in section 1 of the Trade Metrology Act of 1973 (Act No 77 of 1973) indicating that the weighing device was inspected for purpose or verification or testing in terms of that Act on a date being not more than one year before the date of the alleged contravention and that it was found to be correct in accordance with the requirements of that Act.”*

What I have read now should be replaced by inserting, stating that: *“The person issuing the certificate is qualified as prescribed and that he or she has verified as prescribed that the device operates correctly and stating the date on which such verification has been done, which date may not be earlier than one year before the date of the alleged contravention.”*

Then add another (2) under section 1:

“The person issuing the certificate referred to in Sub-section (1), does not require any appointment as contemplated in the Trade Metrology Act of 1973 (Act No. 77 of 1973) or any other law.”

I so Move, Honourable Deputy Chairperson.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Will the Honourable Deputy Minister please table the Amendment? Any discussion on the amended clause? Any objection?

Agreed to.

Renumbered Clause 5 put and agreed to.

Title put and agreed to.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I shall report the Bill with Amendment.

02 July 2008

**ROAD TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT BILL
HON SMIT**

ASSEMBLY RESUMES

Bill reported with Amendment.

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Deputy Minister of Works, Transport and Communication Move that the Bill be now read a Third Time?

**ROAD TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT AMENDMENT
BILL: THIRD READING**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? Secondment? Agreed to. Any further discussion? None. Does the Deputy Minister wish to reply?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, thank you very much for your support and for the smooth passing of this Amendment to ensure the successful issuing of driving licences and also to protect our roads against overloading. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

02 July 2008

**STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES BILL
HON T GURIRAB**

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

SECRETARY: *Road Traffic and Transport Amendment Bill.*

HON SPEAKER: Before I ask the Secretary to read the Second Order of the Day, we have in the public gallery Nossob Primary School from Witvlei Village, Grades 4 to 7, altogether 75 children. Shall we welcome them and make them feel at home? The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

**STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES GOVERNANCE
AMENDMENT BILL: SECOND READING**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – *State-owned Enterprises Governance Amendment Bill.*

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned yesterday, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Right Honourable Prime Minister, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable Gurirab adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Speaker, when I adjourned the discussion on this Amendment Bill yesterday, we had hoped that we would have enough time to

02 July 2008

STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES BILL
HON T GURIRAB

consult on the Amendments being proposed. Unfortunately, that has not happened and I was going to ask your leave to postpone the discussion to next week, Tuesday. We are however advised that there is an emergency in passing this Amendment Bill and it, of course, it has to do with how you conduct the business of lawmaking in this House. Nevertheless, we are advised that all that the Amendment is seeking is transitional provisions because the regulations that are required in terms of the Principal Act are still not in place and that we need to make transitional provisions to give effect to what is provided for in the Principal Act.

If that is, indeed, what is the intent of the Amendment Bill, we have no problem, though we would have liked to have enough time to scrutinise and look at what is being proposed.

Honourable Speaker, on the first page of the proposed Bill on the substitution of Section 27 in the Principal Bill, if our reading were correct, the intent was that on each investment, the State-Owned Enterprises would have been required to seek the approval of the portfolio Minister. If we understand the new provision correctly, it is now asking the State-Owned Enterprises to submit a general investment policy instead of seeking approval for each investment. If that is indeed what is being sought, we support that, we think that is a sensible route to go.

However, we have problems with the time period that is being proposed, that is that within 30 days, within 3 months of passing of this Act, all those State-Owned Enterprises listed under Schedule 1 will submit their investment policies. We do not know that that is achievable. We applaud the policy framework that is being proposed, we think that is the sensible route to go, that instead of seeking approval and concurrence on each investment policy, that we now have a broad policy statement submitted to the portfolio Minister.

Honourable Speaker, given the limited time, which he had to look at this, I think that is all we want to say for now and hope that what is being proposed will serve the purposes of what is contained in the principal Act. We support the Amendment. I thank you.

02 July 2008

**STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES BILL
HON KATALI / RT HON N ANGULA**

HON SPEAKER: The Lusaka spirit prevails. Honourable Katali.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Comrade Speaker, I am on record of having complained in this House about the State-Owned Enterprises, where Ministers are being held accountable for invested money which gets lost while they did not have any role to play, either in consultations or being informed whenever the State-Owned Enterprises invest funds elsewhere.

Therefore, Comrade Speaker, I would like to thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister for bringing this Amendment so that at least the Line Ministries are aware whenever funds are being handled. I think this will now hold them accountable, because they will be consulted, they will know, and they will have a say whether the Policies and the money are invested in credible Institutions.

I am also particularly happy that the Amendment is seeks for consultations with the Minister of Finance, so that we promote the consultations within Government ministries and agencies.

With that, Comrade Speaker, I support the Amendment Bill.

HON SPEAKER: I thank Honourable Katali for his contribution. Any further discussion? None. Does the Right Honourable Prime Minister wish to reply?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Sir. Firstly, I sincerely appreciate and thank Honourable Tsudaο Gurirab for his understanding. We had quick consultations here and I am grateful that he understood the urgency of this matter.

02 July 2008

**STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES BILL
RT HON ANGULA**

He was saying that perhaps ninety days are perhaps too short a time. It might be, but the point is that these institutions exist, they should already have investment policies. What we are saying is that for now they have to make those policies available to the Minister of Finance, so that the Minister of Finance at least knows what is going on and can also advise them if something is lacking in those policies. Thank you for your support.

Honourable Katali, you are happy that your concerns have been addressed through this Amendment and, therefore, I hope that if these Amendments are accepted by this House, they will give us enough time to develop proper procedures and processes to promote good Government of the State-Owned Enterprises.

I thank the House for their support. Silence means consent. Thank you for consenting.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Prime Minister and I now Put the Question that the Bill be now read a Second Time. Any objection? Agreed to. The Secretary will read the Bill a Second Time.

SECRETARY: *State-owned Enterprises Governance Amendment Bill.*

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

**CONSIDERATION: NATIONAL INTEGRATED EARLY
CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT POLICY, 2007**

02 July 2008

**POLICY: EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

SECRETARY: *Resumption of Consideration of the National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy, 2007.*

HON SPEAKER: When the Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, 25 April 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare. Honourable Ncube adjourned the Debate and she now has the Floor.

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for allowing me to make my very short and humble contribution to this Debate.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, this Policy is premised upon children being the basis of the continuity of our Nation. There is no future in Namibia without children yesterday, today and tomorrow. Their development as full human beings is conditional upon our actions today.

The revised Policy has my wholehearted support. I am particularly pleased to observe that the Policy is aiming to include in its coverage children living with difficult circumstances as well as vulnerable children. On this basis it is, therefore, important that children from varied backgrounds, circumstances and physical and intellectual conditions are brought together in pre-primary classes. This inclusion will encourage understanding of and tolerance for differences among children. Thus, we will be beginning to quietly and effectively address the issue of negative attitudes to people who are differently-abled.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I am really delighted by this Policy which brings together all people from different backgrounds.

I could say that the generation of today are very lucky by having these kinds of policies, because in my generation, during the time that I was growing up, there were terribly negative attitudes towards our children with disabilities. Where I come from parents would make their children afraid, saying in the local language that, “*you must keep quiet, otherwise !nora #oarosa tani Khaibasi*”. They had that kind of attitude. That is why I am very much delighted by this policy, which

02 July 2008

**POLICY: EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
HON SMIT**

brings all these children together, because they will be growing together and know and appreciate the different backgrounds they are coming from.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the United Conventions on the Rights of People with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol has been ratified by our Republic. The Convention sets standards of non-discrimination. It urges respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities in order to preserve their identities. In addition, it is also urging respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity.

The Children's Parliament in our country perhaps illustrates the vision I expressed in these brief remarks: The right to full participation by all children, irrespective of their backgrounds. It is the National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy's aim to provide early intervention and key support to children, particularly those from poor and marginalised communities, which should provide them with the basis to grow into full and effective citizens capable of providing a sustainable basis for growing fortunes of this Nation.

In order not to delay any further the implementation of this Policy, I hereby urge its speedy adoption, Honourable Speaker, and I thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for her contribution. Honourable Deputy Minister Smit.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I believe that, of all the policies and laws that have passed this House, this may be one of the five most important policies and practices in every Nation. This is the time of any human being's life that can make you or break you long before you can really make a difference. I would like to congratulate the Honourable Minister and Deputy Minister with the policy they brought to this House.

02 July 2008

**POLICY: EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
HON SMIT**

I would like to start on page 22, paragraph 78 where it refers to the need of any human being, in terms of our needs of health, to associate our social needs, our mental needs and our spiritual needs, the importance of that to develop our abilities, our talents to its full potential and to make a contribution to the Nation, to our communities according to our abilities.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Minister, the second remark that I would like to make out of these four needs is on page 20, paragraph 75 where we talk about the objectives. I personally believe one objective that is missing is to restore the core family, talking about a husband, a wife, and the children, the core of the family together with the extended family around that, that we should do whatever we can to restore that important family in our society. That is where a successful and a healthy Nation starts, within the core family and I am afraid if you move around in our country and all over the world, the core family is busy falling apart and we should really put our energies and our focuses together to restore that. That should be one of the objectives of this policy.

In terms of page 30, paragraphs 54 to 57, where we talk about nutrition. The Ministries of Education, Gender Equality and Child Welfare, Ministries of Agriculture and Health went a long road to develop a product, a small drinking product that we can issue at all our schools. I believe also our primary schools, which has the necessary nutritional value to help our children to focus in the classes and to have better results. The research that was done and the results on the ground proved over and over the improvement of our children if they are well fed during school.

We know that many of our children arrive at the schools in the morning not well fed, or did not have the opportunity to even eat anything in the morning or during the day. The benefits of this are just enormous. We calculated that this would cost us about N\$300 million to implement this school-feeding programme. I however believe that the results derived from that, not only for our children but also for our economy at large, would be enormous. You would need a lot of milk, Soya, you could use mahangu, which could be produced locally and the return on that N\$300 million could be tenfold and I would want to encourage the different Ministries to continue with this process, with the hope that we can implement the school-feeding programme in the near future.

Honourable Speaker, then I also believe that the role of the church in society should also get more prominence in the Policy. It is the responsibility of the

02 July 2008

POLICY: EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
HON SMIT

church to build the values, norms and the ethics into the hearts and minds of a Nation, so that we can live clean lives when we operate in our daily activities, whether in the private sector, the Government or any other sector.

Together with the core, in terms of the house, I believe that the church has a very important role to play in the development of human beings. I believe that many of us had the privilege in the past to be taught by education systems where there were people who emphasised and who built into our lives the importance of values and norms.

I read a book about the successful companies, companies that lasted for more than 50 years. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:

Comrade Speaker, I just want to come in on the strategic role played by the church.

HON SPEAKER: You will have an opportunity to reply.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Honourable Speaker, it was a study, which was done in the business sector on companies that have been in existence for over 50 years. It talks about the importance of values, the core of values in these companies and therefore, the importance of values in our lives and the role that the Church can play in building these values into our society.

Honourable Speaker, then the last question that I have to the Minister and Deputy Minister is on page 25 where it talks about the National Integrated Early Childhood Committee. My question is, why is it not a Council, why a

02 July 2008

**POLICY: EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

Committee? Should it not have more strength than a Committee? My feeling is that we should create a Council to lead this important policy in our society.

With these few remarks, thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

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

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:15 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

HON SPEAKER: Any further Discussions? Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I thank you, Honourable Speaker. I was still kind of trying to put my thoughts together, but nevertheless, I would share some of the ideas that come to my mind when I considered this most important Policy on the Table for discussion in this House.

This Policy is one of the most important policies of our Government since it seeks to strengthen society and Government's intervention in the development of our children at an early stage. Apart from promoting an integrated approach to early childhood development, it seeks to optimise the contribution from different stakeholders by ensuring coordination and complementary of action.

Although this will help to improve the outcomes of our interventions in this very important area, some challenges remain to which we must continue to seek

02 July 2008

**POLICY: EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

innovative solutions. Amongst these challenges is the high poverty level which threatens the physical and emotional development of many of our children. This is compounded by the increase in orphans, partly due to HIV/AIDS, which has put many of our children in a situation of heading households. Such children would also face challenges of inability to afford the fees charged by especially privately owned pre-school centres which are the most common early child development education centres in our communities.

Although the decision for Government to take over early childhood development will provide much-needed relief in this regard, many children will continue to face challenges. They would have to travel long distances, like their counterparts in the primary education, to these centres, which could reduce their ability to make optimal use of the services offered at the centres, either through poor concentration or poor attendance.

To address some of these challenges, we need to look at ways to mobilise additional resources to support the establishment of more centres to reduce distances in-between them, so that children will walk shorter distances to reach these centres; and to resource the centres adequately, including staffing them with adequately trained teachers who can really help the children to be successful when they enter formal education.

Some of the possibilities that come to mind for raising additional funds are that we can require corporate companies as a mandatory kind of measure to contribute. These corporate institutions that have the privilege to exploit our commonly owned natural resources would make a contribution towards the socio-economic development of our society and this contribution should not be done in the way that they now do it, where some of them say *“they will contribute to these types of programmes, but there is really no way for us to monitor whether they live up to that commitment”*. Sometimes we do not even know which specific programmes they are going to support, we do not know how much they are supposed to contribute and how often.

So we can decide that in respect of companies that, for example, have licences to mine or to harvest fish or any other natural resource, that it is a condition of the licence that they contribute a predetermined portion of their profit to a central fund.

02 July 2008

**POLICY: EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

This fund must be established and administered by Government and if they fail to make that contribution, they should not have an opportunity to be licensed next time. This would enable us to raise additional resource. It would enable us to direct these resources to worthy programmes and it would enable us to ensure that there is equitable distribution, so that we do not have a few communities that maybe have a few creative persons who can latch onto some investment projects and look out for their communities, and then Government would be seen to be neglecting the other communities who may not have succeeded to secure arrangements. If we can adopt the proposal as suggested, we can then have a situation where our commonly owned resources generate benefits for the broader Namibian society. This would complement the meagre resources available from Government. For now communities look not able to afford these services, they look up to Government to provide for all their needs, but the Government can provide only so much, because in order for us to be able to expand our Budget, we must raise money from somewhere. The main source of Government revenue is taxes and through the many discussions, we had in this House about our taxation regime, I get the impression that we are not ready to pay more in taxes. We should therefore start looking at other avenues for raising revenue and I think this is one of them and I feel it is a fair one.

Another way to supplement that would be to say that since we have agreed on a training levy for employers, we could dedicate a portion of the proceeds from this levy to support early childhood development as an important component of the education system and development of our children.

Honourable Speaker, I do not really have a lot to offer, but these are some of the proposals that came to mind and I felt that it would be worthwhile for me to offer this small contribution to the discussion. I support the Policy.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for her constructive suggestions. Any further discussion? Does the Minister wish to reply?

02 July 2008

**PLANT QUARANTINE BILL
RT HON N ANGULA**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Comrade Speaker, I move that the Debate be adjourned until next week Tuesday for my response. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until Tuesday, next week. The Secretary will read the Fourth Order of the Day.

PLANT QUARANTINE BILL: SECOND READING

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – *Plant Quarantine Bill.*

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Thursday, 26 June 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable

Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, that the Bill be now read a Second Time. Any further discussion? Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I thank you, Comrade Speaker. Firstly, I wish to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry for bringing this very, very important Bill on the Floor of the House.

As you know, Namibia is endowed with a variety of plants, some of them of great medicinal value and some of them of value which has not as yet been discovered,

02 July 2008

**PLANT QUARANTINE BILL
RT HON N ANGULA**

which leaves a challenge to our researchers to look into them.

However, the danger is that some of these plants can easily be taken out of Namibia and be cultivated somewhere else, therefore depriving Namibia of its rightful heritage. Therefore, there is a need to put up a regime to control the movement of such plants.

We should equally also put up a regime to control other plants because we have seen the devastation caused by invader bush, for example, and if you just allow any plant to be brought into Namibia, it might end up being a problem especially to farmers and to the eco-system in general. I, therefore, support this Bill.

However, I want to see that the body to be created by this Bill should have a wider participation, especially of cultural groups such as the San, because the San people have cultivated a comprehensive knowledge of some of our plant types, like *hoodia*. They will be in a better position to advise the Government which types of plants have potential and which one have certain values, so that this body is not just a body of bureaucrats or of the type of political people. I am not saying they should not be there, but I am saying that the body should be representative so that traditional knowledge is tapped into without plagiarising or taking traditional knowledge illegally as it has happened with *hoodia* and actually patented it, which is a form of stealing.

Therefore, I believe that we should think very hard to ensure that the interests of everybody are taken care of by the body to be created.

It is also important to encourage our young people not only to look very far by way of solving problems. Yesterday I was watching a programme on CNN, and I saw Americans using vegetable oils mixed with petrol to drive their cars. I was impressed that instead of looking at *Yatropa*, why can we not look at traditional melon seeds which we traditionally used for cooking and for the body? However somehow we look down upon our own knowledge and I am quite sure that if an enterprising person comes to Namibia and find these melon seeds' oil, they will actually start growing these and produce oil for fuelling vehicles and leave us in our own poverty.

It is important for our institutions of higher learning and also our own scientists to look into the traditional potential we have in order to propagate these plants, commercialise them and in the process create jobs. There is a possibility here.

02 July 2008

**PLANT QUARANTINE BILL
HON DR AMWEELO**

These traditional plants are the common heritage of all Namibians, and they need to be protected, safeguarded and to be exploited for the benefit of the Namibian people.

Once again, I congratulate the Minister, the Deputy Minister and their staff for bringing up this Plant Quarantine Bill and I support it. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister. Dr Amweelo.

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. I also rise to support this very important Bill. First, I would like to thank the Minister and his Deputy for tabling this very important piece of legislation in this august House.

Comrade Speaker, I support what the Minister said on page of his motivation speech about prevention, monitoring, controlling and eradication of plant pests. In this regard, Comrade Speaker, I think we need qualified personnel to carry out thorough inspections and identify those hazards in the Agricultural Sector, which are caused by insect bacteria and the various agricultural chemical insecticides and pesticides, etcetera, in order to reduce or eradicate them effectively.

The Plant Protection Organisation, as stated in Section 2(1) on page 4 of the Bill, is also commendable. However, we have experienced today enormous areas, which are still cleared annually as a result of need agricultural and urban development. Managing the remaining forests on a sustainable basis is difficult. Global demand for wood is high and trees from our natural forests as well as being used for building material and firewood by local people and providing valuable sources for foreign currency for developing countries that have few other resources upon which to build their economies.

Comrade Speaker, the other concern is with regard to the deforestation, which causes many serious environmental problems, including increased rainfall runoff.

02 July 2008

**PLANT QUARANTINE BILL
HON DR AMWEELO**

It also includes biodiversity, decreasing soil fertility, changes in the local water cycle and increased rates of global warming and the indirect consequence of deforestation in developing countries like Namibia is that as wood becomes scarce, subsistence farmers are forced to use cattle dung as fuel. Cattle dung was traditionally used to fertilise croplands, therefore using it as fuel causes a reduction in soil fertility and crop production.

Another problem we have experienced in some parts of our country is bush encroachment, because it reduces grain and crop production, which is cited as another problem due to drought. I think the Plant Protection Organisation, which is stated in Section 2(1), should take care of these problems.

Comrade Speaker, the Honourable Minister in his motivation speech on page 2 mentioned issues related to food crops and bio-fuels. I support this sentiment and both the United States and the European Union have a policy promoting the use of bio-fuels as alternatives as a way to reduce reliance on crude oil. Some bio-fuel crops could be an opportunity for sustaining living on scrubland, such as *Yatropa* as the Prime Minister mentioned, which is already being cultivated in some countries. I suggest, Comrade Minister, that you also in future consider *Yatropa*. *Yatropa* is also known as physic nut, in Oshiwambo *Omuti gwemono* for bio-diesel in Namibia.

On the other hand, bio-fuels have advantages and disadvantages. The bio-fuels can also pose a risk for peasants to be pushed off their land to make way for energy crops. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Dr Amweelo, do you not think that maybe it is better to grow maize, sunflower and beans for bio-fuel, so that when you run out of food stock, you can divert it to food instead of *Yatropa*?

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. That is why I am saying there is an advantage and disadvantage. The disadvantage of *Yatropa* is as follows: On the other hand, bio-fuels can also pose a risk for peasants being pushed off their land to make way for energy crops. The use of food such as maize, palm oil and sugar to produce fuel has been blamed in part

02 July 2008

**PLANT QUARANTINE BILL
HON DR AMWEELO**

for record high commodity prices, which are driving millions of people into hunger. I agree with you, Comrade Kawana.

According to the UN Food Rapporteur June, critics of bio-fuel are saying they are diverting nutrition away from mouths, to compete for land which should be used to grow food.

According to the International Energy, they are estimating that one percent of the world arable land is used for bio-fuels, a figure that would rise to between 2.5 to 3.8% by 2030, depending on the policy incentive, of course.

This is a disadvantage because as the Prime Minister said, in order to get bio-diesel you have to mix. If you have 100 bags of maize, you need 50 bags of maize to mix with Yatropa in order to get bio-fuel. Instead of those 50 bags of maize feeding the people, you are now going to mix it with Yatropa in order to get fuel. It is a disadvantage. Therefore, we maybe need to look at other ways. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask Honourable Amweelo a question? The other day I was watching television and it is a technology, which is already available, but the Indians are increasingly using cooking oil, as the Right Honourable Prime Minister mentioned, in their diesel engines. They just mix this with diesel and then the motorbikes and things are running on this and it can be damaging to the engine, of course. My question is, is this the problem which causes the high price of cooking oil? Maybe it is one of those reasons, because now the Indians are using all the cooking oil in the world, because they are more than 2 billion in population and now all the cooking oil is gone.

HON DR AMWEELO: I agree with you, Comrade, the bio-fuel boom and the poor people's access to land said the bio-fuel boom was a major threat to millions of peasants. That is why I already said there is a good thing and a bad thing with regard to this.

02 July 2008

**PLANT QUARANTINE BILL
HON DR AMWEELO**

On page 12, Section 18(a) of the Plant Quarantine Bill, it is stated that, “*carrying out research or conduct any pest risk analysis within the scope or for the purposes of this Act.*” Comrade Speaker, I support this section with some comments, as follows:

The possible types of risks to be assessed in agricultural technology are the likelihood of the product showing characteristics of –

- Potential for the plants to become weeds;
- Likely toxic of plants and plant materials;
- Potential pathogermist of the micro-organisms and potential for animals to become pests.

The risks are similar to those assessed when a plant, animal or micro-organism is introduced into any area, often for the purpose of biological control of pests.

In enumerating the potential risks associated with these new technologies, the appropriate question is not, how can we reduce the potential risk to zero, but what are the relative risks of the new technology compared with the risk of the technologies with which they will compete? What are the risks posed by the over-regulating or failing to fully develop new technology? How do we weigh costs and benefits?

Above all, Comrade Speaker, training, capacity-building, capacity-strengthening for staff members are needed from time to time, as stated in Section 18(b) on page 12 of this Bill.

Comrade Speaker, with these few comments and the concern, I fully support this very important Bill. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution.

Deputy Minister Iilonga.

02 July 2008

**PLANT QUARANTINE BILL
HON IILONGA**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Thank you, Comrade Speaker, I rise to support this very important Bill.

All the time I used to argue that we have diamonds in different forms. One form is our indigenous plants and if they are not protected, you would find that it would be developed by others, such as was done with *hoodia*, devil's claw and many others. The danger is that the Bill is only dealing with importation and I have come across only a mention of exportation, but there is no exact Section, which deals with exportation.

I hope that if that was an omission it will be looked into, because that is where we need to put stringent measures to protect our plants. Otherwise, we will only control those who are importing.

Then I wish to make some observations on Sections 4, 5, 12 and 13 which deal with penalties and these penalties are all N\$20,000 or 2 years imprisonment or both. When it however comes to Section 6 – and I do not know whether this is a typographical error – the notification of receipt of regulated Article, it stipulates a fine not exceeding N\$20,000 or 1 year imprisonment. Maybe that is just a typographical error and it needs to be corrected in order to be in line with all the other sections I mentioned earlier which stipulate N\$20,000 or 2 years imprisonment.

In Section 11(6) the penalty is N\$4,000 or imprisonment not exceeding one year and if you compare N\$20,000 or one year imprisonment and N\$4,000 or one year, it needs to be cleared.

Section 21 of the Bill is a very important Section because this is the one dealing with the offences and penalties and I would really like to advise that we have penalties for the first offence and second offence. If you are warned and continue, you will no longer be given only N\$20,000.

In Section 21(2)(a) it stipulates on first conviction a fine not exceeding N\$4,000 or one year and if this person still continues violating this Bill, such as growing illegally, possess or selling illegally, transportation, etcetera, the penalty is not static, it is progressive. The more you are convicted, the higher the penalty. I think that is good because I found there are only six sections dealing with penalties on any conviction.

02 July 2008

**PLANT QUARANTINE BILL
HON IILONGA**

I want us to protect our plants so that we do what we did with the ostriches. People came to see this as a lucrative business. I was arguing here that how could a person buy a fertilised egg at N\$30,000 if that person does not intend to destroy your industry and I was just laughed at, that I just have this communist mind and I can see that people are now starting to think like communists.

Therefore, with those few remarks, I support the Bill and I want to see that this Bill also includes our animal products. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Comrade Iilonga, maybe you are more concerned about the ostriches, but you must remember that Namibia is not the only country, which has ostriches. Maybe the other countries such as Botswana, South Africa and others could be responsible for allowing these birds to be exported live from their countries. I agree with you that Namibia was not supposed to do it, but if it is not a collective decision, as we do with the elephants through the CITES Convention, one country alone cannot manage. Do you agree with me on that one?

In addition, the other question is whether you think we can also add *Ozombanyui* to the list. I do not know the word in English, but this is our food we were eating when we were growing up.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Comrade Speaker, there are definitely countries, which have those products, such as ostrich, but the reality in Namibia was too extreme to expose itself like other countries and I speak under correction, but Namibia was the country with the most ostriches in southern Africa and it was the one which introduced ostrich farming. I think that is the answer to your question, it does not have anything to do with the other countries.

If you go to the USA or Denmark, the thousands or millions of ostriches there are of Namibian origin. They will not tell you these are from South Africa or from Botswana, it is our ostriches, which are no longer ours.

02 July 2008

**PLANT QUARANTINE BILL
HON NAMBAHU**

With regard to *ozombanyui* and *eeshi's* which is from another tree, all those are important because you can make *ombike* out of it. It has a seed from which oil can be produced. It is similar to *ombanjo* and all those things, which have starch, but the secret of the *hoodia* has not yet been discovered. It does not only have ingredients to do with appetite, it has very many other ingredients, even some I cannot mention here and I will tell you in private.

Thank you, Comrade Speaker, I really support this Bill and I want the Minister to look into the concerns I have mentioned, especially on Section 6 and the omission of something dealing with exportation. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nambahu.

HON NAMBAHU: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. I also rise to support this very important Bill and I want to focus on the Plant Protection Organisation.

I was impressed the last time when the Honourable Minister of Agriculture was talking about the functions of his Ministry and talking to his officials, saying that they must not be office-bound. The same sentiments could apply to the members of this organisation, so that they should not be office-bound because there is just so much out there that we do not know about.

In my own understanding the definition of the word "*weed*" is that it is actually a plant whose uses and virtues we have not yet discovered and there are so many of those out there that we have not discovered their uses and virtues. Therefore, the members of this organisation will bring good to the country if they were to go out and disseminate their knowledge of what is available and how to control the plant pests.

There are even some trees of historical significance in our communities out there, but they are perishing simply because we do not have the knowledge to control

02 July 2008

**PLANT QUARANTINE BILL
HON DE WAAL**

the pests, which make those trees to succumb. Maybe it is a tree under which the Prime Minister learnt how to read and write, I do not know.

When we were in Venezuela, we were privileged to see one tree under which Simon Bolivar preferred to sit and study. I am not saying all the trees have the same long levity, but probably with the advance of knowledge and phytosanitary knowledge the lives of these trees could be prolonged and be used as museums or reference points.

It was mentioned that those who use these plants should be encouraged to be members of this organisation. I am not so sure about that, because what I saw last night on television about Keetmanshoop does not encourage me very much to recommend some of these things. Obviously, if those who know of these plants which are becoming extinct could put their knowledge to good patriotic use, they could also be considered to be members of this organisation and for them to emulate the example of the MVA Fund.

Ten years ago no one knew about the existence of the MVA Fund with the exception of a few, but these colleagues have gone out of their way to make the organisation known, to bring the benefits to those who need them most and all of these on their own initiatives. People should show initiative and go out of their way to do the unusual in order to extend the services provided by this Bill to those that need them most.

With these many words, I support the Bill and I encourage you to go ahead in this field. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. Any further discussion? Honourable De Waal.

HON DE WAAL: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. When I listened to some of the contributions this afternoon, I was very tempted to read the black letters in the beginning of the Bill, what the Bill is all about and maybe I should.

02 July 2008

**PLANT QUARANTINE BILL
HON DE WAAL**

The Bill is about the following: It is about “*providing for the preventing, monitoring, controlling and eradication of plant pests*”. That is what the Bill is all about. “*To facilitate the movement of plants, plant products and other regulated articles*” and so forth. It has nothing to do with bush encroachment and historical trees. It is just about plant pests and movements, etcetera.

Honourable Speaker, I want to make one comment. In the times that we are living, business is becoming more and more difficult, in fact life is becoming more and more difficult. The price of fuel is rising, it will not come down, it will end at more than N\$12 at the end of the year. The price of water and electricity is rising, interest rates will rise, etcetera. Life is thus difficult. What concerns me sometimes when I look at Bills like this one, and maybe not this one in particular, but it is as if we taking trade for granted, as if we are taking businesses for granted, that we will have businesses making good profits so that the Minister of Finance can add another tax to that profit to pay for something else. We take it all for granted.

Honourable Speaker, what concerns me is that every time we introduce a Bill like this, we are putting extra expenses to the businesses of the country and the other country. We must be very careful that we do not end up regulating our businesses to death, so that they will all die a natural death because we have introduced so much red tape and controls and more controls and more inspectors and more forms to fill in, so that by the time you want you start, you will say, “*please, let me just stop.*” (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: May I ask a question? Honourable De Waal, if we as lawmakers decide not to regulate, as it seems it is over-regulated, why does the World Trade Organisation put us in a position where we are not allowed to put up some factories here? Why do you think we are over-regulating but we cannot see how we are being over-regulated by those who have the power?

HON DE WAAL: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Minister, I will come to that one. All I am trying to say, Honourable Speaker, is that for the last 100 years

02 July 2008

**PLANT QUARANTINE BILL
HON DE WAAL**

plants have been moving from Angola to South Africa, from Mozambique to Namibia and nothing has happened. It seems as if we have now invented a very serious problem. The reason why the Bill is here is because within SADC somewhere, somebody who is very interested in plants decided that all of us have to have a Bill about this thing, so let us have it, it is fine with me.

One needs to have phytosanitary certificates, because the other day in California they had to stop the delivery of tomatoes because inside the tomatoes there was an organism that made people sick. Therefore, one has to be careful, but this has nothing to do with tomatoes, this Bill will not solve the tomato problem, let us be assured about that.

Honourable Minister, all I am asking is that when you implement this Bill, take into consideration that what we want to do in SADC is to have the free flow of currency, of tourists, of services and products, so that could have south-south trade and promote that. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable De Waal a question? Since you are for free movement of everything, can you now remove the cordon fence so that there is free movement of animals?

HON DE WAAL: That is a very good question Honourable Prime Minister and you know, since the war in Angola has ended – and I cannot even remember when that was, it was long ago – we should have been much more proactive. (Interjection) No, I am not concerned about that, do not come with racism and all that stuff, let us stick to the issue.

We should have been more proactive as far as the red line is concerned, because the red line is there simply because of foot-and-mouth disease, there is no other reason. That is why it is there and I am a great supporter of lifting that red line and sending it the north as far as possible.

The other point I want to make clear is that I am proud of my country, but you know, Honourable Deputy Minister who spoke about the ostriches, when the next time you go to South Africa, visit the place called Oudtshoorn and then when you come back, we will talk again about ostriches. (Intervention)

02 July 2008

**PLANT QUARANTINE BILL
HON DE WAAL**

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask a question? Honourable De Waal, would you be comfortable if people could just move from here, go to the desert, and uproot the Welwitschia? (Intervention)

HON DE WAAL: No.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Then what are you talking about now?

HON DE WAAL: There I agree with you five hundred percent, make no mistake, I have no problem with controlling what is happening in our country. All I wanted to say is that people must be realistic. Here we talk about *hoodia* which is not a Namibian plant. (Interjections) It is here yes, it is part of Namibia, but it is also a part of South Africa, part of Botswana and it even grows in the southern part of Angola.

What is more, Honourable Speaker, the part in *hoodia* that acts as an appetite suppressor was not invented or registered by Namibians, it was invented and registered by the CSIR of South Africa and in the meantime they have sold the patent to an international company. Why are we talking about *hoodia*? We were fast asleep, they discovered the thing, and they got the patent rights.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:

Comrade Speaker, on a Point of Order. I am very shocked and *stomgeslaan* when a Namibian leader in this august House is playing this down. The *hoodia* thing came from the San, it is we, the San and the Nama people who have been using the thing. There is the *kobba* and the *Tsama* and after you have taken it, you can go without water and food for many days and it is our people who discovered that. It is just that someone else stole this idea because we in Namibia are playing down our own products. How could a leader of this Nation talk like this? That is

02 July 2008

**PLANT QUARANTINE BILL
HON DE WAAL**

not true, that thing comes from the Nama and the San people. The term *hoodia* is only the scientific name.

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Speaker, we live in the clouds. I am telling you what is happening in the business world in southern Africa and by the way, Honourable Minister, go to the Internet and just type in *hoodia* and then you start reading all the articles. The fact is....(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: May I ask a question, please? Talking about the *hoodia* and maybe other plants of value, is the Honourable Member aware that within the UN Convention on Biodiversity, Namibia and the countries you have mentioned are trying to claim back that knowledge so that it goes back to its origin and the originators to start benefiting from that particular product, especially the *hoodia* and others. Are you aware of that and if that is the case, will it be helpful for our discussions if a Parliamentarian makes such a statement?

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Speaker, let me say I did not know that, so that it is news to me, I will investigate. I will do my research and come back to you and I will be the first person to help and support that action because that is what we need to do. We need to be proactive, we need to fight because what happened in South Africa is that a deal has been made with the San people in South Africa, that they will get 10% to 15% of the spoils of *hoodia* through that patent of the CSIR. I am saying we must be proactive, but this Bill is not about that.

I want to give you another example. In the southern part of Namibia near Lüderitz you find these very small funny-looking succulents and if you do not know them, you will probably not see them amongst the stones there. They are very rare and they are protected in Namibia.

02 July 2008

**PLANT QUARANTINE BILL
HON DE WAAL**

The other day when we were at a conference in Brussels, I visited a nursery and let me tell you, I was shocked, because there you could buy that little Namibian plant for less than 5 Euros. They were standing there, many of them, all kinds of those succulents, cheaply produced in the Netherlands. I am just trying to say, let us try to be realistic about these things.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? My apologies Honourable De Waal for disrupting you, but could you maybe inform this august House if you have any evidence of the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Kunene, Omusati, Oshana, Ohangwena and Oshikoto Regions for the past 30 years? Do you have that evidence?

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Minister, I would not like to talk about that because that is not my field. I am sorry that Dr Huebschle is now lying in hospital, those are the people that know and the Minister of Agriculture obviously also knows.

When you talk about trade and especially foreign trade this is also true about plants and this is where I want to stop. When you talk about trade and especially exports, we spoke this morning to the Minister of Fisheries, they now have to build a factory worth N\$5 million in Lüderitz for our own Fishing Company belonging to the Government because of phytosanitary problems and disease control. If you do not build it, you will not be able export. If you do not sort out the problem with the red line, whatever that might be, you will not export meat and that is the reality of international trade today. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: May I ask Honourable De Waal a question? Honourable De Waal, you have just answered yourself on the question of over-regulating our industries today. What

02 July 2008

**PLANT QUARANTINE BILL
HON DE WAAL**

makes you say that if we do not build that factory we cannot export? Is that not over-regulating?

HON DE WAAL: Yes, it is.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: That is why we are saying we are not reinventing the wheel. It has already been invented. On the issue of intellectual properties, people think that *hoodia* is only found in the South but *hoodia* is all over Namibia, even in my village.

HON DE WAAL: I agree with you, that is why I am saying it is not only in Namibia, it is also in Angola, Botswana and South Africa.

Honourable Speaker, I would like to come back to the factory, which is exactly what I am talking about. We have no option in the case of the factory in Lüderitz, because we want to send our fish there because the price is very good.

If South Africa, for instance, now also brings the same regulation for goods coming from Namibia, that I would call over-regulation because then they are making it very difficult for us to export anything to South Africa. Therefore, we as SADC should not kill one another by over-regulating trade between the SADC countries. We should be clever. (Intervention)

HON NAMBAHU: May I ask a question? Honourable De Waal, you seem to have read the bold letters in the Bill only, but you seem you have failed to read the title. I have a problem because you seem to support quarantine in the animal world, but opposing it in the plant world. The movement of plants can also be from outside Namibia just like from inside to the outside. How could you be supporting that practice in the animal world, but when it comes to plants, you seem to be oblivious of the consequences of bringing in plants without

02 July 2008

**PLANT QUARANTINE BILL
HON DE WAAL**

quarantining them? I have a fundamental problem with that. Could you perhaps enlighten me and put me at ease?

HON DE WAAL: No, Honourable Speaker, I am not against any of these things, I am saying we must protect our animals and we must protect our plants, but you must also realise one thing, that we are not like the Free State in South Africa where for miles and miles you will just find maize. If something goes wrong there, they will lose millions of Rand because of a pest that went into the maize fields.

In our case in Namibia, you go for kilometres and kilometres and you see cattle, goat and sheep. If something goes wrong, we will lose millions of dollars. You must just be careful.

In addition, one other thing Sir, Namibia is half desert, so it is not easy for anything coming from a tropical area to grow in this country. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable De Waal a question? Honourable De Waal, are you aware of bush encroachment? Where did this bush come from?

HON DE WAAL: It is a Namibian bush.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: No.

02 July 2008

**PLANT QUARANTINE BILL
HON DE WAAL**

HON DE WAAL: Bush encroachment, *swarthaak* is an internal plant. There is only one that I know of that comes from outside and that is the *Prosopis*. You will find the *Prosopis* in the Klein Windhoek river running to Brakwater, those big green trees with the long thorns with the seed that you can eat. That one comes from Australia and that is the only one, which comes from outside. The others are all local plants. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask Honourable De Waal a question? You talked about the food for Namibia only. Do you want to use the products only for Namibia, not for other countries that are using our products? (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Which one? Zimbabwe?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: No, even if you are talking about Brussels using our own things.

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Speaker, I support the Bill, all I am asking is that please, when we regulate let us not kill our businesses and lastly, I think we should put a bit more emphasis on the export part of plants from Namibia because there is a possibility that in future we can make money by exporting Namibian plants.

The last thing I want to ask the Honourable Minister is whether we have the capacity to do a proper phytosanitary process and to guarantee that the plants that we export are free of diseases. Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I support the Bill.

02 July 2008

**CONSIDERATION: REPORT ON NDC
HON DE WAAL**

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

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Honourable Speaker, I Move that the Debate be adjourned until Tuesday, next week.

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? None. The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until Tuesday next week. The Secretary will read the Fifth Order of the Day.

**CONSIDERATION: REPORT OF AUDITOR-GENERAL ON
NAMIBIA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

SECRETARY: Consideration of Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts on the Review of the Report of the Auditor General on the accounts of the Namibia Development Corporation for the Financial Years ended 31 March 2005 and 2006.

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

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Speaker, I so Move. Honourable Speaker, I rise to motivate the Report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts on the review of the Auditor General's Report on the Namibia Development Corporation (NDC) for the Financial Years 2005 and 2006.

02 July 2008

**CONSIDERATION: REPORT ON NDC
HON DE WAAL**

Honourable Speaker, as you and all the Honourable Members are aware, Rule 47 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the National Assembly assigns the Public Accounts Committee to examine, consider and report on all the Reports of the Auditor-General tabled in the National Assembly. This is done in fulfilment of Articles 59 and 63 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, which mandates Parliament to receive reports, monitor all the expenditure of public funds, and maintain an oversight role over the activities of the Executive, including state-owned enterprises.

Honourable Speaker, it is not my intention to delve into the details of the Report, which is before the House today, and was tabled on the 11th of June 2008. I hope that the Honourable Members have had an opportunity to peruse through the report and are in a position to debate it in more details. Allow me to point out a few issues as raised in the Report.

Honourable Speaker, at the outset I would like to highlight the issue of the Cabinet decision taken on the 4th September 2001 to dissolve the NDC, and to transfer its assets and liabilities to the Development Bank of Namibia. As a result of this decision, all the positions that became vacant were frozen and could not be filled. Since 2001 most of the personnel in key positions in finance, legal, administration and management have left the Corporation due to uncertainty regarding their future. This had a serious impact on the segregation of duties and resulted in a breakdown of important internal controls, which are necessary to safeguard the assets of the Corporation.

As detailed in the Report, the NDC is still a functioning entity, but with limited staff, especially in the Finance Department and other key management positions. The current situation as at the time of writing this report is that the remaining staff are demoralised, overworked and segregation of duties is non-existent. The situation is so dire that it would be neither proper, nor prudent for Government to stand back and leave this situation entirely in the hands of the current company management.

During our review process, the Committee was informed of the latest Cabinet decision taken on the 2nd of October 2007 where Cabinet decided to rescind its 2001 decision and approved the restructuring of the NDC. According to the information received, Cabinet further tasked the Ministries of Finance, Agriculture, Water and Forestry and Trade and Industry to coordinate a study to

02 July 2008

**CONSIDERATION: REPORT ON NDC
HON DE WAAL**

determine the mandate, functions and structure and financial implications of the new entity as well as the Amendments to both the NDC and DBN Acts.

The Committee is gravely concerned about the safeguarding of the assets of the Corporation and is of the opinion that urgent measures need to be put in place now to safeguard the assets of the Corporation and to effectively manage the current loan book.

NDC has a loan book, lots and lots of money are owed to the NDC, but I do not think much is being done to collect the money. There is also the question of all these sub-companies of the NDC, AMCOM and the security company and the brick-making company. What happens there is not known, some of them have never given financial statements, so the assets of the NDC are in grave danger and there are stories going around that assets are being sold. Unfortunately, we could as a Committee, not do much about that, but we would as a Committee urge the Cabinet to really look at the assets of the NDC, otherwise we are in serious trouble one day when we have the boat sailing again.

These issues cannot be put on hold while waiting for the full Report from the designated Committee on the Restructuring of the NDC, because hitherto it is unclear as to when the Report will be completed. We all are therefore waiting for the Report from those four Ministries.

Our Committee has recommended that some functions that can be transferred to other entities, such as the loan book, be transferred immediately so that all outstanding debts to the NDC are recovered before they prescribe and this is very serious stuff.

In conclusion, may I take this opportunity to thank the current management of the NDC and the Board of Directors for availing themselves to appear before the Committee and to provide both oral and written responses?

Honourable Speaker, I just want to add something here, which may create a wrong impression.

The Committee supports the decision of Cabinet to restructure the NDC and let it continue because there is a place for an organisation such as the NDC. I just wanted to make sure that we say that, because we definitely support that resolution.

02 July 2008

**CONSIDERATION: REPORT ON NDC
HON MOONGO / HON ULENGA**

Further, Honourable Speaker, I would also like to commend the Auditor-General, his Deputy and staff members from his office for the excellent assistance rendered to the Committee during the review process. I would further like to thank staff members of the Ministry of Finance, especially Treasury and our own Secretariat who provided valuable technical assistance and procedural advice during the entire process. I thank you, Honourable Members, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable De Waal. Any further discussion? Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: I thank you, Honourable Speaker. Thank you for the information from the Committee, but I was only disturbed by the decision, which was taken by the Cabinet to dissolve the NDC and then, after you have put the workers in the street, you reintroduce it. What is going on with you? This is very disturbing, the people are still in the streets and it is now being reintroduced. It is retrenchment in a cunning manner. I want you to re-employ those workers.

With this I support the Report of the Committee.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. Honourable Ulenga.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, I Move on behalf of my Colleague that the Debate be adjourned until tomorrow afternoon.

02 July 2008

**REPORT ON TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON NAMBAHU**

HON SPEAKER: The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until tomorrow afternoon. The Secretary will read the Sixth Order of the Day.

**CONSIDERATION: REPORT ON TRADITIONAL
LEADERS IN NAMIBIA**

SECRETARY: Consideration of Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs on the election, appointment and recognition of Traditional Leaders in Namibia.

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

HON NAMBAHU: I so Move, Honourable Speaker. Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. The Report, which I am motivating today was tabled in this august House on 12 June 2008 and it is my feeling that the Honourable Members have had ample time to read the Report.

As the Honourable Members might be aware, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs is constituted in terms of Article 59(1) of the Namibian Constitution and in accordance with Rule 8, Part 2 of the Standing Rules and Orders and Internal Arrangements of the National Assembly.

The primary aim of the Standing Committee is to consider any matter it deems relevant with regard to the Ministries, Offices and Agencies for which it is responsible, amongst them the Ministry of Justice, Information and Communication, Office of the Attorney General, Electoral Commission of Namibia, Office of the Ombudsman. The Standing Committee can also deal with and consider any matter referred to it by the National Assembly.

02 July 2008

**REPORT ON TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON NAMBAHU**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, against this backdrop and as you are all aware, the Motion on the election, appointment and recognition of Traditional Leaders in Namibia was tabled in this National Assembly by Honourable Henk Mudge on the 7th of June 2006 for discussion. It was subsequently referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs on 13 June 2006 for further investigation and to report back to the National Assembly.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I should admit here that the issue of some unrecognised Traditional Leaders in Namibia is a very sensitive one to some segments of our population. It thus needs to be dealt with in an utmost careful, sensitive and in a political mature manner. I should hasten to add here that this issue has already been very much politicised and my humble appeal to this House is not to politicise it any further.

I would wish the Honourable Members to debate it in a very mature, objective and non-party political approach, if that is possible in this House. That notwithstanding, the Standing Committee started consultations with various stakeholders, amongst them the late Minister of Regional and Local Government, Comrade Pandeni, all the unrecognised leaders in the Kunene, Erongo, Omaheke, Hardap and Otjozondjupa Regions.

After completing consultations with various stakeholders, the Report was compiled, discussed, and approved by the Standing Committee, whereupon it was referred to the Standing Committee on Rules and Orders where it was discussed and approved.

Honourable Speaker, as I have said, a Report was compiled with its recommendations and tabled in this National Assembly for discussion. It is, therefore, my humble and sincere hope that the Honourable Members will discuss the Report again in an objective and very patriotic manner, so that we could move forward and provide options, analyse the recommendations and probably come up with something that would really solve the problem of the unrecognised Traditional Leaders out there.

Obviously, we are dealing with perceptions. Some members of the communities feel that they are not recognised and even the words we sometimes use invite problems. Recognition sometimes is taken by others that they are not recognised, but I do not need to explain what that means.

02 July 2008

**REPORT ON TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON NAMBAHU**

These are all words that are foreign to our people and then we have the issue of status and dignity, the issue of sustenance. Maybe we have to think of projects of some kind so that we could really sustain the police that are dealing with the dispensation of traditional justice, adjudication of disputes. These are the issues that we have to deal with.

Sometimes I feel that if something is not done, the situation out there is waiting to explode and, therefore, I appeal to you to consider and debate the report in an objective and mature manner so that we can help our Traditional Leaders out there. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for the motivation of the Report. Any further discussion? Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, due to the lateness of the hour and the importance of the Debate, I Move that the Debate be adjourned until Tuesday, next week. I want to ask the Members to have the Report of the Committee in front of them as we are discussing it, because we do not seem to have the Report and that is why I do not want to discuss it.

HON SPEAKER: The consideration of the Report stands adjourned until next week, Tuesday. The Secretary will read the Seventh Order of the Day.

**MOTION ON INTRODUCTION OF
SCHOOL BUS SERVICES**

02 July 2008

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on the introduction of school bus services to ease the pressure on parents who are heavily affected by high fuel prices.

HON SPEAKER: When the House adjourned on 01 July 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Venaani. The Honourable Deputy Minister of Regional and Local Government and Housing adjourned the Debate and assigned the task to the Deputy Minister of Finance.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: In the spirit of solidarity, can we postpone this Motion until next Tuesday?

HON SPEAKER: The consideration of this Motion stands adjourned until Tuesday next week. The Secretary will read the Eighth Order of the Day.

MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on the situation in neighbouring Zimbabwe which has experienced alarming escalation of public political violence.

HON SPEAKER: When the House adjourned on 26 June 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Ulenga. Honourable !Nawases-Taeyele had the Floor and she may now continue and wrap up.

02 July 2008

**ADJOURNMENT OF ASSEMBLY
RT HON N ANGULA**

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: Honourable Speaker, given the very limited time, I would like to postpone this Debate until tomorrow.

HON SPEAKER: The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until tomorrow afternoon. I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House.

02 July 2008

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I Move that the House adjourns until tomorrow 14:30.

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? Agreed to.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2008.07.03 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
03 JULY 2008
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? Question 16 is one by Honourable Venaani. Does the Honourable Member Put the Question?

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

QUESTION 16:

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I Put the Question.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, Notice of Questions were raised in this august House by Honourable Venaani, on matters concerning houses constructed by the National Housing Enterprise (NHE) and other related matters, and I now wish to respond as follows:

At the onset, I wish to inform Honourable Venaani that for the past six years or so, the country has seen a decline in housing output delivered by the National Housing Enterprise, especially during 2002 to 2005, with an average output of 240 houses annually. One of the main reasons for this low output has been attributed to lack of access to serviced land by the National Housing Enterprise, a

03 July 2008

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON VENAANI
HON EKANDJO**

matter, which is being looked at with a view of finding a lasting solution to this effect.

The response to Question 1:

- During 2005/2006 Financial Year, the National Housing Enterprise constructed 152 houses at the cost of N\$17.9 million.
- During the 2006/2007 Financial Year, the National Housing Enterprise constructed 258 houses and serviced 253 plots in Ondangwa and Outapi at the cost of N\$30.5 million.
- During 2007/2008 Financial Year, the National Housing Enterprise has set aside a budget of N\$76.2 million to construct approximately 700 housing units.

From the figures above, one can clearly see that there has been a drastic increase in investment in housing for the past two years. This came as a result of a new corporate strategy of the enterprise to cut operational related cost, especially employment cost with the aim to shift such resources towards long-term investment. It is indeed this strategy of cutting employment cost that necessitated the restructuring and re-organisation of the National Housing Enterprise a year ago, among others.

In this regard, the Capital Budget has shown a considerable increase in 2006/2007 and it out-rips the Operational Budget in 2007/2008 for the first time in many years. The table of which you will get a copy illustrates this trend.

Let me come to Question 2: The Enterprise received 1,111 new applications during the last Financial Year, adding to the existing waiting list of over 5,000 applications. This waiting list was reduced with 258 as a result of houses allocated during that same year. The demand for housing certainly exceeds the supply nationally, hence the need for increasing the housing stock. The current housing backlog stands at more than 300,000 nationally according to the study conducted by the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development a few years ago.

Questions 3 and 4:

There are five strategies the National Housing Enterprise is currently pursuing in order to increase housing delivery:

1. Mobilisation and acquisition of sufficient land (over 5,500 plots acquired, as mentioned earlier);
2. Mobilisation of affordable capital for investment in service infrastructure and housing construction: This also entails striking co-financing partnerships with commercial banks and other financial institutions.
3. Exploring alternative and cheaper building technologies, methods and materials. In this regard, the National Housing Enterprise is working with the Habitat Research and Development Centre, which is currently busy with researching the possible use of locally produced materials, as well as sourcing cheaper building materials from alternative sources. Recently, the Ministry launched a building block product, which resulted from a research project aimed at promoting the use of locally available materials in housing construction.
4. The employment of an in-house construction/project management approach with the aim of ensuring quality and affordability of housing products: Through this approach, National Housing Enterprise retains the responsibility of procuring the building materials and thereby relieving the financial burden on SME constructors, as well as inspection of the construction process to ensure that housing quality is not compromised.
5. Enhancing human and organisational capabilities through sourcing and developing skills and competencies, the company requires to deliver its mandate more effectively and efficiently.

No organisation can succeed to increase its performance and productivity without improving the quality of its workforce, as everything starts and ends with the people.

In this regard, the company is busy implementing the excellence model with the support of SAFRI (Southern Africa Initiative for German Business) aimed at improving its overall operational efficiency, business processes , customer

03 July 2008

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON TJOMBE
HON EKANDJO**

service, etcetera. The National Housing Enterprise is in this journey to excellence together with the two sister development finance institutions, namely the Development Bank of Namibia and the Agriculture Bank, which initiatives was officially launched on 26 February 2008 in Windhoek.

I trust that the above information meets the expectation of Honourable Venaani.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister.

HON VENAANI: I want to thank the Honourable Minister for exceeding my expectations.

HON SPEAKER: Question 20 is one by Honourable Tjombe. Does the Honourable Member Put the Question?

QUESTION 20:

HON TJOMBE: I Put the Question.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker, including all 78 Comrades of the National Assembly.

03 July 2008

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON TJOMBE
HON EKANDJO**

Notice of Questions were raised in this august House by Honourable Tjombe on issues concerning the proclamation of Okombahe and Otjimbingwe as Local Authorities and I now wish to respond as follows:

Question 1: May the Honourable Member be informed that the decision to establish and declare settlement areas is not the responsibility of the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development. However, in terms of Section 31 of the Regional Councils Act, 22 of 1992, this responsibility lies with Regional Councils.

Accordingly, the matter regarding the declaration of Okombahe and Otjimbingwe as settlement areas is within the responsibility of the Erongo Regional Council. The Honourable Member may also be aware that the structure for all settlement areas has been approved by the Office of the Prime Minister as part of the consolidated structure for all Regional Councils.

While our Ministry has the overall goal of coordinating all activities of the Regional and Local Government structures, however the actual implementation of the approved structure of each declared settlement area is the responsibility of the Regional Council concerned.

Question 2: In terms of the Regional Councils Act, 22 of 1992, the promotion of declared settlement areas to a local authority level is the responsibility of the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development upon recommendation by Regional Councils. However, for the Regional Council to recommend to the Ministry for the promotion of a certain declared settlement to a local authority level, such Regional Council has to satisfy itself that such particular settlement area is able to sustain itself in terms of revenue base and economic sustainability.

In the case of Okombahe, the following progress has already been made:

- Town land boundaries surveyed and declared;
- Title Deed created for portions of land;
- The general layout plan will soon be resubmitted to the townships board for final approval.

03 July 2008

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON DIENDA
HON EKANDJO**

In the case of Otjimbingwe, the following progress has already been made:

- Town land boundaries surveyed and declared.
- The general layout plan was also compiled, submitted and approved;
- The surveyed plans have been submitted to the Surveyor General's Office for approval.

Question 3: The Ministry is not delaying the process of proclaiming the two declared settlements in questions as local authorities. The Honourable Member would appreciate that the process involves all stakeholders and takes cognisance of economic reality on the ground. Thus far, the Ministry is not aware of any request or recommendation from the Erongo Regional Council for the two declared settlement areas in question to be proclaimed as Local Authorities.

If other declared settlement areas in other regions have been proclaimed as Local Authority areas, it was as a result of due process of recommendations from respective Regional Councils concerned in line with economic reality of those areas in question. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for his reply. Question 27 is by Honourable Dienda. Does the Honourable Member Put the Question?

QUESTION 28:

HON DIENDA: I Put the Question.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it seems to me that we have a problem to direct

03 July 2008

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON DIENDA
HON EKANDJO**

this question to the right Ministry. First, it was directed at the Right Honourable Prime Minister and now to the Minister of Works and Transport, but I believe it actually belongs to the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture. That is where it really belongs. Nevertheless, Honourable Speaker, the Ministry and the Namibia Airports Company fully support the idea. We do not have any problem with the idea, but I would like to request the Honourable Member to put her ideas in writing and direct it to the Heritage Council for implementation and the Ministry and the Airports Company will be most willing to help implement this project. However, the institution that has to consider these kinds of decisions and implement them is the Heritage Council. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Deputy Minister. Question 29 is by Honourable Dienda. Does the Honourable Member Put the Question?

QUESTION 29:

HON DIENDA: I Put the Question.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Question 29 is on Karasburg and I would like to respond to the question by Honourable Dienda. Before I respond, I would like to say that we used to have a UDF in South Africa and we used to have a Congress of Democrats in South Africa. The white liberals in South Africa used to have a Congress of Democrats and you should not take names from South Africa.

It was un-banned when the ANC was un-banned. The ANC, CoD, the Communist Party and all those were un-banned in South Africa. We do have a CoD in South Africa, not here, in fact since the fifties. That was just for information, but they can sue you.

03 July 2008

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON DIENDA
HON EKANDJO**

Comrade Speaker, I am now going to answer the question but I do not know whether I am now responding to the CoD in South Africa or here. Let me direct my answer to the one here in Namibia.

The response to Question 1:

During 2007, a team from the Ministry was dispatched to Karasburg Municipality for monitoring and training of the staff members who will be responsible for the administration of the decentralised Build-Together Programme. The issue of the accounts was also taken up in this regard.

According to the National Housing Development Act, 200 (Act No. 28 of 2000), section (1), it is required for all the Regional Councils and the Local Authorities to establish a Housing Revolving Fund. Furthermore, the Regional Councils and Local Authorities are expected to open two separate accounts, namely a Disbursement Account where money is deposited from the Ministry and subsequently, to the beneficiaries, suppliers and builders, and a Receipt Account where the loan repayments of the beneficiaries are deposited.

Moreover, as the construction process takes longer due to different reasons at some Regional Councils and Local Authorities, the Ministry had advised on the opening of a third account known as a Call Account in the Build-Together terms. The rationale of this was to accrue interest and to utilise the proceeds towards other housing related issues. The Disbursement Account is a cheque account and thus does not accrue much interest.

For this, money is transferred from the latter to the Call Account and then transferred back once the construction commenced. In the banking terms this account is sometimes referred to as an investment. However, transactions can take place on a daily basis.

Questions 2 and 3:

I think questions 2 and 3 have been answered in my response above.

Question 4: The money allocated to Karasburg Municipality was earmarked to benefit 58 beneficiaries. Of the 58 beneficiaries, only 24 have been allocated with loans. The 34 that were not allocated with loans is due to passing away of some applicants, cancellations, relocations to other regions and towns, and

03 July 2008

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON DIENDA
HON EKANDJO**

retrenchments. The Municipality was advised accordingly to sort out all these issues and to allocate the loans to other applicants, where necessary, and to increase other beneficiaries' loans to complete their houses as the price of building materials and labour has gone up tremendously.

Question 5: Money was spent for the mentioned beneficiaries who have constructed houses. The balance not utilised is because of the reasons given above. Moreover, there was a lack of human resources and capacity at Karasburg Municipality. The Chief Executive Officer's position was just filled in December 2007, and is tasked to analyse, review and continue with the implementation of the programme.

It should also be noted that funds are approved and allocated to Karasburg based on the approved Project Identification Report. This means that money is earmarked for specific beneficiaries and cannot be allocated to other people without the necessary cancellations done. Karasburg Municipality had difficulties in tracing some of the beneficiaries; however, directives were given on how to proceed and resolve this issue. What is more, potential applicants cannot be penalised because of this issue.

Question 6: As previously mentioned, the interest accrued will be utilised for housing related issues as prescribed in the National Housing Development Act. (Act No. 28 of 2000) section 9.

Question 7: Karasburg Municipality is busy cancelling loans for those who have moved out of Karasburg and to allocate the funds to applicants on the waiting list. In addition, they have also received and screened new applicants for possible funding in the next Financial Year.

The Ministry, together with Karasburg Municipality and other Regional Councils and Local Authorities, are trying to solve the housing backlog in all thirteen regions of the country, even if the housing budget is too limited. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for his reply. Honourable Dienda. Question 30 is by the same Honourable Member. Does the Honourable Member Put the Question?

03 July 2008

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON DIENDA
HON EKANDJO**

QUESTION 30:

HON DIENDA: I Put the Question.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** I am going to respond to the question on pensioners and there is also another question by Honourable Schimming-Chase where I am going to elaborate more, because the questions are more or less the same. Let me first respond to Question 30:

Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable Members of Parliament, Notice of Questions was raised in this august House by Honourable Dienda on matters concerning pensioners in relation to payment of Municipal bills and other related issues.

Response to Question 1: The issue of pensioners to be exempted from paying Municipal rates and taxes is a delicate issue that requires all of us in this august House to apply our minds, based on socio-economic reality of our country. We are all aware how most of our Local Authorities are struggling with their meagre resources to meet the demands and expectations of their respective residents residing in the areas of their jurisdictions.

In other places and elsewhere in the world some Local Authorities do exempt pensioners and the destitute from paying rates and taxes. However, in most cases these Local Authorities are located in countries or places that have well-developed and advanced economic systems. The Ministry has explored various measures on how to face some of these challenges, but the experience on the ground indicates that many comparative studies need to be undertaken to establish the sustainability of such undertakings. Therefore, this question should not be directed to the Ministry as such, but rather be the responsibility of all of us in this august House.

Response to Questions 2 and 3: I think Questions 2 and 3 are all related to Question 1, therefore as I alluded to earlier, all three questions raised by the Honourable Dienda should be directed to the Ministry as such. It should rather be the responsibility of all of us in this august House to consider whether taking such

03 July 2008

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON DIENDA
HON EKANDJO**

measures will complement our efforts of ensuring that Local Authorities remain viable entities, capable of delivering effective and efficient services to their residents or we should dictate to them on who should pay and who should not pay for whatever services.

However, for the Local Authorities to remain viable entities, they should be allowed to exercise their minds and apply their autonomous status in terms of the Local Authorities Act 23 of 1992. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for his reply.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Minister, will it not help us if you could bring a law to amend the current legislation on this issue, like the Honourable Minister of Finance has done. Will it not help us?

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Could she elaborate why it will not help? It must come here and then you say whether it helped or not. I do not know what she means.

HON SPEAKER: Question 31 is by Honourable Dienda. Does the Honourable Member Put the Question?

QUESTION 31:

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, I Put the Question.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Let me respond to Question 31. Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable Members, Notice of Questions was raised in this august House by Honourable Dienda, concerning the street names in Namibia and I now wish to respond as follows:

Response to Question 1: The naming of street names in Namibia is not the responsibility of the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development. It is the responsibility of the Local Authorities, which, in terms of the Local Authorities Act (Act 23 of 1992) are empowered to formulate rules and regulations to govern the affairs of their respective Local Authority areas of jurisdiction. Section 30 of the Local Authorities Act clearly defines powers, duties and functions of Local Authority Councils, which include the construction and maintenance of streets and public places.

Furthermore, the Act also empowers Local Authorities to formulate their own by-laws and policies to govern the affairs of their Local Authorities.

Such by-laws or policies may include those that are related to the naming of streets in their respective areas of jurisdiction. Hence, there is no uniform policy from the Ministry in relation to the naming of streets in Namibia.

Response to Question 2: The naming of streets and their display thereof is the responsibility of local authorities in terms of the law.

Response to Question 3: The involvement of the public in the naming of the streets is the prerogative of each Local Authority Council in the country, which could decide on policies and procedures to be followed in the naming of streets falling under its area of jurisdiction.

In the case of the Lüderitz Town Council, the Ministry is informed that the Lüderitz Town Council has been aware that there are no street names in some of its suburbs and this may include Benguela Township. Because priorities usually compete with available limited public resources, which I am sure Honourable

03 July 2008

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON DIENDA
HON EKANDJO**

Dienda is well aware of the Lüderitz Town Council has always been concerned with this state of affairs and is working towards finding lasting solutions to this effect. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for his reply. Honourable Dienda.

HON DIENDA: Just a supplementary question. Honourable Speaker, I just want to know which Ministry is responsible for Local Authorities. I have directed my question to the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development and he is saying the Local Authorities are responsible, but the local authorities are under his Ministry. I cannot go to Lüderitz and ask the Local Authorities, I must work through the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** My younger sister misunderstood me. I did not say go to Lüderitz, I said in the case of Lüderitz they are concerned and they are working towards it. It all depends on the finances. I never said you should approach Lüderitz and I gave you the response.

HON SPEAKER: Question 36 is by Honourable Gurirab. Does the Honourable Member Put the Question?

QUESTION 36:

HON GURIRAB: I Put the Question, Honourable Speaker.

03 July 2008

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY
HON T GURIRAB / HON VILJOEN
HON EKANDJO**

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Question 36 reads: “Is there a vacancy for the position of the Regional Council for Tobias Hainyeko Constituency in Khomas? If the answer is in the affirmative, has the Electoral Commission been advised accordingly?”

The response to Question 36 is no, there is no vacancy. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Question 39 is by Honourable Viljoen. Does the Honourable Member Put the Question?

QUESTION 39:

HON VILJOEN: I Put the Question.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** First of all I want to hear, will you have a heart attack or stroke when I respond? Are you prepared to accept my response to you? (Interjections)

What I said is that when I was addressing a meeting – and I want you to listen carefully – is that over 176 years ago the people of Namibia were walking freely in their own country until in 1880s the elephant traders came here under the disguise of traders, but with the aim of colonisation. That is what I said there. I told them that when the European Nations depleted their own mineral resources, they started looking outwards and in 1884, they met in Berlin where they cut up and divided Africa among themselves and Germany took Namibia.

03 July 2008

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON VILJOEN
HON EKANDJO**

I told them that the German, Adolf Lüderitz, came to Lüderitz where colonisation started. Colonisation started in Lüderitz. I told them that the Namibian people in the South, under their heroic leaders, Jacob Marenga, Hendrik Witbooi and Christiaans and many others, fought the battle, they fought a war of resistance against colonialism.

I told them that Hendrik Witbooi was the first guerrilla fighter in Africa who faced the mighty German power of that time and that he never surrendered. He was killed east of Keetmanshoop and he died as a hero, not as a coward. That is what I told them.

I told them that the Germans wanted to cut off his head to take it to a museum somewhere in Berlin, but the warriors who were together with Witbooi buried him somewhere east of Keetmanshoop.

They never marked the grave because they were afraid that the Germans would come and dig up his body and that today nobody knows where Hendrik Witbooi was buried. There is only a replica at Gibeon.

I told them that the Germans annihilated over sixty percent of the Namibian population. I told them that after the Germans moved inland and found the Herero-speaking and Damara-speaking Namibians, they fought a heroic battle under the leadership of Samuel Maharero, Nicodemus Kahihemua, Tjamuaha and many others. I told them that Nicodemus Kahihemua and others were hanged from trees here at Brakwater and I have the pictures here. I told them that in the end, the Herero-speaking people were cornered in the Waterberg Mountains where they were made to starve and I have the whole book here with photos of their bones. As a result Maharero went into exile, he died as a hero in Botswana, and Jacob Marenga fled to South Africa where he was detained and killed by the British in the Cape Colony. That is what I told them.

I also told them that from there Germany moved northwards and they were defeated by Nehale Ya Mpingana at Namutoni and Nehale Ya Mpingana even captured the wife of a German. If you go to the Oshikoto area, you may find some people who are light in complexion. They are the descendants of the German lady. That is what I told them.

I have pictures here of shacks and a tent town in front of the Alte Feste and the horse the Minister was talking about the other day. Here are photos of people

03 July 2008

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON VILJOEN
HON EKANDJO**

who were bundled into trains to Lüderitz. They were shipped from Windhoek to Lüderitz and you will today find bones of Namibians in the dunes.

I told them when during the war the Germans were defeated by South Africa, South Africa wanted to occupy the northern part of Namibia and the people there resisted, Mandume Ndemufayo, Ipumbu Shilongo and many others.

I told them that Ipumbu Shilongo died as a hero. He was banned in Kavango Region by the South Africans. I told them that Mandume Ndemufayo was cornered by the South African-Portuguese forces and he said he was not going to surrender and killed himself with his last bullet and he died as a hero.

I told them that south of Namibia there is a country called South Africa with over 48 million people, north of Namibia there is a country called Angola with over 18 million people, but Namibia in-between is not even 2 million. Why? Was it not for the South African and German forces, we could have been 30 million today. That is what I told them.

I told them if you travel in Africa, you would come across villages between Windhoek and Okahandja, but here you have to travel thousands of kilometres and that is why we have a high rate of road accidents. Were there no villages here? That is what I told them.

I told them that the struggle was bitter and long. I told them that the struggle by SWAPO for the Independence of Namibia started when the Germans arrived in Lüderitz in 1884. Our forefathers fought but they were not well coordinated. They fought heroically. They never surrendered. They were defeated because the Germans had modern weapons of that time. That is what I told them.

I told them that the Namibian people are heroes. If you look at other countries, whether in Europe, Asia, Africa and others, the moment war starts you would see on television the people are refugees, they are going with bundles on their heads, and they are putting chickens and goats on bicycles and go away. In Namibia the people from southern and central Namibia never fled, they remained there. When the war of National liberation started and PLAN fighters and South Africa started to engage each other, from the Single Quarter Compound of Windhoek, you saw people were still building, they never vacated the operational area until Independence came. That is what I told them.

03 July 2008

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON VILJOEN
HON EKANDJO**

I told them Germany ruled Namibia for 31 years, 1884 until 1915 and during the German rule there was no peace, Germany never developed this country. I told them South Africa ruled Namibia from 1915 up to the 20th of March 1990, for 75 years and there was no development. I told them that the Namibian people stayed under white colonial rule of Germany and South Africa for 106 years.

There was no peace, but the SWAPO Government in eighteen years has done more than the combined 176 years of South African and German rule. That is what I told them. The photos are here.

All these books have photos of the Nama and Herero-speaking people hanging from trees, of the Massacre of Oshikuku, Oshatotwa, Cassinga, all over Namibia. That is what I told them.

I told them that when SWAPO fought they used to say, “*SWAPO, Sam Nujoma.*” If you go to Okahandja Military School, there was a big foot trampling on Sam Nujoma’s head. That is the propaganda they used to make.

I told them they used to say, “*SWAPO terrorists eat grass*”, but in 1989 when the people came from exile, they were fatter than us who stayed in the country. This is what I told them. I told the history, the realities of Namibia.

I told them there is more democracy today than before. You can speak, because of freedom of speech nobody has been arrested up to today. That is what I told them.

Comrade Speaker, I have many books here, the Honourable Member can come and look at the photos. Honourable Viljoen that is in short what I told the people there. I just told them the reality. I told them that they should not forget where they are coming from, that is their history. I told them that there are people who say SWAPO likes to talk about the past, I said those people are ashamed because their past is shameful. We are proud about our past, that is what I told them, and we will continue doing that. I hope you will also agree with me, Comrade Viljoen.

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

03 July 2008

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON GERTZE
HON NGHIDINWA**

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I accept the explanation by the Honourable Minister, I have nothing against the Honourable Minister, I asked the question because I read this in the newspaper, but it is unfortunate that you have to abuse the moment for propaganda or something like that.

Honourable Speaker, unfortunately the main question was not answered. I asked whether the white Namibians living in Namibia presently are the killers he referred to and that was not answered.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Honourable Speaker, first of all, all these books have photos, so this is not propaganda that the people were killed.

Secondly, I said what I said. You read propaganda from the newspaper. Do not believe what the newspaper said, I told you what I said. Do not tell me what the newspaper wants me to say. I told them what I said now, how the Namibians suffered under the hands of the white minority South African Government and the German Imperial Administration. That is what I said. I also said that most of the white soldiers who were here are today being counselled in South Africa because of the war trauma, because they were killers. The Koevoet killed and some of them are coming back again. Some of them are also mercenaries, like Executive Outcome and others. They are mercenaries somewhere, killing people. One of them was transferred from Zimbabwe to Guinea. Those are murderers.

HON SPEAKER: Question 43 is by late Honourable Gertze. Does the Honourable Minister wish answer?

QUESTION 43:

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, I rise to reply to the question posed by the late Honourable Reinhardt Gertze from the CoD.

03 July 2008

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON GERTZE
HON NGHIDINWA**

Comrade Speaker, I would like to thank the late Honourable Member who left his legacy with us for his concern and interest in the social well-being and security of our Nation.

The late Honourable Member asked whether foreign traditional “*doctors*” that come to Namibia to practise their traditional medicine possess valid employment permits.

According to our records, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration has no history of having approved any application from traditional doctors. As a matter of fact, there are so many skills that Namibia requires; however, as a country we have selective needs when it comes to such skills. Most of these skills are such as medical doctors, not traditional doctors, engineers, teachers, nurses, pilots, accountants, veterinarians, surveyors, etcetera. These and other professions are what our country critically need and we must strive to train our citizens in order to satisfy our National demand and do away with reliance on foreign Nationals.

Our law requires that any foreign National who wishes to work in Namibia must do so only after he or she has obtained an approved employment permit. I, therefore, must stress that any foreign citizen who may be found employed or self-employed without employment permit issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration is liable for arrest and prosecution. I, therefore, strongly warn any foreign national including traditional doctors who may be practising in Namibia without permits, who are challenging and undermining our laws and institutions that our immigration officers are on the lookout for them.

Furthermore, and in confirming my seriousness, I would like to request anybody who knows any traditional doctor practising illegally in Namibia, or for that matter, any foreign National who may have been employed or self-employed without the valid employment permit to come forward and provide the Ministry with such information. I thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister. Question 44 is by Honourable Viljoen. Does the Honourable Member Put the Question?

03 July 2008

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON VILJOEN
HON NUJOMA**

QUESTION 44:

HON VILJOEN: I Put the Question.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I thank Honourable Viljoen for posing the question. The question, as posed by Honourable Viljoen, is the following: “Are there any laws, regulations or ordinance prohibiting a Namibian citizen to take an allegation of corruption by Parliament or any parliamentary or Cabinet or even the President of the Republic of Namibia himself to the Ombudsman or the Anti-Corruption Commission?”

The answer is an emphatic no. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Question 45 is by Honourable Moongo. Does the Honourable Member Put the Question?

QUESTION 45:

HON MOONGO: I Put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Member alleges that there has been Angolans beaten up by Namibians at Oshikango. Beating and fighting is against the law of Namibia. If somebody has been beaten up in Namibia, I hope they have made a case with the Police. In this regard, it would have been useful for the Honourable Member to try to interrogate his source of information if they made a case, at which Police Station, to make it easier for us to follow it up, if it has happened. However, I am saying, if it has happened within the borders of

03 July 2008

**STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES BILL
COMMITTEE STAGE**

Namibia, I believe a case has been made and if a case has been made, the law will take its course.

What I know is that Namibians can cross into Angola, in particular for grazing; Angolans come to Namibia for watering their animals and fetching water for domestic use, shopping, schools and hospitals. I have not heard any of the allegations that you have made, but if there is truth in it, I would be more than happy to get more information about this so that we can get to the core of the allegation because these people have then violated the laws of Namibia if they have beaten up people. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for his reply. Honourable Moongo.

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

HON SPEAKER: That does it for the questions for today. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES GOVERNANCE
AMENDMENT BILL: COMMITTEE STAGE**

SECRETARY: Committee Stage – *State-owned Enterprises Governance Amendment Bill.*

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Prime Minister Move that the Assembly now goes into Committee?

03 July 2008

**STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES BILL
RT HON N ANGULA**

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I so Move.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Whole House Committee is called to order. The Committee has to consider the *State-owned Enterprises Governance Amendment Bill*.

Clauses and the Title put and agreed to.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

Bill reported without Amendment.

HON SPEAKER: Does the Right Honourable Prime Minister Move that the Bill be now read a Third Time? Who seconds? Objections? Agreed to. Any further discussion?

**STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES GOVERNANCE
BILL: THIRD READING**

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: A big thank you to the House for your support. Thank you.

03 July 2008

**STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES BILL
RT HON N ANGULA**

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

SECRETARY: State-owned Enterprises Governance Amendment Bill.

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

**CONSIDERATION: REPORT ON NAMIBIA
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

SECRETARY: Consideration of Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts on the Review of the Report of the Auditor General on the accounts of the Namibia Development Corporation for the Financial Years ending 31 March 2005 and 2006.

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, 2 July 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Report by Honourable De Waal. Honourable Gurirab adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor. Any further discussion? Does Honourable De Waal wish to reply?

HON MOONGO: Honourable Speaker, I move that the Debate be adjourned until Tuesday for the reply by Honourable De Waal.

03 July 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

HON SPEAKER: The consideration of this Motion will stand over until Tuesday next week. The Secretary will read the Third Order of the Day.

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN NEIGHBOURING
ZIMBABWE**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on the situation in neighbouring Zimbabwe which has experienced alarming escalations of political violence.

HON SPEAKER: When the House adjourned on Thursday, 26 June 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Ulenga. Honourable !Nawases-Taeyele had the Floor and she may continue.

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to round up my speech.

Honourable Speaker, last week when I was presenting my speech I was highlighting some of the root causes that led Zimbabwe to the hardship that it is going through today and I will just continue to do so by concluding my speech. It has been widely reported that the main Opposition Party in Zimbabwe earlier on connived with the United States department in drafting the so-called Zimbabwean Democracy and Economic Recovery Bill that was signed into law by Master George W Bush on December 21, 2001, cutting Zimbabwe's lines of credit from all multilateral lending institutions. I am referring to *New African Focus*, September 2007, No. 465, page 84.

Section 4(3) of the US Sanctions Law clearly states the Secretary of the Treasury shall instruct the United States Executive Director to each international financial institution to oppose and vote against any extension by the respective institution of any loan, credit or guarantee to the Government of Zimbabwe. No. 2: Any

03 July 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

cancellation or reduction of debts owed by the Government of Zimbabwe to the United States or any International Financial Institution.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, thus in essence the so-called smart sanctions that the Opposition MDC Tsvangirai has been campaigning for is responsible for current food shortages and factory closures.

Both SADC Heads of State and the Government had called for an end to the US nature of these economic sanctions on 31 March 2007. COMESA Heads of State and Government concur also in their communiqué of March 2003, issued end of their Eighth Summit in Sudan where they called for an end to illegal sanctions. Both these Summits called for an end to the illegal sanctions and to offer a rescue package to mitigate their effects.

Let me also address the so-called Tsvangirai letter to His Excellency the President of the Republic of South Africa. Comrade Thabo Mbeki. In Pretoria the President's Office denies the existence of such communication. The MDC spokesperson, on the other hand, insists the letter was delivered to Comrade Mbeki on the 13th of May. The South Africans allege that the whole letter issue is an intelligence project, according to Reverend Frank Chikane and I quote his words: "*The world is not innocent.*"

That is why I support the efforts of the relations man in the name of President Thabo Mbeki in his mediation efforts to make sure that Zimbabwe comes back to its rightful place and economic acceleration as sanctioned by SADC Heads of State on his mediation efforts.

Those who are calling for him to resign are just singing the hymns from their western allies and friends, whatever it is, the MDC should understand that Comrade Mbeki was appointed mediator by SADC and that no-one part of the negotiation may unilaterally push him out of this process. It is only logical that if MDC feels aggrieved with the mediation process by the President Mbeki, they should report to SADC and not assume responsibilities to hire and fire as they wish.

It is, however, well-known that the western agenda feels threatened by the South African President's... (Intervention)

03 July 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Information. Is it allowed in this House to mislead the other Governments? When somebody was killed in Omuthiya, the SWAPO Government then postponed the election, so why are they advising President Robert Mugabe to continue and participate alone in the election in Zimbabwe? Is it allowed to mislead SADC?

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: Honourable Speaker, what the Honourable Member is trying to bring in here is not part my speech, so I cannot respond to that.

Honourable Speaker, I was saying that the western agenda feels threatened by the South African President's balanced and professional discourse. He has refused to succumb to their pressure for him to demonise a fellow freedom fighter in the name of President Mugabe. The West wants Mbeki to be replaced by a mediator they can control at will to achieve regime change in Zimbabwe.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, the political situation in Zimbabwe does not need the Namibian National Assembly to come out with resolutions outside the SADC process.

The best Namibia can do is to support the SADC process and to ensure that the legal constitutional process of Zimbabwe is fulfilled. Indeed, Zimbabwe's presidential candidate, Comrade Robert Gabriel Mugabe won the run-off by a landslide victory with over 2 million votes, these are the facts, with over 200,000 votes which went to Mr Morgan Tsvangirai. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: May I ask the Honourable Zimbabwe lady a question? Honourable !Nawases-Taeyele, you are raising very important points... (Interjection)

03 July 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

HON MEMBER: She is not a Zimbabwe lady, she is an Honourable Member of Parliament.

HON VENAANI: You are not even parliamentary dressed, get out and get that golf shirt right. That is a golf shirt, you cannot wear a golf shirt to this House, and then we can wear farming shirts here. Honourable !Nawases-Taeyele, you are claiming that President Robert Mugabe has won the run-off, but why do you think that the African Union has resolved that a unity Government must be brought about in Zimbabwe if one man has won the election legitimately, when Mugabe is the leader?

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: Honourable Speaker, I do not want to be drawn into discussions. (Interjection)

HON VENAANI: You are discussing it.

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: Outside what I am supposed to say as a leader of this august House. In the results released by the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission it shows that the ZANU-PF candidate... (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Information. Has the Honourable Member ever read the Constitution of Zimbabwe whereby they state that one Party can participate in an election and be regarded as a proper winner? Did she read the Zimbabwean Constitution or the SADC as a whole?

03 July 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: I am coming to that, the Honourable Member should just be patient, and I will address that part. In the results released by the Zimbabwean Electoral Commission, it shows that the ZANU-PF candidate in presidential, run-off, President Mugabe, won with a landslide victory against Mr Morgan Tsvangirai.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of information. Here in Namibia we have two or three soccer teams, such as the African Stars and the Black Africa. When the African Stars went to the stadium and Black Africa did not go, the African Stars won the match. What is wrong with Zimbabwe?

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: Honourable Speaker, I would like to help my senior out. She took a very good example. Honourable Speaker, when we have two teams playing soccer, and the example was African Stars and Black Africa, if Black Africa is leading in the first half of the match and during the second half Black Africa is defeated by African Stars, using the same referee, the same linesmen. At the end the team which was losing in the first half eventually wins the match, this is exactly what my senior is trying to demonstrate, which I fully agree with. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Information. I thought the Honourable Member is a mature Member of Parliament and would understand the concept of democracy and the principles of SADC. Is she so ignorant to regard the recent elections in Zimbabwe as free and fair while over 90 people were killed during these elections? Is she that ignorant?

03 July 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: Honourable Speaker, I really want to continue with my speech. (Intervention)

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: On a Point of Information, Honourable Speaker. The Honourable Member is making an example that is tragic. I think that if someone wants to compare what is happening in Zimbabwe to a soccer match, I am worried about the future of Namibia. The fact of the matter is that when the teams came back, one team did not participate in the match. Secondly, the Honourable Member says the same referees, but all the same, referees, especially those from Africa, Pan African Parliament, SADC, all the observers have declared that this was not an election. What is the point that the Honourable Member is trying to make? The referees said the game was not played fairly.

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: Honourable Speaker, I do not want to be derailed from my speech, so let me just continue. Honourable Members, indulge me once again to quote an interesting analogy... (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Order. Seriously speaking, could the Honourable House and the SWAPO Party continue to keep such an Honourable Member here and who is called honourable who does not understand the concept of democracy and free and fair elections? You have to resign and be replaced by a proper person.

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: Honourable Speaker, I am happy I am not a member of DTA. I was trying to continue with my speech by quoting... (Intervention)

03 July 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question, please? Honourable Member, can we, the people of this country, take it for granted that what the SWAPO Party is planning to do in the next election is the situation that you are alluding to, that you are praising? Should we and the people of Namibia expect to see what ZANU-PF and President Mugabe were doing to the Zimbabwean people to happen to the Namibian people come next year?

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: Honourable Speaker, as I said, I will not allow myself to be derailed from my original speech. I was quoting an interesting analogy of colonial hangover within Zimbabwe as clearly written by Stephen Mpopu in the *Herald* newspaper on 30th June 2008:

“There are few men in this world, if any at all, divorced by their wives on account of cruelty, who are to see their former spouses leading a happy and successful lives by themselves. Brave and courageous successful gentlemen who say prayers for the women to grow even more prosperous and render all possible assistance in that regard as atonement for their own failure in their collapsed relationships.” (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: May I ask a question? Is the Honourable Member aware that more than 90 families are mourning in Zimbabwe due to injustice and the actions by President Mugabe? Are you aware that families are mourning?

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: Honourable Speaker, can the Honourable Member be honest to himself by also sidelining those members of ZANU-PF that are also going through similar hardships as those that he has sympathy with? I am continuing. (Intervention)

03 July 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: On a Point of Order. Honourable Speaker, I just want to be guided, whether the term used by the Honourable Member would reflect well in our archives, when the person said, “*a woman like you*”, addressing a Member of Parliament. I just want to be guided whether it is a good phrase to be recorded.

HON SPEAKER: It is a valid point 75%, but I must equally be allowed to be strict with everybody if I were to ask that to be erased from the records, that nobody would refer to another Member in the House by any other characterisation than “*Honourable Member*”. Many Honourable Members are likely to be guilty of the same.

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: Honourable Speaker, I insist that those words be withdrawn by the Honourable Member before I continue. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Continue, I am not going to do that, I am not going to ask the Honourable Member to withdraw.

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: However, Honourable Speaker...(Intervention)

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: On a Point of Information. The Honourable Member has quoted the *Zimbabwean Herald*, which is known to be a Government newspaper. Let me, therefore, also quote:

03 July 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

“The African Union (AU) Observer Mission, monitoring the elections, condemned the poll in its report released on June 30th at the African Union Summit in the Egyptian coastal region of Sharm el-Sheikh, saying that conditions “fell short of the African Union’s standards of democratic elections”, following a similar stance by SADC Observers.”

Since we have quoted President Thabo Mbeki, it goes on to say:

“South Africa will consider the reports of the SADC and other observer teams which monitored the elections and adopt a position together with member states.”

The United Nations Security Council is dealing with the same issue. All the reports of the observer missions tabled at the Summit in Egypt are public knowledge. If people do not read, it is their problem. If people want to say this is untrue, let them say so. Let them not challenge who wrote it, let them challenge the veracity of the reports that will be tabled in this House.

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: Honourable Speaker, I was quoting when I was interrupted by Honourable Schimming-Chase.

“However, history is replete with accounts of cruel divorcees who have stalked their ex-wives.” (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Order. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I do not know why all the time when it comes to us we are talking too much. We have Iraq, which was attacked by America, Britain and Germany and we kept quiet when we heard those things. Since I joined this Parliament, I have not heard anyone from the other side condemning America for killing the people in Iraq. Now we are here talking... (Interjections)

03 July 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

We had that independent newspaper writing about the Prime Minister of Kenya Honourable Odinga talking about Zimbabwe, but not talking about the 1,500 people who died in Kenya. He is talking about the 90 people who died in Zimbabwe, but what happened in Kenya? Now we must condemn what happened to them.

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: Honourable Speaker, I continue by quoting:

“However, history is replete with accounts of cruel divorcees who have stalked their ex-wives, abused them, even committed murder.” (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: On a Point of Information. Let me inform the Honourable Deputy Minister for the record of this House that I have Moved a Motion in this House on the illegal, unilateral invasion of Iraq. I Moved that Motion in this House, I spoke about the situation in Darfur in this House, I spoke about the situation in Somalia recently in this House while addressing a very important matter in this House, so some of us are talking about human rights violations wherever they manifest themselves. (Interjections) Yes, you did not participate in the Debate because you thought Iraq was too far and now you are trying to compare. Why did you not participate in the Debate?

Be that as it may, referring to the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Kenya, I know Raila Odinga personally, we have met in meetings several times, he was very vocal on the situation of Kenya and he wanted to resolve the Kenyan situation. Now let us make a comparison, our neighbours, Botswana, who have held credible elections since 1964, are calling for the Government of Mugabe to be expelled from the African Union. Africa has never been divided over a State matter like today. There is a problem in Zimbabwe whether we want it or not, there is a serious problem.

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: Honourable Speaker, could the Honourable Member provide with me some information that I am maybe not aware of?

03 July 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

Has the President of Botswana been elected by the people of Botswana?

May I continue? I was quoting and I continue to quote:

“If they had their way, these men would even dictate the style and colour of the clothing their ex-spouses should wear. They would also tell the kind of perfume they should wear - only the type that muffles body odour, not the sort that lives on aromatic trail causing other men to sniff the air after the woman had passed by.”

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Order. Is it allowed to read unnecessary reports and to promote dictatorship in SADC? Is it allowed to waste time?

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: *“In Zimbabwe’s case it has exposed these divorce monumental, satanic machinations. And, tragically enough, their evil designs against this country and other black states are abated, rather than abetted, by some African leaders who either seek to curry favour for money – with some of them already constipated with obscene foreign funding – or for protection in their tenuous leadership position.” (Intervention)*

HON TJIHUIKO: On a Point of Order. Honourable Speaker, I think I need guidance. The Honourable Member is referring to some African Heads of State who are on the payroll and I remember the other day that we were advised that we should not be referring to His Excellency Thabo Mbeki as “*Mbeki*” and the Honourable Member is saying “*Heads of State in Africa.*” Who are those Heads of State in Africa who are on the payroll of whom, including Namibia, because Namibia is an African country.

03 July 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

HON SPEAKER: She is quoting from something. (Interjection)

HON KAURA: It is those who have houses in Monaco.

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: Honourable Speaker, it would be a monumental mistake and betrayal of the African majority if the revolution of our respective masses were allowed to be reversed by the opportunistic agendas. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, can we assume that what the Honourable Member said, referring to African Heads of State being paid by somebody, includes the Namibian Head of State? If she continues refusing to answer the question, then it means that what she said includes our own Head of State. Just say yes, because that is exactly what you are saying.

HON SPEAKER: What I noticed is that the Honourable Member was quoting a source. I am not necessarily taking what she said as coming from her, she is quoting a source.

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: Honourable Speaker, it is within this economic emancipation of the African people that we should learn from other African experiences and map out our future strategies to avoid similar acts. We must not sell our souls to western imperial powers.

03 July 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON TJIHUIKO**

Honourable Speaker, on the eve of the Cabinet Retreat, we in the SWAPO Youth League held an economic transformation convention, discussing the massive unemployment that we are currently facing in Namibia, particularly amongst the youth. It is our historical mandate to graft our future now, contrary to the Opposition Parties' popular view to talk merely about political reconciliation. It does not help. The real and meaningful economic Independence shall only come about if we, both the economic controllers and the so-called masses come together and share the economic cake. We must discuss the economic and financial reconciliation to avoid going through similar experiences that we have recently witnessed in our neighbouring countries, including Zimbabwe. It is here that Honourable Ulenga, if he was genuine, should have made his meaningful contribution instead of praising the outside world.

With this, Honourable Speaker, I support the Motion.

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

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. The issue that we are talking is a serious one, serious in the sense that it needs cool heads and it is a situation that needs to be looked at very carefully. Maybe the Motion on the table is one of those Motions that need us to put aside our differences and look at it from a mature point of view.

On the situation in Zimbabwe, some of us were very lucky to be close to the negotiations of Lancaster House and not only that we were appreciating the presence of liberation movements by London by then... (Intervention)

HON P MUSHELENGA: May I ask Honourable Tjihuiko a question? Honourable Tjihuiko, you rightly said that this Motion needs cool heads. While Honourable Ulenga was motivating his Motion, he made a statement, saying that

03 July 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON TJIHUIKO**

the Namibian Government is an accomplice of the trampling of the political rights of the neighbouring country. Now here you are saying we need cool heads. How valid is the statement made by Honourable Ulenga? Do you think such a statement was made in a manner that advocates that we should have cool heads when we discuss this Motion?

HON TJIHUIKO: The Honourable Member is saying that Honourable Ulenga was motivating, it is true, but I think the Honourable Member should also remember one thing, being a member of the Ruling Party, I suppose he is still a SWAPO member. The difference between the Ruling Party and the rest, the difference between a Minister and a Member of Parliament is the responsibility that has been given to you by the people of this country.

If you believe that being the Ruling Party, you are not going to behave in the manner that is expected of you but you are going to do it differently because somebody else has done that, then I do not know. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: I am rising on a Point of Order, just seeking clarification on a procedural matter. I am looking at our Rules and I am seeing that Rule 108 deals with general restrictions on our discussions and Debates here and I am particularly referring to Rule 108(f). That Rule says that a Member may not be allowed to debate any Motion, question, including a supplementary question which is awaiting adjudication in a court. I know that this particular matter, as we speak, is not awaiting any adjudication, but I am just looking at the fact that at several summits of SADC Heads of State and Government, and recently, two days ago, this particular issue also was discussed at the highest level at which some decisions emerged.

Of course, technically we could say, as my neighbour is saying there, it is not in the courts, but is it ethically and morally proper for us now to engage in discussing this matter? I am not suggesting in any way that we should limit freedom of speech, I am simply looking at the dignity of this Chamber and in the light that this particular issue has reached the highest level of consideration.

03 July 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON TJIHUIKO**

HON SPEAKER: It is quite in order for this House to discuss the matter about which you spoke, Minister. The Rule you cited does not really apply in this case. The outcome of the Summit, is in the public domain now, discussed by everybody. As the Legislature with oversight responsibilities, at the same time a political body representing different Political Parties, we cannot be prohibited to discuss the matter. Of course, the manner in which we discuss it, the language used is the responsibility of the Honourable Members themselves. If there is a sense that the Speaker should bring order to language or particular kinds of expressions, I would do so, but I have not found any.

HON TJIHUIKO: I was saying that some of us were very fortunate during that time, because we knew we were there, we witnessed ourselves the pressure that was being put on President Mugabe... (Interjection)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjihuiko is talking about Lancaster House.

HON P MUSHELENGA: On a Point of Information. We must be careful when we speak in this House and end up contradicting ourselves. Honourable Tjihuiko is talking about our Government behaving in a way that we are not expected to behave, perhaps by Honourable Members. (Intervention)

HON MEMBER: He said nothing like that.

03 July 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON TJIHUIKO**

HON P MUSHELENGA: Yes, Honourable Tjihuiko was responding to my question when he made that reference that I must be careful. Our Government is a member of SADC, our Government is a member of the AU, there were summits and in the Motion of Honourable Ulena he suggested to us that we should not support President Mbeki, President Mbeki should be withdraw on the advice of the letter from Mr Morgan Tsvangirai. The AU Summit expressed accord to the mediation and efforts made by President Mbeki. He must be careful, he should also behave as NUDO is expected to behave by members of the African Union.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I am sorry but the Honourable Member did not understand what I said. I said maybe he was quoting Honourable Ulena's statement, but my only comment was that I would have expected the Government to behave in a manner that could be expected of them. That is what I said. If by saying that it means that what he said, I am sorry.

There is a responsibility that has been put upon the SWAPO Party as the Ruling Party and everybody would expect them to behave in that fashion. If I misbehave, it does not necessarily mean that they should also do the same. That is all what I am saying.

Coming back to my point, what we were saying at that particular point is the pressure that was being put on... (Intervention)

HON KAURA: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Tjihuiko, have you read the book, "*Cry the Beloved Country*" by Alan Paton? I assume you have read it. Moreover, if you have read it, would you wish for a friend of foe to live in a country where the cost of bread is six billion dollars?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, what we were witnessing at that particular moment is the pressure that was being put on President Mugabe and Mr

03 July 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON TJIHUIKO**

Joshua Nkomo. I am telling you that as youngsters at that particular moment, we thought that the best for President Mugabe to do is to go back to the bush and to continue with our struggle. However, those leaders had wisdom and they accepted that they would go for elections. In 1980 President Mugabe won the election and became the President of Zimbabwe. I was very fortunate because that was during the time that I was doing my Master's Degree and I did my Thesis on the agricultural sector in the five SADC countries. Therefore, when I am talking about agriculture, I know exactly what I am talking about.

At that particular moment Zimbabwe was even better off agriculturally and had a better manufacturing base than South Africa. President Mugabe has inherited the strongest economy, three or four times better than the economy of Namibia. That was the good example of Zimbabwe.

The point I am however trying to address here is that if we as Africans make a mistake in the process, we should accept that as human beings we have made a mistake. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask a question? Honourable Tjihuiko, in 1999 the Opposition Parties were complaining about Congo DRC. They said the SWAPO Government was supporting President Kabila. Today you people want to go and do business there. The SWAPO Government did not go there to make business. Now you are complaining about President Mugabe. I know that some people here were complaining about Congo and that is why they left SWAPO to form their own Parties. Now today they are against Zimbabwe again.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I was saying that as Africans we should also accept our own mistakes. If you make a mistake like that one... (Intervention)

03 July 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON TJIHUIKO**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Honourable Speaker, before I speak, I want to think how to answer to what he said, "*like that one*", referring to me.

Honourable Speaker, I rise on a Point of Order. Honourable Tjihuiko said Africans must learn from their mistakes. I know you are speaking in support of this Motion which was not even allowed to take place in this House. (Interjection)

HON TJIHUIKO: I did not say that.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: No, you speak as if you are supporting it. This Motion should not even have been allowed to be debated here from the onset. (Interjection)

HON TJIHUIKO: Freedom of speech.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Freedom of speech is allowed when it suits the Opposition Members... (Interjection)

HON TJIHUIKO: Take the Floor and say whatever you want to say, you are wasting my time.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

When it is on our side, it is not allowed. Honourable Tjihuiko, you must know

03 July 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON TJIHUIKO**

why Zimbabwe is in that situation today. (Interjection)

HON KAURA: Six million dollars for a loaf of bread!

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Twenty-one years ago, the West used to say that the best President is Robert Mugabe, until he took the land. These people only want the situation in Zimbabwe to be reversed for them to get their land back. That is the only sin committed by President Mugabe and he is right by giving land to his people. I can tell you the same will come to Namibia, whether we want it or not. This will come because the people of Zimbabwe shed their blood for the land. That is one thing we must remember. (Interjection)

HON SPEAKER: Deputy Minister, please, it is a Point of Order. If you subscribe and make a substantive Point I will allow you to.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I was saying that if you teach your children that every time that they fail a test is because the teachers do not like them, they will grow up thinking that every time that they make a mistake, it is somebody else who have made a mistake. The issue that we are talking about is that we should learn from our own mistakes.

I remember during the struggle, before the colleagues became Ministers, there were people in this country who were referring to the likes of Honourable Jerry Ekanjio as a terrorist. There were people who were saying that SWAPO will never rule this country and people were convinced that there is no way that President Sam Nujoma can become the President of this country. People went to

03 July 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON TJIHUIKO**

the extent of saying that, “*I will put my head on the block that day*”, but today the very same people who were saying SWAPO will never rule this country are the ones who are going down on their knees and saying “*His Excellencies.*”
(Intervention)

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** May I ask a question? When you say, “*there were people*”, why do you keep on pointing in front of you, pointing at your foot? Are you pointing at your foot?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I was actually pointing up. On a serious note, the point that I wanted to make is that the moment you convince yourself on something, then you tend to believe in your own propaganda. That is the danger of believing in your own propaganda.

The situation that we are talking about in Zimbabwe is a situation that has come a long way. The economic hardships in Zimbabwe did not start with the Land Reform Programme. That did not start there, the problem started well before that. We had a situation that took place in Matabeleland. Is there anybody who is going to tell me that the person who was responsible for what happened in Matabeleland was paid? No, if you are saying that he was paid, who was the person, who was responsible by then? Do you believe that Africans are paid for everything they do? We should be careful when we make such statements.

People were killed in Matabeleland, and I do not think for a moment that there was anybody who paid who. If it was a mistake, we accept and we improve on our mistakes.

What we are facing now is Zimbabwe and we have to look at this issue with cool heads. I am not going to say what I could have said two weeks ago, that I am trying to concentrate my contribution on the current situation. People have lost lives in Zimbabwe, but I think we have reached a stage where we would now say, having gone through the elections and having seen what happened in Zimbabwe, it is a situation that we should regret, it is a situation that we hope is not going to

03 July 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON TJIHUIKO**

happen again ever in Africa. The way forward for us as Parliament, as politicians, as human beings... (Intervention)

HON NAMBAHU: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, you are saying there were problems in Zimbabwe, even dating back to the problems in Matabeleland. That situation was there and we were being told that is the best example, we were still being lectured that those are the best in Zimbabwe. Why was that situation tolerated and Zimbabwe only became a problem when the land was taken? Why was that problem tolerated all along? (Interjection)

HON KAURA: It was blacks killing blacks.

HON NAMBAHU: So that could then be good. Now that you touched something that is not black?

HON TJIHUIKO: That is the point that I wanted to come at, because that is the reason why I mentioned what happened in the eighties. I am saying we should not try to run away from our own mistakes as Africans, we should not justify and try to defend if a black person is killing another black. The black that is being killed is a human being. It is not a crime when a white person kills a black person, it is not a crime when a black person kills a white person, and a human life is a human life. Whether it is Mr. Tsvangirai who is being beaten up in the streets or whether it is the official opposition, Honourable Ben Ulenga, who is being beaten up in the streets because of his political conviction, it is wrong and we should accept that.

03 July 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON TJIHUIKO**

Now, when it comes to the event that took place in Matabeleland that I referred to, it is regrettable. It happened, it is history, we hope that it will not happen again and all of us as Africans kept quiet about it. All of us Africans have never talked about the more than 250 lives that were lost. Fine, it is over, but the situation that we should look at right now is: Was President Mugabe's election fair? Was it a true reflection of the people of Zimbabwe? If the answer is yes, why is it that even President Mugabe himself agreed that he is prepared to talk to somebody to look at a unity formation, something that has never happened in 28 years? These are some of the clear examples that we should look at and try to help where we can. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: May I ask Honourable Tjihuiko a question? Honourable Tjihuiko, you are talking about things which are not even linked to the situation in Zimbabwe now. When the people of Zimbabwe emerged from the Liberation Struggle, certain things took place just as certain things took place in Namibia on the 2nd of August 1992 in Caprivi. The same happened in Matabeleland. How can you connect it to this?

Do you want to tell us that President Mugabe only started saying yesterday that they were ready to discuss and come together? All along they were calling for negotiations and that is why they said they are interested in negotiations with Thabo Mbeki as decided by SADC. They never said they would not negotiate or solve the problems of Zimbabwe. Do you want to tell us that they were saying they do not want to negotiate?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I think when we are making statements, we should be very careful. I know about the situation in Zimbabwe in the eighties, I know about the situation in Namibia in 1990. These are two distinct things, which cannot be compared, according to my understanding. If the Deputy Minister is now trying to link these two, it leaves much to be desired. Maybe as a Minister, he knows more and he wants to tell us things that we do not know. If that is what he wants to do, he is free to do so. As far as I am

03 July 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON TJIHUIKO**

concerned, they are not comparable. If you compare them, then you have information as a Minister.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Comrade Speaker, the Honourable Member did not hear my question. You should ask the Speaker to ask me to repeat my question. You should not be clever and dodge my question. You are the one who brought the Matabeleland issue here. You are totally failing to answer my question. Do you want to tell the public out there that His Excellency President Robert Mugabe was not willing to negotiate? They have been talking all along. Is that what you want to tell the Nation? Do not try to dodge my question by coming up with Matabeleland. There was no mention of Matabeleland in my question. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: You have made your point, Honourable Deputy Minister. The substantive observers, as Honourable Schimming-Chase said, are very clear that there was no free, justifiable election in Zimbabwe, there was no credible election that took place in that country. As fellow Africans, we need to try and develop a system that would help the people of Zimbabwe, first and foremost to stop the killing; secondly to create conditions that would enable them to talk to one another, to solve their problems amicably. Thirdly, we should by all means try to be objective and be careful with the statements we are making because every statement that you make counts. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Order. Comrade Speaker, with all due respect, what the Zimbabwean people, the SADC and African people do not need now is clever statements and historical references. What they do not need now is trying to judge them and putting their leader in a corner. (Interjection)

03 July 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON TJIHUIKO**

HON MEMBER: Who is their leader?

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: His Excellency President Robert Mugabe of course. He is the President of Zimbabwe and the Speaker was saying what we need as Africans and he highlighted a few points and directions, but what we as Africans really need is support. When the one is in pain, let us be instruments of peace. When there is pain, let us try to ease the pain. When there is doubt, let us bring hope. That is what we should do and we must stand behind our people. We are not blind, the writing is clear on the wall, we know what led to these things and we should not close our eyes, only concentrate on so-called democracy, and try to pull down our own people. The only people who can solve this problem are the Zimbabweans with possible assistance by us. That is what we need to do as Africans, not to be confused by the western countries.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Minister, I agree hundred percent that the people of Zimbabwe have the right to choose their own leaders. The people of Zimbabwe had an election that has been declared chaotic by the international observers and for somebody at the level of a Minister to stand up in this House and say the President of Zimbabwe is Tjiuiko, who has given you that right? The people of Zimbabwe themselves have not decided. That is the problem we have, that a person at ministerial – for God’s sake – standing up and saying the President of Zimbabwe is Robert Mugabe and the observers are saying that this was a chaotic election and there should be another election. It is a sham election and we do not want to get into that. It is not our right to choose for the people of Namibia, just as it will never be the right of the Zimbabwean people to say the Government of Namibia as from tomorrow is going to be a NUDO Government. It is not on; it is not their right to say that. (Intervention)

HON P MUSHELENGA: Honourable Speaker, May I ask Honourable Tjiuiko a question? Honourable Tjiuiko seems to be disputing the statement

03 July 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON TJIHUIKO**

made by the Honourable Minister. I just want to ask him a simple question. As we talk today on the 3rd of July 2008, who is the President of Zimbabwe?

HON TJIHUIKO: It is a good question. The answer is simple; the people of Zimbabwe were denied the right to express their wishes and to elect their president or their leaders in a free and democratic way by the conditions that were properly explained by... (Intervention)

HON IIPINGE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? The Honourable Member said the people of Zimbabwe were denied their right to choose their leaders, but according to my information, Mr Tsvangirai voluntarily withdrew from the race. If we are competing with one another, we are in the race and the other person withdraws, do I not have the right to go ahead? I have to right to go ahead as a candidate. What are you talking about if the person has withdrawn?

HON TJIHUIKO: What we need to see in Zimbabwe is for the leaders of Zimbabwe to come together, sit around the table, and try to solve the problem of Zimbabwe amicably. For one person to stand up in Namibia and say the President of Zimbabwe is Morgan Tsvangirai, the other one standing up and say the President of Zimbabwe is Robert Mugabe and another one saying it is Honourable Mbai, we will not help the situation in Zimbabwe. We will create hardship and hard feelings among the people of Zimbabwe. It is none of our business to stand up and say this is whom I want to be the President of SWAPO. It is not proper. You have the right to have your own leader. What would you say if Tsvangirai said, "*I am the Prime Minister of Namibia?*" (Intervention)

03 July 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON TJIHUIKO**

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: May I pose two questions? Honourable Tjihuiko has referred to President Mugabe having talks with the Opposition for sort of reconciliatory requirements or whatever he called that, which was rejected by the opposition and by that, from what I have heard, he wants to imply that he is probably not sure about him winning. Are you aware of the fact that when SWAPO won the elections in 1990, as much as we could have closed our eyes to any Political Party, we wanted somebody to be in the Cabinet of Namibia from the DTA and they refused? That is one.

Secondly, Namibia has a population of 1.8 million. The consequence of Tsvangirai withdrawing from the race is to leave one candidate and the procedure says once there is one candidate, he is automatically declared the winner, but the Zimbabweans said, that notwithstanding, let us go for the elections and then 2.5 million voted in those elections, more than the population of Namibia. Which people did not go and vote? Were 2.5 million forced to go to the polls?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, before I conclude, I would try to answer the good questions by the Minister. I believe that President Robert Mugabe, having been the President for 28 years, has realised that what happened in Zimbabwe was unusual and he started extending that hand of friendship – if I may call it that way – that let us sit down and talk because what has happened was not correct. If he as a Zimbabwean has realised that what has taken place is not a true reflection of the will of the people of Zimbabwe, and he cannot continue seeing the Zimbabwean people being killed on the street on a daily basis, we should do something about it. That is the point I am talking about.

If the President of Zimbabwe could agree to sit down with Tsvangirai and talk, what would be the end-result? The end-result could easily be like the situation in Kenya. Somebody would say, “*I do not like the situation in Kenya*”, that is good for the Kenyans. Declining that situation would be good for the Zimbabweans. Who am I to say *he was wrong*? He said it and I was disappointed, I am not disappointed that the leader of the opposition has not totally rejected the idea, and that is what I am saying that they should look at the situation in Zimbabwe as Zimbabweans. However, for somebody else to stand up and say Tsvangirai is the President to me is wrong, totally wrong. (Intervention)

03 July 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON TJIHUIKO**

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, may I ask Honourable Tjihuiko a very technical question? Honourable Tjihuiko, suppose a person who loses parliamentary majority forms Government, a parliamentary majority in Namibia, in Zimbabwe's case forms Government. The President in this country is the President of a minority Party, he wins the election as Head of State.

A Party that has won the majority seats in this House would be able to form a Government. The President would only be called in to ascend the Government as Head of State, but he would be forced to recognise that Government and the situation in Zimbabwe, would you agree with me that as we are speaking now, we cannot talk of an opposition while the opposition has a majority in Parliament from Government?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: On a Point of Order. One Honourable Member made a statement that I am sure he himself knows is so wrong from all aspects and has many implications, because he seems to want to suggest that presidential elections are of no consequence. When a country holds elections, it is only parliamentary elections that are of consequence and therefore... (Interjections) That is what you are insinuating. You are insinuating that once a Party has a parliamentary majority, that person who wins the presidency does not have a mandate. That is wrong, even in the United States which is modelled as the most mature democracy in the world they have a situation where the opposition could have a majority in the Chamber of Parliament. (Interjections)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjihuiko still has the Floor, Honourable Venaani rose on a Point of Order, the Minister of Finance rose on a Point of Order, I do not know on what, and Honourable Gurirab is asking for a Point of Order. That is too much of a requirement for the Speaker to maintain the Rule of Law in the House.

03 July 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON TJIHUIKO**

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, in conclusion, what I was saying is that as good neighbours we should... (Intervention)

HON T GURIRAB: On a Point of Information. If SWAPO wants to be the Government after next year's elections, not only their President must be elected, but SWAPO must win 50% plus in this House in order to form a Government. That is the Westminster system on which this Parliament is concluded.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjihuiko, can you wrap up?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, let me conclude by saying that as much as I appreciate the effort of His Excellencies mediating on the process, I think it is high time that we allow the process to take place in a manner that would be acceptable to the Zimbabweans themselves, for the Zimbabwean people to decide their own future. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Right Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I believe that the situation currently prevailing in Zimbabwe should be a matter of serious concern to all of us, first as neighbours of Zimbabwe, secondly as Africans. I believe we all want harmony in our own country and we also want harmony in our neighbourhood, including our sister Republic of Zimbabwe.

03 July 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
RT HON N ANGULA**

I believe we cherish peace for ourselves and we should also cherish peace for our own neighbours. I believe we want stability in our own country and we should also wish our neighbours to be stable.

In that regard, therefore, it is not helpful for us to be debating the pros and cons of this and that at this moment in time. What we are supposed to concern ourselves with is how to bring normalcy to the situation in Zimbabwe, what contribution can be made to bring harmony to our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe? That should be the central question we should ask ourselves.

Obviously, the Motion of Honourable Ulenga is not helpful, unfortunately. It is not helpful in this regard, but for us as Parliamentarians, if we had any influence at all and I suppose Honourable Ulenga does communicate with Mr Tsvangirai, what he should ask his friend is, "*how can we bring harmony to the people of Zimbabwe?*" That is the question he should ask his friend.

Let us give President Mbeki our support, our prayers, that he helps the people of Zimbabwe to reach out to each other, so that they can create harmony in their own country. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Voice of wisdom!

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: That is what we are supposed to be doing for now. We know all the problems and we will be playing into the hands of the outside forces if we are not careful. We are encouraged by the fact that when President Mugabe was being sworn in, he talked about dialogue. As an experienced statesman, I believe he will help to drive that dialogue forward so that all the political forces in Zimbabwe would see the wisdom of saving their own country by making compromises here and there for them can reach consensus. As long as that consensus is supported by the majority or all of them, I believe it will enable the people of Zimbabwe to move forward as one people and as one Nation. That is what we should encourage as a House having been entrusted by our own people to promote the interest of Namibia and the interest of Africa.

03 July 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON KAURA**

I would suggest to Honourable Ulenga to withdraw his Motion so that we help the people of Zimbabwe to find each other's hand and find a solution to their problem. That is in the interest of Namibia and in the interest of SADC. Therefore, I am appealing to Honourable Ulenga to really consider withdrawing his Motion, so that we as the House are not divided on the issue of peace and stability in our own Region. We should not be seen to be divided on this particular issue, it is too critical.

Honourable Members, with these few words I rest my case. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister for his words of wisdom and forward-looking suggestion for the House to consider. Honourable Kaura.

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, as the Honourable Prime Minister was speaking, I said, "*muchas gracias*" in Spanish, "Thank you very much." I support the attitude, which the Prime Minister has taken on our behalf, that we should not be partial when we are dealing with this situation, but that we should try and find some kind of a solution to the problem in Zimbabwe.

To me President Mugabe is my elder brother, Morgan Tsvangirai is my younger brother, the people of Zimbabwe are my brothers and sisters and the problems our people are facing now in Zimbabwe are painful. The day before yesterday we were happy when our Honourable Minister of Finance introduced this zero-rating of VAT, but then I read about what the Prime Minister was saying about the increase in water and electricity and all these things which are really destroying the efforts of our Honourable Minister. For the first time in my life, I saw the five billion dollar note, which was brought back by Honourable Tsudao Gurirab, and this morning I read that a loaf of bread in Zimbabwe is six billion dollars. With that five billion, you cannot buy bread. Honest to God, we should never wish for anyone, any fellow African or any fellow human being to live in an economic situation at that level.

03 July 2008

**MOTION ON SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE
HON KAURA**

I support what the Honourable Prime Minister is saying that it is better that we close this Debate now and start trying to assist our people in Zimbabwe, to bring peace and prosperity as it was years ago. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Any further discussion? Will somebody adjourn the Debate if the House agrees with the Prime Minister's proposal for the Parties to consider? Honourable Gurirab.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Speaker, I am rising, in the absence of the mover of the Motion, to adjourn the Debate to Tuesday on his behalf to do what is being required of him to do.

HON SPEAKER: The consideration of this Motion stands adjourned until Tuesday, next week. The Secretary will read the Fourth Order of the Day.

**CONSIDERATION: REPORT ON SECOND
SESSION OF CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT**

SECRETARY: Consideration of Report on the Communiqué of the Second Session of the Children's Parliament.

03 July 2008

**MOTION ON STATE & CONDITION - CEMETERIES
HON KAIYAMO**

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

HON KAIYAMO: Comrade Speaker, I Move that the Debate be adjourned until Tuesday.

HON SPEAKER: The consideration of this Report stands adjourned until Tuesday, next week. The Secretary will read the Fifth Order of the Day.

**CONSIDERATION: REPORT ON CONDITION
OF CEMETERIES IN NAMIBIA**

SECRETARY: Consideration of Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resources, Social and Community Development on the condition of cemeteries in Namibia.

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

HON KAIYAMO: I so Move, Comrade Speaker.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, thank you very much for the opportunity to motivate the Report of my Committee on condition of cemeteries in Namibia.

03 July 2008

**MOTION ON STATE & CONDITION - CEMETERIES
HON KAIYAMO**

I am sure you will agree with me that the condition of cemeteries in our country is not in the state, which they are supposed to be, especially those historical disadvantaged cemeteries.

The Committee would first like to express its gratitude to the Chamber for allowing us it to look into this matter. I would also like to thank the Local Authorities and Village Councils who responded positively to our request on the condition of their cemeteries in their respective towns.

Honourable Members, I perhaps need to summarise the actions taken by the Committee to seek the views of the public on the Motion since March 2007.

The Committee visited and invited the City of Windhoek to brief us on the management of cemeteries in the city, as well as to hear the challenges in maintaining the cemeteries in the capital city of the Republic. Similarly, a letter was written to various towns in Namibia to give their input on the management of cemeteries with special regard to challenges of the maintenance of cemeteries and proposals on how the management of cemeteries could be improved.

Although the letters were sent to all proclaimed towns in Namibia, only eighteen, including Windhoek, Walvis Bay, Oshakati, Ondangwa, Keetmanshoop, Mariental, Gobabis, Eenhana, Opuwo and Otjiwarongo responded positively to our request. The following are the main findings of the management of cemeteries obtained from the inputs from the towns:

In terms of Section 31(d) of the Local Authorities Act of 1992, Local Authority Councils have the power to maintain cemeteries. The reason why we see our cemeteries are not being maintained is that the Local Authorities do not use their powers to maintain those cemeteries. They have the power to establish and maintain cemeteries or take every cemetery situated in its area, but many towns do not have a policy and this is what we found, on how to manage the cemeteries.

Vandalism has been singled out by most towns and villages, as the main problem in maintaining cemeteries with the exception of Windhoek where private security guards, under the supervision of the City Police, are on duty. No other town has security on cemeteries. Therefore, the Capital is the only one who has security at cemeteries.

03 July 2008

**MOTION ON STATE & CONDITION - CEMETERIES
HON KAIYAMO**

Maintaining cemeteries is expensive. According to the City of Windhoek, only 15% of the cost is recovered through the selling, reservation and maintenance of graves. The total monthly cemetery maintenance is N\$221,000 and for all the towns and villages contacted the cost of maintaining graveyards is much higher than the revenue procured from burial fees. The bulk of the cost for the maintenance of cemeteries in all towns and villages, which can afford to maintain graveyards is cross-subsidised from other revenue streams.

With these remarks, Honourable Members, we have made recommendations, which I want us to discuss so that we could advise our villages to do the same as the capital city. I now Move that the House discuss and consider the recommendations contained in our report on the cemeteries in Namibia to enable us to have better cemeteries in the whole Republic. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? If not, I ask the Honourable Minister of Justice and Attorney-General to adjourn the House until Tuesday, next week.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I have the honour to adjourn the House until next week, Tuesday.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2008.07.08 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
08 JULY 2008
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

**TABLING: PRELIMINARY STATEMENT OF
SADC ELECTION OBSERVER MISSION ON
ZIMBABWEAN PRESIDENTIAL RUN-OFF**

HON SIOKA: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Preliminary Statement of the SADC Election Observer Mission on the Zimbabwean Presidential Run-off and the House of the National Assembly by-election held on the 27th of June 2008 for note taking.

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

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

08 July 2008

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MOONGO**

QUESTION 69:

HON MOONGO: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 17 July 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources the following:

1. Is the Minister aware that there was a mediation meeting between the Office of the Labour Commissioner and Namibian Food and Allied Workers Union and the Managing Director of the Blue Sea Fishing Company and Blue Sea fishing crew members?
2. Is it true that Sakeus Hauwanga, Abisai Nghipopilwa, Sam Shaanika, Abisai Katuta and Raphael Ndakokele were unfairly dismissed because they reported the Blue Sea Fishing Company for having dumped fish into the sea?
3. How does the Ministry implement justice? Is justice given to one who committed the crime or does he implement it vice versa?
4. Is it true that the Company victimised and unfairly retrenched crewmembers, which cannot be tolerated in Namibia?
5. Will the Blue Sea Fishing Company reinstate the five crewmembers, because they were defending just causes?
6. What is the punishment for the Blue Sea Fishing Company who is disobeying our Namibian law?

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the questions? Any further Notice of Questions? Honourable Ipinge.

ORAL QUESTION

08 July 2008

**ORAL QUESTION
HON IIPINGE**

HON IIPINGE: Comrade Speaker, I would like to pose an Oral Question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Honourable Speaker, first I would like to congratulate the Ministry of Health and Social Services for the opening of a Cardiac Unit at our Windhoek Central Hospital. The question I would like to put is; during the official commissioning of the Windhoek Central Hospital Cardiac Unit, it was mentioned that only two Namibian doctors are studying to become cardiac surgeons. My question is: Is there any programme to train more Namibian doctors to become cardiac surgeons? That is the question I would like to pose to the Minister, whether there are any programmes in place to train Namibian doctors to become cardiac surgeons.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, first of all I wish to thank my Learned Colleague for this leading question. I am thanking her that out of her question I am giving information to the Nation at large relating to this very important programme.

Yes, indeed, Comrade Speaker, we have a programme in place for Namibians to take over from South African specialists, that is the cardiologists, cardio-thoracic surgeons and paediatric specialist surgeons. We intend to send two young Namibians to go and study cardio thoracic surgery, two Namibians to go and study cardiology to become cardiologists and two to go and study paediatrics in the area of cardio-thoracic. At the same time, we will be sending two young Namibians to go and study in the area of anaesthesiology. As of now, we only have two, but it is equally important to note that we have enlisted the services of a Namibian by marriage, Dr Du Toit. He is a cardio-thoracic surgeon and he was actually part of the team. He visits the Windhoek Central Hospital every month, and as of next year, he will be employed fulltime.

May I also through you, Honourable Speaker, give further information? I picked up a few calls from the general public that apparently during this exercise there was a point where we had a blackout of power in Windhoek Central Hospital. To the contrary, that is not true. What happened is that a week before the operation took place we had a specialist from Cape Town Groote Schuur Hospital who

08 July 2008

**RESPONSE TO ORAL QUESTION BY HON IIPINGE
HON DR KAMWI**

came to test the machines and one of them was to test the Cath Lab and all power had to be switched off.

Just for the information of this august House, the machines we are using in the operating theatres have inbuilt power that could go on for up to 48 hours non-stop. Even if the normal power goes off, they would still go on for 48 hours. Once they approach 48 hours, one would immediately be switched on.

We are not only training surgeons, but we also have a programme for nurses undergoing training in theatre technique. Thus, it is all in place and everything is going well. Just encourage the young Namibians to come and enlist for this very important programme, it is free. Thank you very much indeed.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister. What you have said is very important. We as a Nation and as Members of Parliament congratulate you, your Ministry, and all the collaborators for success, but have you been able to determine the source of this disinformation?

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Comrade Speaker, it is quite interesting, one of two of the Colleagues who asked me are from this Chamber. In fact, the South African Government, through their Department of Health, assured us that for the next 5 years they will be coming every month. We signed and we are still going to sign a Memorandum of Agreement.

HON SPEAKER: I am talking about the blackout.

08 July 2008

**RESPONSE TO ORAL QUESTION BY HON IIPINGE
HON DR KAMWI**

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: I gave the information, there is no truth, the blackout that they had was to test the machines that should the City of Windhoek be without power, can we go ahead with the operation and the answer is *yes*. A little while ago, I informed this House and the Nation that we received state of the art medical equipment from Europe, inclusive of this medical equipment and I was saying that they can go on for 48 hours and just before the 48 hours they would switch another one automatically.

That would mean something like 96 hours and I have never heard of doctors operating for so many hours.

Professor Zilla informed us that his longest operation ever was 17 hours and here I am talking about 48 hours. However, as I said last time, we also have to caution Namibians that these are of the most serious operations to be conducted, be it in Europe or America where you have state of the art cardiac units, and you may expect one or 2 out of 10 to die. This we should expect, but as of now, all 9 patients are well. We anticipate to be operating on 5 to 10 patients per month and we are on course.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Any Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**CONSIDERATION: NATIONAL INTEGRATED
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Consideration of National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy.

08 July 2008

**EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT POLICY
HON MUHARUKUA**

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, 25 April 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare. The Honourable Deputy Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare adjourned the Debate and she now has the Floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members. Let me, primarily, thank *Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah*, *Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila*, *Honourable Smit* and *Honourable Manombe-Ncube*.

The positive inputs and contributions they made to revive the Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy, which I tabled in this august House in April this year were appreciated.

Honourable Members, I want to specifically thank Honourable Nandi-Ndaitwah for her support, more so that the process of this policy review started while she was the then Minister of Women Affairs and Child Welfare. I want to thank *Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila*, in her absence, for urging stakeholders, including non-Governmental organisations, the business community and everyone with a stake in early childhood development to take part and promote these worthwhile community initiatives. The role played by your Ministry in support of early childhood development, Honourable Minister, is highly appreciated.

Finally yet importantly, I want to thank *Honourable Kaura* for recognising me for the first time in this Chamber. I thank you, Honourable Kaura.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to react to remarks and issues raised by some of the Honourable Members of this august House.

Comrade Hoffmann made remarks with regard to the transfer of children aged 5 to 6 from the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare to the Ministry of Education when these children enter pre-primary school. As stipulated by the Policy, the issues raised by Honourable Hoffmann, include prescribed laws of income by ECD caregivers and administrators, as a result of the transfer of

08 July 2008

**EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT POLICY
HON MUHARUKUA**

children from kindergarten to pre-primary education insufficient information to the kindergarten administrator and caregivers on the transfer of children and acquisition of advanced certificates in early childhood development.

Honourable Members, you have to listen carefully to what I am going to say. We all know that anytime when a new idea, a new way of doing things or when change is proposed, it is always rejected because people are always afraid of what they do not know. In the case of transfer of children aged 5 to 6 years old to pre-primary school, the administrators and caregivers have to understand and look at the interest and the future benefits of the children as opposed to the financial gain they make based on the number of the children enrolled at their kindergartens. Even if these children remain at the kindergarten, they will within a year or two proceed to Grade 1, which is not the responsibility of the kindergarten but resort under general education under the Ministry of Education.

Honourable Members, on the issue of insufficient information to the administrators and caregivers with regard to the transfer of children to pre-primary education, this is a point well taken. Honourable Members, but may I hasten to add that early childhood development is a sub-programme of the Education Improve Programme. ETSIP launched the advocacy campaign in order to disseminate information and educate the public about the programme. The pre-primary education and process of implementing the transfer of children aged 5 to 6 to the Ministry of Education will be explained in detail through this advocacy campaign.

The last remark made by Honourable Members is the issue of kindergarten teachers who allegedly got the Advocacy Advanced Certificates in Early Childhood Development that is recognised by the Ministry of Education, but they are told that they cannot teach at pre-primary schools.

Honourable Members, it is not true that these kindergarten teachers got the Advanced Certificate in Early Childhood Development, because this course is not yet pre-tested. What is true is that the basic course for early childhood development was pre-tested in 6 Regions – Erongo, Khomas, Kunene, Karas and Omusati Regions. Those who attended the course received certificates for participating in the pre-testing and not for the course for teaching pre-primary school, but this does not qualify them to teach at pre-primary education stage because they do not meet the requirements to teach at that level.

08 July 2008

**EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT POLICY
HON MUHARUKUA**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, my son, *Honourable Mushelenga* asked about the participation of the Traditional Leaders in the provision of early childhood development. Yes, we are all aware that the Traditional Leaders play a role as community leaders, as parents, advisors and some cases, as committee members. The most important role played by Traditional Leaders is the provision of land on which many ECD centres are constructed in their areas.

Honourable “*Wanaheda - Katutura Hospital*”, my sister, in her input asked a very important question, whether Government will take over the already established kindergartens and the answer to the public out there is that I want to inform Honourable Members that the revised Early Childhood Development Policy states only the transfer of children 5 to 6 years old to pre-primary education. This does not mean that Government will take kindergartens, neither their teachers, nor their buildings.

The idea of Government to commit itself to assuming the responsibility for pre-primary education is based on the positive impact of pre-primary education on the lifelong learning of any child. Therefore, it is important for Government to provide the children with all that is necessary to lay a stronger foundation for them to succeed in school and grow into productive, healthy and useful citizens like other Namibians.

The Honourable Member also asked for uniformity in terms of community funding of ECD services. Honourable Dienda may not be aware that ECD is the responsibility of the communities and Government plays a supporting role in terms of policy formulation, setting standards, training of caregivers, monitoring (not taking over) as well as material support. Therefore, payment for ECD services depend on the resources available in any given community.

Honourable Members, we know that here in Namibia we have private schools which are subsidised by the Government but the Government did not take over. Why does the Government have to take over the kindergartens from the communities? Why are you thinking that?

Honourable Dienda asked as to whether Government gives a timeframe to all kindergartens to adhere to the prescribed standards and regulations. There is no set time, this depends on what is outstanding for the kindergarten to meet all the required standards. Sometimes a kindergarten only needs to put a gate on the fence, while in another case the building identified or constructed to be a

08 July 2008

**EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT POLICY
HON MUHARUKUA**

kindergarten with four walls, roof or other material. It will take longer to meet the safety requirements in order to meet the prescribed standards in the last as opposed to the first case. Therefore, the timeframe for kindergartens to meet the required standards depends on what each needs and Government cannot adopt a timeframe on that.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, this was my response to the issues raised by the Honourable Members and I thank them for their input. I want to conclude by stating that this revised Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy is not a policy for the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare only, but a National policy that will serve as a legal instrument to guide the management and level of the ECD Programme in Namibia. I, therefore, call on all the Honourable Members of this august House to support it and I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Deputy Minister for her reply. I now Put the Question, that the Policy be adopted. Any objections? Agreed to.

The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

**SECOND READING
PLANT QUARANTINE BILL**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – *Plant Quarantine Bill*.

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, 2 July 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry that the Bill be now read a Second Time. The Honourable Minister of Environment and Tourism adjourned the Debate and I give the Floor to the Minister.

08 July 2008

**SECOND READING: PLANT QUARANTINE BILL
HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. At the onset, I would like to congratulate and thank the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Honourable John Mutorwa, for having brought to the National Assembly this important Bill and also thank all those who have contributed to the development of this Bill.

Comrade Speaker, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism is responsible for the biodiversity conservation in Namibia and for that we welcome this Bill as it will have a significant impact on the protection of the environment.

Presently, as we all know, the plant quarantine is regulated under the Agricultural Pests Act of 1973. This regulation has shortcomings and, therefore, does not provide an effective legal framework to protect our plants.

For example, under the current legislation, plant materials can be moved within the country without any limitation, a situation which may spread plant pests from one area to the other. I am, therefore, happy to note that this shortcoming is addressed in this Bill and movement of plant materials within Namibia can be better controlled.

The Agricultural Pests Act mentioned above is also outdated in its form and structure in terms of international agreement and convention standards, which Namibia is party to and, therefore, does not correspond to Namibia's international commitments. The proposed Bill addresses this gap and provides a legal framework that corresponds to our international obligations. For example, the Plant Quarantine Bill makes provision for key areas such as:

- The development of regulations based on Pest Risk Analysis;
- Surveillance for pests of plants which is important to agricultural trade;
- Import and export certification;
- Establishment of pest free areas and areas of low pest prevalence;
- Regulations for Genetically Modified Organisms and Living Modified Organisms all of which are based on some international conventions to which Namibia is part.

08 July 2008

**SECOND READING: PLANT QUARANTINE BILL
HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the objectives of this Bill are very crucial to the protection of our environment and natural resources. If plant pests are not prevented, monitored and/or eradicated, they could have detrimental effects on our indigenous plant species. The loss of indigenous plants might result in loss or decline of some wild animals, which depend on these plants for food and, therefore, as a result could threaten the stability of our ecosystem.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I am fully aware that the process of controlling plant pests, including quarantine, is very costly, but I am happy to see that this Bill provides for cost recovery and cost-sharing to support Government efforts in the protection of plants, as Government alone may not be able to meet some of the required financial costs.

The Bill takes a precautionary approach by providing for mechanisms to handle cases of accidental infestations. The pest response system aimed at managing infestation and preventing their spread to other locations is well reflected. Furthermore, the Bill provides for the establishment of an emergency fund to ensure that resources are available to contain infestation when and if necessary. I would therefore, like to commend the Minister for all this.

To conclude, Honourable Speaker, I have to underline the fact that the provisions of this Bill will strengthen the Ministry of Environment and Tourism's efforts towards biodiversity conservation and the protection of our environment. I, therefore, strongly support the proposed Bill and I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for her contribution. Any further discussion? Does the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry wish to reply?

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Speaker, to do justice to the valuable contributions made by the speakers who participated in this Debate, I would like to postpone my response to the Second Reading to Thursday this week.

08 July 2008

**CONSIDERATION OF PAC REPORT ON NDC
HON ULENGA**

HON SPEAKER: The consideration of this Motion stands adjourned until Thursday. The Secretary will read the Third Order of the Day.

**CONSIDERATION: REPORT ON
NAMIBIAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Consideration of Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts on the review of the Report of the Auditor-General on the accounts of the Namibian Development Corporation for the years ending 31 March 2005 and 2006.

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, 2 July 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable De Waal. Honourable Gurirab adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, it was me who requested for the adjournment of this Debate, because I thought there are a few things in the Report tabled by the Honourable De Waal which apparently are written in code. It could just be my ignorance of financial terms that makes it totally impossible for me to understand exactly what is being said in the Report.

Therefore, Honourable Speaker, I would like the Honourable De Waal or possibly other Honourable Members to provide some assistance to me so that I can understand clearly, what this Report is really talking about.

My first question, Honourable Speaker, goes from page 5 where there is a discussion of findings and evaluation regarding some funds that have been provided for. In paragraph 2.1 of this Report there is talk of the Auditor General having stated that there has been provision for about N\$55 million which have

been invested with the ODC and concern is expressed in this paragraph as to the recoverability of this investment.

Honourable Speaker, when I read this paragraph and I saw the mention of ODC, I started to think in terms of the so-called golden triangle or the triangle that has made money disappear from the ODC before. My first question to the Honourable De Waal is whether this money has anything to do with the other money, the infamous N\$100 million or whether this is a different amount cited here. Further, I really do not understand what it means when an investment cannot be recovered. Is it misleading language in the paragraph, or why are there all of a sudden doubts as to the recoverability of an investment?

I have gone through the whole Report and it does not seem to state the clear status of these so-called invested funds and when you read the Report, it sometimes sounds as if the term “*investment*” seems to be used as a code for “*stolen*”. When you say “*invested*” it may mean stolen money or why are you all of a sudden questioning the recoverability of money that was invested?

If you invest your money in a bank or any investment house, why should you all of a sudden start questioning the recoverability of that investment?

Honourable Speaker, my doubts were compounded further when in the first paragraph on page 6 there is discussion of the possibility of one single instance of Government having to get the task of recovering these funds. It says there that the best way to pursue the speedy recovery of the invested money should be through a single source of authority, for instance the Namibian Police. How does the Namibian Police come in if we are just talking about invested funds? Is the Report meaning much more than what it is actually saying or what is the situation, Honourable Speaker?

In addition, all of a sudden again on the following page the matter is *sub judice*. Exactly what does this mean with regard to the Report? Why is the matter all of a sudden *sub judice*? I have not heard of any reporting of any stolen funds and all of a sudden the matter is *sub judice*. Perhaps it is just me, because I do not work with a lot of money, as is the case with this Committee, who does not understand all the terms used here. Therefore, I would like to have a full and clear explanation of the full meaning of this paragraph, Honourable Speaker.

08 July 2008

**CONSIDERATION OF PAC REPORT ON NDC
HON ULENGA**

Honourable Speaker, there are further questions with regard to, apparently, other debts outstanding to the NDC. On page 7 there is a discussion on an amount of N\$20.5 million which apparently is a matter of concern to the Committee. I would like the Honourable De Waal or anybody else to explain to me whether these are the same amounts which were being handed out as political handouts to the SWAPO black economic empowerment companies or individuals who now all of them have become RDP members or are we talking about other funds?.
(Interjection)

HON MEMBER: How many jumped over to the CoD?

HON ULENGA: None. We do not accept these particular kinds of people. They are between SWAPO and the RDP, they are on the borderline.

Honourable Speaker, a further question concerns the Southern African Tractor Manufacturing Company Limited, so-called SATM, reference to which is made on page 10. It is said here that the Auditor-General reported that the Namibian Development Corporation has received a loan to the tune of almost N\$5 million, apparently from the Namibian Government. My first question is: Why are these funds cited in RMBY and what is the actual status of this Southern African Tractor Manufacturing Company or factory? Is it a factory that existed at one time in Namibia? Where was it exactly situated and what has it carried out in its lifetime as a Company or was it just a *bogus* Company? Honourable Speaker, if Honourable De Waal could just explain to me so that I have better insight on this clearly coded language that is used in this document, especially with regard to the so-called Southern African Tractor Manufacturing (Pty) Ltd.

HON SPEAKER: The House shall rise for refreshments.

08 July 2008

**CONSIDERATION OF PAC REPORT ON NDC
HON ULENGA**

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

HON ULENGA: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. As I was about to say when your big hammer came down on me, in conclusion, I have noted recommendations under paragraph 5 on page 23 and I must say at least the recommendations made some little bit of sense to me, especially in the light of the amazing revelations of the report.

However, Honourable Speaker, there is one specific recommendation that I can just not understand and that is recommendation 5.6 on the same page. Here they say that: *“The Ministry of Finance should express itself as to whether the transaction with the Southern African Tractor Manufacturing (Pty) Ltd was a liability of a contribution.”* Honourable Speaker, in the light of what has transpired on page 10, namely under paragraph 2.6 where they are talking about a loan from the Government of the Republic of Namibia, going ahead and saying that the NDC had received a loan to the tune of N\$4,8 million, how all of a sudden the question comes in whether this is a liability or a contribution?

Exactly what is the difference between a liability and a contribution and how can a loan all of a sudden become a contribution? Again it looks like the coded language here is so heavy that I cannot understand much and I hope the Honourable De Waal or the responsible Ministers will be able to explain some of these matters to me. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. Any further discussion? Does the Honourable De Waal wish to reply?

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Speaker, with the permission of the House I will reply this coming Thursday. Thank you, Sir.

08 July 2008

**MOTION ON POLICE AND PRISON SERVICES
HON VENAANI**

HON SPEAKER: Agreed to. The Secretary will read the Fourth Order of the Day.

MOTION ON POLICE AND PRISON SERVICES

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on the need for human resource development and other related matters of the Namibian Police and Prison Services.

HON SPEAKER: When the House adjourned on Wednesday, 25 June 2008 in terms of Rule 90, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security. Honourable Venaani adjourned the Debate and I give him the Floor.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I would like to make concluding remarks, I think that day I was trying to round up and just to recapture what I said during this Debate. I said it is a question of the total reform of the pay structure of the Civil Service. Coupled with that, it addresses the question of the imbalances that have been experienced in the Police Force and the difference between the Police Force and the City of Windhoek, a gap, which is quite huge and so forth.

I want to wish our young men and women in uniform well in protecting the laws as prescribed by our country's Courts and Constitution. I thank you.

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

08 July 2008

**MOTION ON POLICE AND PRISON SERVICES
HON MOONGO / HON IIVULA-ITHANA / HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. My contribution is a short one before I propose the referral of the matter to the Standing Committee.

I thank the Honourable Minister for considering our Motion to erect shades at the roadblocks and some other facilities and I Move that the subject of the Motion be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security for scrutiny and report back to this august House. I so Move, Mr Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: There were consultations between the Minister and the Honourable Member and it is upon the advice of the Minister that Honourable Member Moongo is doing what he is doing. Please table the Amendment. I take it that the Amendment is acceptable to the House. The Line Minister has agreed with Honourable Moongo.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I am not really opposed to the tabling of the Motion, but I was just asking about the manner in which it was being done and whether we can accept an Amendment of a Motion of a Member who is not in the House. How do we know that it truly happened that there were consultations?

HON SPEAKER: It is an Honourable House, Honourable Members, and I would not believe that in such a public forum Honourable Moongo would do what he has done in the name of a Minister. I take it that he is doing this in good faith based on the understanding between him and the Minister. Minister of Environment.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Comrade Speaker, I also have no objection to what is being proposed. However, I just want to be

08 July 2008

**MOTION-RECOGNITION-TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON VENAANI**

guided on our procedures because you have the Mover of the Motion and then the Motion was debated and one expected that after the Motion was debated and the Mover responded, he would then accept the Amendment to refer the Motion to a Committee.

HON SPEAKER: If there is nobody else to respond on behalf of the Minister, then we will then adjourn the Minister's reply until an appropriate time. The Secretary will read the Fifth Order of the Day.

**CONSIDERATION: REPORT ON TRADITIONAL
LEADERS IN NAMIBIA**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Consideration of the Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs on the election, appointment and recognition of Traditional Leaders in Namibia.

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, 2 July 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Nambahu. Honourable Venaani adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I rise to contribute to a Report that I was party to and to discuss the Report a little bit in-depth on the Motion that was moved by Honourable Henk Mudge of the RP on the non-recognition of some traditional leadership in Namibia.

08 July 2008

**MOTION-RECOGNITION-TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON VENAANI**

Honourable Speaker, we all are aware of the fact that for too long the history of our people, Namibians, was spearheaded and fought by gallant sons and daughters of our Republic who, in most instances, were Traditional Leaders of their communities.

A few months ago, I do not know whether through the creation of the Almighty or so, I was engaged personally in burying a lot of Traditional Leaders, especially last year and the beginning of this year. From the onset I want to pay tribute to those Traditional Leaders who in their quest for seeking traditional leadership recognition have passed away. To them I pause and state the following: *That they were all good men and women who realised their responsibilities and it was their convictions that prompted their good deeds and actions. May the good God have them all in His keeping.*

Honourable Speaker, the central motive of this Report is that there are some statutory interpretations in our laws that are interpreted very differently by different people. One serious question is one of traditional area, traditional jurisdiction of a certain authority. I always contended and I still do, that there is a north-south divide on this matter, because of the historical realities of the southern and northern parts of Namibia.

There is an argument in the law that in the instance where the Honourable Speaker intends to be a chief in Usakos, for example, that Honourable Tjihuiiko cannot claim Usakos as his chieftaincy.

In an argument where people come from a homogenous area where their forefathers have walked the land, fought on the land for 200 years, there is no problem to claim Usakos, but Usakos today has become a cosmopolitan area through migration and the colonial history of that particular place. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask a question? Honourable Member, this Motion was brought by Honourable Henk Mudge and I do not understand why we are debating on this, Henk Mudge to talk about Traditional Authorities? My question is, Honourable Henk Mudge for a long time was part of the people who divided

08 July 2008

**MOTION-RECOGNITION-TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON VENAANI**

the Namibian people and today he wants to divide them again. That is my question. Can answer that question?

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, through you to the Honourable Deputy Minister, Honourable Mudge happens to be a Member of this House, his past credentials are not to be addressed by myself and I think we should tackle the issue, not the man. If we start tackling the man, then the political argument or issue has been lost and we should not lose focus.

Honourable Speaker, one example of a thorny issue that is central to the recognition and non-recognition of Traditional Leadership is the argument of traditional jurisdiction, where one authority would claim that even the fact that I am recognised in this particular area, another Traditional Authority cannot be recognised and there is an overlapping implementation of this provision.

You would find in an area such as Aminuis that the Mbanderu Traditional Authority is recognised, you have the Maherero Traditional Authority recognised in the area, and you have the Bakgalakadi and another one. All these people are recognised in one area. If you look at the historical background of the area called Aminuis, all these people were brought in there due to colonisation and apartheid. That settlement was created due to all those reasons, that is why you have all those Traditional Authorities recognised in one area and their jurisdictions are overlapping.

For example, we have a case in the South between the Goliaths and the Isaaks, two Traditional Authorities, but the argument that is being used for non-recognition is that they are sharing one jurisdiction and that cannot be the case. (Interjection). Do not force people to be related. They are related if they so wish, they are not related if they do not so wish.

People can be related just as I am also related to the Mbanderus. There is no Herero who has no Mbanderu blood in him or a Mbanderu without Herero blood, but there is a Mbanderu Traditional Authority with its own jurisdiction. Thus, the relationship is immaterial. There is a relationship between the Hereros from Okakarara and the Ndongas up north and that family relationship has nothing to do with the areas and traditional jurisdictions.

08 July 2008

**MOTION-RECOGNITION-TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON VENAANI**

The argument is, if you are forcing people to seek for a traditional jurisdiction, the mere fact that they are in that area is because they were forced by circumstances beyond their control and that is apartheid and colonisation. If you are forcing them and saying, *“I would recognise A, because he was first and not B, then you are creating unnecessary tension amongst communities.*

Honourable Speaker, let me also say that it was the attitude of the colonial masters not to recognise people in this country. Traditional Leaders in this country were deliberately not recognised. One example is Chief Kutako who petitioned the United Nations. He was referred to as a mere cattle herder of Aminuis. For many years people denied him recognition. Kutako was never recognised by the authorities as a Chief, never, because it was a tactic of divide and rule.

Over the weekend I attended a coronation ceremony of a new Chief. If the people of that area so decide that they want Honourable Muharukua to be their chief, who am I to say that that chief is just a mere cattle herder, he is not a Chief?

Honourable Speaker, this Report under its recommendations is talking about a very serious issue, namely the issue of equity. There is a lack of equity. On page 19 and 20 there are matters of equity and how we deal with settling disputes.

In Okaoko we have three recognised Traditional Authorities, sharing the same jurisdictional area. In Okakarara you cannot have two authorities because there is already one that is recognised.

Now where is the implementation of equity in this whole process? In addition, there are no clear borders, and there can be no clear borders mind you, of areas of jurisdiction because even the capital, Windhoek, belonged to certain authorities. The rightful heir to the Jonker Afrikaner throne can claim Windhoek because there was an authority here. The Katjamuaha Dynasty can claim Windhoek and many clans around Daan Viljoen can claim that this is their area of historical jurisdiction, but due to colonisation and urbanisation, these areas became cosmopolitan.

If you today go to Ghana, Accra has a chief. If you go to Luanda, you have a chief of Luanda, somebody who can claim that area of Luanda, but Luanda has become a cosmopolitan area. I thus think we should address that question of

08 July 2008

**MOTION-RECOGNITION-TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON VENAANI**

equity in implementation, that we cannot force people who were moved by other factors, not to share areas of jurisdiction.

The other matter that I want to raise is the question of “Chief Riruako and 46 Others” Court Case of 2001. This issue is quite central to the recognition of Traditional Authorities in this country.

Before 1925, 1930 there were no communal areas in this country, Namibia was one communal area besides Lüderitz that was proclaimed, Walvis Bay and Omaruru. But all the reserves were created from 1925, 1930 up to the forties, the fifties and the sixties, some later than the sixties. For example, the area of Ovitoto is closer to Okahandja, closer to Windhoek and all the Hereros were forced to go to Ovitoto. Whether your Traditional Authority’s jurisdiction came from the Mbanderus or whatever, you were forced into one kraal, stay there.

There is one argument that is very relevant. Government is arguing that you cannot recognise 46 Hereros. They are too many. That argument is very sound to say we will have too many chiefs, but let us look at South Africa as an example and I am not saying their system is perfect, but how much money is the South African Government spending on the Kingdom of Goodwill Zwelentini, the King of the Zulus. They have resources, I am not saying we should do the same, but yet they are not spending the same amount of resources in other kingdoms, yet they are spending astronomical amounts on chieftaincies.

The question I am driving at is that some people became too many because of other factors. Had the Namas, the Hereros, the Damaras and the Tswanas not been moved around by circumstances, we would have had lesser chiefs. Then there is also an argument saying, *why do we not compromise?* In a modern State, we should, of course advocate compromise. With 46 Hereros that are seeking recognition, we can propose to compromise and come down. (Interjections) There are 46 because of those factors that I am talking about.

Honourable Speaker, the Government was asked to reconsider this application by a court of law and up to this point in time the Government has not answered to that effect and there is a need for these communities to be told by the Government ... (Intervention)

08 July 2008

**MOTION-RECOGNITION-TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON VENAANI**

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: May I ask the Honourable Member a small question? You spoke of compromise, I remember last year or the year before there was a compromise brought by Chief Riruako himself, where I remember he brought 12 people instead of 46. I am now surprised that he has gone back again to 46. What has happened?

HON VENAANI: I am not the most qualified person to answer about authorities, but I can play a very noble role in trying to reach a compromise. I would not enter into that discussion because a discussion would create a lot of confusion.

My understanding of the word “*compromise*” is when all parties agree. That is compromise. In that case all 46 Chiefs have not agreed to the 12.

The Government is arguing a case of saying paying 46 is a lot of money, but the people who are seeking recognition is not so much worried about whether they are getting money or not, that is not the matter. The matter is for them to have recognition to deal with matters of their people, matters such as land that they are currently handling. (Interjection). My Colleague, there were more than 46 Chiefs in this country, there were even clans where every clan had a chieftaincy. Read the Kozonguizi Report, every clan had its own chieftaincy.

When Maharero was coronated in 1863, his first assignment was to become commander-in-chief of all the Herero armed forces and later the position became paramount chieftaincy. Let us not talk about 46. There were more than that. (Interjection) I have read the Kozonguizi Report so many times, there were more than 46 Herero chiefs.

In your culture you call them Indunas, in my culture I call them Chiefs. (Interjection) ‘*Hoofman*’. You must also agree with me that the creation of Reserves also created a number of chiefs and you cannot say, in the case of Epukiro the Hoveka clan that originates from Epukiro is not recognised in Epukiro, but the people who are allowed to resettle in Epukiro are recognised and you say there were no 46 people. Let us not argue on one side.

08 July 2008

**MOTION-RECOGNITION-TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON VENAANI**

Honourable Speaker, the Kozonguizi Report of 1991 also had flaws in itself, historical flaws, just as history books have historical flaws.

There is a need to modernise the Council of Traditional Leaders. Compromise must be agreed by all, then it is compromise.

This Committee is making a very important recommendation and that it is very difficult for this eminent body only to meet once a year. For this eminent body to meet only once a year is creating a problem, because there are a lot of disputes and they can only adjudicate over disputes once a year. Therefore asking them to meet at least twice annually would help them decide on matters of Traditional Authorities.

Honourable Speaker, the other question is that where there is a dispute or conflict between chieftaincies, there must be a democratic recourse. If people are saying two sons must be coronated in one position, you cannot say it must be so because I have said so. They are also living in modern societies and modern societies must also reflect the will of the people. If the Government just decides that they want to recognise Venaani's Traditional Authority because Venaani happens to look a bit better than the other fellow, then that is not acceptable at all. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask Honourable Venaani a question? Honourable Venaani, you are talking about the will of the people and I agree with you, the Namibian people accuse the SWAPO Party of their will but you are complaining. Now you are talking about the people that have to support certain people.

HON VENAANI: There are choices in life. The choice is, if you want to impose it upon me not to recognise SWAPO as the Ruling Party, I can do so. You have asked me, and I have recognised SWAPO as the Ruling Party of this country, not as sole and authentic but as the majority Party of this country and I

08 July 2008

**MOTION-RECOGNITION-TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON VENAANI**

do give that due recognition. (Interjection) No, you have never been sole and authentic and you will never be sole and authentic. (Intervention)

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** May I ask the Honourable Member a small question? Honourable Venaani, you are a young, learned, bright man. Why are you still in a reactionary Party? You are very, very bright, why are you still in the DTA reactionary Party?

HON VENAANI: Honourable Ekandjo, I give you credit that you have this political ability to derail people and it is a good inherent quality in a politician, but claiming that I am in a wrong Party is a judgment of my father from his point of view. From my point of view and from the point of view of many Namibians, this is the Party to be. (Interjections) Honourable Speaker, the Ruling Party is openly giving the impression that they want me, but I have been here for a very long time now and I am a very principled fellow and the Namibians want me to be here.

Honourable Speaker, after that derailment... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Speaker, may I pose a question to Honourable Venaani? Honourable Venaani, Honourable Members, if we reflect a little bit back on 1991, one year after Independence, the Government decided that there were two very important burning National issues that justified National dialogue. This was the issue of the land and the issue of the Traditional Authorities and therefore, there was a National Conference on Land in 1991 and the President and Cabinet appointed a Commission to look at the issues of Traditional Authorities.

08 July 2008

**MOTION-RECOGNITION-TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON VENAANI**

Having gone through the Report of the Kozonguizi Commission, will you not agree with me that the time is right that some of the very contentious issues that the Commission already identified and that we are debating today, that there is a need for another National dialogue on this issue and that we may probably, out of that National dialogue, get some kind of consensus to move forward. Would you agree with me on this score?

HON VENAANI: I agree with you on that score and just to elucidate my point; it is a fact that even the recommendations that were made by the Kozonguizi Report have not been fully implemented up to this moment.

Let me explain to you the intricacies of Herero traditional leadership. All the chiefs that are recognised today, with all due respect, have a rightful claim to their recognition, true, but all of them in unison agreed for Chief Riruako to become Paramount Chief of the Herero. Eighteen years after Independence, Chief Riruako, who was coronated by all the chieftaincies of this country and all of us call him Chief Riruako, is not yet recognised and other Herero Chiefs are not recognised. In addition, look at the recommendations of the Kozonguizi Report. I agree with you that there is a bigger need for us to debate this issue.

People from the North would argue and that argument is valid, saying that if you look at the population of the Oshiwambo-speaking Namibians, Chief Riruako is Paramount Chief just as King Elifas is a Chief. The law calls him a Chief, but he is the King of the Ndonggo people. At least he is recognised to be a Chief. Now, we never contested for Chief Riruako to become Paramount Chief, we contested for him to be recognised. He is not yet recognised eighteen years after Independence.

There is a need for us to re-look at that issue, because the people in the North are arguing – and it is a valid argument – that the Oshiwambo-speaking Namibians constitute close to 49% of the population of the Republic, but they only have 8 chieftaincies or kingdoms or Traditional Authority. Why should the fourth or fifth smallest ethnic group in this country have 48 chiefs? The situations are different, the history of land is different, because chieftaincies were moved by the history of land. Some Herero Traditional Leaders are recognised in Botswana because of history.

08 July 2008

**MOTION-RECOGNITION-TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON VENAANI**

Therefore, that argument might be valid on one score, saying that the largest group has eight, but their area has been homogenous for many generations and our areas have become cities, have become urban centres, and have become cosmopolitan.

I want to conclude by saying the following that Africa has experienced a lot of conflicts, mayhem, tribal killings, and all factors that have left Africa to move to these stages have originated from petty matters. Non-recognition of certain chiefs has proven to be a very delicate and thorny issue amongst some Namibians and if you are in power you can argue, no we have already recognised them, let us go forward, but I have always urged communities to rise above these petty differences and address their issues with the correct authorities and avenues. However, if we think that you can just shake your head because you have the power today, our hard-won freedom, peace and stability will not be maintained for too if we do not address these matters.

As a leader in this House I am going to urge that for as long as we do not accommodate each other's views, for as long as you think that you have the numbers and might is right and think that you can walk over others because they do not have the numbers, you will have a problem in this country.

I agree with the authorities that we need to re-debate this issue, we need to re-look at the matter of recognition. It is a very delicate matter. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: It is tribalism!

HON VENAANI: I am not a tribalist. You can never argue that I am a tribalist. You can dream of it but I will never be one, forget about it.

I am appealing to Traditional Authorities that are not recognised to continue seeking recognition by using the correct channels. They went to Court eight years ago, the verdict of the Court has not been implemented. It is important for them to remain calm, to seek their recognition, but their cause is my cause. I

08 July 2008

**MOTION-RECOGNITION-TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON KATALI**

submit myself to that cause of helping all Traditional Authorities in this country. Given the historical background of this country, it is my resolve to continue to be that voice to argue for their recognition now and in the future. I thank you.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Comrade Speaker, as a teacher I had some smart students or learners. When you asked him or her, a question, he or she would give an answer of all that he or she knows whether it addresses the question or not and this is what I am seeing some the Honourable Members are busy doing.

Comrade Speaker, we are here to consider a Report and I will try to do just that, the Report of the Parliament Standing Committee. Looking at the Report, Comrade Speaker, I must thank the Committee for doing what they did and tabling this Report that we are now considering.

If we look on page 5, there are five terms of reference and the fifth one is the recommendations and the report back to the National Assembly about the outcome of the hearings and I thank the Committee for doing that. However, Comrade Speaker, I think this report leaves much to be desired. The first term of reference is to investigate the selection, appointment and recognition of the Traditional Leaders in Namibia as per the provisions of the Act, but when there is nothing in the report on how the selection and appointments were done – nothing.

Then coming to the second term of reference, whether the process was transparent, etcetera, I could not see from the Report anything referring to this.

The third one is also to consult the public and the various Traditional Authorities. When I went through the Report very quickly, I realised that the Traditional Leaders that were consulted were only those unrecognised Traditional Leaders with the exception of Caprivi where the Traditional Authorities were consulted

08 July 2008

**MOTION-RECOGNITION-TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON KATALI**

and that is the only area where you could not find the voice of the unrecognised Traditional Authorities in the Report.

I must also single out the Tsumkwe area where only unrecognised Traditional Authorities were consulted and I think maybe the reason is because there are no unrecognised Traditional Authorities in Tsumkwe and it is even being called a courtesy call to the recognised Traditional Authorities.

When you however look at the terms of reference, it is very clear that the Committee needed to go and talk to the Traditional Authorities and talk to the communities, which they might have done.

I also looked at the fourth term of reference, which deals with the Ministry responsible, but throughout the report there is no mention of what the Ministry said about all this, meaning the Ministry was not consulted.

Then in the reporting you only find that these unrecognised Traditional Authorities were consulted and this is what they said. Unfortunately, there is no voice of the Traditional Authorities, which speak for these unrecognised Traditional Authorities. In Caprivi, they were saying this is because of this and that, but what was the reason for the Committee not consulting the Traditional Authorities so that they can bring to the House balanced information. All this information is just from the unrecognised Traditional Authorities and not even from the Ministry, apart from Caprivi.

I started by saying that when you ask somebody a specific question and person will give you all what he or she knows about the subject, then of course you will give a correct mark because what was said is true, but you do not give a point because that is not what was asked.

If I were really to appraise this Report based on what I have said, I think there is still a need for someone, somewhere to go and get answers on these terms of reference. They have not been addressed in this Report at all.

Otherwise we have appointed a Committee to go and do research and then we still need to send another Committee to go and do research so that we really get to the heart of the matter.

08 July 2008

MOTION-RECOGNITION-TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON SIMUNJA

I know we are not here to debate the issues of who is recognised and who not. We are here to debate this Report on the Table. Of course, there are some recommendations by the Committee, some of which could have been additional recommendations to the terms of reference, which may be good to be considered, but unfortunately, in my own understanding the Committee did not do a thorough job. Why? Because there are not even findings, they only reported on what has been said by this Traditional Authority and the other Traditional Authority, but there are no findings and then they jump to the recommendations, which do not tally with the terms of reference.

Comrade Speaker, based on what I have just said, I really have a problem with this Report as is. It does not address the terms of reference and as I said, it is one-sided, the recognised Traditional Authorities were not consulted. I thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Deputy Minister. Honourable Deputy Minister of Defence.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Speaker, let me seize this opportunity to say a few words on this Report.

First of all, let me start by thanking the Colleagues who were on the Committee, who have deliberated extensively on this issue. However, I would like to note that the issue before us is really sensitive in the sense that it deals with some people of our Nation who feels some discomfort for not being recognised by Government for one or other reason.

However, let me remind my fellow brother, Honourable Venaani, that many conflicts in Africa have been fought because of resources, some because of tribal lines and some conflicts were politically motivated.

However, the majority of the conflicts on the African continent were tribal conflicts. That is why I am saying the issue is very sensitive.

08 July 2008

**MOTION-RECOGNITION-TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON SIMUNJA**

I would not agree with him when he advocates that we should try to recognise every authority that applies. Of course, we should consider each matter according to its merits, but in my view, the Government should try by all means, instead of dividing the Nation into so many groups, to bring the Nation together as one in order to avoid conflicts.

We have so many different authorities in this country and just to cite an example, this Parliament is comprised of 72 members and the more authorities you have, each authority would want to be represented in this Parliament and this will be a source of conflict, as you have already mentioned. That is why I am saying tribal issues has been a source of conflict in Africa and studies have shown that.

I would not dwell much on this issue, but let me also deal with the recommendation. Let us not try to tell the public out there that there was this recommendation, which was not implemented by Government. Recommendations are subject to scrutiny and thereafter they are subject to approval or disapproval. It does not mean that when a recommendation is put on the Table it should be approved. This is not the case.

Let me however go back to the recommendations in the Report itself, recommendation 9.4 says: *“Recognised Traditional Authorities should consider enlarging their structures in order to accommodate others.”* In my view, this recommendation was supposed to be directed to the Ministry responsible, because I know that some Traditional Councillors in other authorities, especially if one looks at the recommendations on Caprivi, are saying those who applied, only applied so that they could be remunerated like others.

The Act itself has a limitation on the number of Traditional Councillors that need to be remunerated, but however, some of the Traditional Authorities have so many Councillors and that is why some are left out. If you were to recommend that the relevant Ministry should consider increasing the number of Councillors to be remunerated, then I would agree with you, because although the Traditional Authorities increase the number of Councillors, the Act still limits the number of Councillors to be remunerated and it will still remain a problem. This is one of the points that I wanted to put across in this recommendation.

Let me end here with these few words, Comrade Speaker.

08 July 2008

**MOTION-RECOGNITION-TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON KAAPANDA**

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Deputy Minister for his contribution. Minister Kaapanda.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. Comrade Speaker, the intervention by the Honourable Member, Honourable Venaani, was very emotional and misplaced.

The Honourable Member's argument was out of line. The recognition of Traditional Leaders is not the responsibility of the Government of the Republic of Namibia. The recognition of Traditional Leaders is purely an issue of Namibian communities to nominate their leaders. However, there are criteria that have to be fulfilled, requirements that are set as pre-conditions to be fulfilled by the chief aspiring to be recognised.

Honourable Venaani mentioned some of the requirements, one of which is the area of jurisdiction, that a person to be recognised should have an area of jurisdiction. Of course, he mentioned the social factors that displaced people and caused people to move to certain areas and that represents a conflict situation, which makes regulation very, very difficult.

The areas of jurisdictions sometimes overlap and you will find two chiefs in immediate adjacent areas, but they are contesting for the same area and they do not accept each other as being equal leaders. Each one is claiming to be a chief over the other. Mind you, all these chiefs have subjects who have allegiance to them and once you recognise one chief over the other, you create a conflict – a conflict of administration, a conflict of ritual conduct. The chief would like to have power over his subjects which reside in the area belonging to the rival chief and this chief would not allow the other one to come and perform and this creates a conflict situation.

Therefore, in a situation like this, the Council of Traditional Leaders would not recommend either of the two for fear of conflict and this is definitely a realistic position to prevent conflict erupting in that particular area.

08 July 2008

**MOTION-RECOGNITION-TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON KAAPANDA**

The other issue Honourable Venaani mentioned is that there are certain Namibian communities whose social organisation is characterised by the division of power.

The head of the community could be a chief and under him there are several headmen or Indunas, but I think Honourable Venaani referred to the social organisation of the Hereros who have only a chief, they do not have Indunas. Every head of a community or the leader of a clan is a chief. Then how many chiefs will be there if at all the Government attempts to recognise every head of a clan? Will this not open up a Pandora's Box? (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: May I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Honourable Minister, you have alluded to the fact that if you establish two chieftaincies in one jurisdictional area it would create problems, but in the Epupa Constituency you have the Kakuru Kouje Traditional Authority which was recognised a few months back, you have Chief Tom's Traditional Authority recognised in that area, you have Chief Tjavara's Traditional Authority, three chieftaincies in one area. What problem has been caused in that area? None.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I pointed out right from the beginning that the recommendation is made by the Council of Traditional Leaders on the directives from the communities themselves as to whom they recognise and this recommendation will not be without any contestation. However, in certain areas, people are contesting for the same area and to recognise one would be to create conflict.

If three chiefs reside in adjacent areas and their areas of jurisdiction are not clearly demarcated and they themselves know the boundaries of their areas, then you cannot recognise any of these because it is going to create a problem. These Chiefs will face each other and eventually the Government will face a problem to reconcile them or what will be the consequence of that?

08 July 2008

**MOTION-RECOGNITION-TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON KAAPANDA**

Of course, I said the social organisation of the African communities would always comprise of the head of the clan or the community, either a chief or a king, but under him, there are headmen or Induna's.

There are so many Induna's in the North, but they are observing what is happening among the Herero communities and they also want recognition and remuneration. Where are we going to end up? It is a question of recognising 40 or 60. But there you can compromise and that compromise was considered and Honourable Riruako submitted a reduced number, but he was challenged by the other chiefs and this created two camps between Honourable Riruako and Honourable Kaura. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Order. I appeal to the Minister not to mention names. Chief Riruako is not here, Honourable Kaura is not here and he should rather postpone it and address it when they are here.

HON SPEAKER: They are Members of the House.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Venaani was quite ambivalent, sometimes he said we should compromise so that we can reduce the number. That attempt was made and it did not yield any result at all. It created even more division among the same people, more conflict. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question, please? I am listening very carefully to this Debate and that is why I am not participating. The Honourable Minister is saying that the compromise that was made by Chief Riruako, based on the discussion between Chief Riruako and

08 July 2008

**MOTION-RECOGNITION-TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON KAAPANDA**

the Ministry responsible, created more problems. What are the problems that the compromise has created?

The compromise that was based on the Court case, that there should be dialogue between the parties, which led to that dialogue, which led to some kind of understanding between Chief Riruako and the responsible Ministry, what division has that compromise brought into the whole picture? I just want to be clear.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

TECHNOLOGY: Comrade Speaker, I was the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development and I presided over the dialogue, trying to find a resolution and the Government was negotiating in good faith and we were very happy to see Honourable Riruako presenting a reduced list as a compromise, because he understood that it was impossible. Unfortunately, the rest of the chiefs who were not included in the list rose up in arms and they found a protector or a mentor to take up their cause in the name of Honourable Kaura. There was a visible division within the ranks of the chiefs and we could not move anywhere, we were challenged. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Minister, I am not trying to be funny, I really want to understand what you are saying. Honourable Minister, you are fully aware of the fact that the division that you are talking about is that a certain group withdrew from Chief Riruako's leadership and they formed a different authority, which was elected in Opuwo under the leadership of Chief Tjikuua and Chief Tjavara. They made it very clear that they are no longer under Chief Riruako, therefore they cannot be represented by Chief Riruako. What conflict is there between people who have officially withdrawn from the leadership of Chief Riruako? It is just like Chief Maharero was under Chief Riruako and he withdrew. What conflict is there among people who are no longer together?

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

TECHNOLOGY: My response to my young brother is that I want him to

08 July 2008

MOTION-RECOGNITION-TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON DR AMATHILA

consult more on this aspect. I mean to call himself the representative of the people, there is no need for him to nominate himself and put himself in that position. Thank you very much I rest my case.

HON SPEAKER: Dr Amathila, Deputy Prime Minister, the first Minister of Regional and Local Government and Housing.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Thank you. Because of that title of not only first Minister of Local Government and Housing, but as the first drafting Minister of the Traditional Authorities Act, I want to give an overview.

At the time when we were drafting – and of course, the Constitution also allowed us to recognise Traditional Authorities – we went and we started at Waterberg Mountain with the layman’s draft and the overriding issue was, initially, to give recognition to our Traditional Leaders in order to preserve our traditions and what we looked at that time when we were drafting were about three or four issues.

Primarily, the Government had no right to go to communities and to say, “*this is going to be your chief.*” It was left to the traditional communities to get together and say, “This is our chief” and then the Government recognised that chief. We also said that in case the chief they have recognised has faltered or they do not want him anymore, they must come up with a new chief and give reasons why they do not want the previous one. In order that not anybody could nominate himself as a chief, we decided that only one chief would be recognised per traditional community. At the time, we did not even think of areas of jurisdiction, we were looking at communities.

Then the second overriding point, because we felt that we have to remunerate the chief and his Councillors, was that we looked at the number of the traditional communities applying and we said that a certain number of Councillors should be appointed per traditional chief of a certain area so that we would be able to afford their remuneration.

08 July 2008

**MOTION-RECOGNITION-TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON DR AMATHILA**

We were also toying with the thought of having a traditional community fund, so that those who were not remunerated by the Government could be remunerated through the Traditional Authority Fund of that particular community.

This question of this rampant recognition and request for Traditional Leaders, we had this case of two brothers from one father and two different mothers and the Government cannot choose the site, because this is one house, which does not agree and giving us one Traditional Leader, one now to be the chief. The Government has no business to go there, recognise all three brothers, and pay them. That cannot happen. There are laws and that is why we said where there is one Traditional Leader recognised, that will be the one.

Coming back to the issue of 46 Traditional Leaders, they were actually 48 in my time and they were all Chief Riruako's Traditional Authority, not anybody else. I spoke to him and I said it is impossible for Government to pay all of them, reduce the number so that it is not 48, a small community cannot do that.

The last time when my Minister was the Minister of Local Government and Housing, he came to me as the Minister who started this whole issue and he came with a good compromise of twelve Traditional Leaders. He even appointed somebody who would take care of the traditions while he is sitting in this House and then all of a sudden there was this split in Riruako's team, because Kaura was part of Riruako's team before. DTA went away, Honourable Riruako started his own Party, NUDO, and now they are still claiming that the 48 are under Chief Riruako, yet they have left Chief Riruako and have gone to the other side. (Intervention)

HON ULENGA: I would like to put a question to the Deputy Prime Minister. Seeing that the initial intention really was a question of honouring the traditions, how did money become an issue? Is there no way that recognition can be given in other terms than monetary terms? What is the problem there, why should it be money?

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: At the time when we were thinking of remuneration, the chiefs, particularly in the northern part, were receiving

08 July 2008

**MOTION-RECOGNITION-TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON DR AMATHILA**

something by selling land and we wanted to remunerate the chiefs so that they can respectably do their work. This was perhaps a mistake and that is what brought about this whole *hullabaloo* about Traditional Leaders, because of remuneration.

If we are going to change this whole situation, we have to start having a community fund for Traditional Leaders, so that they deal with these things themselves and the Government must get out of paying chiefs. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: On that note, the House shall rise under Rule 90 until tomorrow afternoon. 14:30.

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
09 JULY 2008
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

**TABLING: REPORT ON HIV/AIDS BUDGET
ANALYSIS AND EXPENDITURE MONITORING**

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Report on Capacity-building Workshop for members of the Public Accounts Committee and Parliamentary Staff of the SADC Countries on HIV/AIDS Budget Analysis and Expenditure Monitoring held at the Pretoria Waterfront in South Africa.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Report? Any further Reports and Papers? Other Reports and Papers? Honourable Gurirab.

**TABLING: INTERIM STATEMENT OF PAN-AFRICAN
PARLIAMENT ON ELECTIONS IN ZIMBABWE**

09 July 2008

**REPORTS AND PAPERS
HON T GURIRAB / HON KASINGO**

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table the Interim Statement of the Pan-African Parliament Observer Mission to the Presidential run-off and Parliamentary By-Elections in Zimbabwe for note taking.

HON SPEAKER: Any further Reports and Papers? Honourable Kasingo.

**PRELIMINARY STATEMENT OF THE AFRICAN
UNION ON ELECTIONS IN ZIMBABWE**

HON KASINGO: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table the Preliminary Statement of the African Union Observer Mission to the Presidential run-off and House of Assembly by-election in Zimbabwe for note taking.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Report? Any Notices of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Honourable Nambahu.

UNOPPOSED MOTION ON CUBA

HON NAMBAHU: Mr Speaker, Sir, I Move as an unopposed Motion:

That this Assembly –

Recognising the longstanding strong ties and strong bonds of friendship and going bilateral relations between Namibia and the Republic of Cuba, as well as recalling the selfless sacrifices and enormous contribution made by the brave sons

09 July 2008

**UNOPPOSED MOTION ON CUBA
HON NAMBAHU**

and daughters of the Cuban Republic towards our protracted struggle for National Independence from the yoke of colonialism and apartheid;

Given the long history of aggression, assassination attempts on Cuban leadership as well as a range of attacks at international fora against Cuba by successive administrations of the United States of America; Convinced that the Cuban people have long suffered from severe and excessive economic embargo imposed by successive administrations of the United States of America on Cuba;

Conscious of the fact that successive administrations of the United States of America had continued to illegally occupy part of the Cuban territory in Guantanamo;

Aware of the imprisonment of the five Cuban Nationals who are discriminatorily accused of espionage and currently in the United States of America's maximum-security prisons without access to a fair trial;

Taking note of the fact that the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention consider the trial and last conviction of the five Cuban Nationals by the current administration of the US arbitrary, illegal and without being backed by evidence, thus a violation of basic human rights;

And whereas family members of the five Cuban prisoners visited the National Assembly of the Republic of Namibia, during which visit an overwhelming solidarity with and support to the plight of the Cuban five was expressed by Members of the aforesaid Assembly by way of a Motion;

Therefore, I call upon this Assembly –

To call for the immediate and unconditional release of the five Cuban prisoners and respect for their rights, especially the visitation rights from their families;

To demand the lifting of the inhuman and unjustifiable economic embargo and blockage imposed by the United States of America against the Republic of Cuba:

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

09 July 2008

**UNOPPOSED MOTION ON CUBA
HON P MUSHELENGA**

And thus affirm our support for the Cuban revolution that has given the Cuban people sovereignty, dignity, education, health and other achievements and that has extended its support to ours when we were in difficult times.

I so Move, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable Mushelenga.

HON P MUSHELENGA: Honourable Speaker, I rise to support the Unopposed Motion introduced by Honourable Nambahu.

The relationship between the United States of America and Cuba since 1962, when President John F Kennedy carried through Proclamation 3447, instructing the Secretary of Congress to continue the prohibitions of exports to Cuba and prohibited, among others, the importation into the United States of all goods of Cuban origin and all imported goods from or through Cuba. This proclamation had adverse effects on the people of Cuba. They went through untold economic hardships.

Coming to the Cuban Five, last year we received a delegation from the families, relatives of the five Cubans detained by the United States of America for what the United States of America termed as espionage and in fact, these people had alerted the United States of America of possible terrorist activities being waged against Cuba by people based in Miami.

The United Nations, since 1992, the General Assembly has passed a number of resolutions condemning the embargo against Cuba. Nothing has happened, each year the UN repeats the same resolutions, reiterating resolutions from 1992, noting reports of the Secretary General. Now that shows that somehow, somewhere there is somebody that is not accountable to the international law and international opinion for the United Nations, which is very bad behaviour in world politics.

09 July 2008

**UNOPPOSED MOTION ON CUBA
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

The Foreign Policy of the United States of America clearly is based on what scholars of international relations term as “*realism*”, interest defined power, where they pursue their interest through what is called “*might makes right theory*.” Students of Political Science will remember that. As long as you are powerful, you behave the way you want, irrespective of whether what you are doing is good or bad.

International relations became characterised by unjust, aggressive pursuance of interests of some member states, without due consideration to global harmony and elementary humanity. This should be condemned.

The five Cubans arrested in the United States of America are denied some basic rights by those who profess themselves to be champions of the declarations on human rights. What an irony and a contradiction!

I, therefore, support the resolution sponsored by Honourable Nambahu that is calling for the immediate release of these five Cubans and demanding the end of the embargo. In fact, I think the resolution is self-explanatory. I call that we condemn abuse of power by any member of the international community.

With these few words, Honourable Speaker, I support the Motion.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Speaker, since the Motion is unopposed and includes everything that has to be said on the matter, I simply rise to associate our side completely with the content of the Motion as presented by Honourable Nambahu and to second that Motion.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussions? If not, is the House ready to adopt the Motion? Those in favour of the unopposed Motion? Those opposed? Those abstaining? The Motion is adopted. Any further Notices of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

09 July 2008

**CONSIDERATION: CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT
HON KAIYAMO**

**CONSIDERATION: COMMUNIQUÉ OF
SECOND SESSION OF CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT**

SECRETARY: Consideration of Report and Communiqué of the Second Session of the Children's Parliament.

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

HON KAIYAMO: Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, it is a pleasure and honour to introduce to you the Report on the Deliberations of the Second Session of the Children's Parliament.

The Children's Parliament was held in this Chamber from the 6th to the 11th of May this year. The participants or Honourable Members – as we should call them – were 42 in number, three learners from each Region and three Junior Councillors from the City of Windhoek of which the Junior Mayor also came. Also in attendance were three veterans of the First Children's Parliament.

The mission of the Namibian Children's Parliament is to create a developing society with a high sense of responsibility of which children and the youth are part with their adult partners. The primary goal of this Parliament is to lobby and to advise Government and its agencies on lawmaking and implementation machinery and to check whether all the policies are in place as found in the Republic; to review the right and welfare of our children and young persons in accordance with the National and legal instruments.

26 Motions were tabled and debated and the Debate was of a very high standard. I am sure some of us may learn from them. 20 Motions were adopted, one was rejected and four were withdrawn. The decisions on the Motions are clearly in

09 July 2008

**CONSIDERATION: CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT
HON KAIYAMO**

the Report. They talked about crime, corporal punishment, the issue of Grade 10 repeaters. The young Parliamentarians were more progressive than some of us. Child labour, service delivery at our hospitals, libraries in the rural areas, school dropouts, teachers in relation to children, pregnancy of young girls at school, studies for medical students, infrastructure in the Regions, alcohol abuse, local language in schools.

It is important for us, Honourable Members, to take the issues debated during the Children's Parliament very seriously and as National leaders give direction to the future leaders.

This Parliament was also addressed by the UN agencies, the Minister of Education, the Minister of Youth, the Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, business people and one of our business ladies, Monica Kalondo also addressed them.

Honourable Members, some of the issues raised by the Children's Parliament were also debated in this House, but not in the same speed and seriousness.

I recall the school dropout issue was debated and I, therefore, urge all to read the Report and advise the Ministry concerned because the Children's Parliament made some recommendations on the implementation of the various recommendations made.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, I would like to thank all the stakeholders and in particular the Speaker who initiated this Children's Parliament and also to those who made contributions to the success of that Parliament, the corporate partners, First National Bank, Olthaver & List, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, the Ministry of Education. These two Ministries also sponsored lunch for the Children's Parliament on that occasion. A special thanks goes to the staff who assisted us in making this a reality.

Honourable Members, I now have the honour to submit the report to this House for consideration. I thank you.

09 July 2008

**CONSIDERATION: CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT
HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

HON SPEAKER: I thank Honourable Kaiyamo for his statement. Minister Ndaitwah.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. Let me thank Honourable Kaiyamo for introducing this Report. At the same time, Comrade Speaker, I also want to thank and congratulate the Speaker that the Children's Parliament is now functioning. In the same vein, I can say that time has now come for me to thank and congratulate myself and to express how grateful I am that my dream of having the Children's Parliament has become a reality.

Yesterday Honourable Muharukua in her response reminded us of the fear of the unknown and this is almost the fate this idea had to suffer when there was resistance to the idea of having the Children's Parliament. Nonetheless Comrade Speaker, thank you very much, you have made some of us proud that the Children's Parliament is now functioning.

Of course, in a democratic country like Namibia, Parliament is the basis of our democracy and if the whole Nation could be made to realise that fact, it will go a long way to maintain our democracy and strengthen it at all times.

Against this background, it is my belief that the Children's Parliament is another way in which we can move our Nation to value and have interest in the work of the National Parliament. The Communiqué and the Report under discussion is testimony as to how our people can be given a chance to contribute to the work of our Parliament. Similarly, the issues discussed by the children, as reflected in twenty-one Motions that the Children's Parliament has adopted, should serve as a guide to both the Parliament and the Executive as to what are the issues of concern to our children and how we should address them. In this way, we are empowering our children to become responsible citizens and leaders when they become adults.

Comrade Speaker, it is not surprising, that 16 out of the 21 adopted Motions are school and learning related and I believe that most, if not all the recommendations made are one way or the other workable. There are recommendations directed to the children themselves, such as those related to

09 July 2008

**CONSIDERATION: CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT
HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

behaviour of learners. There are recommendations directed to the teachers, such as a call for teachers to have interest in their teaching profession.

It is true that while there are hundreds of teachers who are working hard and make an effort to impart knowledge to their learners, there are those who make use of public time to do private work while they were supposed to be in the class. At times they may think children are not concerned, they are not taking note of such behaviour, but through this Motion, I am sure some of those teachers will get the message and improve on their performance to the appreciation of the learners and the Nation at large.

Children also recognised the importance of tripartite management of education, namely the role of the learners, teachers and parents. Hence the call under Motions F and I for parents to be called in, to enable teachers and parents to solve matters when children become difficult.

Honourable Speaker, Namibia is part of the global village and as part of globalisation our children are exposed to different cultures and other products in the market. Hence, a need for guidance to enable them to cope with some of those conflicting cultures is identified.

Therefore, a call for educational talks and interventions by social workers, as called for under Motion J, is welcome. This also tells us that there is a need to have social workers as part of the school and hostel establishment, to enable learners to get professional support when such services are needed.

There is a perception among some people that a white-collar job is the only job that every learner should aim at, forgetting that we are different people with different skills and interests. Therefore, a call by the children for arts and culture to be introduced at the level of secondary school has come from the understanding that those individuals who may want to quality in the sector of arts and culture are disadvantaged. They have no opportunity to be made aware at the secondary level what it entails if they want to become professionals in those areas.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, to address the concerns raised under Motion K, it might be helpful if the National Assembly may consult the Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare to share some of the proposals made in

09 July 2008

**CONSIDERATION: CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT
HON P MUSHELENGA**

relation to elections or appointments to members of the Children's Parliament when the idea was first introduced.

Finally, Comrade Speaker, I once again thank you, I thank the National Assembly and all those who have been involved and enabled the Children's Parliament to be established and to function. I support the Children's Report and the Communiqué, in particular the Motions contained therein. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for her contribution. Honourable Minister, you have been the leader, urging our Government to consider establishing a Children's Parliament. The Executive still has to pick up that request and challenge that you placed in front of Cabinet a number of years back. What we are doing is really the Speaker's own initiative, funded through the Budget of the National Assembly, keeping alive the spirit and the intention with which you in Cabinet motivated the need for the establishment of a Children's Parliament. The Children's Parliament has not yet been established, this will be an occasional initiative on part of the Speaker as and when resources allow, but it is a total commitment on the part of the Speaker, as it is yours. Thank you. Honourable Mushelenga.

HON P MUSHELENGA: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to say something on the Report on the Second Session of the Children's Parliament held in the National Assembly during the May recess.

Let me echo the words of the Minister of Environment and Tourism by thanking you, Honourable Speaker, that being the pragmatic and foresighted politician that you are, you spent more effort to ensure that the Children's Parliament has become a reality.

In the same vein, I do not want to take the wind out of your sails, Honourable Minister, I equally want to thank you for the initiatives and efforts you made while you were the Minister responsible for children to have a Children's

09 July 2008

**CONSIDERATION: CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT
HON P MUSHELENGA**

Parliament. I also want to thank the current Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare.

I was going through the Motions and I agree with the Honourable Minister of Environment and Tourism that these Motions are quite important. However, I only want to talk about three or four of them.

The Motion on crime is very important because in recent years we have witnessed crime among our juvenile community. Some is due to peer pressure, because of the friends children associate with they will become in criminal activities. However, some children are used to commit serious crimes such as drug trafficking. I am happy that children themselves are speaking out to condemn these trends. This goes for child labour as well and I am happy that they recommend that more social workers be employed in all 13 Regions to address these problems. More social workers are needed to attend to counselling and to collect the necessary information on vulnerable children.

When we visited the Regions as part of the Human Resources Committee, looking at the problems facing children in the Regions, we noticed that one social worker in a vast Region would not be able to attend to all the needs of the children. I am, therefore, happy to see the recommendation that we need to have more social workers and I think both the Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare and the Minister of Finance are going to take this into consideration.

Honourable Speaker, coming to libraries in Rural Areas, I grew up in a Rural Area myself and I was not privileged to have library facilities. I came to see a library when I went to secondary school.

However, when I go around I see libraries at primary schools and that is a very good initiative, but most of the libraries are established there as initiatives by most of the schools themselves. I think the Minister of Education is looking at me and he is listening patiently and Government needs to do more to ensure that there are libraries at rural schools and resources are made available in terms of books, staffing and so on.

I want to talk about Library Science teachers. These teachers also play an important role but somehow we should create incentives for these teachers. You see advertisements saying possession this and this qualification will be an advantage, but perhaps we should also consider Library Science to be an

09 July 2008

**CONSIDERATION: CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT
HON VILJOEN**

advantage for some promotional positions at schools, such as Head of Department and others, so that we encourage these teachers to go to primary schools and do their best to deliver to the Nation.

Coming to non-performance of teachers, I have said time and again here that when you look at the results of Grade 10 to 12 of some schools, you could see the school has performed very well. At some schools you can see that few children have performed very well, the majority of children have not performed very well, and I repeat what I have said here, I am not too sure that in that case I should really blame the children. Perhaps those who have performed well are those that are naturally talented and gifted and for those who have not performed very well we should try to look at both learners and teachers. Because there are no mechanisms to punish non-performing teachers, we will always have these types of problems.

Honourable Minister, I think we should come up with mechanisms as to how we could address these non-performing teachers.

With these words, I support the Report.

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

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, mine is just a very short remark. There was a Motion about some teachers not dedicated to their work and I want to emphasise that this was the core of one of the Motions under discussion, the fact that not all the teachers are dedicated.

I think we must really listen to the children, we must not reject these Motions out of respect for the teachers, but when the Children Parliament comes up with such recommendations, we must listen and I support the Report. I thank you.

09 July 2008

**CONSIDERATION: CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT
HON KAVETUNA**

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

HON KAVETUNA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I would like to join the queue of the previous speakers who congratulated you for taking the initiative. I think, although it is the second session, it is my first time to see the activities of this Children's Parliament. The importance of this initiative can never be over-emphasised, as it is a step in the right direction.

The Parliament is one of many activities aimed at the young citizens of this country, to make them show an interest in National activities. The Children's Parliament has discussed a number of recommendations and it is, therefore, for us as parliamentarians and Namibians to support this kind of initiative by giving moral support to these young people.

I know that financial aspects are also a question, but one would have liked to see at least two or three sessions per annum, because to have responsible and mature citizens we need to start as early as the Children's Parliament is currently doing.

The idea of having Junior Councillors at the various municipalities has to be promoted and it has to be enhanced, so that it is not only the Parliament. The responsible Ministry has to ensure that junior Councillors are created throughout the country and be supported as such.

It is also very important that these children will after school need a platform where they could discuss matters of this nature and I think it is vital that through the Commonwealth Programme of the Ministry of Youth we create a Youth Parliament where the young people can discuss various aspects.

The born-free Namibians will never understand the history of Namibia if we do not create platforms of this nature. It is not the sole responsibility of the Ministry of Gender and neither is it the sole responsibility of the Speaker, but platforms can be created to discuss taxes, issues of health, the impact of HIV/AIDS on the community, for these young people to be more proactive in the development aspects of this country.

With these few words I would like to support the Report.

09 July 2008

**CONSIDERATION: CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT
HON DIENDA**

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

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, I indeed support the Report, but I first have some questions before I will say anything more.

I want to know who will do the follow-up on this Report to ensure that the Motions that were adopted by the Children's Parliament will be adhered to.

Secondly, after the Children's Parliament has adjourned, will they visit all the schools across the country or what will happen? They have made recommendations especially to schools and to everybody and us in charge. I just fail to understand, if we do not send this Report somewhere to be followed up, nothing will happen about all these good Motions they have adopted.

Then, Honourable Speaker, we are busy with the Motion on Grade 10 repeaters and again I ask, will we concentrate on the Report or will we say some of the Motions are being discussed in this House, therefore we will not look at it and rather concentrate on the outcome of the Motion in Parliament.

On the Motion on schoolgirls to return to school after delivery, I think I have asked a question in this House. I want to know, if the Children's Parliament has already brought in a Motion, does it mean that we will follow it up or must I bring a Motion here to discuss the same issue again, because what I have suggested is what they are also suggesting. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask Honourable Dienda a question? Honourable "*Wanaheda*", you are talking about bringing Motions here, but if you listened carefully to the former Minister of Women Affairs, she said she is the one who brought the Motion to Cabinet and to Parliament and she was supported by the Speaker. Why do you want to bring the Motion again?

09 July 2008

**CONSIDERATION: CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT
HON MBUMBA**

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, since I am not Honourable "*Katutura from Wanaheda*" the question was not directed to me, I will not answer it.

Honourable Speaker, I want to add something to the Motion on alcohol abuse by learners. The children are saying that the shebeens are close to their schools and alcohol is even being sold on school premises during weekends. Therefore, I do not understand, we are talking about shebeens but we do not talk about the fact that alcohol is also sold at our schools during the weekends when the school premises are being used for fundraising purposes. The same child who will support the shebeen will also come and support the fundraising on the school premises.

Honourable Speaker, with these few remarks, I only want to know what will happen to this report. I support everything.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Minister of Education.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Some of us who were young a long time ago are lucky because we still have the privilege to work with young people. I attended one of the sessions of the Children's Parliament and I even had the privilege to talk to the Honourable Members of the Children's Parliament and the same privilege was also given to me last year.

We in the education sector always say that education is too important, too big, and too difficult to be left to teachers and educators alone. We are, therefore, highly pleased that the Honourable Speaker and all other Members of Parliament gave our young people the chance to come and sit in this Honourable House and exercise the privilege given to elected Members of Parliament. You will be proud to see how they respond to their Speaker. They are more respectful than some of us. They are well behaved, their language is much better than ours, truly so and we have to give them credit for representing their age, representing their generation in a more dignified manner.

09 July 2008

**CONSIDERATION: CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT
HON MBUMBA**

I must also thank the Honourable Speaker that these young people are allowed to use the gowns, to use the procedures, to sit where the Honourable Speaker takes his prominent position. I think this will never leave the young people, that there are bigger things in our society, because there are schools other than social institutions. Social institutions are for people to be able to interact with fellow citizens from parts of the country where they have not been.

There is a club of Augustineum, Ongwediva, Oshigambo and Windhoek High School, who always think that they have the best opportunities. Just imagine that these children from the Children's Parliament represent children from all the 13 Regions across the country. I have met people from the Karas Region, not even from Opuwo, not even from Katima when I was in secondary school, there is also one person in this House who was born 40 kilometres away from me, and there is a little river that separates our district. Therefore, for me he was a foreigner although we spoke the same language. Therefore, I consider this Children's Parliament an opening up to all Namibian citizens to believe that they are truly Namibians.

I also know some people who, when we went into exile and they were being asked their citizenship, who hesitated. Some said, "I am this, I am that" according to their language groups. They were told, "*no, you are a Southwester, South West Afrikaner*" or something like that.

It was only when they went into exile that they knew the country where they came from, otherwise they identified themselves with their district or the tribal area where they grew up.

I do not believe these Honourable Members of the Children's Parliament will ever speak in those terms, that they do not know they are Namibians by birth, by citizenship and their interests lie with all the Namibians.

I salute the Report and thank all those who were involved in organising the Children's Parliament, organising and presenting the Report. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

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

09 July 2008

**CONSIDERATION: CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT
HON DR ANKAMA**

HON DR ANKAMA: Honourable Speaker, I think it is just appropriate to stand up and support the Report on the Children's Parliament. This forum is a very important one, important in that it moulds the young generation to touch, to feel, to contemplate and to make things in the manner that is just appropriate for them.

We can clearly see from the Report that the Motions that the children have tabled are very important, not only for them as children but also for us. Some of the issues that they have taken up as Motions could probably have been taken up in this House.

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

HON DR ANKAMA: Honourable Speaker, the Children's Parliament is a very important forum, which moulds the young folks to understand issues and to prepare them for tomorrow. What I would like to state is that when their Motions are tabled, we need proper follow-up. Some of the Motions probably need to be revisited to see whether the Ministers responsible or any other person would table them here, because they are very important.

I would want to say that their Debates are very mature, but they need to be video recorded on DVDs and then make these materials available to schools because they are to do with the young people. They are needed in education to trigger off debates and to teach history too. It is upon us, or the Minister of Information Technology to make sure that such important Debates of the young folks are video recorded so that they are accessible to schools.

Perhaps with the advent of the Parliament Access Centre that was recently adopted in this House it will then be a very good thing for the children out there in the rural areas throughout the country to watch. We only need to do the right updates at the right time so that they know the slots that the Debates are being

09 July 2008

**CONSIDERATION: CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT
HON DR ANKAMA**

transmitted to those Parliament Access Centres and then the children or whoever wants to listen could go down to those centres and follow up these issues as well.

With regard to some of the Motions, I wanted to say something about what the Minister Netumbo has mentioned and that is with regard to arts and culture. When I was in one of the villages last week I met a woman who is very artistic and who does clay pottery. She wanted to do pottery in schools. What happened is that I went into discussions and asked, "why can you not teach because the kind of art you do is very unique, why do you not teach the neighbouring schools around here?" Apparently, there was an agreement for her to teach, but then she does not know what happened. If we have these kinds of people who do clay pottery or woodcarving, can the Ministry not incorporate them into the curriculum so that they can be hired to teach this art at those schools at that level, whether at primary or secondary school? What I am trying to stress is the Arts, Culture Minister Netumbo has just mentioned, and I felt it was necessary for such people to be recognised and be used in the school curriculum so that they could impart this knowledge to the young ones.

Finally, I would like to see that Motions of the Children's Parliament, particularly those on education and indeed others too, be taken up seriously so that when the children are coming next year for the Third Session, we can report that their previous Motions have indeed been taken care of. Then they will be motivated. In fact, when they come here they usually sit around with their fellow learners and they talk about what they have talked before and what they will talk about next time. So let us motivate them and report that, "*yes, you had wonderful Motions and your Motions have been heard about, so these are the responses.*"

With those few words, Honourable Speaker, I would like to support the Report. I thank you.

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

09 July 2008

**CONSIDERATION: CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I rise to support the Report of the Children's Parliament. I am glad that there is a preoccupation amongst our young ones about a range of issues that are of National importance. I want to commend them, first and foremost, for their wisdom in selecting the issues that they discussed. I also want to congratulate them for the eloquence with which they articulated the issues, as contained in this Report and for the important conclusions and recommendations that are contained in the Report.

I also wish to join others who have commended the Speaker and his Office for ensuring that this session of the Children's Parliament could take place successfully. As a female Member of Parliament, I also want to applaud and congratulate the Speaker of the Children's Parliament, the young lady, and to thank the Colleagues of this young lady for entrusting her with that responsibility. I think it is an indication that our society, even at a young level, is starting to realise the role that can be played by female compatriots of our country and the contribution to the moulding of our female compatriots at a young age so that they can play their due role in the building of our society.

The preceding speakers have pointed to some of the important discussions contained in the report and the important recommendations and conclusions related thereto and I would like to comment on a few of those issues.

One is the concern expressed about the not so good performance of some of our teachers and some of our students, especially academically but also discipline-wise. I think it is important that somehow our students be given a voice to articulate the way that they see the performance of their teachers and to make their contributions in terms of solutions that they think can solve the problem of poor performance of some of our teachers.

One of the important issues that affect the performance of teachers is skills and qualifications of our teachers and as somebody who is working at the Ministry of Finance, I know that resources are a constraint. I was however just thinking, given the large size of the assets of the GIPF, which is owned by the Public Servants and the surpluses that this Fund has generated over the years, which in the past we have attempted to put to some use with not so much success, whether our Public Servants, through their representatives, could not work out a proposal that some part of this surplus could be invested into the development of teachers and other Civil Servants, so that these savings which actually belong to them can be deployed towards to the development of themselves instead of deploying these

09 July 2008

**CONSIDERATION: CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

funds only elsewhere. This is not to say that these actuarial surpluses could not be deployed elsewhere, but we have a situation where the money that belongs to the members of the GIPF can only be deployed to projects that are owned by other people and this is not a good thing. Then we do not have to take the tax revenue to train these colleagues that are earning an income and the structure of that fund and how the money will be utilised, but we can just look at the possibility of using part of these funds. I think it will address part of our problems with regard to the performance of the teachers.

With regard to the discipline of both the students and the teachers, I think it also has to do with capacity. If you have a teacher that is not well-grounded in the subject that they have to teach or you have a student who is not really in a position to absorb the learning, that teacher or student would either be aggravated or they would be distracted to do other things. The teachers will try to conceal their own flaws and become very angry, shouting at every child that poses a question because they feel challenged and the child could probably opt to terrorise other kids that are sitting around or find other reasons why they cannot do what they are expected to do. I think that will also be attended to, when we address the issue of capacity.

I think the student representative councils and other structures of students can also play a role in instilling discipline, especially amongst the students, because they are their members. I think they should be encouraged to define a role for themselves in that regard.

I was very happy to see a discussion on the need to impress upon our children the importance of learning, because the people themselves are concerned about the poor academic results and, of course, noting the huge investments that we make into the education sector. I think this is a beginning, it is already a first step towards solving that problem if our children themselves realise that they are actually not making the best use of the opportunities that are accorded to them.

Maybe one of the things we could do is to establish a system where we could have a big brother, big sister kind of arrangement. The younger children can have brothers or sisters at university or other tertiary institutions who would be like role models to them and can inspire them to succeed in learning, so that they do not see education as ending with Grade 12. They should be able to visualise themselves at university, they should be able to visualise themselves becoming doctors, becoming lawyers, and so forth. This interaction between the older kids

09 July 2008

**CONSIDERATION: CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

and the younger ones could also help to inspire these children and give them a purpose in life.

We can also share information with them with regard to successful young people that went through their schools and succeeded to become something important in society, a child that went through their primary school and became a medical doctor. This information should be shared with them and these people should be able to go back to the communities and actually try to identify themselves with these children and try to be their role models.

There has been a discussion in this Report about the need to repair the dilapidated education infrastructures. I was thinking that now that our children are becoming preoccupied with these important issues, we also need to help them to understand also other related issues that affect the situation or that caused the current prevailing situation, including the state of our education infrastructure.

I was thinking that without really burdening them with the responsibility to come up with a solution with these things, we could encourage them to have a Budget Debate.

I would be interested to see these children assuming different portfolios, have their Minister of Education, have their Minister of Finance and have their Minister of Youth. They can then come up with Budget proposals on how to collect revenue, where to collect revenue from, what are the programmes and how to deploy these resources. They would have an appreciation that the means would always train the need, you have to make a choice, and that choice will be based on the opportunity cost and what you are going to achieve with what you have.

If they then start to think that I have N\$4 billion for the education sector, of all these needs that I have that would need 10 billion to solve, to which of these needs am I going to deploy these resources that I have? I think that would be very good and that would instil that sense of safeguarding, of making optimal use of the little that you have and they will actually translate this on the ground as they lead their lives as students at schools and they would not go on strikes.

I was also happy to see that they do appreciate skills training because we observed that when most of our children pass Grade 10 or they are approaching Grade 10 and ask them what they want to do, "*I want to go to the University.*"

09 July 2008

**CONSIDERATION: CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT
RT HON N ANGULA**

None of them wants to go to vocational training, and when they fill in their forms, the first choice is University and then the last choice is Polytechnic and Vocational and when they are not accepted at University, they go to Vocational crying because they think that vocational training centres and the polytechnic are for the not so bright students.

I was however really happy to see that they are starting to realise that skills training is their thing and we need to encourage them in this regard so that they could take the opportunities that are provided. As we have said several times in this House, those are provided with skills that will be able to survive, that are able to have a quality life and find a job immediately after leaving the Educational Institution.

With these comments I want to, once again, applaud our children for the maturity with which they have handled their discussions and for their wisdom to identify things that are important and to call on them to continue to do so and to help us to raise them to become useful citizens of our country. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Right Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I join others in congratulating and supporting the contents of the Report of the Children's Parliament. I shall confine myself to one Motion and that is the Motion on the future of the Children's Parliament.

The Honourable Speaker suggested that there is a need to formalise this Institution and I have a suggestion to make and my suggestion is that this institution should actually be promoted, supported, encouraged and funded by the Namibian Parliament so that participants can see the separation of powers in Namibia.

Yes, the Executive can pass a resolution to support its funding, but the initiative should actually come from Parliament. For establishing a Budget line, Parliament

09 July 2008

**CONSIDERATION: CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT
HON DR TB GURIRAB**

can table this Report in Cabinet with a view that Cabinet will take a decision on it, which will enable Parliament to establish a Budget line. I think that will be the correct procedure.

If this institution was going to be sponsored by the Executive, I think it will create other dimensions, which it is not intended for. I therefore believe that the right place is actually the Parliament to promote this idea.

Within the Motion on the future of the Children's Parliament, there is also a problem the young people expressed. The procedure of identifying the shadow Parliamentarians seems not to be clear to these children and I think it is important to have a credible procedure so that these children can also absorb the idea of representation, that you are representing some other people, you are not there for yourself. You are there because you are articulating the need of those people who sent you there. I think it is very important to have a clear procedure how the participants are identified so that the idea of representation is established.

Therefore, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we salute and congratulate the Speaker for taking this initiative to get young people from time to time to come here and discuss issues which concern themselves and also issues of interest to the general public.

With those few words, I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Kaiyamo who tabled the Report will reply later on, but I thought I should just add a few points by way of clarification and information.

The requirements of the youngsters coming here last year was two from each of our thirteen Regions, but they must be a boy and a girl and if possible, people with disabilities should also be considered. That was one requirement. We did not know last year or the year before when we thought about the idea who to contact in the different Regions to make sure that there is no favouritism and all that and initially it was difficult and it still continues to be a matter that we would have to be overcome. We contacted the Directors of Education representing the Ministry of Education in the different Regions and we asked them to help us to

09 July 2008

**CONSIDERATION: CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT
HON DR TB GURIRAB**

get two children from the respective Regions and you know how big some of our Regions are and that is one of the issues we have not quite resolved. It will take some time for us to have an objective, verifiable bullet-proof mechanism to determine that there are no complaints after that. That is one.

I appreciate very much what the Prime Minister has said and the idea of this whole exercise is really simple, perhaps born out of my own background. I belong to those people who were brought together at one place entirely for different reasons, called Augustineum. It was an economic consideration on the part of the colonial administration. Instead of building schools everywhere, which they resorted to later on when the Bantustan policy was put in place, they decided that we want to get educated, let us bring them together from all over the place at the same place. Quite obviously, a mistake on that part, but it turned out to be a good thing for people of my generation. Therefore, from all over the place, those of us who went to Augustineum and next-door to Döbra from different parts of the country stayed together, grew up together. Those are your liberators I am talking about.

We became people of same social consciousness, political consciousness, like-minded people.

Thus, the idea of bringing these two kids from different parts of our country is that they spend five, six working days together, assisted by the Minister of Education, Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, a friend from UNICEF and we had a guest speaker this year, Monica Kalondo, who volunteered publicly here to give her cell phone and land phone number to the children as their mother, as their big sister, to call her. What we as elders do is simply to talk to them, the kind of things that the Honourable Members talked about, but we want to limit that as much as possible.

Secondly is to allow them as people of this age group, eleventh and twelfth graders to be by themselves, to get to know one another, to swap experiences, to talk to one another about where they come from.

Thirdly, it is to allow them, based on those who came with some ideas from home. Those who got some insights talking to their age group, to engage in debating and I want to say, fellow parents, you would be both proud of our children at this age and I would like to think you would also be ashamed, because

09 July 2008

**CONSIDERATION: CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT
HON KAIYAMO**

some of them performed better than Honourable Ministers, both in mastery of facts and articulation. (Laughter)

The resolutions that you are talking about come from them. They debated them, there could have been a hundred or two hundred Motions, but out of them they have distilled them down to the ones that are here before you, Honourable Members.

I took note of what the Prime Minister has said and Honourable Kaiyamo who has some ideas, but there is that question about follow-up. What do we do with these Motions? There are several possible ideas. Through some Public Hearings, some Members can introduce Motions, pick up some aspects of the children's Motions and develop them further. Honourable Ankama talked about video hook-up so that those who are not here will be able to watch them. Then of course, how many television sets are available out there, here in Windhoek and other places, and it means bringing them together at one place where they would be able to watch.

While they were here we could make use of Talk of the Nation, a programme on public events, so that those beyond Windhoek would be able to see their friends.

I do not know whether it was our President, or I who said these are born-frees, people who were born in an independent Republic of Namibia. Their parents were fighting for freedom and Independence but they were born free. Come 2009 these people will be voting for the first time. Which way they vote may make a lot of difference in terms of the outcome.

I just wanted to say those few things, but I can ensure you that they make me very proud. Namibia's future is secured. Any further discussion?

HON KAIYAMO: Honourable Speaker, without mentioning names, I would like to thank the Members for the peaceful co-existence between our senior Colleagues and us. I am very happy about that. My Colleagues here were telling me that we only need to approve the Report and then the Committee will take it from there, because we have the blessing from the senior Colleagues and a

09 July 2008

**RATIFICATION: INTERNATIONAL IDEA
HON HAUSIKU**

collective approach. I appreciate the support and we will be able to communicate after the Report has been adopted and consultations in the Committee.

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

**RATIFICATION: AMENDED STATUTES OF
INTERNATIONAL IDEA**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on the Ratification of the Amended Statutes of the International Institute to Democracy and Electoral Assistance.

HON SPEAKER: When the Debate was adjourned on Thursday, 12 June 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Honourable Minister adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Comrade Speaker, I am going to make some concluding remarks based on the comments made by Honourable Members on June 12, 2008.

Comrade Speaker, I want to start by indicating that yes, Namibia took up membership... (Intervention)

09 July 2008

**RATIFICATION: INTERNATIONAL IDEA
HON HAUSIKU**

HON ULENGA: On a Point of Order. I think the Honourable Member there should not be allowed to wave a foreign object in the House. He is waving the Zimbabwean flag in the House and please, Honourable Speaker, if you could act on it that the Honourable Member be obliged to remove the foreign object. It should not be allowed at all.

HON SPEAKER: If at all the Honourable Member did what the Honourable Ulenga is saying, I would ask that Honourable Member not to repeat that.

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I was just saying that I wanted to start my concluding remarks by indicating that Namibia indeed became a member of International IDEA, but did not ratify the Statute. In the meantime, the Statute has been amended, hence continuous references in our discussions in the Ministry, in this House to the Ratification of the Amended Statute.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, approximately four months ago, to be exact, on the 13th of March 2008, I tabled the Amended Statute of the International Institute of Democracy and Electoral Assistance in this Honourable House for ratification.

On 12 June 2008, I moved a Motion describing the Institute as an Inter-Governmental Organisation established in 1995 to promote and advance sustainable democracy worldwide, improve and consolidate democratic electoral processes, strengthen and support National capacity and develop.... (Intervention)

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, very seriously. The Honourable Member continues to wave this ZANU-PF flag in this House.

09 July 2008

**RATIFICATION: INTERNATIONAL IDEA
HON HAUSIKU**

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Mushelenga, why would you want to do that?

HON ULENGA: Now it was Honourable Booy's, the two SWAPO Whips.

HON SPEAKER: Why would you do that? We are not children. I was talking about how mature the Children's Parliament was.

HON ULENGA: I want you to Rule, otherwise they will continue to do that.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Booy's and Honourable Mushelenga, I just finished saying how proud you would be if you were present and saw our children in action and how ashamed you would also be at how well-behaved they were, which some of you Honourable Members are not. I thought that was a strong enough indictment.

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Onto increased knowledge and develop increased knowledge and enhance learning about democratic electoral processes.

Comrade Speaker, the discussion that followed my introduction raised a number of issues and concerns to which I am going to respond now.

The first question raised was, whether it is an Institute like a College, a University, a Non-Governmental Organisation or what was this indeed? As I

09 July 2008

**RATIFICATION: INTERNATIONAL IDEA
HON HAUSIKU**

indicated earlier, Comrade Speaker, IDEA is an Inter-Governmental Organisation – period – nothing more, nothing less.

Comrade Speaker, a very interesting question was raised as to whether IDEA as an organisation can provide expertise to help us look, “*at our laws, probably to effect some Amendments.*” In my view, Comrade Speaker, the review of our laws in general and bilateral laws, in particular, is purely the domain of the elected leaders of our Nation. Thus, the Institute does not venture in such areas of National responsibility.

A Member asked as to what necessitated the coming into being of such a body. Likewise, the same Member wanted to know the Member States by name. Comrade Speaker, let me start by reading out the Member States alphabetically, starting with Australia, Barbados, Belgium, Botswana, Canada, Cape Verde, Chilli, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ghana, India, Mauritius, Mexico, Namibia, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Portugal, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland and Uruguay. Observer country – Japan.

As to what necessitated the coming into being of such a body, Comrade Speaker, can only be explained by what the organisation is doing for its membership. On page 1 of my introduction, I referred to four direct benefits to member states. I believe that these are some of the reasons why IDEA was established.

The other important issue was a request by the same Member to the Leader of the Ruling Party to guide on the position of the Party concerning this Motion. Comrade Speaker, I have decided to leave this question to the legitimate and competent authority for response to my dear brother.

Comrade Speaker, a number of procedural and constitutional concerns, which dominated the discussions by many of the Honourable Members were raised and I am pleased to report the following:

Under my signature, a letter was sent to the Office of the Attorney-General on the 10th of April 2007 to provide legal advice on ratification of the Amended Statute. Indeed, a positive response was received on 8 May 2007.

I, when this question was raised here by some Colleagues, on the 1st of July followed up to confirm with the Office of the Attorney-General and I just want to

09 July 2008

**RATIFICATION: INTERNATIONAL IDEA
HON HAUSIKU**

quote from the copy they have sent to me, confirming exactly what they said earlier:

“My Office is requested to advise the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as to whether Namibia should ratify the Amended Statute of International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA). Please be advised that the proposed Amendments are in order and, therefore, the Statute of IDEA may be forwarded to the National Assembly for ratification.”

Comrade Speaker, I am just reading this because I was accused of not following procedures in terms of our legal advice to Government. Therefore, following the response from the Office of the Attorney-General, I also sent letters for consultation to the National Assembly and to the Electoral Commission.

On 15 February 2008, Cabinet discussed a memorandum by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, seeking approval to allow the Minister to table the Amended Statute in the National Assembly for ratification. Hence, Comrade Speaker, the tabling of the Motion on 13 March 2008. It is my considered opinion that my Ministry has followed the necessary required procedures.

Comrade Speaker, another important issue raised is on the relationship between IDEA and our continental organisation, namely the African Union and indeed, our regional organisation, namely SADC. The AU, as known by all, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with IDEA, covering a variety of semantic areas related to democracy building. In the case of SADC, Honourable Members are supposed to know better than me, especially when it comes to inter-regional seminars on Political Party development. I am told and I am going through the records, that in 2006, under reorganisation of the SADC Parliament Forum and OAU, a seminar was held in Windhoek. I do not want to say that many of you attended, but I think every reasonable person will make that conclusion.

Comrade Speaker, I was accused of not tabling the Statute here. I mean, how do you move a Motion without tabling the Statute here? I tabled the Statute here, as I indicated earlier in my intervention on my concluding remarks, on the 13th of March 2008 and four months later, I am told they do not know whether I have tabled the Statute. This is our own procedures. I did and in fact, I went as far as underlining the amended portions of the Statute.

09 July 2008

**MOTION ON STATE & CONDITION - CEMETERIES
HON KAIYAMO**

Comrade Speaker, I want to thank those Honourable Members across the Floor who supported the Motion on ratification on the 12th of June this year and indeed, I urge the rest of the Honourable Members to render support for ratification. I so Move, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for his reply. Any further discussion? I now put the Question that the ratification be confirmed. Any objection? Agreed to. The Secretary will read the Third Order of the Day.

**CONSIDERATION: REPORT ON CONDITION
OF CEMETERIES IN NAMIBIA**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Consideration of Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resources, Social and Community Development on conditions of cemeteries in Namibia.

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, 5 June 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Report by Honourable Kaiyamo. The House adjourned in terms of Rule 90. Any further discussion? None. Does the Honourable Member, Honourable Kaiyamo, wish to reply?

HON KAIYAMO: Honourable Speaker, I would like to thank the Colleagues for their support and I hope the Ministry concerned would accept the recommendations and advise the Local Authorities to follow up on the recommendations. I thank you.

09 July 2008

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED PROFESSIONALS
RT HON N ANGULA**

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

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS WITH
PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on unemployed Namibians with professional training and qualifications.

HON SPEAKER: When the House adjourned on 19th June 2008 in terms of Rule 90, the Question before the Assembly by the Honourable Ankama. Right Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I want to thank Honourable Ankama for tabling this Motion. It is true that there are Namibians with qualifications who are failing to get employment or decent employment in the areas of their qualifications. Some of these people from time to time approach my office and I can give you the example of a Namibian who went to America, obtained his PhD and he is here in Namibia but he has not been properly employed as yet. I am just giving this particular example to say that it is true that there are Namibians with qualifications that are looking for jobs. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: You mean Diescho?

09 July 2008

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED PROFESSIONALS
RT HON N ANGULA**

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I will come to Diescho if you want me to come to Diescho, but first take the Floor to ask the question. The dilemma of these citizens with skills is that sometimes they are told that they are over-qualified. (Intervention)

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Information. I think the most prominent example that I you can give you is about Professor Diescho who cannot get a job here on account of Government discriminating against him.

They do not want to give him a job. (Interjection). I am informing the Prime Minister, not you. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: To which Ministry did he apply?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: We had a situation of a young lady who was given a scholarship by Government to go and study in Holland, doing research on HIV/AIDS and she is a specialist in that field. She came back from Holland, she has been looking for a job. Just imagine, an expert on HIV/AIDS which is a serious pandemic, but this person is roaming the streets until now.

Another young Namibian, born in exile, went to study in Czechoslovakia and he studied rehabilitation, taking care of people with disabilities. This young man is still roaming the streets and could not find a job. There are many other people, some of them with qualifications from the Polytechnic of Namibia. (Intervention)

09 July 2008

MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED PROFESSIONALS
RT HON N ANGULA

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister a question, please? Right Honourable Prime Minister, all the examples are facing one Ministry and fortunately, the Honourable Minister is here. Could the Honourable Minister perhaps explain why he is not employing these people? They are highly qualified. They are looking for jobs. Why is he not employing them?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: No, there are others with qualifications in Education, Economics, Engineering, Veterinary Medicine and I can produce their documents they brought to my office. Nevertheless, all these people are roaming the streets, some of them in the area of Agriculture, etcetera.

Therefore, this Motion is very relevant and my suggestion is that perhaps the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare should have a registry where these qualified jobseekers can register themselves and the Ministry can advertise in the newspapers that they have people with these types of qualifications who are ready to be employed.

I have been trying to scratch my baldhead to see how to help them, but it is very difficult.

Coming to Dr Diescho, I offered him a job the other day to come and help develop the Namibian Institute of Public Administration and he turned it down, because he said it is lowly paid. Therefore, the point you are making does not hold water. That is the information about Dr Diescho.

Similarly, when I was the Minister of Education I asked Dr Diescho to come back home and to help the National Institute of Education Development and he turned it down. Therefore, as much as you want Dr Diescho to be a member of your Party, your information is not correct.

However, truly, there are Namibians around here, I do not want to mention names, which are highly qualified, and they are looking for jobs. We must create a structure of how Namibians with relevant qualifications... (Intervention)

09 July 2008

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED PROFESSIONALS
RT HON N ANGULA**

HON ULENGA: May I ask the Right Honourable Angula a question? Honourable Speaker, I would like to ask the Prime Minister with regard to Professor Diescho, what kinds of strings were attached to these offers that you have cited?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: That was an unsolicited offer to Dr Diescho and I have been doing that to attract back from the Diaspora many of the Namibians who are in the Diaspora and who have relevant skills.

Dr Tjivikua was working at the Lincoln University and when there was a possibility of recruiting a Rector for the Polytechnic of Namibia, I sent him the information and said, "*young man, there is a challenge for you, apply.*"

Luckily he succeeded, he is back and I do that with many other professionals. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister a question, please? Right Honourable Prime Minister, on the Dr Tjivikua issue, you advised him to apply but on the Diescho issue the Right Honourable Prime Minister said, "*I offered him a job.*" Was this job advertised or was it above or under the table? Just to clarify the point to avoid a misunderstanding. Where were you when you offered this job to this person?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Is the question above or under the table? You said, was the offer above, under the table? Should I now answer whether the offer was above the table or under the table? The offer was above the table. We wanted somebody who has been involved in Public Administration Management to come and do a consultancy on that particular aspect, because we are talking of this National Institute, but he said he is paid highly, even better than me where he is and therefore, unless I pay him as I am paid, he is not coming. (Intervention)

09 July 2008

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED PROFESSIONALS
RT HON N ANGULA**

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Order. I would like to ask the Right Honourable Nahas Angula a question. Honourable Speaker, in the light of what the Prime Minister is now saying about Professor Diescho, why did the Government in general turn down the memorandum that was submitted to Cabinet in 1991 in respect of employing Dr Diescho as Director of the Director of the Electoral Commission of Namibia. Why at that moment or before or after all these offers you are talking about, why was the memo that was submitted by a Member of Cabinet turned down on account of the information that he was a spy, he was a puppet, it was alleged? Why was it that way and now you say you offered him a job. Was it after he had been whitewashed and rehabilitated? (Interjections). I am not talking about a secret. Was that a secret? In my understanding it was not a secret.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I am not aware of that memo myself, but let me make one thing clear. Suspected former Koevoets were or are Members of this Parliament. We have adopted a policy of National Reconciliation as far as I am concerned, which has enabled even known former Koevoets to be Members of this Parliament. Therefore, to me your question is totally irrelevant.

Coming to Honourable Tjihuiko, I told you that the offer was above board, I just wanted professionals, but Honourable Ulenga, why are you so preoccupied with Dr Diescho when you have your good friend Dr Kutzner who is also looking for the same job? Why are you just preoccupied with Dr Diescho? He is employed, but what about Dr Kutzner? (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: May I ask a question? I support the idea that we cannot victimise people because they were involved in the past dispensation, but could you explain to us what over-qualification really means, when you say some people are over-qualified?

09 July 2008

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED PROFESSIONALS
RT HON N ANGULA**

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: This is what people are telling me, that everywhere they are looking for jobs they are told they are over-qualified. That means I do not know.

The point is that being a small economy and being an economy sometimes run on a family basis, it is very difficult sometimes for people with certain qualifications to find jobs. Of course, they come to Government, Government has its own procedure for recruitment and also the competition is high. As much as we say we want scientists, we want researchers, sometimes the people with those kinds of qualifications find it very difficult to find relevant jobs. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister a small question?

Last week I was listening to the Deputy Minister of Education and her contribution on the very same issue, where she mentioned that sometimes people are not getting employment because they have studied in the wrong fields. The market is demanding something else, the people have qualifications in the wrong fields and that perhaps creates this problem – if I understood her quite well. Would the Right Honourable Prime Minister perhaps agree with that concept that our students are studying in the wrong fields while the market is demanding something else?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: When Honourable Dr Ndjoze-Ojo made her contribution I was not here, so I cannot vouch whether your quotation is correct. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: On a Point of Clarification. Honourable Tjihuiko has a qualification in asking questions and there are certain words I just do not use, I do not use words like “*wrong*” because wrongness is

09 July 2008

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED PROFESSIONALS
HON IIPINGE**

relative. Therefore, I would not have said people are studying for the wrong qualifications. I said there are mismatches between what people study and what the labour market is offering. That does not mean that your qualification is wrong, it means that the company that should be employing you does not have the kind of job for your qualification.

What I said is that ETSIP is trying to address that mismatch and that is why we sat down with the industrial people in the country to tell us what it is they want to see happening in the future, so that we align the qualifications to the projections of the companies in the future. That is what ETSIP is doing currently. There was no wrong qualification. I think that is clarifying the issue. I thank you.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: That is now clarified, but sometimes I feel that the shadow of job reservation is still with us. Sometimes I have that feeling, especially when it comes to the private sector. I do however not have evidence to support my argument.

Therefore, we really have to address this issue somehow and Honourable Ankama, I hope you are going to come up with good suggestions how we are going to assist people with qualifications to get jobs. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Prime Minister. Honourable Iipinge.

HON IIPINGE: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I rise to make my contribution to this very important Motion put forward by Honourable Ankama on unemployed professionally qualified and non-professional Namibians, as it was amended the day it was introduced to this House.

In contributing to the Debate on unemployed Namibians with professional

09 July 2008

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED PROFESSIONALS
HON IIPINGE**

training and qualifications, including Grade 10 and 12, I would like to start with the words from one of our continent's founding fathers, the then President of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah, when he addressed the Heads of State of African Governments at the then OAU, now AU, Founding Session on 25 May 1963. He said:

“If now that we are independent we allow the same conditions to exist that existed in colonial days, all the resentments which overthrew colonialism will be mobilised against us.”

These words bear significance to the need and urgency for us Members of this august House to respond to the challenges of unemployment and poverty besetting our country today, because Honourable Speaker, the situation of having no income is a serious situation that contributes to the regiments of the poor.

As we apply our minds to this important Motion, we also have to remember that there are many unemployed Namibians who have no academic qualifications and I think that is why the first day when the Motion was introduced it was amended to include those ones. Both of these people form a brigade of unemployed Namibians and constitute the poorest of the poor. As a mother and a parent, I speak from experience. The status of these particular people places a burden on the parents and relatives.

Although women generations shared different but complementary perspectives of the notion of poverty, the Roman Catholic nun and humanitarian worker from Calcutta, India, Mother Theresa, described being unemployed as *“unwanted, unloved and uncared for”* and she concluded by saying, *“this is the greatest poverty.”* Thus, the state of having no income, Honourable Speaker, is a state of extreme poverty.

I do not intend to go into the concepts of poverty, but I look at this situation as it constitutes poverty, because the situation which prevails when you have no income is a situation that puts you in a position where you have no means to feed, to clothe, to house, no access to health care and communication. We all know that when a young person in this country reached the age of 21 and you are not a student, even if your parents or your guardian might have you on a medical aid, you are automatically disqualified. It was also indicated here when the Minister of Safety and Security introduced a Motion and said that the majority of people

09 July 2008

MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED PROFESSIONALS
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE

who are now in prison are of the age of 19 to 35. These are young people who are in prisons today.

I feel that as we apply our minds to this Motion, we should think holistically on this situation of unemployed Namibians. I also want to suggest that perhaps we need to look at products that we have in our Social Security Commission and maybe introduce a product that will assist unemployed Namibians.

I lived in Holland for a few months when I was studying but there I learnt that there is a social security programme that covers unemployed people and the Scandinavian countries also have the same thing and to some extent the countries of the West. This, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, it is very important and I would like us, while looking at this situation, to think more on medium and long-term assistance. I agree with Honourable Ankama where he proposed that there should be a countrywide databank and the Prime Minister also indicated this afternoon that perhaps the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare can introduce a registry, so that placements can be put in place. However, we should also think of immediate assistance to these people who have no bread on their tables and are unemployed. It is very painful to see these young qualified people on the streets, holding brown envelopes, some of them with university degrees, but who have no hope for jobs in the future.

Having said these few words, I support the Motion and I think we should really apply our minds to it holistically and look at the unemployment situation of our people and also the poverty issue. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Schimming-Chase.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I rise to contribute to this Debate which, I regard as a very serious matter and I would like to thank Honourable Ankama for tabling it.

09 July 2008

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED PROFESSIONALS
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

I want to say from the onset that I associate myself completely with the sentiments expressed by the Right Honourable Prime Minister.

Honourable Speaker, when we were in exile, there was one thing that some of us always used to wonder about, the number of highly qualified Africans from independent African countries who remained in the Diaspora. We always thought that we Namibians would be different and in fact, we were, because when we got the chance to return home, so many of us returned home, very few stayed behind. I think in view of that we as lawmakers, as the Executive we are really faced with a serious moral obligation to ensure that qualified Namibians are getting jobs, and that those who are unqualified get the opportunity to qualify themselves.

I for one have no understanding for the excuse of over-qualification. If a job is advertised for a person with a Bachelor of Arts Degree, why do you say the person with the Master of Arts is over-qualified? Obviously the fact that the person has a Master's Degree means the person can do the job as well, because the person had the Bachelors. I think this is an excuse and that is why I agree with the Right Honourable Prime Minister when we talk about job reservation.

I make it an issue, Honourable Speaker, to read the adverts in the newspapers and for the past eighteen years the adverts are coined in such a way that Namibians just cannot qualify. They ask you for years of experience at management level when the oppressed Namibians could never have had those years of experience because we were oppressed and we could not get those jobs.

I see that some of these adverts are coined in such a way that only certain people can qualify. I am shocked when I read an advertisement and say knowledge of German essential when the official language in Namibia is English. However, we read them and we know what that means. It means if you are not a German-speaking Namibian or you do not know German, you do not qualify and that is apartheid, it is job reservation.

I think, Honourable Speaker, if we treat this issue with the seriousness that it deserves, then it should not end here, but we should go from here and ensure that after eighteen years we can no longer tolerate that Namibians are excluded from getting a livelihood in the country of their birth. Where else can they go?

Honourable Speaker, this even includes Parastatals. Just like the Right Honourable Prime Minister, I can talk about Namibians who are retrenched and

09 July 2008

MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED PROFESSIONALS
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE

the next day you see the job advertised and the day after that a gentleman from South Africa gets it. This is happening in this country today and we as lawmakers should not allow this to continue, it has to stop.

I know when I was an Ambassador and we were talking about people...
(Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask a question? Honourable Schimming-Chase, are you aware that there is a new style now whereby a Company creates a holding company to dump the black Namibians in the holding Company?

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Right Honourable Prime Minister, that is why I say I support you when you talk about job reservation, because that is exactly what it entails. However, I know that there was a law in this country or a practice that you can only give a job to a foreigner once you have made sure that no Namibian qualifies. If that still holds true, then I think something is radically wrong that qualified Namibians are unemployed, because we have so many people who are not Namibians who are in these jobs for which the people qualify.

Therefore, we are either ignoring that practice deliberately or by design and nobody takes it up or the responsibility of taking it up lies with us collectively and separately.

Honourable Speaker, the Right Honourable Prime Minister talked about putting a sort of a databank somewhere, because many of these unemployed Namibians are qualified enough to work in international organisations. I have repeatedly stated that we have not filled up our quotas in international organisations, but we are one of the few African countries that are up-to-date with our membership fees annually.

I was in Vienna at the International Atomic Energy Association, I was in Geneva, I have seen Police officers from South Africa and other African countries. I have

09 July 2008

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED PROFESSIONALS
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

yet to see one Namibian Police officer and I do not believe that our Police officers are not as good and competent as others are. Therefore, we should also look at ourselves, that we are not encouraging our people to apply for these jobs, because I am sure many of the people who come to the Right Honourable Prime Minister would qualify for jobs in international organisations. When will we as Namibians have a Kofi Annan if we do not have Namibians in the United Nations to work themselves up the ladder and the African Union, everywhere, you name it? Therefore, I think the fault also lies with us.

Just before I left the Ministry of Foreign Affairs we started a databank, but where do you read in the newspapers all the vacancies that the United Nations publishes? It does not even come to the newspapers. Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, may I humbly request that all those jobs that are advertised in the multi-national organisations, through the United Nations and its subsidiary bodies, are made known publicly either by way of advertisement in the newspapers or by way of reopening that databank. We should be calling on Namibians who qualify to apply for those jobs, because we will not be able to solve the problem of unemployment – no country has. At least we can attempt to make sure that more qualified and unqualified people have possibilities to get a job, because in our traditions and in our culture, if one member of the family gets a job, the family is better off. We should ensure that no qualified Namibian walks the streets of Namibia without a job. We should make sure that multi-national companies that are in Namibia and even our own, be it banks, be it the insurance industry, be it any of the others, must have a quota of Namibians that they must employ before they employ people from outside.

I thank you, Honourable Speaker, and I support the Motion.

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Members, I would like to announce that on Tuesday, 15 July 2008, Her Excellency the President of the Republic of Liberia, Mrs Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf will address a Joint Session of Parliament at 14:30 in this National Assembly Chamber.

09 July 2008

In accordance with our parliamentary calendar for 2008, the Assembly was originally supposed to have recessed on Thursday, 10 July 2008, but its sitting has been extended to 15 July 2008 in order to accommodate this historic event and also to attend to outstanding matters. Therefore, the House will rise on Tuesday, 15 July 2008 soon after the President of Liberia has delivered her address. All Members are kindly requested to attend the Joint Session. The House will resume for the last Session of this year on Tuesday, 16 September 2008 as per schedule. I thank you for your attention. The House stands adjourned until tomorrow afternoon, 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:49 UNTIL 2008.07.10 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
10 JULY 2008
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? Honourable Konjore.

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:
REITER DENKMAL**

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I humbly request a few moments from your precious time to share some ideas.

Comrade Speaker, the recent Debates in the National Assembly and articles in the Newspapers about the *Reiter Denkmal* have caused a stir and unwarranted controversy amongst the Namibian Nation and I wish to clarify certain misconceptions and perceptions that have developed amongst the citizenry, historians and maybe even scholars. In this regard, this gives us ample opportunity not only to air our own views, but also to clarify the intention of the Government notwithstanding the sensitivity of the issue. I thus hope that this issue will be approached and discussed with the necessary care, understanding and respect for each other's feelings and sentiments.

I visited the Reiter Denkmal monument yesterday and have seen several crosses erected there by some unknown individuals and it would be a historical remiss if I do not highlight a few contesting issues in a humble attempt to offer the much-desired explanation on the impasse.

10 July 2008

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: REITER DENKMAL
HON KONJORE**

Our mission is to tackle the deplorable legacy of colonialism, imperialism and apartheid as manifested many a time by statues, symbols and objects.

Namibians will surely recall that the attempted destruction of Africa and Africans through slavery, colonialism and imperialism was aimed at three important areas, namely our history, our cultural heritage and more critically, our consciousness of our being. In our efforts as a Nation to tell the history from our perspective, it is important that certain misconceptions in our society are corrected. In an Independent Namibia, our mandate is to respond to the demand of the masses of our people and the present and future times and demands.

The *Reiter Denkmal* monument is a symbol of oppressive colonialism. It represents a very painful chapter in our struggle for Nationhood and the right to exist as an independent human being. The space that it strategically occupies reminds us daily that indeed, we are still under colonial supervision. The soil on which the *Reiter Denkmal* monument has been erected depicts the victory of the German soldiers in their own interpretation.

I am of the opinion and in agreement with the notion that we should retain historical statues and artefacts intact and bring in those lacking, but in a relation that should portray our real history of the struggle and the consequent Independence.

The *Alte Feste* was a German garrison and surrounded by a huge concentration camp of Namas and Hereros, which were used as human shield for German soldiers in the garrison during the 1904 to 1908 war. This area includes the soil on which the *Reiter Denkmal* monument has been erected, depicting German victory. This is the soil where our forebears were held in captivity. Our torchbearers for the freedom struggle succumbed to torture, hunger and malnutrition on this soil.

Our intention is to relocate the *Reiter Denkmal* monument to be part of the garrison, which is the *Alte Feste*. We certainly did not mention any destruction of the *Reiter Denkmal* monument or even relocation at a distant location or a hidden place out of sight of people. The *Reiter* and his horse are actually at the exact spot where the concentration camp was and where our people died.

10 July 2008

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: REITER DENKMAL
HON KONJORE**

The decision to move the *Reiter Denkmal* monument was taken at the Cabinet meeting way back as Decision 16 of 26th of June 2001/2003 when the current Ministry was known as the Ministry of Basic Education, Sport and Culture.

Therein it says: “*That an Independence memorial museum be constructed at the open area adjacent to the Alte Feste Museum and that the Reiter Denkmal monument be relocated to a place in front of the Alte Feste building.*” This is the Cabinet decision that my Ministry is to implement.

I think this is also in line with the policy of National Reconciliation. In our quest for true humanity, we must inform the Nation on the importance of history and thus, the relevance of relocating the *Reiter Denkmal* monument to a spot that clearly illustrates the historical perspective and reality without distortions of the history. The construction of the new modern museum must also be seen in the context of history and National Reconciliation.

The area in question is strategic in the sense that it shall be accessible and within walking distance from the city centre, which will allow the members of our society to readily access the museum. It shall also allow tourists and foreign visitors to access the museum easily from nearby hotels and conference centres. It shall also serve well in the sense that it is the soil on which our ancestors sacrificed their precious lives.

Comrade Speaker, it is my considered view that every Nation builds museums at strategic areas with historical importance to depict its history. For example, in our neighbouring South Africa the modern museum that has been built to tell the South African story, the Apartheid Museum was built on the space overlooking the area where gold was discovered. It shall only be suitable if we erect ours at the place where our ancestors were held in a concentration camp in order for it to serve as a symbol of bravery and resistance amidst hostile conditions. Also in a way that will portray the subsequent victory by the Namibian people without destroying the history and without downplaying the historical importance and sentiments that symbols like the *Reiter Denkmal* monument is having for, if not all of us, for many of our people.

The people that are causing unnecessary panic, for example by erecting crosses next to the *Reiter Denkmal* monument, are violating the rights of others and depriving other Namibians of an opportunity to express their sentiments in a

10 July 2008

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: REITER DENKMAL
HON KONJORE**

mature manner. We never said we should disregard the brave sons and daughters that perished at the concentration camp.

While there, Comrade Speaker, may I again repeat that I can clearly recall the name of the captain of the *Veldskoen draers* of Khoës who was the first person to go on a hunger strike in that very concentration camp, refusing to eat food given by the Germans and he died a hunger death. What a sacrifice! How can we forget these sacrifices and suffering of our people?

Their names shall be followed up and honoured accordingly with all the respect that they deserve. Everybody shall be involved in this process with thorough consultations and representations. We must not take the law into our own hands or try to make controversial statements on this matter, as we are dealing with our painful past, which, if allowed, might have serious repercussions. We must unite as Namibians and follow the policy of National reconciliation as we approach this sensitive matter with dignity, pride and harmony.

I thus want to, once again, appeal to the Namibian Nation and the community at large to refrain from statements and actions that may also invite counter-actions and reactions that may only bring disharmony in our society about this very issue.

Comrade Speaker, I thank you for your kind attention.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for his statement. I am your Speaker, elected out of this House to play the role of referee, but I am also a Member of this House and an elected Member at that.

Honourable Minister, the substance and tone of your speech, I admire your commitment to reconciliation, I admire your magnanimity and spirit in which you have made the statement, but as I was listening to you, I was getting a sense as if you know who these people were who put those crosses there. A child of the victims of genocide, a *Nama-sprekende Herero*, should be the one to appeal to humanity and goodwill towards one another and becoming a diplomat, to include all of us in your appeal, that we should not go where we are being driven to go, I do not like that. I really do not like that. I am not questioning the Cabinet's wisdom in having decided the way that it did, but I got the sense that you are

10 July 2008

**RESPONSE - QUESTIONS BY HON DIENDA
HON EKANDJO**

appealing to some people not to do what they have done, and if I am wrong, excuse me. I do however not want the people who have been made to be victims to be the only ones continuing to preach the gospel of reconciliation and mutual accommodation.

HON SPEAKER: Question 32 is by Honourable Dienda. Does the Honourable Member Put the Question?

QUESTION 32:

HON DIENDA: I Put the Question, Honourable Speaker.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, I would like to respond to the Questions raised by Honourable Dienda of the Congress of Democrats in this august House on matters concerning what she termed “*a tendency of Municipalities, Town and Village Councils to put critical work on tenders, like cleaning of the streets and refuse removal*”

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, according to Honourable Dienda, these are permanent positions within Municipalities, but yet they prefer to make use of tenders to take away their responsibilities. The Honourable Member went on to say: “*Most of the times these Companies who got the tenders pay their employees for the job they had done, or they simply do not do it at all, and the Municipalities do not play a supervisory role as long as it is not their responsibility anymore.*”

In the light of the above, I would like to make a few remarks before answering the questions as asked by Honourable Dienda.

10 July 2008

**RESPONSE - QUESTIONS BY HON DIENDA
HON EKANDJO**

First, I would like to remind Honourable Dienda that there is nothing wrong to put critical work, such as cleaning of the streets or refuse removal, on tender, as long as proper procedures are followed. Furthermore, it is the policy of the Government of the Republic of Namibia to advertise or invite tenders for the supply of goods or services which cost more than N\$10,000.

However, a clear distinction should be made that advertising or inviting tenders in no way could be interpreted to mean job losses or doing away with permanent positions in Municipalities as Honourable Dienda wants us to believe.

Neither does it mean taking responsibilities away from Municipalities who advertise or invite tenders for the supply of goods and services costing more than the prescribed amount I have mentioned above.

Furthermore, the tendering process is the most transparent and economical way of obtaining public goods or services. However, there should be no confusion between the tendering process and the concept of outsourcing or commercialisation of public services to companies or individual businesses in line with Public Private Partnership for Urban Environment arrangements.

The concept of Public Private Partnership for Urban Environment calls for a range of possible relationships or partnerships between public and private sectors to cooperate in the provision of municipal services to the general public in the most effective and efficient way. In other words, the concept offers alternatives to full privatisation of public entities or services, by combining the social responsibility, environmental awareness and public accountability of public sector with the finance, technology, managerial efficiency and entrepreneurial spirit of the private sector.

It is not unique to Namibia, but a worldwide modern concept used to manage and control public resources in the most effective way. In Namibia, the concept was introduced by the United Nations Development Programme in 1994, after having undertaken various studies in countries that have benefited from the Public Private Partnership for Urban Environment arrangements worldwide.

To give effect to the implementation of this concept, the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development has, in terms of the Local Authorities Act (Act No 23 of 1992) Section 94A(1)(b) and (c), as read with Section 44B(1)(b) and (c) of the Regional Councils Act (Act 22 of 1992), as

10 July 2008

**RESPONSE - QUESTIONS BY HON DIENDA
HON EKANDJO**

amended, made regulations relating to the entering into a joint business venture or commercialisation of public functions or services by either Municipalities or Regional Councils to regulate and give policy guidelines of ensuring that the provision of public services and standards are not compromised.

Having stated the above, I now wish to respond to Honourable Dienda's questions as follows:

Question 1:

I do not know which people Honourable Dienda is referring to, because the Honourable Member seems to confuse the terms "*tendering*" and "*outsourcing*" of Municipal functions or services. However, if the question is asked in relation to Municipalities outsourcing some of their services or functions, then my response is this. In terms of the Local Authorities Act (Act No. 23 of 1992), Municipalities have discretionary powers to enter into any joint venture, commercialisation or outsourcing of some of their functions or services in line with Public Private Partnership arrangements if they are convinced that such arrangement is the most effective and efficient way of providing services to their communities.

Question 2:

If Municipalities decide to outsource some of their services or functions to contracted entity, then the *onus* to employ those that will supply or provide such services or functions is on the contracted entity and not the Municipality as such.

Question 3:

The current laws of the country prohibit contract labour. Furthermore, the Labour Act does not oblige employers to employ people, but rather as a regulative instrument to regulate and promote good labour relationship and harmony in employment market.

In conclusion, Comrade Speaker, I wish to state that the statement and questions of Honourable Dienda need some rephrasing in future, because they lack substance and are at times quite confusing. Unless explained, otherwise, I remain convinced that Public Private Partnership for Urban Environment remains one of the viable employment creation options that offer job opportunities and promote

10 July 2008

**RESPONSE - QUESTIONS BY HON DIENDA
HON EKANDJO**

efficiency and effectiveness in Municipal service delivery to our communities. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister. Honourable Dienda.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, I would like to thank Honourable Ekandjo for answering my question after 5 months. I do not know which is more confused, my questions or the answers. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Question 41 is by late Honourable Gertze. Does any Member of CoD wish to put the Question?

QUESTION 41:

HON DIENDA: I Put the Question.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members. I rise to respond to Notice of Questions that were raised in this august House by the late Honourable Gertze regarding what he termed at the time the “*partly or wholly sale of Uis by Mr Albert Weitz to an individual, a certain Mr Franz Madi, who in turn also sold portions of the village to another Mr Du Raan.*”

10 July 2008

**RESPONSE - QUESTIONS BY HON DIENDA
HON EKANDJO**

Although this issue has boiled down a bit following statements and clarifications in local media by various affected parties on the matter, the Ministry felt obliged to respond to the Notice of Questions as asked by the late Honourable Gertze in order to honour his contributions he made during his tenure as our fellow Member of Parliament.

The response does not seek to answer questions one by one, as presented by the late Honourable Gertze, but is rather designed to give a holistic summary and background information of what actually happened to Uis as a town at that time, thus effectively put to rest rumours and uncorroborated elements into their perspective.

Honourable Speaker, in 1990, IMCOR Mine decided to wind up its mining activities at Uis. A working group was established under the leadership of the Ministry of Mines and Energy. It comprised line ministries and other stakeholders. The then Damara Traditional Authority was also part of this consultative committee.

The aim of this committee was to discuss the closure of the mine and for stakeholders to identify what they could take over in order to minimise the effect of the closure of the mine on the area and its inhabitants. Most Ministries identified what sectors will be taken over and made submissions to the Committee.

Furthermore, it should be noted that at the time of the closing of the mine the perception was that the whole life of Uis was dependent on the mine. The property values therefore dropped near to zero. There were no incentives for investors in the area. The preoccupation of the Ministry at the time was to keep the town alive and to prevent it from becoming a ghost town. The Ministry had no other choice but to promote any investor, who was prepared to do business in the area, in this case Namib Base Minerals (Pty) Ltd, owned by Mr Albert Weitz.

In 1995, IMCOR Mine sold the equipment to Namib Base Minerals (Pty) Ltd. The following were involved in the sale agreement:

1. The right to the mining area;
2. The surface right, including houses, buildings, structures, infrastructure and dams erected thereon;

10 July 2008

**RESPONSE - QUESTIONS BY HON DIENDA
HON EKANDJO**

3. Existing contract, leases and rentals;
4. The mine's right and obligations for bulk electricity to SWAWEK;
5. A recreation club, sports ground, clinic, two businesses take-aways, a filling station, a supermarket, eighty-five residential buildings and service infrastructure.

These were at the combined cost of N\$2,950,000. It is also important to indicate that the land on which some of these properties are situated was not included in the Deeds of Sale. Furthermore, the land on which the inhabitants were living was not for sale at that time. Even the area where they lived was not affected by the closure of the mine. The area that was affected was the residential area for the mineworkers. These expatriate and migrant workers left when the mine closed.

It should be further noted that it is unfair for some sections of our society to refer or compare the issue of Uis with the resettlement policy of the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement as there was no land policy at the time. Even if the policy were there, it would have been irrelevant to the case in question.

In addition, there were no people in need of resettlement in Uis. Even those that are complaining about what has happened in this matter, never requested for resettlement at the time. It thus rendered the applicability of the policy irrelevant at the time.

It should further be noted that we have as a matter of principle agreed in Namibia not to consider claims for ancestral land rights to ownership. Even the then Damara Traditional Authority that was part of the committee right at the winding-up of the mining activities at Uis could attest to this position that the issue was not on land sale at the time.

Comrade Speaker, let me also emphasise that in 1992 when Local Authority Councils were elected, this included Uis Village Council. The Ministry entered into an agency agreement with those Local Authorities that were unable to fulfil their mandates, as required by the Local Authorities Act (Act No. 23 of 1992). This means that all the powers and obligations of those councils, although provided for in the Act, rested with the Ministry as an agent.

10 July 2008

**RESPONSE - QUESTIONS BY HON DIENDA
HON EKANDJO**

In 1996, the Ministry, as an agent of Uis Village Council, agree with Namib Base Minerals to subdivide and proclaim Uis town land into three portions at its own cost. It was also agreed for the valuation of the land and service infrastructures, such as water, electricity and sewerage reticulation system to be done. The Ministry sold Portion 1, 2 and 3 of Uis town lands No. 215 to Namib Base Minerals on which their improvements were. This area made up most of Uis town lands. The area comprises the following portions:

Portion 1 with 129,307 hectares: Portions 3 and 4 with 6 871 hectares and Portion 3 with 20 513.7 hectares. These three portions of land were legally bought for N\$240,000 which was considered to be the market-related value at the time.

Later on, Namib Base Minerals offered the services infrastructure for sale to the Ministry for the sum of N\$500,000, which the Ministry bought on behalf of the Uis Village Council. These legal deals were finalised based on the economic circumstances of Uis at the time.

Honourable Speaker, let me also inform Honourable Members of this august House that Local Authorities only keep land for sale to the inhabitants and investors. Once the land is sold, the Council can only levy property tax from those that own land as a means of their income. The community as such does not have any legal claim for land, except the Local Authorities, which act as custodians the land and representing the interest of the community. If community members want land for whatever purpose, they can buy it from the Local Authority in terms of the existing laws and regulations.

In the case of Uis, the Village Council still has in its possession a large portion of town land, which they can develop into new extensions if they have run out of erven. Mr Weitz has bought this land from the Government, acting as an agent of the Uis Village Council. As a legal investor in Namibia, he has to endure all the protection of his investment.

In the light of the above, I would like to inform the august House that all is not lost, there is hope and the community of Uis does not need to despair. The Ministry can, as it does with other Local Authorities, still assist the Uis Village Council to develop part of the large remaining town land, which is in the hands of the Village Council into new extensions. The number and sizes will depend on the demand for land in Uis. This will add more developed land in the council and

10 July 2008

**RESPONSE - QUESTIONS BY HON MOONGO
HON NGHIDINWA**

maximise its income in terms of property sales, rates and taxes. This arrangement is not unique to Uis Village Council, it happened to some other Local Authorities, such as Ongwediva Town where a company called Hanover Namibia was given virgin land to develop at its own cost and has constructed houses and sold them to the public.

Honourable Speaker, in conclusion, I would like to assure all affected parties and individuals that the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development is seized with the matter.

All efforts are being made by our Government through the Ministry to ensure that all our people are afforded the opportunity of a decent living, including access to land and to all amenities commensurate with modern living throughout the Republic of Namibia and I appeal to all of you, Honourable Members, to support these efforts of the Government. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister. Question 46 is by Honourable Moongo. Does the Honourable Member Put the Question?

QUESTION 46:

HON MOONGO: I Put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:
Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to reply to the question posed by Honourable Moongo. I would like to acknowledge him for his keen interest in finding out the number of Angolan Nationals who were issued with permanent residence permits for the period 2006 and 2007.

10 July 2008

**RESPONSE - QUESTIONS BY HON MOONGO
HON NGHIDINWA**

Honourable Speaker, it is not true that foreigners are finding it difficult to obtain permanent residence permits in Namibia as long as they meet the requirements. The Immigration Selection Board, which considers applications for permits, is composed of representatives from various line ministries and meets once a week and as often as can be arranged. However, there is an arrangement of the Immigration Selection Board in due course to pave the way if any inconvenience took place.

Currently our records indicate that 3 843 Angolan Nationals hold permanent residence permits, while 7 649 are temporary residence permits granted since Independence. The majority of all these categories are persons who have in Namibia many years before Independence, for example since 1930, 1975 and a few who came in after Independence up to 1999.

Since 2006 and 2007, we had ongoing discussions on the matter between the Government of the Republic of Angola and the Republic of Namibia on the registration of Angolan Nationals.

Such registration started in Kavango Region in April up to June this year by the Angolan representatives themselves, because they wanted to know their people who are in this country.

Last week I listened to NBC Oshiwambo where the Angolan Consular from Oshakati invited all Angolan Nationals from Oshikoto, Oshana, Ohangwena and Omusati to start registering themselves. After this registration, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration will issue those who want to stay in Namibia with National documents.

Lastly, I would like to inform Honourable Moongo that there are requirements for obtaining permanent residence permits, just like in the case of any other status. Among the requirements is that the applicant should have resided legally in Namibia for a period of not less than five years and should have adequate means of self-sustenance and with no criminal record – as Honourable Moongo must know that the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration is also one of the security ministries. I thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON MOONGO: I thank the Minister for her response.

10 July 2008

**RESPONSE - QUESTIONS BY HON DIENDA
HON MUNGUNDA**

HON SPEAKER: Question 47 is by Honourable Dienda, does the Honourable Member Put the Question?

QUESTION 47:

HON DIENDA: I Put the Question, Honourable Speaker.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: I thank you, Comrade Speaker. Honourable Dienda asked this question on the 10th of April 2008. However, Comrade Speaker, because of the Budget and the recess we had and the procedures we never reached this question every Thursday. I therefore want the Nation and everybody to know that we as SWAPO are not delaying the questions, but that it is the process followed here.

Every Thursday I came with the answer, but then it was not reached and this is the first time the question was put by the Honourable Member and I am answering it for the very first time, so that she stops pointing fingers to us as Ministers.

Comrade Speaker, in Question 1 Honourable Dienda who, between Honourable Schimming-Chase and herself are women. My answer is that I can clearly see that both of you are honourable women. That is the first answer.

On questions 2 and 3, I would like to ask the same question, whether the Honourable Member thinks that women in the Executive are not Members of Parliament or did the Honourable Member want me to specifically mention CoD women Parliamentarians?

Comrade Speaker, I would like to quote the question because this interview was done on the 10th of March and I have a copy of the bulletin here. I quote the question, which was asked by the journalist to me on that day.

The question was on women in leadership, especially at Government level, and how they came from the grassroots through their Political Parties to be Ministers

10 July 2008

**RESPONSE - QUESTIONS BY HON DIENDA
HON MUNGUNDA**

or Members of Parliament and whether I think it is a situation which will continue to put women there or do I see stagnation somewhere. The journalist was not only talking about the Ruling Party, but all the Parties represented in Parliament. That was the question.

As such my answer is directly related to the question posed and the other Parties' representation of women in Parliament. (Interjections). I am answering, because you asked a question and you need clarity. I am a teacher, I cannot just answer out of the blue.

Comrade Speaker, at the beginning the number of women in the Opposition, especially the CoD, was 50%, but it became less as their six became less, because at the time it was Honourable Dienda and Namises and then after you came back, Namises was left out and then Kavari came in after my interview. (Interjections) Honourable Speaker, I am not lying, I am standing. Open your eyes, I am standing, I am not lying.

If Honourable Dienda has a problem with the fact that I mentioned the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and the Honourable Minister of Finance, it was in the context that they were Members of Parliament. This does not take away the work done by the Honourable Member in particular. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, I would like to answer Honourable Mrs Jerry Ekandjo since she answered me. I spoke to Honourable Ekandjo, not to her.

HON SPEAKER: What are you doing now, Honourable Member?

10 July 2008

**PLANT QUARANTINE BILL: SECOND READING
HON MUTORWA**

HON DIENDA: It is a supplementary question. Honourable Speaker, to the Honourable Minister Marlene Mungunda who answered on behalf of Honourable Jerry Ekandjo: I quote what she was saying, and I do not ask a supplementary question, I just quote from the bulletin: “*The opposition, such as the CoD, came in Parliament with more women but at the moment the Party has only one woman representative.*” If this is not what she has said, why did she not rectify it in the next bulletin? I am just quoting her answer, not asking a supplementary question. Thank you.

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

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

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

**PLANT QUARANTINE BILL:
SECOND READING**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – *Plant Quarantine Bill.*

HON SPEAKER: As agreed yesterday in the Committee on Rules on Orders, we shall go through all the three stages of this Bill. When this Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, 8 July 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, that the

10 July 2008

**PLANT QUARANTINE BILL: SECOND READING
HON MUTORWA**

Bill be now read a Second Time. The Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry adjourned the Debate for his reply.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. The Right Honourable Prime Minister was the first to make a valuable contribution during the Second Reading Debate of this very important Bill. I would like to thank all the six Honourable Members who participated in and made constructive contributions to the Second Reading Debate of the Plant Quarantine Bill. In the same vein, I thank all the 78 Members of the National Assembly for your support to allow the Bill to proceed to the Committee Stage. The advice you have given and the suggestions that you have made are all welcomed and deeply valued.

Let me just make some specific comments and provide some responses to some of the issues raised.

To the Right Honourable Prime Minister, your wise advice and counsel with regard to the medicinal value of some of the plants, the challenge to researchers to do more, the importance and role of traditional knowledge, the important roles of institutions of higher learning and applied practical research, are deeply appreciated.

With regard to the role of higher learning institutions, universities, let me simply support and underscore your advice and please, Comrade Prime Minister, with the wise words of the great Mwalimu, the Founding President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Dr Julius Kambarage Nyerere. President Nyerere was addressing a distinguished gathering of academics, scholars, lecturers and students of the University of Liberia on the 29th of February 1968 when he, amongst others, argued and advised as follows:

“There is in fact only one reason why underdeveloped societies like ours establish and maintain Universities. We do so as an investment in our future. We are spending large and disproportionate amounts of money on a few individuals so that they should in the future make a disproportionate return to society.”

10 July 2008

**PLANT QUARANTINE BILL: SECOND READING
HON MUTORWA**

Comrade Prime Minister, Honourable Members, President Nyerere's wise counsel and advice are still true and valid today as it was forty years ago.

Prime Minister Angula's advice to ensure that representation on the envisaged National Plant Protection Organisation and the Plant Protection Unit is wide enough and shall be practically applied. I agree with the Prime Minister that members of the Plant Protection Unit should not only consist of bureaucrats. Thank you, Comrade Prime Minister.

Honourable Dr Amweelo, you highlighted specific environmental problems that pose dangers to our fauna and flora, such as deforestation, bush encroachment, floods, veldt fires, etcetera.

With regard to the issue of bio-fuels and the planting of Yatropa plants that you have raised, our Government's policy position is very clear: Land and fields earmarked and actually utilised for the production of food must not at the same time be utilised for the planting of Yatropa. Food and Yatropa must not compete for the same land at the same time. Farmers, particularly subsistence communal farmers, must not be sweet-talked into exchanging their fields for Yatropa. We have enough land in this country. Yatropa must not compete with food production for the same land. That is the bottom line of our policy.

Honourable Ilonga, I definitely agree with you that the Bill does not only deal and does not only highlight issues about importation of plant products, but also deals with exportation thereof.

Indeed, the Bill's objectives are, amongst others, "*to facilitate the movement of plants, plant products and other regulated articles within and into or out of Namibia.*"

I think that your arguments to later strengthen the issue of export in Section 4 and in the definition are valid. Section 22(f) and (h) of this particular Bill, also empowers the Minister responsible to make regulations dealing with export. A separate Bill on animals will, I am sure, be prepared and tabled at a later stage in this House of the people.

With regard to the alleged discrepancy between a fine and a term of imprisonment, I am informed by my learned colleagues, the lawyers here, that it

10 July 2008

**PLANT QUARANTINE BILL: SECOND READING
HON MUTORWA**

is a policy that if a person financially benefits from a crime, then a fine in monetary terms will normally be higher than a term of imprisonment.

Honourable De Waal, I listened very carefully and I heard clearly, what you have said. I can assure you that we are definitely not over-regulating; we are simply legislating and regulating. We may not have all the capacities today, but you are right, we shall definitely and determinedly have to build that capacity to implement and apply the Bill continuously and progressively.

Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, I agree with you that this Bill will have a very significant impact on the protection of the environment and will strengthen your efforts as the Minister and Ministry responsible for biodiversity conservation, fundamentally and principally as articulated in Chapter 11, Article 95(l) of the Namibian Constitution.

In a way this Bill, once it becomes law, will complement and strengthen some of the provisions of the Environmental Management Act 2007 (Act No. 7 of 2007) which our Ministries are responsible for in terms of administration.

Honourable Speaker, thank you very much, Honourable Members, thank you very much, we are ready to consider the details of this particular Bill in the Committee State today and now in terms of Rule 98(a) and (b) of the Standing Rules and Orders of this Honourable House. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: That being the Minister's reply, I now Put the Question, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Any objection? Agreed to. The Secretary will now read the Bill a Second Time.

SECRETARY: *Plant Quarantine Bill.*

10 July 2008

**PLANT QUARANTINE BILL: SECOND READING
HON MUTORWA**

HON SPEAKER: Does the Minister Move that the Assembly now goes into Committee?

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:
Honourable Speaker, I do Move that the Assembly now goes into the Whole House Committee in terms of Rule 98 of the Parliament Standing Rules and Orders.

HON SPEAKER: It is Moved that I leave the Chair. The Chairperson of the Whole House Committee will take the Chair.

**COMMITTEE STAGE
PLANT QUARANTINE BILL**

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Whole House Committee is called to order. The Committee has to consider the *Plant Quarantine Bill*.

Clauses and Title put and agreed to.

I shall report the Bill without Amendment.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED

Bill reported without Amendment.

10 July 2008

**PLANT QUARANTINE BILL: SECOND READING
HON MUTORWA**

HON SPEAKER: Does the Minister Move that the Bill be now read a Third Time?

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? None. Does the Honourable Minister wish to reply by way of thanking the Honourable Colleagues?

**PLANT QUARANTINE BILL:
THIRD READING**

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Comrade Speaker, first I would like to thank you and through you, all the leaders of the different Political Parties, inclusive of all the Members, for support of this Bill and secondly, for having agreed that this Bill be finalised today in terms of Rule 98 of the Standing Rules and Orders. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for his reply. I now Put the Question that the Bill be now read a Third Time. Any objection? Agreed to. The Secretary will now read the Bill a Third Time.

SECRETARY: *Plant Quarantine Bill.*

10 July 2008

**CONSIDERATION OF THE PAC REPORT ON NDC
HON DE WAAL**

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

**CONSIDERATION: REPORT ON NAMIBIA
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Consideration of Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts on the Review of the Report of the Auditor General on the accounts of the Namibia Development Corporation for the Financial Years ending 31 March 2005 and 2006.

HON SPEAKER: When the Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, 8 July 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable De Waal. Honourable De Waal adjourned the Debate for his reply and he now has that opportunity.

HON DE WAAL: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. On Tuesday, Honourable Ben Ulenga asked a number of questions which I am now happy to answer on behalf of the Committee.

On page 5, paragraph 1(ii), the answer is yes, the N\$55,373 million is indeed part of the N\$100 million invested by the ODC. As far as the recoverability of the amount of N\$55,373 million is concerned the management of the NDC already in their financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2005 made provision for bad debt of N\$55,373 million.

They did this in accordance with General Acceptable Accounting Principles, or GAAP for short and this is the correct procedure to follow under the circumstances.

10 July 2008

**CONSIDERATION OF THE PAC REPORT ON NDC
HON DE WAAL**

Making provision for bad debt does however not mean that you stop looking for the money, which brings me to the next question, namely, how did the Police get involved in the case?

As is stated in our report, the two Boards of Directors, in consultation with the line Ministry, decided to request the Namibian Police to investigate the case and to try to recover the missing funds. We now also know that the Anti-Corruption Commission is also investigating the case. Whether the money will ever be recovered is an open question, but we will have to see where these investigations go.

Honourable Speaker, I can however inform the Honourable Member that the Report of the Auditor-General on the financial statements of the NDC for the Financial Year ending 31 March 2007 has already been tabled in the House and the question of the missing money is once again addressed prominently. The Committee will, therefore, when examining the 2007 Report, try to get more clarity on this issue and report back to Parliament.

Regarding the loan book of the NDC which is referred to on page 7 of our Report, I can assure the Honourable Member that the people on the list are all just normal citizens that got loans for a wide variety of business ventures. We had the opportunity to scrutinise the list and as all Political Parties are represented on the Committee, I can assure the Honourable Member that there is nothing funny about the list.

However, what is important is that we urgently start collecting the outstanding debt before it prescribes. In this connection, I cannot but once again stress the importance of our recommendation 5.4 on page 23 of our Report.

Regarding the company, Southern Africa Tractor Manufacturing (Pty) Ltd, I can inform the Honourable Member as follows:

In 1998 an amount of N\$4,845 million was given to the NDC by the Namibian Government in order for the NDC to buy a stake in the above Company. As none of the current management of the NDC had anything to do with this transaction or have any knowledge of what exactly happened, information is almost non-existent.

10 July 2008

**CONSIDERATION OF THE PAC REPORT ON NDC
HON DE WAAL**

What the Committee could find out is that the Company at some or other stage went bankrupt and that the last available financial statements for the Company are the statements for the year 2002 and I must stress, Honourable Speaker, we have not seen a copy of these statements, so we cannot verify the quality of the contents.

Our Committee insisted that the auditors of the company draft final financial statements in order for us to report to Parliament what happened to the assets of the Company as well as the N\$ 4,845 million. I have now reliably learned that the original Auditors of the Company have withdrawn and that the NDC is in the process of appointing new Auditors to try to get final financial statements.

We will, therefore, report back to the House when we report on the 2007 financial statements of the NDC.

The last issue that the Honourable Ulenga raised is the issue whether the amount of N\$4.845 million must be seen as a liability or a contribution. The problem here is the following:

If the amount was a loan, then the NDC must show in their financial statements that they owe Government the amount of N\$4,845 million plus any interest that might have accrued. At the same time, Government in their books must show that the NDC owes N\$4,845 million plus interest, if any.

In this case, the Government must send NDC an account, which thus far has not happened, showing the total outstanding amount, so that the NDC can reflect the true balance of the loan in their financial statements. If however the amount was a contribution, it means that the NDC does not owe Government any money and they do not have to show anything in their financial statements.

Because the NDC is wholly owned by Government and is currently being subsidised by Government, it really does not make any difference which way one treats amount, because the amount is no longer recoverable from Southern Africa Tractor Manufacturing (Pty) Ltd.

It is, however, important that we decide which way we want to go so that the financial statements of both Government and the NDC can reflect the real situation and so that this issue will no longer appear in future audit reports.

10 July 2008

**REPORT ON TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

Honourable Speaker, I hope I have answered all the questions of Honourable Ulenga and with these few words, it is now the wish of our Committee that this report be adopted and I thank you, Sir.

HON SPEAKER: I thank Honourable De Waal. I now Put the Question that the Report be adopted. Any objections? Agreed to. The Secretary will read the Third Order of the Day.

**CONSIDERATION: REPORT ON TRADITIONAL
LEADERS IN NAMIBIA**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Consideration of Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs on the election, appointment and recognition of Traditional Leaders in Namibia.

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, 8 July 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Report by Honourable Nambahu. The House adjourned in terms of Rule 90.

Any further discussion? Minister of Finance.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. I wish to thank the Members of the Committee for the efforts that they have put into conducting this hearing and for the conclusions and recommendations that they have tabled in the House for our discussion.

10 July 2008

**REPORT ON TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

Before I make a few comments on the recommendations under this Report, I would just like to make a general comment with regard to the issue of recognition of Traditional Authorities, which has been debated during the discussions of this Report.

Some of the references made by some Honourable Members seem to suggest that the recognition by Government of Traditional Leaders is a form of designation or appointment or election, however you would like to refer to it, of Traditional Leaders, which is not correct. I think it is important to understand that Traditional Leaders, in terms of the Traditional Authorities Act, are to be designated, appointed, or elected, as the case may be, by their own communities in line with their own traditions and customs. I am not aware of any situation where there has been a deviation from the customs and traditions of the traditional communities because of Government interference.

Secondly, it is important to note that when a Traditional Leader has not secured recognition by Government in terms of the Traditional Authorities Act, it does not mean that that Traditional Leader is precluded from engaging in traditional activities, nor are their communities denied the right to practise their customs and traditions in a free and independent Namibia. No, that is not the case. Indeed, the right of all Namibians to practise their customs and traditions is guaranteed by the Constitution and even those Traditional Authorities or communities whose Traditional Leaders may not have been recognised by Government in terms of the Traditional Authorities Act, do practise their customs and traditions freely without hindrance.

The recognition of Traditional Authorities mere serve to achieve or effect a better coordination between Government and the Traditional Authorities in the execution of programmes that are beneficial to Namibian citizens and I think we should see it that way.

I want to agree with those Honourable Members that have said we should avoid sensationalising this issue. It has the potential to incite people unnecessarily and I also want to agree with those who are saying some of our community members seem to be motivated in their drive to instigate Traditional Leaders by the desire to benefit from the allowances that are provided by Government. That now seems to be the focus, that *this one is recognised and, therefore, he gets this and that and I must be recognised to get that*. I think that is most unfortunate and we as National leaders should take the responsibility to guide our people properly so

10 July 2008

**REPORT ON TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

that they do not become detracted from the real issues or allow themselves to be incited, so that in the end we put at risk the stability and the peace that we have invested so much in.

Finally, I would only like to comment on the specific recommendations made by the Committee. I would focus my comments on about two or three such recommendations.

The first one I want to comment on is the one under 9.2, which suggests that Government should make an effort to demarcate jurisdictional boundaries between traditional communities. I understand the consideration that may have gone into this consideration. It is probably the desire to ensure that disputes about traditional boundaries are resolved, so that traditional communities can live in harmony with each other. However, I wonder whether it would be practical or even desirable that the Government should involve itself in traditional matters, so that it can say this is where the borders of this traditional community ends and the territory of another community starts. I believe that that could actually be dangerous because it can trigger off a dispute that can even get out of control and the Government may be compromising that it will no longer be able to relate to both of these communities because it can be seen to be siding with one or another of the Traditional Authorities.

I want to believe that it would probably be best that Government keeps out of disputes on traditional jurisdictions and leave that issue to be dealt with by the Council of Traditional Leaders. Maybe the only thing we need to do is to provide all the support to this Council to enable it to consider all the issues and to consider them thoroughly, so that we see conclusions to some of the disputes that have lingered on for a very long time.

My other comment is on recommendation 9.4 that recognised Traditional Authorities should consider enlarging their structures in order to accommodate others. I also rather understand the reasoning behind that recommendation, it is probably only an attempt to say nobody should feel, left out, everybody should feel part of the family and we should be able to relate to each other and take each other by the hand. However, I do not know whether this would practically be possible for a Traditional Leader that is recognised to expand the Traditional Authority to include the others, because that may be interpreted by some Traditional Authorities to be an attempt to subjugate them. They will say, "*No, we are separate and independent from that Traditional Authority and no-one can*

10 July 2008

**REPORT-RECOGNITION TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON EKANDJO**

tell us that we should become part of them.” I however think it should be possible for all of us, whether individuals or organisations or other structures, to cooperate with each other.

As I have said, our laws will not preclude the practising of traditions and customs of any individual or any community by virtue of their leader not being recognised. I believe to recognise or not to recognise, all the Namibian Traditional Authorities should be able to perform their duties that are entrusted to them by their communities and all traditional communities should be able to practise their customs and traditions.

I agree with the many other recommendations that are made here, especially where it is said that conflict should be resolved through consultations in an amicable way and I think that all of us should be able to agree with that. We should not have a situation that whenever there are differences, some people want to threaten all kinds of measures in order to try and get their way. I think that in a civilised, democratic society we should agree that we can sometimes have different opinions, but we can agree to disagree. We can however not say, whenever the other person cannot see things my way, then I should take some extraordinary measures even at the risk of jeopardising the peace and stability of the country. I think that would not be appropriate.

Therefore, I think the spirit of that recommendation that we should try to resolve our disputes in an amicable manner is strongly supported and with this I again support the Report with those proposals. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister. Minister Ekandjo.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members. At the last meeting of the Council of Traditional Leaders last year it was resolved that a Committee be appointed by the Minister to

10 July 2008

**REPORT–RECOGNITION TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON EKANDJO**

conduct a study or investigation on possible reform of the Traditional Authority sector in Namibia.

The Minister is in the process of appointing the abovementioned reform committee to look into the reform areas, namely:

1. To make the Council of Traditional Leaders accessible, efficient and effective.
2. To organise Traditional Leaders in Namibia to be able to respond to National, regional and continental challenges.
3. To introduce institutions of Traditional Leaders that will improve the cooperation between Traditional Authorities and Local Councils and Regional Councils and the Central Government for mutual benefits.
4. To introduce mechanisms that will minimise further recognition of new traditional communities, thereby minimising further fragmentation of Namibian communities.

I would now like to comment on the recommendations made in the Report.

Recommendation 1 reads as follows: *“Government to very clearly in a layman’s language state the legal implications of the 2001 Court case of Chief Riruako and 46 others, to explain to the people how the ruling was adhered to in terms of the implementation of the Court case.”*

Comrade Speaker, the High Court, in the matter of Kuaima Riruako and 46 Others versus the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and the President of the Republic of Namibia made an order that: *“The decision of the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing not to recognise the Applicants, save for Applicants No. 1, 3, 19, 20, 22, 28, 39 and 43 as Chiefs and to refer the matter to the Council of Traditional Leaders is hereby set aside.”*

Comrade Speaker, Judge Hoff’s view is that the Court only set aside the decision, as there was an anomaly in the exercise of that power and therefore, did not order that the Applicants be appointed. Therefore, the Minister is empowered in terms of Sections 5 and 6 of the Traditional Authorities Act, 2000 to receive, consider and decide on whether or not to recognise applicants for the designation as

10 July 2008

**REPORT-RECOGNITION TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON EKANDJO**

Traditional Leaders. The Court did not order, it just said the Minister must follow the correct procedure, because this interpretation said the Court said recognition.

Therefore, the Traditional Authorities, wherever they are, are advised to reapply for recognition.

If they meet the requirements for recognition, as stipulated in the Traditional Authorities Act, 2000 (Act 25 of 2000), they will be recognised. This is the response.

There is also a recommendation, which says: *“Government makes an effort to demarcate the jurisdictional boundaries between Traditional Authorities.”*

Comrade Speaker, not the Ministry nor the Government is not responsible to determine the boundaries between traditional communities as these boundaries have been existence long before the Independence of Namibia. Traditional communities are expected to have good knowledge of the boundaries of their communal land, as this is their areas of jurisdiction. It is up to them, not the Government, because they have been doing that all the years.

Recommendation No. 3: *“The operations of the Council of Traditional Leaders need to be reviewed in order for it to meet at least twice a year to expedite the process of looking at traditional matters referred to it.”*

Comrade Speaker, this issue will be addressed under the reform of Traditional Authorities. The Council of Traditional Leaders has asked the Ministry to reform the whole issue and there is a Committee working on it. They will reform the whole structure.

Recommendation No 4 reads as follows: *“Recognise Traditional Authorities should consider enlarging their structures in order to accommodate others.”*

Comrade Speaker, this is up to the Traditional Authorities to enlarge their structures according to their customary laws. I want to make one thing clear, Comrade Speaker, that the Ministry only gives allowances. The Government does not pay Traditional Authorities. They are not Civil Servants. What they receive are allowances, not payment, they are not on the pay roll of the Government. Therefore, the Ministry only gives allowances to the Chiefs plus 12

10 July 2008

**REPORT-RECOGNITION TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON TJIHUIKO**

of his or her Traditional Councillors and one secretary per Traditional Authority. If they are more than that, the Government only gives allowances to those numbers.

Recommendation No. 5 reads as follows: “*Where possible, conflict should be resolved through consultation.*”

The Government has requested all 13 Regional Councils to establish Liaison Committees in each Region, constituting of Regional Councils and Traditional Authorities, in order to tackle the disputes and issues that may arise. This issue will also be covered by the Traditional Authority Reform Committee, which we are in the process of setting up. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for his statement. Honourable Tjihuiiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I am not going to speak on this as being a member of the Committee; I will only try to highlight some of the points that were raised in the recommendations and perhaps the reason why the Committee came to that conclusion.

On 9.2 which deals with demarcation of jurisdictions, the Committee was faced with the information on the ground that was provided to the Committee that even the recognised Traditional Leaders do not know where their boundaries of operations start and end. That was one of the causes of the problem and that is why the Committee felt that perhaps it would be necessary to have a clear-cut area where they are supposed to be operating and it was in that spirit. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: May I ask Honourable Tjihuiiko a question? Honourable

10 July 2008

**REPORT—RECOGNITION TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON TJIHUIKO**

Tjihuike, you are saying the Traditional Leaders and traditional communities do not know the boundaries of their areas of jurisdiction. Will it really be possible for an outsider to come and show them where the traditional boundaries are if the owners do not know?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I am not making my statement, I wish I could answer, I am trying to relate the information that was provided to the Committee and it is up to this House to reject or to consider it. I am therefore not going to answer that.

What I am saying is that on the ground people were saying that even recognised Traditional Leaders do not know where their boundaries start and end. That is the reason why we are saying that perhaps we need to report to the House. It is up to the House either to accept or reject that and since the Honourable Minister has said that there would be a Committee that would be looking at the whole reform, then obviously this will be taken up in that process. (Intervention)

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** On a Point of Order. Last year there was some dispute among the recognised leaders regarding the boundaries? They approached the Ministry of Lands, the standpoint of the Ministry of Lands that time was that they themselves must point out where their boundaries are, and after that, the Ministry will assist by maybe erecting beacons or something like that. It is for them, not the Government, to say where the boundaries are, they should know and the Ministry will only assist by erecting beacons for future reference. In addition, the Committee I am speaking about is not to come and demarcate their traditional boundaries. No, it is not for that.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I do not know whether we are together. What I am saying is that I am not putting my view on the table, what I am saying

10 July 2008

**REPORT-RECOGNITION TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON TJIHUIKO**

is that the recommendation came about as a result of the information given to the Committee, that this is one of the things that we want you to look at. It is not for me to answer and say yes or no, what I am trying to explain is that there was a request from the people we have consulted that there should be a clear demarcation of areas. That is all.

That is why I am saying that it is really a good thing that there is a reform Committee, some of these recommendations can also be referred to that Committee, and the committee will do a proper investigation and come up with clear recommendations. It is not for me to say yes or no, what I am saying is that this is what they said.

Apart from that, I am not hundred percent sure, but in the Act it is one of the requirements that if you apply, then you must have an area of jurisdiction. Let us check that one, but I think it is one of the conditions that they should meet if they apply for recognition.

Coming to 9.4, it is true that it may not be possible, but when we were going around, there were cases of applications from the same community, the same family that applied for recognition and one of the reasons, which were given was that they are not accommodated. That is why we thought that perhaps the recognised ones should open up and accommodate the ones who have not been recognised, rather than saying in the very same family or clan two people should be recognised. It was based exactly on that. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: What are you saying?

HON TJIHUIKO: What I am saying is that, for instance in the area of Opuwo, Fransfontein area, there were two brothers and both of them have applied for recognition and the reason given was that they are not accommodated in the structure that their brother has put forward. That is why they applied for their own recognition. (Interjections) Seriously! The other one was from the same family in Opuwo and in Okondjatu area.

10 July 2008

**REPORT-RECOGNITION TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON TJIHUIKO**

HON SPEAKER: What I understand from Honourable Tjihuiiko is that he is reporting to the House on what was said, not his own views. This is what people said, rightly or wrongly, this is what was said to the Committee and that is what he is stating now. He is not expressing his own views.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Tjihuiiko, did you ask the recognised Traditional Authorities about the procedure to be recognised and even to advise the others on the procedure to be recognised? Did you do those things or did you only look at the one side?

HON TJIHUIKO: Let me give a practical example since you are from Okaoko. You know in Okaoko there is the Tjavara Traditional Authority that has been recognised, there is Mureti from Okondjatu that has also applied for recognition. The reason, the same brothers, same clan, same Royal House from Otjikaoko. The reason why the one from Okandjatu has applied separately is that they are not accommodated in the recognised structure.

We are not saying that Government should dictate to the Traditional Authority, we are saying that the Traditional Authority which has been recognised should be kind and try to be accommodative of those who want to be accommodated, to the point that they are now apply to Government for their own recognition. That is all what we have recommended. We are not saying that Government should intervene and tell them, we are appealing to their conscience. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Order. I know the situation in Okaoko, but I do not want even the Committee to get involved in politics, because the reason those people with one father and one mother are divided is because of politics. We cannot get involved in politics. I thank you.

10 July 2008

**REPORT-RECOGNITION TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON MOONGO**

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Deputy Minister, these are Honourable Members of this House who went as a Committee. Now, you might know something that the Speaker does not know, but as I am listening to the Honourable Member this is the situation.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, before I conclude, I am just trying to explain the reason behind the recommendation, but I believe that it would be more important for us as members of the Committee who were there to explain the reasons why we came to this kind of recommendation. It is what we as a Committee are going to do. Whether you made that quota is not the issue here, the issue is that the reason why we made that recommendation is based on that and it is true, Honourable Speaker, that there are indeed people from the same Royal Houses who have applied.

Honourable Speaker, the last point I wanted to make is that I think we should be careful when we are dealing with this issue. This is the practical experience, that I have seen on the ground and we should be very careful because sometimes we are generalising things to the point that we are creating problems where there are no problems. When we are making statements in this House, we should be very careful to be specific on what we want to say and not generalise it. Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I am a member of the Committee and I congratulate the Committee for the recommendations, but I wanted to share something on the last recommendation just for information.

Land dispute is a complicated issue and sometimes it can happen that *during the rule of a certain king the boundary was here and when the next one comes, the*

10 July 2008

**REPORT-RECOGNITION TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON MOONGO**

boundary was changed. This is a complicated issue and I appeal to the Government that if there is a boundary dispute between two tribes, to facilitate the whole process, otherwise the dispute can be prolonged and cause somebody to be killed. If one on this side is killed, another one on the other side will also be killed and there will be tension. I appeal to the Government not to prolong the dispute.

A dispute between two Chiefs who are competing for one area can be solved by an election. The Namibian Constitution states that the colonial boundaries must be respected and as the Minister said, those who stay there know their boundaries and if we change it, it can cause more trouble and more chaos. (Intervention)

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** On a Point of Order. The Organisation of African Union said the colonial boundaries of the States, not the traditional or tribal boundaries or whatever. It is the colonial boundaries of those countries, which were colonised by the Europeans that should be recognised.

HON MOONGO: I regard that as a very good system and if we can also apply it to the tribal boundaries, that the boundaries which were there during the colonial times should be respected. Otherwise somebody will say, "*last month the boundary was here but you are changing it all the time*" and it can cause trouble.

I appeal to the Government that we should respect those colonial boundaries, as was proposed by the Organisation of African Unity in the case of states. That would prevent us from ending up in more trouble. If we open the Pandora's Box, everyone will claim his boundaries were and the conflict will continue. We must say during colonial times the boundaries were here and respect that. (Intervention)

10 July 2008

**REPORT-RECOGNITION TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON MUTORWA**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Order. We are leaders, we have to tell our people how to unite Namibia. If we go and demarcate areas, it will cause big problems. We have to unite the people.

HON MOONGO: I am happy that some Traditional Authorities did not allow politics in their affairs, such as the Ndonga Traditional Authority. They do not allow politics and that is why they rarely have problems. I appeal to the Government not to be slow in intervening in tension, which can cause loss of life. If the Government wants to leave it to the two tribes fighting over the boundaries, they will end up killing each other and who will be blamed? Of course, it will be the Traditional Authorities, but the Government should have intervened in time to prevent that dispute.

I appeal to the Ministry and the Government in general to be cautious on this matter. If one is killed on that side, you cannot retreat anymore. This is very serious. I thank you.

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

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I am simply rising to make a few remarks and contributions to this very important Report. First, I would like to thank the Committee for the work that they have done.

Comrade Speaker, one year after our Independence the SWAPO Party Government, before embarking on making policies and laws, identified two crucial important issues that required National consultation and National input from all members of the Namibian society. The two issues were and are the issue of land and the issue of Traditional Authorities. It was on that basis and on that understanding that the Government convened a National Conference on Land and

10 July 2008

**REPORT-RECOGNITION TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON MUTORWA**

the Land Question in June-July 1991. It was also from that understanding that the Government, during the last part of 1991, appointed a commission that was headed by the revered and respected late Advocate Fanuel Kozonguizi to look into the issues of Traditional Authorities and related matters.

That particular Committee went around the breadth and length of this country. They did their work and thereafter they submitted a Report, which report was thoroughly considered by the Government of the day. On the basis of the recommendations of that Report, policies related to this very important matter of Traditional Authority were then conceptualised and developed and on the basis of the policies we now have the Traditional Authorities Act and related Acts. The same with the land, it was after the Land Conference that we had policies and then the laws.

All of us seated here know that the issues of both land and Traditional Authorities are very important but also very contentious. That is why I agree with the recommendations of the Report that the subject matter of Traditional Authorities must be treated in a very careful and balanced manner.

The point is that after the promulgation of these laws and policies we have done so far, so good, with ignoring the tricky issues emanating from both the land and this particular subject matter that we are discussing and Government has never said that we are not ready to look at the issues in the spirit of consultation, as the line Minister has stated, to see how best we can deal with these issues and move forward. The contributions this afternoon of both the Minister of Finance and the line Minister, Honourable Ekandjo, point to that particular fact.

Let us therefore follow what Honourable Jerry Ekandjo, the line Minister, has said and see what will come out of that and I am sure that at one point even the Honourable Members of this House would be consulted in terms of how best to deal with these issues. However, to come to the House and be so emotionally charged as if when you speak all the problems are solved is not helpful. It is simply confusing the people more and these emotionally charged statements are most of the time emanating from that side of the House and I think it is not fair.

Comrade Speaker, while commending the members of the Committee for the work well done, I see that they have made a very terrible mistake, unless they explain themselves. Comrade Speaker, this important Committee that dealt with

10 July 2008

**REPORT-RECOGNITION TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON ULENGA**

this work consists of thirteen members, but I am missing something and that is that the name of the mover of this particular Motion, Honourable Henk Mudge who is a member of this Committee does not appear here and we have not been given an explanation why.

That is why I am saying must the Chairperson or the members of the Committee tell us how come that the mover of this particular Motion did not sign this report and I remember his motivation was so well articulated. Does it mean that the Committee sidelined him? Does it mean that he does not agree with the content of this Report and he is the owner of that particular Motion which was moved here and taken to the Committee for hearings?

Otherwise, Comrade Speaker, we commend the Committee, but it is important for this House and through this House, for the public to be informed how that the mover of the Motion, who is a member of the Committee, either does not agree with the content of the report or what the situation is. Can we just get an explanation? This is my humble contribution, Comrade Speaker. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister. Honourable Ulenga.

HON ULENGA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I do not want to make this matter more emotional than it has already become. I am also a member of the Committee and do not want to make the Report controversial or to contradict the recommendations and conclusions of the Committee.

I want to say it is a very good thing. I am very glad to hear from the Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development that a new structure has indeed been set up to look into the whole question of Traditional Authorities. As it is now, this whole issue is as clear as mud, the whole issue of Traditional Authorities and their jurisdictions.

I can almost not believe my ears, Honourable Speaker, when I listen to some of the Ministers, especially when they try to interpret recommendation 9.2 as

10 July 2008

**REPORT-RECOGNITION TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON ULENGA**

perhaps referring to physical boundaries. This recommendation goes like, “*Government must make an effort to demarcate jurisdictional boundaries between traditional communities*”, not physical territorial boundaries necessarily. (Interjections). Just listen to me, “*demarcate*” does not necessarily mean that. I am saying I can hardly believe my ears when I hear what sounds almost like a deliberate limitation of the meaning of this recommendation.

Let me tell you, in Namibia, as we also sing in our National Anthem, when it comes to culture, diversity is the issue. We sing about “*contrasting beautiful Namibia.*” That contrast get right down into our culture and when it comes to... (Intervention)

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** May I ask a question?

If it is not physical, how can you demarcate or show? Do we just come here, pointing in the air, “*here and here*” or must you erect something physical? The Honourable Member says it is not physical. How do you demarcate something imaginary, not physical? Is it possible?

HON ULENGA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. As I said, I will really apologise if what I said is causing more controversy because that is not my intention. However, Honourable Speaker, the two of us at least shall agree that if we were talking about the fundamental demarcations between Geometry and Algebra, we are not really getting physical.

I want to say we must be very careful, and I was part of the Report, unless we are bogged down into the issue of territory, because the Namibian tradition of chieftainship, in this particular case especially, has been one that has ignored territoriality. This is a country that is wide, that is many cases very harsh and dry and this is a country of nomads, as you and me will agree. This is a country where people have lived here and there and everywhere and where they have moved from place to place with their traditions and with their chiefs. That is why

10 July 2008

**REPORT-RECOGNITION TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON ULENGA**

you have a situation today that you have a tribe here and there and everywhere. I am sure in some of the minds this just does not make sense, but it is the reality in Namibia. It is the reality that you have a tradition that must ignore physical territoriality and the new Committee that the Minister is talking about had better take care of that concept. When you are talking about the tradition, the culture, and a Traditional Authority, you will have to look beyond what is physical territorial.

Honourable Speaker, our Constitution is a freedom Constitution and I think somewhere in our Constitution it is pointed out that traditions that seem to contradict the freedoms and the rights which are enshrined in the Constitution can be followed. I am sure that is also a matter that we need to look at, because some of the traditions in Namibia, divergent as they are which is really the issue here – reflect enslavement, for example, and some of the traditions are so contrasting. Let me give you an example:

Traditionally some of the groups in the Caprivi Region ... (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Be careful!

HON ULENGA: No, I will not be careful on this one because I know what I am talking about. Traditionally some of the groups in the Caprivi Region, for example, people who speak different languages have lived under one Chief and had respected that as a tradition in one Namibia. Meanwhile in the very same country, if you look west, you find that it just does not make any sense for people who speak different languages, who can hardly understand each other, to live under the same chief. Those systems and traditions have worked in Namibia before historically speaking.

If you go to the Haikom and the Barakwena communities in the part where they live in this country, they will tell you that; ‘the fact that traditionally we have lived and worked under certain groups reflects the fact that we have been conquered by those groups in the past.’ That is what they say. So, the history of

10 July 2008

**REPORT–RECOGNITION TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON ULENGA**

our country and the traditions that we have do not always reflect the positive things. We must take that one thing into consideration.

Honourable Speaker, it is very interesting to hear the issue that the Honourable Moongo is talking about – again in a way territoriality. Yes, the whole world right now, the AU and we believe that the state boundaries that had been drawn up by the colonialists are inviolable; we keep them as they are. However, when we are talking about traditional boundaries... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Honourable Ulenga, you are talking nice things, but in that Report I did not see Oshikoto, Ohangwena, Omusati and Kavango. Why were those Regions left aside and why are they not in the Report?

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, I was talking about the boundaries that go beyond territory and I wanted to refer to what the Honourable Moongo just talked about, the question of the territorial inviolability of these states as set up by the colonial conquerors.

In Namibia, we have recently seen the inauguration of the Kwanyama Traditional Authority and I am not going to talk about a Kwanyama physical territory, I am going to talk about a Kwanyama tradition, a cultural tradition. I believe that if a certain group, for example the cultural tradition of the Kwanyama, if these people are setting up a chief or a Traditional Authority that runs over them and over their culture and over their tradition as a group, of course this will have to go beyond territorial boundaries. We are talking about cultural boundaries here. Boundaries are not only necessarily territorial on the ground.

Why am I saying so? There is a question being asked here by one of my Colleagues, if from Okondjatu to Opuwo is more than 600 kilometres, how can it make sense that a group that lives in Okondjatu can feel that they have jurisdiction unless this jurisdiction goes beyond territory?

10 July 2008

**REPORT-RECOGNITION TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON ULENGA**

It is a very good thing that this matter is going to be re-visited and those who are going to look at it again must remember that the history of this country is the history of the likes of Hendrik Witbooi who came all the long way from Gibeon to Okahandja and still they had a way of claiming... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: On a Point of Order. I have been listening to the Honourable Ulega, he started well as a member of the Committee clarifying the contents of their Report, but when I now look at Rule 65, the Honourable Member is now presenting issues that are not in the Report.

Therefore, Comrade Speaker, I beg your indulgence, if the Honourable Member continues in the same manner that he is doing, that you probably consider Rule 65 and Rule him completely Out of Order.

HON ULENGA: Suffice to say, Honourable Speaker, this is a wonderful country that we live in, and it is not only physically speaking, it is also culturally speaking. For example, you wonder that brothers quarrel because they feel they are not accommodated in the same culture.

Let me tell you that there is a historically famous figure called Nehale Iya Mpingana and everybody sings of him as a hero. The only reason why you sing about Nehale Iya Mpingana as a hero is because he one day stood up and he is not accommodated in his brother's tradition and he went out. (Interjections) The Chief is here, he knows what I am talking about. (Intervention)

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** On a Point of Clarity. The Honourable Member is not telling the truth, Nehale Iya Mpingana defeated the Germans at Namutoni. He is a hero, he prevented them from conquering the

10 July 2008

**REPORT-RECOGNITION TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON ULENGA**

other part. He even captured the wife of a German, he married her, and if you today go to Oshikoto, you will find some people with light complexions who are descendants of his wife. He defeated them militarily.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, I was almost through. However, the Honourable Minister must understand that I am not trying to take away from Nehale's heroism - on the contrary. I am telling you how this man who is a hero got there and I am telling you that he was a subject in a traditional set-up that was run by his brother and what happened? He said he was not properly accommodated and he just decided that, "*no, I am also a chief*". (Intervention)

HON DR ANKAMA: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Ulenga, you seem to portray expertise in demarcation of traditional boundaries. Are you not trying to look for employment so that the Committee could employ you to go and demarcate on behalf of those who are saying the Government should do it?

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, Nehale Iya Mpingana was a hero. (Interjection). No, why did you not ask Honourable Ekandjo when he talked about Nehale Iya Mpingana as a hero? (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: On a Point of Order. The Honourable Member is trying to mislead the House by making a controversial statement and this is not acceptable, especially when he mentioned that the Kwanyama Traditional Authority, which was recently inaugurated or the Queen of Kwanyama does not necessarily preside over the Kwanyama Traditional Authority, but also traditional culture, yes, but

10 July 2008

**REPORT-RECOGNITION TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON ULENGA**

within the Namibian boundary. You cannot extend that across the border. That is a very dangerous statement and I want him to withdraw that.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, the Speaker understands what Honourable Ulenga is saying. He did not say that, he was drawing the difference between territorial boundaries and boundaries that could be cultural, that go beyond.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: But he cannot put it in the context of the Queen of Uukwanyama. That context is very wrong in the eyes of the public. What are you implying?

HON SPEAKER: I certainly did not understand Honourable Ulenga to say that Namibia should extend its boundaries beyond what it is today. Honourable Ulenga continue.

HON ULENGA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Anyhow, I said I did not want to be controversial, but of course, I am not afraid of controversies. Politics is about controversies.

Honourable Speaker, what I am actually saying to my Honourable Colleague there is that it is time that we re-look at the concepts, because Traditional Authority has to do with culture. Especially, Namibians must be very careful to distinguish the physical territories from the cultural realms, because the cultural realms of the Batswana people, for example, straddles over four countries in southern Africa. The traditional and cultural realms of the Batswana people straddles Namibia, Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe and most probably

10 July 2008

**REPORT-RECOGNITION TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON ULENGA**

also Zambia and all these people can claim cultural bonds and the same thing comes to the Kwanyama people and others. It is not only these groups, there are others? (Intervention)

HON NAMBAHU: Comrade Speaker, through you, I was of the opinion that maybe members of the Committee could afford others the opportunity to contribute and we could even share, but now we are running the risk of the Debate lapsing. I do not know whether Honourable Ulenga is aware of that fact.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, as members of the Committee we did not expect that the House would be so unbelieving and disbelieving and we are only trying to explain to them how matters stand. (Intervention)

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** I mentioned about the Ministry putting up a Reform Committee. Now does the Honourable Member want the Reform Committee to go and investigate these imaginary boundaries in Botswana and Zambia? That is what he is implying and besides that, Rule 65(c) says, "*the Assembly may accept, amend or reject recommendations by the Committee*" because the Honourable Member is now bringing in new elements into the Report of the Committee. This is the Report, but now he is bringing in new elements. Are we now to accept this Report with your Amendments or must we reject it?

HON SPEAKER: The House was discussing the Report and unless any of the contributions of the Honourable Members truly violate the rules, the laws and the Constitution, the Speaker would see to it that things that are truly irrelevant are not brought in. This was a good discussion. It reflects the difficulty of the

10 July 2008

**REPORT-RECOGNITION TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON ULENGA**

recommendations placed before the House by the Committee. To do justice to all the issues raised would require King Solomon's wisdom and on that note of that wise man of history, the House shall now rise and I would appeal to you, Honourable Members, and also request you to tell all your Colleagues who are not present, if they are reachable, that we come here Tuesday 14:30 in full force to listen to the address of Her Excellency the President of the Republic of Liberia.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:48 UNTIL 2008.07.15 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
15 JULY 2008
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: I ask all of us to observe a minute of silent prayer and meditation in memory of Honourable Gabriel Gabes Shihepo who recently passed away. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

THE HOUSE OBSERVES A MINUTE OF SILENCE

I wish to announce that today, 15 July 2008, Her Excellency, the President of the Republic of Liberia, Mrs Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, will address the Parliament of the Republic of Namibia. As required by convention and practice, I now suspend the business of the House and ask leave to go and invite Her Excellency, the President of the Republic of Liberia and her entourage to the Chamber. As I leave, please remain standing until I bring the President to the Chamber.

BUSINESS SUSPENDED:

BUSINESS RESUMED:

WELCOMING ADDRESS

HON SPEAKER: Your Excellency, Mrs Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia, Your Excellency Dr Sam Nujoma, First President and Father of the Namibian Nation, Right Honourable Comrade Nahas Angula, Prime Minister, Honourable Asser Kapere, Chairman of the National Council, Esteemed Spouses, Honourable Members of Parliament, Excellencies and Friends, Sisters and Brothers, I, on behalf of the Chairman of the National Council and Parliament, as well as in my own name, welcome the President of the sister Republic of Liberia, Her Excellency Mrs Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf to our Parliament.

15 July 2008

**WELCOMING ADDRESS
HON DR TB GURIRAB**

On this unique occasion, I happily also acknowledge the presence of President Nujoma with us. Above the rest of us Namibians, he was the real pathfinder.

By the same token, we express our gratitude to His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba for his consideration in ensuring that the official programme of the State visit by the eminent Liberian Head of State includes this House of the People. Welcome Excellency.

Madam President, you have chosen the right time to visit Southern Africa. You delivered a powerful and reassuring Sixth Nelson Mandela Lecture at Kliptown in Soweto, an occasion, which also marked Madiba's 90th birthday. You rekindled the ideals of the Freedom Charter and reaffirmed its continued relevance for us today. You renewed our belief in the African Renaissance in this globalising world and urged for collective action towards constitutional democracy, the Rule of Law, gender equality and sustainable social development.

You also addressed encouraging and empowering words to members of regional youth and children's Parliament. Upon arrival a moment ago, for this rendezvous with our parliamentarians, Your Excellency met a delegation of female members of the Namibian Children's Parliament, led by this year's Madam Speaker, Ms Sharonice Busch.

Those of us who joined our Head of State, President Hifikepunye Pohamba and other guests were greatly inspired by Excellency's thoughtful speech and we are proud that bilateral relations between the two sister countries, Liberia and Namibia, are growing steadily. The prospects look promising. I will not repeat here all that was said so well by the two Presidents about our shared history and the way forward, except to say, we share President Pohamba's accolades extended to Ambassador Tuliameni Kalomoh, NDF and NAMPOL for their outstanding contributions towards peaceful transition in Liberia as United Nations' supervisors and peacekeepers.

Parliamentarians have wide-ranging duties of lawmaking and oversight that are crucial for democracy, development and peace building. We are partners in all respects.

Formalities are unavoidable, but sometimes they get in the way of traditional customs that require ceremony, identifications and rituals. Your Excellency's official visit Monday to Walvis Bay in the Erongo Region is a present case in

15 July 2008

ADDRESS

HER EXCELLENCY JOHNSON-SIRLEAF

point. More than a century ago, young Liberian seamen came to that part of the country whence others and I present here come from. Those young men liked what they saw and settled down forever. It is all in the extended family.

As things are in such situations, this, that and the other happened and we are today talking about descendants with common roots. As an elder from that Region, I would have loved introducing the Marobian offspring, as they have come to be known locally, to the Big Mother, but then again, life, like history, is a two-way traffic. At the Soweto ceremony Excellency, you remembered a South African liberation hero, Tebogo “*Tsietsi*” Mashinini from this Region, and his Liberian wife and children. I know that long chapter and he was not the only one. There were many other similar visitors to Liberia from Namibia as well.

Madam President, not only the female members of our Government and of Parliament, but all women, especially those of the younger generations, revere you as their beloved heroine, and illustrious role model: The first democratically elected President, Head of State, in the history of Africa. Please be assured, Madam, we men-folk share fully in this veneration and celebration. You are Mother Africa, indeed!

I now have the distinct honour and personal privilege to invite Her Excellency, Mrs Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia, to address the Joint Sitting of our Parliament. Excellency!

HER EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT JOHNSON-SIRLEAF: Your Excellency Mr Speaker and Honourable Members of the National Assembly, Your Excellency Council Chairman, Your Excellency Prime Minister, Your Excellency Founding Father of the Nation, Your Excellency Deputy Prime Minister, Ministers, Officials of Government, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I am deeply honoured by the invitation extended to me to address this Joint Session of the National Assembly, consisting of representatives of the people of Namibia.

It is my pleasure to extend to you fraternal greetings from the Members of the National Legislature and the Government and people of the Republic of Liberia. As you know, Liberia has a Republic form of Government, patterned after that of the United States and somewhat similar to your own with three Branches, the

15 July 2008

ADDRESS

HER EXCELLENCY JOHNSON-SIRLEAF

Judiciary, the Executive and the Legislature, the latter comprising 96 members, 30 in the Upper Chamber or the Senate and 64 in the Lower Chamber, the House of Representatives.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, by this invitation you have paid deserving tribute to my distinguished predecessors, Presidents William V. S. Tubman and William R. Tolbert, whose vision and leadership helped to shape our continent's response to the issue of African unity and the total liberation of our continent from minority rule.

Other Liberians, the late J. Rudolph Grimes, Edward R. Moore, who fought against the Apartheid South Africa before the International Court of Justice and Ernest Eastman who is present in this hall today as a member of my delegation, all invoke memories that reinforce this history-making invitation.

I and many other Liberians feel a deep sense of pride and affinity with the people of Namibia. Liberia and Namibia have an intertwined history heritage and, indeed, a common destiny. We believe that freedom, justice and the right to self-determination are inalienable rights that should be enjoyed by all people. As such, it is the moral responsibility of all freedom-loving people to defend those rights within or across National frontiers. It was precisely this sense of moral duty that propelled my country, Liberia, the oldest independent republic in Africa, to champion the liberation struggle of Africa from the shackles of colonialism and racism in all their manifestations.

Your Excellencies, Liberia's affinity to Namibia must be viewed in the context that in spite of its years of Independence, Liberia could not consider itself truly free as long as other African countries continued to languish under colonial rule. Due to its deeply rooted values and sense of history, as has been recalled by the Honourable Speaker, Liberia, joined by Ethiopia, challenged the then apartheid South Africa continued illegal mandate over then South West Africa, now Namibia. It was in response to this historic duty as Africa's oldest republic that Liberia provided diplomatic more than financial support to African freedom fighters and other Nationalists in their struggle against tyranny and oppression.

Indeed, SWAPO's esteemed leader and First President, His Excellency Sam Nujoma, recognised as the Father of this Nation, other nationalists made several visits to Liberia in furtherance of the liberation struggle, and they were received as true brothers and sisters. Liberia is proud of the role it played in the liberation

15 July 2008

ADDRESS
HER EXCELLENCY JOHNSON-SIRLEAF

struggle and the fight for the total emancipation of the African people now represented by 53 independent African countries, which today comprise the African Union.

Excellencies, while your beloved country, Namibia, was celebrating on March 21, 1990 the epoch of a new era, the inauguration as a free and sovereign and independent state, Liberia was engulfed in a civil war which was the beginning of 15 years of mayhem and carnage. Neither our recognition as the oldest independent Nation, nor our experience as the forerunner in promoting peace and freedom in Africa and the world at large could have shielded our country from the gruesome and barbaric conflict which took the lives of hundreds of thousands, creating refugees and displaced persons. It destroyed our institutions of governance as well as significant physical infrastructure and social capital. The economy collapsed, impoverishing most of the Liberian population.

The 2005 elections were a watershed in Liberia's history. The people of Liberia declared loudly and clearly that they wanted an end to the war and Government mismanagement and a new beginning based on peace, inclusive economic opportunities and respect for justice and basic human rights. Liberians wanted security, freedom and opportunity – security in their daily lives, freedom from abuse and oppression and the opportunity to provide for their families.

After more than two decades of misrule, violence and economic collapse, my people took the first bold step on the long road in this direction. We have started on this road. We assertively embarked upon the revitalisation of our economy, quickly almost tripling the level of budgetary income. We successfully completed a yearlong IMF Staff Monitored Program and have reached a decision point on our full-fledged poverty reduction strategy.

Moreover, we are well on the road to declaring the inherited 4.7 billion external debts and setting the course to write off that debt under the heavily indebted poor country initiative. With the support of our Legislature, we initiated a process of reviewing all inherited commercial contracts and concession agreements that were questionable in terms of the National interest and are in the process of renegotiating those contracts while negotiating new ones on better terms in our mining, forestry and agriculture sectors. As a result, international sanctions on both our forestry sector and diamond sector have been lifted and we have qualified for the United States African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

15 July 2008

ADDRESS
HER EXCELLENCY JOHNSON-SIRLEAF

We have started to rebuild our Institutions and strengthen the rule of law. We have completed a new Anti-Corruption Policy and its implementation strategy is concluded.

An Act to create an Anti-Corruption Commission is now before our Legislature. In this we may have some very important lessons to learn from yours here.

We are well advanced in restructuring our Civil Service Agency and introducing badly needed reforms. A Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) to promote national reconciliation is now fully operational. After years of seeing our infrastructure and basic services destroyed, we had made tangible progress in the rehabilitation of our roads, schools and health facilities as well as in the limited restoration of electricity and water to the capital city and beyond. Achieving these goals will continue to require the participation and strong commitment of all the Liberian people, including those in the Diaspora working with the Government, Liberia's international partners, the private sector and civil society groups.

Excellencies, fellow African compatriots, while I have made reference to these national strategies, to better the conditions of the Liberian people, we are mindful of the need for Liberia to work closely with other countries, particular African countries, to unite our efforts in confronting the new challenges which we all face. The global food crisis, the rising cost of oil on the world market, environmental degradation, and the resulting global warming are a few of the urgent conditions, which must be collectively addressed. Failing to do so would not only threaten our National security, but the peace and security of the entire international community.

Liberia believes that the holding of democratic elections is important. However, equally important are the processes of democratisation and democratic governance. The continent over the last two decades has made significant advancement in these two areas. Unfortunately, recent developments in a few countries have rolled back some of the gains made on these fronts and past doubts about the commitment of African leaders to sustain the forward march towards democratisation and good governance. On this, we can only say that we cannot lose sight of the fact that we in Africa do not have the luxury to enclose ourselves in our respective political enclaves, our National public policy processes must be cognisant of the Region in which we find ourselves. That is why it is imperative

15 July 2008

ADDRESS

HER EXCELLENCY JOHNSON-SIRLEAF

that our National public policy processes take into account what is happening in other places, particularly in neighbouring countries in our Region.

The Liberian experience in this regard is clear: Instability, violence and economic hardships will cross borders, trampling the peace in other countries.

Honourable Members, ladies and gentlemen, I would like, on behalf of the Liberian people, to commend the Government and people of Namibia for their contribution of troops to the United Nations' Mission in Liberia. We applaud the gallantry and sacrifices they made so that our peace could be consolidated. The Namibian contingent in UNMIL was indeed true representatives of the values you all stand for and their performance was exemplary. We are proud of those accomplishments and I wish to express the deepest gratitude on behalf of the Liberian people.

Finally, my presence in Namibia is evidence of my own desire and the desire of the people of Liberia to forge closer bilateral cooperation in all spheres with the people of Namibia. We have had the opportunity during this visit to observe the tremendous progress you have made as a Nation in so short a period despite the constraint in terms of National endowment. We have exchanged views with His Excellency the President and officials of Government, and I am convinced that there is scope for collaboration between our two countries. We were able to see your diamond industry in operation, and I have just returned from Walvis Bay where we shared in the experience and the development of your fishing industry.

One of the highlights of my trip was a visit to the Moses Van Der Byl, School where a large number of the 1 400 students greeted me with happiness, showed me their desire to learn and give a demonstration of culture from one of your regions.

I was also received with warmth last night at a gathering, which included the Deputy Prime Minister and so many other Ministers from all parts of Namibia. Some of you were there with me. We know that they, like me, represent those strong African women that are now taking their rightful place in the leadership in our societies. I treasure all of those memories and we go back to Liberia with them in our hearts. We go back to find the means whereby the Joint Commission that has been talked about, that would promote the relationship between our two countries, will be a very live instrument that would lead to, in the very near

15 July 2008

**VOTE OF THANKS
HON KAPERRE**

future, those areas where we will have demonstrable and quantifiable things that we can do together based on our two comparative advantages.

We now look forward to a return visit to our country by President Pohamba as soon as his schedule permits, to enable the Liberian people to reciprocate with the warmth and the friendship that we have received.

Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Your Excellency, I sincerely thank you for your historic and inspiring address which reaffirmed our shared past and mutual support over many decades and unity of purpose in Africa's bright future. May I now request my Colleague, the Chairman of the National Council, to on behalf of the Parliament express a Vote of Thanks?

VOTE OF THANKS

HON CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL: Your Excellency, President of the Republic of Liberia, Mrs Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly, Dr Theo-Ben Gurirab and Comrade Guriras, Comrade Dr Sam Nujoma, Father of the Nation and Founding President of the Republic of Namibia, Right Honourable Prime Minister, Comrade Nahas Angula, Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, Comrade Dr Libertina Amathila, Honourable Members of Parliament, Chief of the Namibian Defence Force, Lieutenant-General Martin Shali, Inspector General of the Namibian Police, Lieutenant-General Sebastian Ndeitunga, Deputy Commissioner of the Namibian Prison Services, Deputy-Commissioner Tuhafeni Hangula, Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Distinguished Government Officials, Distinguished Invited Guests, Members of the Media, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is with an overwhelming sense of honour that I extend a Vote of Thanks on behalf of the Members of Parliament and the Namibian Nation to Her Excellency,

15 July 2008

**VOTE OF THANKS
HON KAPERRE**

Dr Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia for her compassionate and enlightening address to the Namibian Parliament.

This occasion is indeed an extraordinary event, because it marks the very first time that the Namibian Parliament has been addressed by Africa's first democratically elected woman Head of State, which in itself is a historical milestone for Namibia as well as the rest of Africa and the world at large.

Your Excellency, your presence here today bestows a great honour on the Namibian people. The continued and enduring camaraderie between the people of Liberia and Namibia is evident because everywhere you go, Your Excellency Madam President, the Namibian people would echo their appreciation of Liberia's assistance to Namibia. It is particularly the fact that Liberia was one of the two countries which turned the world's attention to the suffering and inhumane treatment of the Namibian people under the hands of colonial South Africa by taking Namibia's case to the International Court of Justice in The Hague in 1960.

This was at a time when the Namibian people needed a helping hand from friends in their quest to rid themselves of oppressive foreign occupation. Your Excellency, Comrade President, there are so many other areas in which the Liberian Government assisted Namibia, areas that played a vital role in our people's march towards freedom and Independence.

The Namibian people recognise this brave stance of Liberia during a time when supporting a liberation movement was not looked upon kindly by a relatively large majority of the world. For this we are ever thankful and I, therefore, want to convey our Parliament's heartfelt and sincere gratitude to you, Your Excellency and to the people of Liberia for the commitment, loyalty and continued support of Namibia's liberation struggle. Your Excellency Dr President, your visit to Namibia has reaffirmed this longstanding bond between our two countries and peoples.

Your Excellency, your address to the Joint Session of Parliament here this afternoon demonstrates the parallels between our two countries' socio-economic goals. For example, the zero tolerance on corruption, the policy of reconciliation and nation-building, the post-war infrastructure development activities and the strategic gender equality programmes are some of the priority areas in both our countries.

15 July 2008

**VOTE OF THANKS
HON KAPERRE**

I, therefore, foresee that the future paths of our two countries are unquestionably interlinked. By bringing our National goals to fruition, both our countries will be in a position to facilitate the upliftment and progressive growth of the African continent, which will honour the dream of our African forefathers for a strong and vibrant African continent.

I wish to use this opportunity to commend you, Your Excellency, Comrade President, for the active and supportive role you played in the transitional Government of your country, which laid the foundation for stable and democratic governance. I am sure that under your able leadership, Liberia will take giant strides forward and become a shining example to the rest of Africa and the world alike.

Furthermore, I wish to extend our profound gratitude for your esteemed presence in this august House and for your insightful message to the Namibian Nation. We look forward to joining hands with the Liberian Government in pursuing our Parliament's shared aspirations.

Your Excellency, Dr President, allow me to extend Parliament's hand of friendship to the people of Liberia through its Parliament by undertaking on behalf of the Parliament of Namibia to collaborate with the Parliament of Liberia to further enhance the principles of democracy, rule of law and justice for all in both Namibia and Liberia.

Therefore, Your Excellency, I am filled with a great sense of conviction that together our two countries will prosper. The Members of the Namibian Parliament and the people of Namibia salute you and wish you continued wisdom, health and success in your endeavours.

To conclude, I also want to thank the Father of the Nation and Founding President of the Republic of Namibia, Comrade Dr Sam Shafishuna Nujoma and my Colleagues, Members of Parliament, and all the distinguished invited guests for gracing Parliament with your presence at this special event. I thank you.

15 July 2008

**ADJOURNMENT
RT HON N ANGULA**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, dear Colleague. Before the Sergeant-at-Arms leads the presidential procession, may I request the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House until 16 September 2008 at 14:30.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Your Excellency, may I with your permission Move that the House adjourns until 16 September 2008 at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:35 UNTIL 2008.09.16 AT 14:30