

## **LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

### **SPEAKER**

Prof P. Katjavivi (Mr)

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

Prof L Kasingo (Ms)

### **THE CABINET MINISTERS**

*(21 March 2015 – Elected in terms of Article 133 of the Constitution)*

Ms S Kuugongelwa-Amadhila	<i>(Prime Minister)</i>
Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwah	<i>(Deputy Prime Minister &amp; Minister of International Relations and Cooperation)</i>
Mr P Ya Ndakolo	<i>(Defence)</i>
Ms P Iivula-Ithana	<i>(Home Affairs and Immigration)</i>
Ms S Shaningwa	<i>(Urban and Rural Development)</i>
Mr J Mutorwa	<i>(Agriculture, Water &amp; Forestry)</i>
Ms K Hanse-Himarwa	<i>(Education, Arts &amp; Culture)</i>
Dr A Kawana (Mr)	<i>(Justice)</i>
Mr C Schlettwein	<i>(Finance)</i>
Mr E Nghimtina	<i>(Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation)</i>
Mr I Ngatjizeko	<i>(Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development)</i>
Dr B Haufiku (Mr)	<i>(Health and Social Services)</i>
Mr F Kapofi	<i>(Presidential Affairs)</i>
Mr U Nujoma	<i>(Land Reform)</i>
Ms D Sioka	<i>(Gender Equality and Child Welfare)</i>
Mr L Jooste	<i>(Public Enterprises)</i>
Dr O Kandjoze (Mr)	<i>(Mines and Energy)</i>
Mr B Esau	<i>(Fisheries and Marine Resources)</i>
Mr J Ekandjo	<i>(Sport, Youth &amp; National Service)</i>
Mr A !Naruseb	<i>(Works and Transport)</i>

Bishop Z Kameeta (Mr)	<i>(Poverty Eradication &amp; Social Welfare)</i>
Mr C Namoloh	<i>(Safety and Security)</i>
Dr I Kandjii-Murangi (Ms)	<i>(Higher Education, Training and Innovation)</i>
Mr T Tweya	<i>(Information &amp; Communication Technology)</i>
Mr P Shifeta	<i>(Environment and Tourism)</i>
Mr T Alweendo	<i>(Economic Planning &amp; Director General of the NPC)</i>

## **DEPUTY MINISTERS**

*(21 March 2015 – Elected in terms of Article 133 of the Constitution)*

Ms Manombe-Ncube	<i>(Office of Vice-President – Responsible for the Disability Sector)</i>
Ms M Hinda	<i>(International Relations &amp; Cooperation)</i>
Mr E !Nawatiseb	<i>(Public Enterprises)</i>
Ms C //Hoebes	<i>(Deputy Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister)</i>
Mr D Klazen	<i>(Urban and Rural Development)</i>
Rev A Kapewangolo (Ms)	<i>(Poverty Eradication &amp; Social Welfare)</i>
Ms P Beukes	<i>(Poverty Eradication &amp; Social Welfare)</i>
Mr A Muheua	<i>(Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation)</i>
Mr S Simataa	<i>(Information and Communication Technology)</i>
Mr N Ithete	<i>(Finance)</i>
Mr P Mushelenga	<i>(International Relations and Cooperation)</i>
Ms A Tjongarero	<i>(Sport, Youth &amp; National Service)</i>
Dr S Ankama (Mr)	<i>(Fisheries and Marine Resources)</i>
Mr E Uutoni	<i>(Home Affairs and Immigration)</i>
Mr T Nambahu	<i>(Environment and Tourism)</i>
Ms S Makgone	<i>(Urban and Rural Development)</i>
Mr B Mwaningange	<i>(Defence)</i>

Ms A Nghipondoka	<i>(Education, Arts and Culture)</i>
Ms A Shiweda	<i>(Agriculture, Water &amp; Forestry)</i>
Dr Ndjoze-Ojo (Ms)	<i>(Higher Education, Training and Innovation)</i>
Ms L Shapwa	<i>(Justice)</i>
Mr S Sankwasa	<i>(Works and Transport)</i>
Mr B Swartbooi	<i>(Land Reform)</i>
Mr D Kashikola	<i>(Safety and Security)</i>
Mr Van Der Walt	<i>(Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development)</i>
Ms L Witbooi	<i>(Gender Equality and Child Welfare)</i>
Ms J Kavetuna	<i>(Health and Social Services)</i>
Ms K Shilunga	<i>(Mines and Energy)</i>
Mr R /Ui/o/oo	<i>(Office of the Vice-President – Responsible for Marginalised Communities)</i>
Ms L Iipumbu	<i>(Economic Planning)</i>

#### **SECRETARY**

Mr. J Jacobs

#### **DEPUTY SECRETARY**

Mr F S Harker

#### **DEPUTY MINISTERS IN THE NATIONAL COUNCIL**

Mr K Nguvauva	<i>(Works and Transport)</i>
Mr T Diergaardt	<i>(Agriculture, Water &amp; Forestry)</i>
Ms H Nikanor	<i>(Veterans Affairs)</i>

#### **LIST OF MEMBERS AND PARTIES WHICH THEY REPRESENT**

##### **ALL PEOPLE'S PARTY (APP)**

Mr I Shixwameni	<i>(Party Leader)</i>
Mr R Nauyoma	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>

##### **DTA OF NAMIBIA**

Mr M Venaani	<i>(Party Leader)</i>
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Ms J Van den Heever *(Chief Whip)*  
Ms E Dienda  
Mr V Muharukua  
Mr N Smit

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

Mr A Mbai *(Party Leader)*  
Mr M Jahanika *(Chief Whip)*

**RALLY FOR DEMOCRACY AND PROGRESS (RDP)**

Mr S Bezuidenhout *(Chief Whip)*  
Mr Kavekatora  
Ms A Limbo

**REPUBLICAN PARTY (RP)**

Ms C //Gowases *(Chief Whip)*

**SWANU**

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

**SWAPO OF NAMIBIA**

Prof P Katjavivi	<i>(Speaker)</i>
Ms S Kuugongelwa – Amadhila	<i>(Prime Minister)</i>
Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwah	<i>(Deputy Prime Minister)</i>
Dr S Ankama (Mr)	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms P Beukes	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr J Ekandjo	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr B Esau	<i>(Minister)</i>
Prof L Kasingo (Ms)	<i>(Deputy Speaker)</i>
Ms J Kavetuna	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Dr A Kawana (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms S Makgone	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms A Manombe-Ncube	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr N Mbumba	

Mr C Schlettwein	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr A Muheua	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr P Mushelenga	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr J Mutorwa	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr B Mwaningange	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr T Nambahu	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr C Namoloh	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr A !Naruseb	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms E !Nawases-Taeyele	<i>(Chief Whip and Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee)</i>
Mr I Ngatjizeko	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr E Nghimtina	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr U Nujoma	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr P Shifeta	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms D Sioka	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr T Tweya	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms A Tjongarero	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr B. Ndjoze-Ojo (Ms)	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr E Utoni	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr P Van der Walt	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms L Witbooi	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms S Swartz	
Ms S Shaningwa	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms Hanse-Himarwa	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr F Kapofi	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr L Jooste	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms L Mcleod-Katjirua	
Dr I Kandjii-Murangi (Ms)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr T Alweendo	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr H Hambyuka	<i>(Deputy Whip)</i>
Ms M Hinda	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Me !Nawatiseb	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms C //Hoebes	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr D Klazen	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Rev A Kapewangolo (Ms)	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr N Ithete	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr P Ya Ndakolo	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr S Shanghala	<i>(Attorney-General)</i>
Ms A Nghipondoka	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms A Shiweda	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>

Ms L Shapwa	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr S Sankwasa	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr B Swartbooi	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms K Shilunga	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr D Kashikola	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr R /Ui/o/oo	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms I Hoffmann	<i>(Assistant Whip)</i>
Ms L Nghaamwa	
Ms A Sikerete	
Ms J Kandjimi	
Ms N Munsu	
Mr S Karupu	
Mr G Kasuto	<i>(Assistant Whip)</i>
Ms A Kafula	
Mr V Nekundi	
Ms B Jagger	
Ms E Nuyoma-Amupewa	
Ms F Caley	
Ms L Shinavene	
Ms L Iipumbu	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms L Namupala	
Ms P Kavita	
Ms R Iipingeng-Nakale	
Mr L Katoma	
Ms M Mahoto	
Ms M Kandumbu	

#### **UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT (UDF)**

Mr A !Auxab	<i>(Party Leader)</i>
Ms T Shikongo	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>

#### **WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (WRP)**

Mr S Fleermuys	<i>(Party Leader)</i>
Mr B Kaapala	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>

#### **UNITED PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT OF NAMIBIA (UPM)**

Mr J Van Wyk	<i>(Party Leader and Chief Whip)</i>
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**APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT IN TERMS OF ARTICLE  
32(5)(c) OF THE CONSTITUTION**

Ms P Haingura	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr Kawana (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr B Haufiku (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr O Kandjoze (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms P Iivula-Ithana	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr J Ekandjo	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms H Sibungo	
Bishop Z Kameeta (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
09 JUNE 2015**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

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**HON SPEAKER**: Please be seated. Well, welcome back. This is interesting and noted with great interest and admiration.

Honourable Members, it is with great joy and jubilation that I read this announcement in support of our National Football Team the Brave Warriors. (*Applause*) Indeed, the message coming out of this National Assembly on your behalf is what I am going to read, and it is not a long announcement. As I said, it is with joy and jubilation that I read the announcement in support of our National Football Team - *The Brave Warriors* on their winning the 2015 COSAFA Cup.

While some of us were away, a lot has transpired and here I come as a messenger of good news. On behalf of the National Assembly of the Republic of Namibia and on my own behalf, I take this opportunity to congratulate the Brave Warriors and, most especially the Head Coach, Mr Ricardo Mannetti for his tireless efforts that have made Namibia and its citizens a proud Nation. The victory rekindled in most of our minds, the glorious old days when Namibia was a force to be reckoned with on the football pitch. You have given us the hope and confidence that there are many more successes to come and this is just the beginning.

We would like the players within the Brave Warriors Team, the Coaches, the Administration of the Namibia Football Association as well as the Nation at large to know that, as Parliament in solidarity, we are fully



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**ANNOUNCEMENTS  
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

behind our sport men and women and we are ready to do whatever it takes to ensure that Namibia achieves great heights on the Regional, Continental as well as International Sports Maps. Once again, thank you Brave Warriors; you have indeed made us all proud as a Nation. That is the message. Indeed, the message is going out on your behalf; on behalf of the entire National Assembly and it is just great to know that we can rise to the occasion and be victorious.

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**BILLS CONFIRMED BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL**

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

- 1) *Appropriation Bill* [B.5 – 2015]
- 2) *Namibian Citizenship (Second) Special Conferment Bill* [B.3 – 2015]
- 3) *Veterans Amendment Bill* [B.4 - 2015]

I shall now, in terms of Article 75(3), refer these Bills to the President to deal with them under Article 56 and 57 of our Constitution.

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

*University of Science and Technology Bill* [B.2 – 2015]

The Bill will be placed on the Order Paper for reconsideration by this House as soon as possible. Honourable Members, I will now take you to my third announcement.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS  
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

Honourable Members, I would like to announce a few changes to the composition of certain Standing Committees of this august House. I will not re-announce the entire list inclusive of Members whom I have announced already, but only new changes and additions. Parliamentary Standing Committees, and here I am dealing with the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts. The following Members have been added to this Committee:

1. Honourable Faustina Caley;
2. Honourable Marina Kandumbu;
3. Honourable Rebecca Nakale-Iipinge; and
4. Honourable Heather Sibungo.

Those are the additional names added to that important Committee.

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Constitution and Legal Affairs - the following Member has been added to this Committee and that is Honourable Evelyn !Nawases-Taeyele.

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resources and Community Development - Honourable Jennifer Van den Heever and Honourable Vipuakuje Muharukua have been added to this Committee.

I now move on to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information, Communication Technology and Innovation; we have one addition that being of Honourable Sebastian Karupu who has been added to this Committee.

On International Parliamentary Organisations and Grouping; we have the SADC Parliamentary Forum and we have one addition of Honourable Sebastian Karupu replacing Honourable Faustina Caley.

Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU); we have Honourable Marina Kandumbu and Honourable Jan Johannes Van Wyk who are being added to the list that has been announced earlier.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS  
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

Furthermore, Honourable Members, the finalisation of the composition of the Committees has brought us to a stage where we can now proceed with the election of Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons of the various Standing Committees. The meetings of these elections will take place tomorrow, the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2015; starting from 08:30 in the Constitution Room in the following order:

- 1) *Standing Committee on Public Accounts* will take place at 08:30.
- 2) *Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs* will take place at 08:45. I am not sure about the time, it might be too close but again there are going to be officials on the ground to take care of the logistics and any other aspects that need to be adhered to.
- 3) *Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security* will take place at 09:00
- 4) *Standing Committee on Natural Resources* will take place at 09:15.
- 5) *Standing Committee on Economics and Administration* at 09:30.
- 6) *Standing Committee on Human Resources, Community Development* at 09:45.
- 7) *Standing Committee on Gender Equality, Social Development and Family Affairs* at 10:00.
- 8) *Standing Committee on Information, Communication Technology and Innovation* at 10:15.

All Members are kindly requested to be on time for the Committee Meetings and as I said, I would like to underline that the time might be a bit of a challenge, but again, if you are there on time, we may be able to manage because we do not expect you to take long in terms of determining your Committee Chair and Deputy Chair. That concludes the list of announcements that I needed to make. Thank you and we move on.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON SMIT**

**HON SPEAKER:** Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Yes, you have the Floor.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS**

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**QUESTION 13:**

**HON SMIT:** Honourable Speaker, I hereby give Notice that on Thursday, the 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, I shall ask the Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation, Honourable Itah Kandjii-Murangi the following:

In 2012, the Government of the Republic of Namibia through the Ministry of Education made the decision to abolish Colleges of Education, that is, Teachers' Training Institutions as well as the Basic Education Teaching Diploma known as BETD. The Colleges of Education were then absorbed by the University of Namibia and those either already pursuing or planning on undertaking studies towards the teaching qualification were thus compelled to enrol for a Bachelor of Education qualification at the above mentioned tertiary education institutions.

On May 7, 2014, the New Era Newspaper reported that the Minister of the Ministry of Education Arts and Culture, Honourable Katrina Hanse-Himarwa stated publicly that the phasing out of the Basic Education Teaching Diploma was a mistake; as was the abolishment of the Colleges of Education. The Article cite the University of Namibia's much more stringent admission requirements as a reason why many applicants were not able to secure admission to the Bachelor of Education Programme.

Furthermore, it references the fact that those pursuing a qualification in education now have to compete with all other tertiary students applying

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON SMIT**

for funding from Government; whereas in the past all those enrolled at Teachers' Training Colleges received full Government Scholarships as justification for the Honourable Minister's concession that the Government has made a mistake in this regard. It is puzzling that the Honourable Minister of Education, Arts and Culture would make such a statement, simply because the subject thereof does not fall within the scope of her Ministry. Teachers' Training and Education and Tertiary Education fall under the Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation. I thus I ask:

1. Does the Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation agree with the statement made by the Honourable Minister of Education, Arts and Culture and if so;
2. What is the Ministry of Higher Education doing in this regard?
3. If the Minister of Higher Education does not share the sentiments of the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture, will the situation as it relates to teachers' training and education remains as it is?
4. What plans are in place to improve the quality of teachers' education and training, and
5. What is the Government doing to address the critical shortage of teachers in Namibia? I so Move.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Can the Honourable Member please table the question?

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**HON SMIT:** There is another one.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON SMIT**

**HON SPEAKER:** Is it a Motion or a Question?

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**HON SMIT:** It is a question.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Fine. Your microphone please.

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**QUESTION 14:**

**HON SMIT:** I hereby give Notice that on Thursday, the 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, I shall ask the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation, Honourable Immanuel Ngatjizeko the following:

The local media have recently reported that the SWAPO Party's 2014 Elections Manifesto identified certain Economic Sectors to be strictly reserved for Namibians only. These are taxi driving, hair dressing and related beauty salon jobs; as well as a number of jobs and roles in the Retail, Catering and Textile Sectors. This comes from a Cabinet decision to implement the SWAPO Party's 2014 Election Manifesto as the Government's bible; meaning that, all Ministries, Departments and Agencies were instructed to implement the above into their strategic plans.

When asked whether this decision extended to the reservation of certain Economic Sectors strictly for Namibians, the Deputy Minister of Information and Communication Technology, Honourable Stanley Simataa is reported to have confirmed this. According to the media, Honourable Simataa also stated that the different Government Ministries, Agencies and Departments would need to determine how they are to carry out the above Cabinet Directive.

While it is commendable that Cabinet is attempting to do something about

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON SMIT**

unemployment, it must also be noted that this particular initiative is somewhat short-sighted. A number of jobs identified to be reserved for Namibians, specifically taxi driving and to some extent hair dressing and its related jobs, as well as roles in the Retail and Catering Sectors, either form part of the informal economy of our Sectors in which casualisation takes place. This means that the jobs to be reserved for Namibians are informal, vulnerable (*intervention*)

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**HON SPEAKER:** Point of Order.

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**

Thank you Comrade Speaker and welcome back. I am rising to establish, through you Comrade Speaker, in terms of Rule 79 (c) and (d) of the Standing Rules and Orders that states that:

*(c) Not more than one subject shall be referred in one question, and a question shall not be of excessive length; and*

*(d) A question shall not contain arguments, inferences, opinions, imputations, epithets or hypothetical cases.*

In terms of this Rule, with the assistance of Secretariat at an appropriate time, I just wanted to establish whether the questions posed, good as they are, of course, do conform to these Rules?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. I must admit that that intervention - the Point of Order is quite correct. Questions are there to solicit information not for you to, once again, interpret; so please continue and just bear that in mind.

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**HON SMIT:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I will continue. This means that the jobs to be created or reserved for Namibians are informal, vulnerable, low wage and are likely to offer very little social benefits. These kinds of jobs do not provide a sufficient platform for socio-economic advancement.

It has also come to light that the Ministry of Labour is empowered, through the appropriate Legislation to exclude non-Namibians from engaging in any Economic Sector or activity where Namibians are adequately able to operate. This means that the reservation of certain Economic Sectors and roles within the Sectors strictly for Namibians, can be done through the appropriate Minister's discretion.

More importantly, the Minister is able to make such a determination based on the labour market trends and other related information. I thus ask; since this low wage, vulnerable and informal jobs for Namibians will result in job creation that is unlikely to translate into secure, stable and long-term employment:

1. What is the Ministry doing to formalise the Informal Sector and to extend social perfection to those employed in the Informal Economy?
2. Considering that Namibians have in the past complained of foreigners employed to do work that Namibians can do at construction sites, especially those run by Chinese Construction Companies; most recently the downing of tools by the Namibian workers at the Chinese owned Husab Mine - why has the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation not moved to ensure that public infrastructure projects create work solely for Namibians where that work can adequately be performed by Namibians?
3. Why has the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation stood idly when Construction Firms employ foreigners at the expense of Namibians? (*intervention*)

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON SMIT**

**HON SPEAKER:** Point of Order.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION:** Thank you Comrade Speaker. I was trying to follow in order to be in a position to provide appropriate responses to the Honourable Member, but I am totally confused. He referred to the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation but then mentioned Honourable Ngatjizeko's name. I do not know which Ministry the question is directed to?

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**HON SPEAKER:** To my understanding, and I was listening carefully to every word - these are lengthy questions and in the process you also have your own points of view that you are conveying while you are asking the questions. Let me just remind you, do not be surprised if we edit out inapplicable elements that are contained in your question because we have to strictly relate to questions that solicit information and we expect the Minister to respond to your question as accurately as possible. However, I am seeing elements that I consider not to be applicable because you seem to be interpreting at the same time you are asking questions. May I ask you to please conclude?

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**HON SMIT:** I am busy with the last one.

4. Why are jobs in the Construction Sector not identified amongst those to be strictly reserved for Namibians? I so Move.
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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. We move on to the Notice of Motions. Yes, please.

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS  
HON DIENDA / HON !NARUSEB**

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

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**HON DIENDA:** I give Notice that on Thursday, the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, I shall Move that this House:-

*Debates* the issue of Old Age Homes in Namibia - is it a blessing or a curse? I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Messages from the Head of State? Yes, Honourable Minister please.

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Honourable Speaker, Sir, I give Notice that tomorrow, Wednesday, the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, I shall Move:-

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to consolidated the Laws relating to civil aviation and civil aviation offences; to provide for the powers and functions of the Minister in relation to civil aviation; to establish the Namibia Civil Aviation Authority and to provide for its powers and functions; to establish the Air Navigation Services in their authority; to provide for a Civil Aviation Regulatory and Control Framework for maintaining, enhancing and promoting the safety and security of civil aviation for ensuring the implementation of international aviation agreements; to establish the Directorate of Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigations and to provide for its powers and functions; to provide for the establishment of Namibia Register of Aircraft and Civil Aviation Registry; to repeal the Laws relating to civil aviation and civil aviation offences; and to provide for incidental matters.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS  
HON JOOSTE**

**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. I call upon Honourable Leon Jooste please.

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**HON MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Honourable Members, I give Notice that tomorrow, Wednesday, the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, I shall Move:-

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to amend the *State-Owned Enterprises Governance Act* of 2006 so as to replace the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Council with the Minister responsible for Public Enterprises; and to provide for incidental matters. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Please table the Motion. Any Ministerial Statements? I do not have anything before me, but before we call for an adjournment, I just want to raise an issue with the Government Chief Whip.

I noticed that the House is really reflecting the spirit of joy and celebrations because of the victory of our National Team – the Brave Warriors, but I recall that on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2015, when we were called upon to present the team to compete with Diplomats, I am informed, because I was not there, that we had a particular challenge in putting together a team from this House (*laughter*). With this new spirit, can we assign the responsibility to some of our Honourable Members here to organise us accordingly? We obviously look to the Ministry of Sports and other people who are equally committed in terms of promoting sports. I hope the Honourable Members are supporting me in insisting on this.

Therefore, with the help of Honourable Evelyn !Nawases-Taeyele, the Ministry of Sports and all the sports lovers as we have them in this House, I hope that something will be done about this. With this in mind, can I

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**ADJOURNMENT**  
**RT HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

call upon the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House until tomorrow the usual time?

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I am pleased to note the pride and jubilation of Namibians on the occasion of the stunning win of the Brave Warriors. I must say that they redeemed us after that performance with the Diplomats the other day. They redeemed Namibia and confirmed that we still have some soccer in us. I propose that the House adjourns until tomorrow, at 14:30.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. The House stands adjourned until tomorrow, at 14:30.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:16 UNTIL 2015.06.10 AT 14:30**

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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
10 JUNE 2015**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**HON SPEAKER**: Honourable Members, any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Reports? Yes, Honourable Mutorwa, you have the Floor.

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**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT  
OF NAMIBIA AGRONOMIC BOARD**

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY**: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. In terms of the relevant Provisions of the *Agronomic Industry Act* of 1992, I lay upon the Table of this august House, the Annual Report of the Namibian Agronomic Board for the appropriate consideration by the Public Accounts Committee at an appropriate time. I so Move, Comrade Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER**: Thank you very much. Notice of questions? Honourable Venaani.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS**

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON VENAANI**

**QUESTION 15:**

**HON VENAANI:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila the following:

As a footnote we find ourselves in a situation where large sectors of our society are increasingly frustrated by what is widely perceived to be greed of certain elite and/or well- individuals, when it comes to the acquisition of, and access to land and other properties. My questions relate to a certain Government property, situated at Erf 3 Dolfyn Street Swakopmund.

Right Honourable Prime Minister, I acknowledge that the said question should be directed to the Ministry of Works and Transport, however, I pose this question to the Right Honourable Prime Minister because the issues that are raised are issues of governance and relate to the potential misuse of power and misappropriation of Government property. The question is as follows:

It is a fact that the former Honourable Speaker of this House has previously acquired ownership over Government residential property, a certain No. 5 Burg Street, Klein Windhoek, through a Government's alienation scheme. It is against this background that I ask the following questions:

1. Has the former Right Honourable Speaker Dr Theo-Ben Gurirab acquired the property situated at Erf No. 3, Dolfyn Street Swakopmund? Alternatively, is he in the process of doing so?
2. What is the market value of the said Swakopmund property?
3. If the first question is in affirmative, what is the purchase price agreed upon between the Government and the said Honourable Member for the Swakopmund property?

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HON DIENDA**

4. What is the Government Policy on Government Leaders and Senior Government Officials acquiring more than one property under the alienation scheme, given the fact that prices under that scheme are below market value?
5. What comprises the retirement benefit packages for a retiring Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, a retiring Speaker of the National Assembly and a retiring National Council Chairperson, respectively? Further, what procedure was followed in determining the composition of such packages? Honourable Speaker, I so Move.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Any further Notice of Questions? Yes, Honourable Dienda please.

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**QUESTION 16:**

**HON DIENDA:** Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Presidential Affairs the following question:

It is common knowledge that the Council of Churches of Namibia (CCN) and the Churches in Namibia were seen as the ecumenical arm of SWAPO during the Liberation Struggle and many of the CCN staff ended up as Members of Parliament while others became CEO's and high ranking officials at Parastatals.

Honourable Speaker, Church Leaders at that time played a very important role during the Liberation Struggle. They gave food, shelter and some of them were even jailed because of their involvement.

In view of this, can the Honourable Minister please inform this august House why the majority of them are not being recognised as veterans or

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HON MBAI**

being given veteran status? I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER**: Thank you. Honourable !Auxab please.

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**HON !AUXAB**: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Sir.

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**HON SPEAKER**: Are you presenting a Motion?

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**HON !AUXAB**: Yes.

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**HON SPEAKER**: Sorry. Any further questions? Yes, Honourable Mbai.

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**QUESTION 17:**

**HON MBAI**: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Urban and Rural Development the following question:

Honourable Minister, the intention with the implementation of decentralisation was among many other things, to improve service delivery. It was hoped that the regional structures will become render services and make decisions that have a bearing on the people at the local



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level to speed up service delivery.

Honestly speaking, Honourable Minister; progress in the implementation of Decentralisation Programmes in all Regions has been painfully slow.

1. Where are we currently as a country?
2. What is the Honourable Minister envisaging to do this time around in order for all phases of decentralisation to be implemented without any further delay? I so Move.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. It seems, we have exhausted the questions. Can we move on to Notice of Motions? We will start with Honourable !Auxab please.

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

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**HON !AUXAB:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Sir. I give Notice that on Wednesday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 2015, I shall Move that this House:-

*Debates* the issue of delimitation of Regions the objective of which would be to better administer and to manage the Region properly in terms of Provisions. I so Move, Honourable Speaker, Sir.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you, please table the Motion. May I now call upon Honourable Venaani?

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HON VENAANI**

**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Tuesday, the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, in view of the precarious deadlock of a shortage of urban land, sky rocketing housing prices and the lack of subsidy to Local Authorities, I shall Move-

That this august Assembly:-

*Discusses* the creation of an Urban Land Resettlement Scheme to assist the urban majority to access urban land through Equity Programmes and thereby facilitate equitable access to land.

*Proposes* various Social Housing Schemes that could be implemented to ease the housing burden in urban areas and matters incidental thereto.

That this Motion be referred to the Standing Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee of Gender Equality, Social Development and Family Affairs, for scrutiny and recommendations. Honourable Speaker, I so Move.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you.

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**HON VENAANI:** I further give Notice that on Tuesday, the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, I shall Move:-

That this Assembly-

*Discusses* the need to extend payment moratoriums on repayments of Commercial Farm Land under the Agribank Loan Book, due to the following reasons:

- (i) The impending drought that threaten to cripple the Agricultural Industry

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS  
HON VENAANI**

- (ii) The volatile nature of cattle prices or pricing, further exacerbated by the current threat of the Foot and Mouth Disease.

That this Motion be referred to the Standing Committee on Economics and Public Administration for further consultations and appropriate recommendations. Honourable Speaker, I so Move.

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**HON VENAANI:** Lastly, Honourable Speaker, I hereby give Notice that on Thursday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, I shall Move:-

That this Assembly-

*Discusses* the poor prices obtained by rural farmers on agricultural products such as cattle, goats and sheep in rural areas South of the Redline in comparison with prices fetched in commercial farming hubs for the same products.

That this House-

Further *discusses* the possibility and viability of Government and specifically, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry entering into partnership agreements with slaughtering houses such as MeatCo for the sale of agricultural products originating North of the Redline and matters incidental thereto.

That this Motion be referred to the Standing Committee on Natural Resources for investigation and recommendations. Honourable Speaker, I so Move.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Any further Motions? There being none, I will move on. Messages from the Head of State? Can I have order please? No dialogue please. Thank you.

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**FIRST READING - PUBLIC ENTERPRISES  
AMENDMENT BILL  
HON JOOSTE**

Any message from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? There being no Ministerial Statements, can we move on to the next item?

The First Noticed of a Motion is one of the Honourable Minister of Public Enterprises. Does the Honourable Minister Move that the Bill be now introduced?

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**HON MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:** I do Move, Comrade Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Who seconds? Any objections? Agree to. Thank you very much. May I give the Honourable Minister the opportunity to table the Bill?

The Secretary will read the Bill a First Time.

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**FIRST READING – PUBLIC  
ENTERPRISES AMENDMENT BILL [B.6 – 2015]**

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**SECRETARY:** *Public Enterprises Amendment Bill [B.6 – 2015].*

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

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**SECOND READING - PUBLIC ENTERPRISES  
AMENDMENT BILL  
HON JOOSTE**

**HON MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:** I so Move, Comrade Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Who seconds? Any objections? Agreed to. Honourable Minister you have the Floor.

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**SECOND READING – PUBLIC  
ENTERPRISES AMENDMENT BILL [B.6 – 2015]**

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**HON MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:** Thank you Honourable Speaker.

Honourable Members, I am indeed greatly honoured the privileged to stand in front of you today to motivate the *Amendment Bill* to the principle legislation, the *State Owned Enterprise Governance Act 2006 Act*, 2006 (Act 2 of 2006).

My task today is to explain to the National Assembly and through the National Assembly to the rest of the Namibian Nation, the contents of this *Amendment Bill* as well as the underlying rationale for the proposed Amendments.

Comrade Speaker, the proposed Amendments cannot and must not be viewed in isolation but must, in essence, be viewed in line with the factors that underscored the need for the establishment of the new Ministry of Public Enterprises.

It is to this end that I feel it incumbent upon myself to share with you the principle policy considerations behind, not only, the establishment of the Ministry itself, but also behind the current *Amendment Bill*.

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AMENDMENT BILL  
HON JOOSTE**

The key policy consideration behind the establishment of the Ministry of Public Enterprises has been the stark reality brought about by the current model of dual governance in the State-Owned Enterprise Sector.

It is common cause that since the enactment of the *State-Owned Enterprises Governance Act* of 2006 (Act 2 of 2006), the State-owned Enterprise Sector in Namibia has been operating under a dual governance model.

The current model is characterised by a number of “owners” as it were, in that several different role players/functionaries have been directly responsible or held accountable for looking after the affairs of State-Owned Enterprises through governance, supervision and oversight by way of guidelines and policy directives.

Comrade Speaker, when speaking of the multiplicity of functionaries in the State-Owned Enterprise Sector, I am here referring to such entities as:

- The Cabinet;
- The State-Owned Enterprises Governance Council, which in itself is a Cabinet Committee;
- Various Portfolio or Line Ministries; and
- The Boards of Directors and Management/Executives of State-Owned Enterprises.

This multiplicity of functionaries has not at all augured well for the effective and efficient oversight, supervision, control and governance of State-Owned Enterprises in Namibia primarily because it represents major challenges by way of too many layers of authority and communication clouding accountability.

Comrade Speaker, the dual governance model consisting essentially of the

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HON JOOSTE**

State-Owned Enterprises Governance Council on the one hand, and various Line or Portfolio Ministers, on the other hand, has made it impossible to precisely allocate responsibility and accountability to the different role players.

This has led to lines of responsibility and accountability having become blurred with the result that crucial decisions needed to address pressing challenges could not timeously be taken and implemented.

State-Owned Enterprises have come to see themselves as serving two masters; the Portfolio Minister and/or the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Council, which also led to misplace loyalties.

Comrade Speaker, efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery by State-Owned Enterprises have thus been seriously compromised, if not completely eroded.

The co-existence of different enabling Acts of State-Owned Enterprises and policy documents of various State-Owned Enterprises along with the *State-Owned Enterprises Governance Act* of 2006, has led to overlaps in governance structures even though the *State-Owned Enterprises Governance Act* has an over-riding Provision in the event of a conflict between the enabling Act and the *State-Owned Enterprise Governance Act*, 2006.

There could consequently not be a uniform means of accurately and objectively assessing/measuring or managing performance of the State-Owned Enterprises.

Comrade Speaker, the obvious failure of the dual governance model has led to the establishment of the new Ministry of Public Enterprises, as we have it today, which also underscores the need for this *Amendment Bill*.

It is an inescapable, objective reality that the Ministry of Public Enterprises could not, from the word go, operate smoothly like any other #

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HON JOOSTE**

pre-existing Ministry primarily because of the statutory and institutional framework within which it came into being.

This august House will no doubt agree with me that the pre-existing institutional and statutory framework is not conducive for operationalising the new Ministry of Public Enterprises without amending the *State-Owned Enterprises Governance Act, 2006*.

The primarily aim of this Bill is essentially to operationalise the new Ministry of Public Enterprises by means of creating the statutory framework within which it can legitimately operate.

Comrade Speaker, you will recall that I explain during my Budget Motivation Statement that the Ministry of Public Enterprises has committed to a 12 months period of research and analysis to enable us to prepare comprehensive recommendations to the Cabinet. A critical part of the research will focus on identification and conceptualisation of the most appropriate Governance and Ownership Policy as well as the associated legal and supervisory framework. I mention this, to share with this august House that chances are good that this particular Act will eventually be replaced by completely new legislation based on the final recommendation from the Ministry of Public Enterprises. You will also notice that most of the main body, principle of the Bill remains intact; we are simply replacing the State-Owned Enterprise Governance Council with the Minister responsible for Public Enterprises, and provide for incidental matters.

Comrade Speaker, I mention the above to motivate my humble but urgent request for the expedited conclusion of the promulgating this Amendment without any undue delay. The Ministry of Public Enterprises is severely compromised without this legislation and I know that all the Members of this House will agree that speedy implementation is absolutely imperative.

Finally, Comrade Speaker, I would like to thank the Minister of Justice as well as the Attorney-General and their staff members for their hard work,



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HON DR KAWANA**

commitment and dedication to finalise this important Bill in record time.

With that, Comrade Speaker and Comrade Members, I motivate the Amendment to the *State-Owned Enterprises Governance Act, 2006*. Thank you, Comrade Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, Honourable Minister. Any further discussions? Yes, Honourable Minister of Justice.

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I rise to add my voice in support of the Amendment.

Firstly and foremost, I would like to commend his Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia who, in terms of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, saw it fit to create a Ministry dedicated to Public Enterprises. I think the time has come, and I commend the Minister, as well as congratulate him for this very important assignment by the President.

For so long, the accountability of Board Members and Senior Management left much to be desired, and with this arrangement, I am hopeful that there will be accountability and there will be consequences for those who fail to meet the targets that they are required to meet through various performance agreements.

Honourable Speaker, the Public Enterprises in my view, should be classified into three categories, namely; commercial, regulatory and social. The ones that are dedicated to commercial should be used in our battle against poverty and unemployment and they should be used to make sure that rural development is attended to.

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AMENDMENT BILL  
HON BEZUIDENHOUT**

In my opinion, as per the Provisions of the Constitution the economic order of Namibia is divided into public, public/private, family etcetera. These are the instruments of Government, which could be used to fight, and eventually to eradicate poverty in our country, as well as to impart knowledge, especially when we are advocating industrialisation. These entities can be used to implement that specific Government Policy. I, therefore, wholeheartedly agree with my Colleague, the Honourable Minister.

We need to support him and support our President in order to make sure that these enterprises work in terms of the purposes for which they were created. They must create employment and generate revenue for the coffers of the State, through my Colleague and Neighbour here, the Honourable Minister of Finance, so that those sources can be used for social programmes, education, health and food production, which is spearheaded by my other Colleague behind me here. I, therefore, look forward to those days when Public Enterprises Managers and Board Members will be accountable. Otherwise, I support the Bill.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, Honourable Bezuidenhout please.

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**HON BEZUIDENHOUT:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. This is a practical Bill, there is no need for elaborate discussions. I am just seeking clarity.

Firstly, I want to congratulate the Minister, his Budget Motivation Statement was one of the documents I took home to read and study yesterday because I had worked for Public Enterprises. On the commercial side, Honourable Kawana, we were driven to perform and to make sure that we pay dividends instead of asking the shareholder to contribute.

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HON BEZUIDENHOUT**

Honourable Minister, I wholeheartedly agree with what Honourable Kawana has just stated here, our enterprises need to fulfil their respective roles so that, even if an enterprise is categorised as a social entity, it must not be profit driven, it must not be exploiting people. If it is a commercial entity, it must be commercially driven and pay for its own way, but not in excess of what the people or the country can develop because the more cash we can keep in the hands of our citizens, they can distribute and use it at other enterprises and in so doing, we can grow the economy as opposed to taking X percent of our proceeds to some other country.

Honourable Minister, I have read that this is the *Public Enterprises Governance Amendment Bill*, from my own understanding and I do not want you to explain due to my ignorance. It is to amend the *State-Owned Enterprises Governance Act* but the Bill is named *Public Governance Amendment Act*. If you go down into the future, where we no longer exists, researchers may look at where the original *Public Enterprises Governance Amendment Bill* is. That is just from my own understanding, I am a bit feeble. Honourable Kawana, can perhaps help me, I do not understand how these Laws are supposed to follow each other.

On Page 3, the Amendment of Section 8 of Act 2(5)(a) (*interjection*) I will withdraw my comment because I just got educated while I am speaking - what is written in bold and in square brackets indicates an omission from the existing legislation, but this one is not in square brackets, so I will venture on.

Honourable Minister, the other one is the confidentiality of information; that little Clause. Yes, when I work for an enterprise, I may not divulge information that I am not entitled to divulge. When I read other State documents and I am currently busy with the e-Governance implementation or action plan. In that document there are very explicit expressions of access to information, open and transparency of information. The Honourable Minister of Information is also on record that he or the Ministry supports access to information. I know and believe that that is also a principle of our Government to encourage open access to

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HON SANKWASA**

information, but with limits - we do not take unconfirmed information. I just want you to explain that dichotomy to me.

Then there is a typing error, if my English language is correct, on the bottom of the Page, 9.1 - the insertion of Minister is singular but then immediately after the word Minister follows the word *are*. Maybe it should be *the Minister is*. Let me read it:

*“9. (1) The work incidental to the performance of the functions of the [Council must be],” the Council must be, has been taken out and replaced with - Minister are performed. I think the English word should be is, the Minister should just look into that.*

Then after going through the whole *Amendment Bill*, a general question is; does the Minister foresee himself as having the time and the energy to make staff appointments - I know the Ministry is in flux now, there is probably no Accounting Officer as yet. Instruction must be developed and so forth, however, is the Ministry temporarily taking charge of appointing individuals, even cleaners. I am just wondering what is the thinking along the Minister's appointments in the long run.

Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. This is my contribution and I was just asking questions in order to be educated. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much and next is Honourable Sankwasa.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I rise to congratulate the Minister of State Enterprise for introducing this Bill. However, I am of the opinion that this House requires to apply its minds of this Bill.

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HON SANKWASA**

Firstly, I have reservations with the Amendments - Section 2 of the Amendment Section 1, refers to “*staff member means the staff member as defined in the Public Service Act, 1995 (Act 13 of 1995).*” The *Public Service Act*, which governs the whole Public Service does not refer to a Minister making appointments, it refers to the Permanent Secretary. Is this now going to mean that we are creating the Ministry of Public Enterprise as a separate Ministry away from the Public Service because the Public Service, as I said earlier, does not in any way give a particular Minister of a Ministry powers to appoint staff members like the other the Honourable Member has said - *up to a cleaner*.

Secondly, Subsection 9 – “*Administrative Personnel - the work incidental to the performance of the functions of the Minister are performed by staff members consisting of administrative personnel as the Minister may consider necessary.*” This is the responsibility of the Public Service Commission in terms of the *Public Service Commission Act, 1995* in the Public Service, it cannot be a function of a Minister.

Then I go on to the same Section, on Page 4 it says – “*the staff members referred to in Subsection (1) may-*

*(a) be staff members in the Public Service designated for the purpose by the Minister.*” This is not clear because currently Ministers may appoint Commissions of Inquiry in specific areas where they deem fit - where they want to be properly informed.

The Minister cannot take over the powers of the Public Service Commission. I am, therefore, appealing to this House that we do not need to rush this Bill. We need to apply our minds so that this Bill should not be a stand alone Bill in the whole Public Service.

My other view is that the Public Enterprises we are talking about today are departmental functions of existing Ministries, which were outsourced to operate efficiently in the Private Sector. Are we with this Bill, therefore intending to create another Public Service within a Public Service because

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HON VENAANI**

if we have to take all these functional areas into one Ministry, removing the Portfolio Minister's functions and responsibilities, we are creating a Public Service within a Public Service. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. The next is Honourable Venaani.

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Speaker, this is quite a very important Amendment because for the Ministry to become effective operationally, one needs to expedite the operationalisation.

I agree with the notion that was raised by Honourable Bezuidenhout about the name of the Bill. When you are amending the principle Act, you must also show that you are also amending the name in your headings here, so that a person can follow the whole process, to be in line with the Amendment, because as you are doing it right, you are amending another Act giving it a different name and you are confusing the two. I think there is a need for an insertion that clearly says that we are also amending the title of the Act.

However, be that as it may, I do not want to stand and belabour the issue of the technicalities of the current Amendment before us. I want to address myself on the questions and the erosion of corporate governance in this country. This morning again - *The Namibian* Headline we read of a Board and in this Bill, it is opportune for us to interrogate and question the work of Boards in this country because it seems to me a culture is encrypting our society that when you are elected to supervise a particular Board, you become a *de facto* boss of this Institution.

I was so perplexed, and I am sorry to use the word, to hear that TransNamib, knowing the infrastructural deficit that they have and knowing the weaknesses that they have, they have apparently appointed a

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HON VENAANI**

Strategic Turnaround Strategist for N\$2.2 million appointed by the Board and the society is quiet about someone earning N\$2.2 million. Obviously, if the Board has brought a Turnaround Strategy, then the managers of that institution should be able to effect and transform that company on the basis of the Turnaround Strategy, but that you would hire a Consultant to come and be the effecter of the turnaround strategy; what is the purpose of the management of that body then. And this is not only with TransNamib. We are seeing every Turnaround Strategies brought to the Government as conduits to increase someone's salary. This is a serious problem because if you look at the performance of our Parastatals over the years, even those that have declared dividend to Government, if you look at the amount of dividends that was declared, had it been a formal private company, they could have declared triple or quadruple fold of that money. There are always reasons for expansions and there are always reasons for Board Members to get laptops, to get nice stuff - iPhones, iPads.

One wonders, the people that they appoint there are people of integrity. People that are coming from known institutions, reputable people, but when they move to these companies, they start creating a milky way of their own to create a personal fiefdom over their reign. (*Interjection*) is it a *honey way*? No, I do not want to use that word, I think milky way is more reserved. Mr Minister, we want you to do your work, but the commercial Parastatals in our Republic are making a mockery of corporate governance in this country and we should do more because I would believe that even if the report or some of the things are not true even the kind of debate that goes around that Board Members are fighting one another - why are they fighting one another? It is like you want to bring your cousin to get a particular tender; that is why people are fighting, it is because of interest. I think we should have to start scrutinising the Board Members that we are appointing.

Secondly, is this thing of appointing a person in six to seven Board, or even ten Boards. You have one person doing all these jobs and then you even wonder, this person has a fulltime job, but he is serving in seven Boards; when is he really working? When is he doing his job?

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HON DR ANKAMA**

The conversation that is happening in our Boardrooms should not be like the political conversations that we have in Parliament, arguing about where we want to take the country. The premise and purpose of Board Members is to give direction and economic leadership to those institutions, but they have turned themselves into political dynasties where people want to use their tenures in Boards in order to enrich cousins around them or people that are closer to them.

In a nutshell, Honourable Minister, I support the fast tracking of the Bill so that you start doing your work, but we will keep you in check, because this country is being milked by our Parastatals. Anyone of them would run to the Prime Minister and Finance Minister with a Turnaround Strategy. You have to bring a Motion to discuss the Turnaround Strategies that were presented before Government because that has never been effected. I think you will make your job muddy if you have to make sure that these bodies represent the value that they must bring to the country. With these few remarks I support the passing of this Bill, but I am worried about the governance of our Boards.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. The serious intervention to sort out this thing is now, hence the Bill. Honourable Ankama, you have the Floor.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:** Honourable Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. In the first instance, I would like to wholeheartedly support the passing of this Bill which is understandably very urgent.

However, as always, the former speakers have already alluded to many, many things that I wanted to touch on. I would not necessarily touch on the administrative personnel, which Comrade Sankwasa has perfectly addressed.



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HON DR ANKAMA**

The other issue that I wanted to talk to has just been concluded by Honourable Venaani. Honourable Venaani, you have touched on a salient issue that I wanted to touch on, but I should maybe still touch on it. This *Public Enterprises Governance Amendment Bill*, in my view would address a number of salient issues; issues of national concern, but the Public Enterprises would be brought together and they will in fact be brought to book to account for what they have been created for.

Yes, I think the issue of Boards needs review, and I thought it would have been ideal to expand on it within the Bill. That would have been a good idea, but if that is going to be absent, I would say that, nowadays, Boards should be looked into very, very critically to make sure that when they are appointed, they should not just be appointed time and again; we have a tendency of appointing Board Members continuously because we know who they are and, of course, they relate to some other people. In a way, they do not necessarily perform their functions. Many might do, but some of them are not performing the functions they have been appointed for.

This infightings that we are reading about here and there are real, they are not hearsay stories. These are real stories, and if we are not careful, we will ruin the existence of these enterprises just because of a few individuals, maybe untouchables, who knows. However, the most important thing is, if we are creating enterprises and we want them to work, we should have the right people and not 10 people who are Board Members of maybe five or up to ten enterprises, yet they are not delivering. Why should you keep them in the system when they are not delivering?

In my view, I think this Bill is good, but it would have been appropriate to expand a bit on the Board Members in terms of governance, if we want to succeed with the Public Enterprises. In essence, I support the Bill. Thank you.

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AMENDMENT BILL  
HON MUTORWA**

**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. May I call upon, Honourable Mutorwa please.

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**

Thank you, Comrade Speaker for the opportunity that you have just afforded me to make a contribution to this very, very important piece of legislation, that we as the Lawmakers have to consider and pass for the benefit of effective service delivery to our citizens, residents of our country as well as our visitors.

Comrade Speaker, undoubtedly, when His Excellency President Geingob eventually exercised his constitutional duties and powers of creating Ministries, and when he decided that the time is now to create a Ministry that will be directly responsible for the State-Owned Enterprises, a lot of thought, a lot of clear scrutiny of the existing shortcomings went into his mind, that is undoubtedly the case.

However, equally, considering that for the past years in his past official capacity as the Prime Minister of this country and Chairperson of the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Council, I think he made that decision on the basis of the evidence, on the basis of the facts as to how the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Council was executing its tasks concerning the supervision of the State-Owned Enterprises or the Parastatals in our country,.

Comrade Speaker, Article 40(a) of the Namibian Constitution provides for the power to direct, coordinate and to supervise the activities of Ministries and Government Departments, but very important, including Parastatals, State-Owned Enterprises to the Cabinet, and by extension to a designated Minister for that particular Department or Parastatal. It is very important to understand this, because sometimes there is this wrong notion, as if Parastatals or State-Owned Enterprises are private entities. They are Public Enterprises, they are State owned. In other words, owned by the

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HON MUTORWA**

citizens of this country and, therefore, in terms of Governance, that Governance must be exercised through the Government Ministries and Government Ministers. That is what the constitution actually says in Article 40(a).

Comrade Speaker, I would like to really applaud my Colleague, new as he is in his position, but he is not a new person in the Government of the Cabinet, he has been there before; that in the short period of time, as he said himself, through the assistance of the Cabinet Committee on Legislation that here we are dealing now with this very important piece of legislation.

It is also important to check the Bill itself, what is it that the Bill seeks to achieve. What is the objective of this Bill? The objective of this Bill is to amend the *State-Owned Enterprises Governance Act* of 2006 with the objective to replace the State-Owned Enterprise Governance Council. That is the objective; to replace the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Council with the Minister responsible for Public Enterprises. There, a specific objective that the Bill seeks to achieve and, therefore, when you go to the body of the Bill, there are specific Clauses in the *State-Owned Enterprises Governance Act* that we as Lawmakers must consider to achieve that objective of replacing the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Council. We will come to that when we reach the Committee Stage of the Bill.

If for example, there are any Provisions in the Bill that we are debating that may conflict with the *Public Service Act*, is not a problem. Why? Because Article 44 of the Namibian Constitution is very clear. It is the duty of this body, on the recommendations of the Executive, obviously, to make appropriate Laws and to amend Laws. We can, therefore, do that. If there are any perceived Clauses in the *Public Service Act* that may conflict with the Provisions of this Bill, then appropriate recommendations could be made to ensure proper streamlining. It is not a problem at all.

Comrade Speaker, it is very important. I am reacting to what my

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Colleague, Honourable Sankwasa said there. It can definitely be done through the specific Line Ministries, but it is very important - there is a specific task at hand and that is for us to consider the proposed Amendment of the *State-Owned Enterprises Governance Council Act* of 2006 so as to achieve the objective of what this Bill that is in front of us want to achieve.

Lastly, Comrade Speaker, I will also like to agree very strongly that for the Ministry to start functioning as per this Law - yes, during the second reading it is General Debate. We can point out various issues, even politicking is fine, but at the end of the day, there is a task at hand and that is that very soon, after we have exhausted the second reading, we must get to the Committee Stage so that we pass this Bill with the speed that it deserves. Otherwise, Comrade Speaker, I definitely support the Bill at hand so that we can move forward. Thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. May I now call upon Honourable Dienda? You have the Floor.

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**HON DIENDA:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would like to adjourn this Debate until next week Tuesday. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Can I then exhaust my list, and we will come back to that?

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**HON DIENDA:** Thank you.

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**SECOND READING - PUBLIC ENTERPRISES  
AMENDMENT BILL  
HON SHIXWAMENI**

**HON SPEAKER:** The next in line is Honourable Shixwameni.

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** Honourable Speaker, I also wanted to adjourn the Debate on the Bill until Tuesday next week.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Well, with that said, I think there is a consensus that we adjourn the Debate until next week Tuesday. That being in order, there is a consensus for us to do that. Thank you very much. Let us move on.

The Second Notice of a Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport. Does the Honourable Minister, Move that the Bill be now introduced?

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Yes, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Who seconds that? Any objection? Agreed to. Will the Honourable Minister please table the Bill? Thank you.

The Secretary now read the Bill a First Time.

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**FIRST READING - CIVIL AVIATION BILL [B.1 -2015]**

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**SECOND READING – CIVIL AVIATION BILL**  
**HON !NARUSEB**

**SECRETARY:** *Civil Aviation Bill* [B.1 – 2015].

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**HON SPEAKER:** Does the Honourable Minister, Move that the Bill be now read a second time?

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Yes, Honourable Speaker.

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

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**SECOND READING - CIVIL AVIATION BILL [B.1 -2015]**

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members.

It is my singular honour to rise, to present to you, Honourable Members, and introduce the *Civil Aviation Bill* of Namibia in this august House.

This Bill is a culmination of many years of hard work by the Ministry following up on policy directives on the future direction and management of the civil aviation administration function by the Cabinet.

The *Civil Aviation Bill* of 2015 is in my submission, a much-needed development for the governance and development of civil aviation, safety and security in Namibia.

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**HON !NARUSEB**

I would like to outline some of the main features of this Bill and also to explain why it is so important that it be enacted at the earliest opportunity.

In the first place, it would be understood that the current *Aviation Act* of 1962, I was born by then (*interjections*)

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**HON MEMBERS:** Who was not yet born? (*Laughter*)

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** There are so many, I am looking at many of you who were not born yet. In the first place, it would be understood that the current *Aviation Act* of 1962 is more than half-a-century old and is long overdue for revision. The current Act was inherited from South Africa at the time of Independence. The Bill which I propose to introduce has been drafted in Namibia and is specifically designed for the circumstances of Namibia as an independent Sovereign State.

Of course, it draws on models used elsewhere in the world and is observant of the *SADC Model Act*, but it is first and foremost, directed at serving the needs of the Namibian people. Namibia, in common with almost all other countries, is a signatory to the Chicago Convention on Civil Aviation and is thereby a fully functioning Member of the International Civil aviation Organisation, abbreviated as ICAO, which is a specialist organisation of the United Nations.

It is ICAO, which states the international standard for aviation safety and security. Namibia as a State signatory must comply with the set of not less than 9,600 International Standards and Recommended Practices.

Given the complexity and scope of aviation activities, the current outdated Act, that is, the 1962 Act, fell very short of addressing how Namibia as a State should incorporate the aforementioned standards and recommended

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practices and, therefore, we had a near-disastrous ICAO audit of 2006, which highlighted 47 findings that led to Namibia's referral to the Audit Result Review Board of ICAO.

This is the Board to which States considered to have serious deficiencies in the aviation system are usually referred to for remedial action, which can have severe consequences for the affected ICAO Member State.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the new *Civil Aviation Bill* of 2015, which I am now introducing, is a central part of this country's response to incorporate the comprehensive model regulatory framework required by ICAO.

Furthermore, it would enable us to ensure that our safety and security oversight capability complies with the eight critical elements considered necessary for a State to demonstrate a mature aviation oversight system.

This action will bring Namibia into alignment with its Treaty obligations and with current best practice in Civil Aviation Regulation. In essence, this Bill has the objective of modernising Namibia's aviation legislation. In order to do this, the Bill does a number of key things:

1. It establishes a stand-alone Civil Aviation Authority for Namibia - the Namibia Civil Aviation Authority or in short NCAA.
2. In the place of the current Directorate of Civil Aviation, the new NCAA will be autonomous, which is in accordance with best international practice, and in fact, with expressed SADC Regional Protocols regarding the development of the Transport Sector.
3. The NCAA will eventually be largely self-funding. The Bill that I am presenting contains a number of mechanisms, which will enable the NCAA to do this. One of the mechanisms will be a power, meaning the standing to obtain funds by the imposition of fees and levying of funds upon the users of the Aviation Services Industry. As it happens, it will have the benefit of a sum in the region of plus/minus N\$400



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million, which has been accruing over the years in a separate aviation navigation fund account from fees charged by Namibia to operators of aircraft that fly over Namibia. This is consistent with ICAO policies on economic and airport charges, which entitles the State to charge levies that are directly related to services rendered from investment in air navigational and regulatory infrastructure.

Namibia's safety oversight capability suffered a number of severe setbacks, which were directly attributed to the inability to attract suitably qualified and experienced technical personnel. This was largely as a result of the current Public Service set-up that does not provide the scope to attract, adequately remunerate and retain aviation professionals comparably to the increasing high premium attached to the aviation specialists across the Industry worldwide.

This further limited the ability of the current Directorate to secure the wide range of Aviation Qualified Inspectors to discharge the safety and security oversight functions. Under this new legislation, the NCAA will have the ability to attract technical competencies consistent with scope and complexity of the aviation activities generated within its territory and invest in the human technical and operational capability of current and future aviation professionals.

This Bill also provides for a Director to be appointed by the Board of the NCAA with concurrence of the Minister. This Director will be given a comprehensive and up-to-date set of powers for the regulation of the Industry, and for the issue of aviation documents in the interest of public safety and security. It greatly enhances and updates critically important areas such as aviation security measures and aircraft accident and incident investigations. There are many other improvements beyond those two examples that ensure our compliance with international developments to ensure the safe, efficient and regularity of every aircraft in flight crew, passengers, ground personnel and property within Namibia's airspace.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Bill makes express provision for the delivery air navigation services by a separate unit within

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HON !NARUSEB**

the NCAA. This follows years of research conducted by ICAO on numerous deficiencies uncovered in the level of maturity to State to deal effectively with any potential conflict of interest, both as service providers of air traffic services as well as the regulator. These deficiencies are also a threat to the general growth and well-being of international air transport. Sufficient safeguards are now in place from precedents set by other ICAO Member States of significant reputation, including the United States of America, which have the best safety record in the world, and Singapore.

Research undertaken suggests that there may in future years, be a case for setting up a separate ANS Service Provider. However, based on a Cabinet decision, Namibia will at this point use the proposed model for air navigation services set out in the Bill.

The Bill also introduces modern processes to ensure that key participants in the Namibian Civil Aviation system will not only comply with the Regulations, which sets safety standards, but will in addition, introduce management processes directed at instilling what is known as a ‘safety culture’ in the various civil aviation organisations such as air operators and aerodromes.

This Bill ensures that continued application of the current civil aviation regulation, but also promote the development of new regulations and the improvement and update of existing technical regulations in a fast changing Industry. If you allow me, I can report to the Honourable Members that a revision process of this regulation is at an advanced stage and is awaiting the enactment of this Bill. At the same time, this process is part of the transition phase envisioned for the setting up of the NCAA as a regulator.

There are many other benefits in the introduction of this Bill, which will be apparent from reading of the Bill itself, and also a comprehensive explanatory memorandum which has been prepared, and I believe, hopefully circulated to the Honourable Members. (*Interjection*)

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**HON !NARUSEB**

**HON MEMBERS:** Give him a round of applause!

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** You may applaud me, if you so wish (*applause*)

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I wish to give this august House the assurance that the related objective throughout the drafting of this Bill was the need to ensure that all the Regulatory Provisions and Directives, whether to be issued by the Minister, the Board or the Director, as the case maybe, are clear to users and legally robust, that is to say they do not have holes or gaps, which might cause doubts or confusion, or by which safety standards may be easily circumvented or compromised.

This has unfortunately, been the case of the current Act, which lacked and still lacks the required comprehensive legal framework for Namibia to fully respond to the ever changing legal environment and the adoption of new standards and ICAO audit requirements.

Further, where the Director needs to take enforcement steps against an offender, the intention is for the legal test for its offence to be clear and able to stand up to legal scrutiny in a Court of law.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, with the presentation of this Second Reading Stage of the *Civil Aviation Bill*, I now submit to you the Bill for further Debate and I count on your support to ensure that this piece of legislation is passed, so that a long cherished policy ideal of the Namibian Government is achieved to bring our civil aviation administration into with the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It sets us on course towards Vision 2030 as a developed Nation in this Sector of our social and economic development as well.

I most profoundly want to thank you for your attention and I would really appeal that we, without any further delay, find our way to get this piece of

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HON VENAANI**

legislation through this House. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Any further discussions. Perhaps before I open up comments and discussions, let me share one or two things with the House and it is in the form of an appeal.

I do accept the fact that we are not likely to continue debating this comprehensive Bill, which is so important and entails a lot of issues etcetera, but I would like to request that, if we are going to adjourn discussions on this, we should take into account the fact that we do not have any item on the Order Paper for tomorrow. Therefore, my humble appeal is to say, we need to continue discussing this Bill, particularly on the part of those Members who are ready to commence making their contribution to the Bill. May I call upon Honourable Venaani?

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Speaker, after consultation with Senior Colleagues of this House and Leaders of Political Parties, we are of the opinion (*interjection*) Why would you worry about other people's problems?

Honourable Speaker, this is the House of lawmaking and legislators must acquaint themselves with the technical issues that are in this Bill. None of us sitting in the House are civil experts, but I can mention only four reasons why we are proposing that this Bill should be referred to a Technical Committee on Economics and Public Administration for further input.

I was listening very attentively to you, Honourable Minister. There is the Yamoussoukro Aviation Agreement that was signed by many African States. Since the Yamoussoukro Aviation Agreement that many African States signed, 80% of aviation companies on the African continent, to date, are foreign owned and not African. You have British Airways,

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HON VENAANI**

Virgin, Emirates and you name them, they constitute 80% through the whole of the African continent. We have this vast continent, but we do not own much of the Airline Industry. Even if you have to travel from here to Yaoundé, you must first go to Paris. (*Intervention*)

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**HON SPEAKER:** On a Point of Order, Honourable Mutorwa.

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**  
The Leader of the Opposition is correct. He is hundred percent correct. May I pose a question so that, in his further arguments, he may also wish to comment on this question that I am going to pose. What happened to Air Afrique? Thank you.

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**HON VENAANI:** Primarily so, I do not want us to debate this issue. I am just highlighting the need and the reason that this House should refer this bulky Bill, because there are many technical issues that needs to be discussed here, and the last time that we were downgraded, we were all surprised. The whole country found out that none of the experts that are representing this country at aviation services are even Namibians.

We need to do a thorough check and refer this bulky Bill to the Technical Committee on Economics and Public Administration to engage on technical matters and bring this Bill back to the House, after having consulted a number of areas and then we can debate it. That is our proposal on this side of the aisle. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Actually, I am not ruling out the question of referring the Bill to a relevant Parliamentary Committee. I was simply sharing, as

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**HON !NARUSEB**

far as the administration of the House is concerned, we do not have any item on the Order Paper, just so that you are aware in advance. And if there are Members of this House who would like to further interrogate the Bill or make comments and suggestions that could be equally useful to the work of the Standing Committee when they are going to take up the matter, they could also make their contributions, not necessarily now, but even tomorrow.

I was simply putting the issue before the House so that you have an informed view of what is happening. Yes, Honourable Minister, would you like to come back?

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Thank you Honourable Speaker. I received a note from the Leader of the Opposition.

In principle, I do not have strong reservations with regard to the request to refer the Bill to the Parliamentary Standing Committee, but in the audit that was carried out by ICAO, one of the issues that they want us to attend to in order for the bar to be raised on our standing with regard to their ratings, is to be able to have passed an enabling legal framework for our Aviation Industry.

The more we delay, the more we will remain at the lower echelon of the rating. I understand that right now, we are not even at the level of the average rating, which is 62 and above. If I can get the guarantee from the esteemed Members of Parliament who want to consult, but probably within a month, we will be able to get feedback on the Floor of the National Assembly, that would be fine.

Today is the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, if we can return the Bill to the Floor of the House by the 10<sup>th</sup> of July 2015, soon thereafter. (*Intervention*)

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HON SHIXWAMENI / HON SCHLETTWEIN**

**HON SPEAKER:** Or even earlier.

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Yes, or even earlier than that, I will not have any difficulty in concurring with the request. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Can I call upon, Honourable Shixwameni.

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** Well, Honourable Speaker, I was just going to make a suggestion that the Minister adds a timeframe for when this Bill must be returned to the House.

Otherwise, it is really technical and bulky, and we need to engage other people. As for tomorrow, there are questions that are on the Table and there is a Motion by Honourable Dienda. We can, therefore, go on to next week Thursday.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Let me listen to more Members. Yes, the next one is, Honourable Schlettwein please.

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker for the Floor.

Before I ask my question, I am very happy that the Leader of the Opposition is now also supporting Air Namibia, which is part of the 20%

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**HON DR KAWANA**

of African owned Airlines - I am very happy to hear that.

However, having said that, I have a question that is of a legal nature and since I am not a lawyer, I may be doing that out of ignorance. The question is that there is a schedule of International Conventions attached to the Act.

The first question is, have you rectified all of them? If we attach them in the schedule, are those all the Conventions relating to aviations that we have added as a schedule? That is the first question.

The second question that I have related to that is, I see that in these Conventions there are disputes resolution mechanisms that refer these disputes either to the negotiation between Member States or to the International Court of Justice, or an arbitration process accepted by both parties. If you have these Conventions as schedules of the Act, my understanding, and that is why I must admit that I am not a lawyer, is that anything that these two State Parties have agreed either through negotiation or through an arbitration, can then be taken by a Namibian citizen on review to a Domestic Court, because it is part of an Act of Parliament. I wonder whether that is the intention of attaching them to the Act itself and I hope that during the time that we consult on this Bill, this legal question will be interrogated and we get an answer for that.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Well, the House is united on referring this Bill? No, let me first of all hear what Honourable Kawana has to say.

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. It was not really my intention to speak on the Bill.

Firstly, I wholeheartedly support the Bill and commend my Comrade and



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HON PROF KASINGO**

Dear Friend, the Honourable Minister, for tabling this very important Bill. I am rising after my Neighbour here raised some International Law issues.

Regarding how many of the Conventions, which are part of the schedule have been rectified, I will leave that to the capable Minister to respond to at an appropriate time. However, I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Member to Article 144 of our Constitution. The title of that Article is - ***International Law*** and it reads as follows:

*“Unless otherwise provided by this Constitution or Act of Parliament [that is where it comes for the attention of the Honourable Members] the General Rules of Public International Law and International Agreements binding upon Namibia under this Constitution shall form part of the Law of Namibia.”* In that regard, that is why it is part of the schedule in order to provide an opportunity to Namibian citizens to have access to it, because if it is not part of the schedule and a Namibian is aggrieved and it is also part of the Laws of Namibia in terms of Article 144, then you deny that opportunity to a Namibian citizen to have access to it. That is the background. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Yes, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I just want to take the Floor to comment on the referral of this Bill to the Parliament Committee concerned.

I was listening tentatively when Honourable Venaani requested it to be referred, and when the Minister have stated that, provided they are going to complete their investigation before the Parliament goes on recess on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July 2015.

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**ADJOURNMENT  
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

I do not have a problem, but considering the bulkiness and the importance of the Bill, I am asking now Honourable Venaani as to whether they are going to do a thorough job within those two to three weeks.

Otherwise, if it is not in a hurry, I could have suggested that maybe they can go with it during the recess period carry out a thorough investigation. I am just doubting whether they can do that thoroughly before the proposed deadline. However, if they are prepared to do justice to this Bill within those three weeks, it is fine.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honestly speaking, I think we have understood the urgency of the matter. This has to be done within the time available to the House during this particular Session. We can, therefore, not go beyond the 9<sup>th</sup> of July 2015. I think we are all committed to wanting to do the best we can and bring the matter to the House in good time for the necessary approval. Can we agree to do that?

With that understanding, the matter stands referred to the relevant Parliamentary Committee, and to be reported back as soon as possible within 30 days. Since it will be addressed by the Committee and referred back to the House, it would only need your normal debate and approval. Let us just commit ourselves to doing that. So agreed. Absolutely before the 9<sup>th</sup> of July 2015.

With that said and done, in the absence of any of the items before us, can I then adjourn the House until next Tuesday, at 14:30 sharp? So agreed. Thank you very much. The House stands adjourn.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:19 UNTIL 2015.06.16 AT 14:30**

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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
16 JUNE 2015**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

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**HON SPEAKER**: Honourable Members, I have a few announcements to make. I am informed that the Pay As You Earn (P.A.Y.E 5) tax certificates for backbenchers are now available at Room No. 43 on the Ground Floor, at salary office. The due date for submission of tax returns to the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Namibia is the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2015. That is the first announcement.

The second announcement, Honourable Members, Telecom Namibia is inviting all Members of Parliament and staff to a Products and Services Exhibition for Telecommunication Services that will be held tomorrow, Wednesday, the 17<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, starting from 10:00 until 17:00 in the National Assembly courtyard. You can then engage them on a wider range of Telecom Namibia Services ranging from network devices, new applications, faulty lines, Wi-Fi internet connections at home, etcetera. All the Honourable Members are encouraged to attend this very important information sharing opportunity. That ends our announcements.

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**HON SPEAKER**: Any petitions? Reports of Standing and Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Honourable Minister of Finance.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS  
HON SCHLETTWEIN / HON DR KANDJII-MURANGI**

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT OF BANK OF NAMIBIA**

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable Speaker, thank you very much. I lay upon the Table, the Annual Report of the Bank of Namibia for the year 2014. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Please table the Report. Thank you. Honourable Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation.

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**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE  
NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**

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**HON MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INNOVATION:** Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Annual Report of the National Council for Higher Education for the year 2012/2013, and an Annual Report for the same Institution for the year 2013/2014. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Messages from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? Honourable Minister of Home Affairs.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT IN TERMS OF  
RULE 89 OF THE STANDING RULES AND ORDERS**

16 June 2015

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

**HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:**

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is almost a month and half since the Budget Debate of Vote 05, when I made a commitment to defer questions to seek answers as I did not have them readily available. I thank you, Honourable Members for your patience in allowing me to stand over those questions. However, before I do so, Honourable Speaker, allow me to pay tribute to a compatriot, a fighter, a young woman, who in the face of danger posed by cancer, a deadly disease that afflicted her body, stood up and mobilised the public about cancer and how we can limit its opportunity by getting tested regularly.

Comrade Speaker, I am talking about Ms Nancy Muinjo, well-known as Chi-Chi, who served the public as my Personal Assistant until her untimely death on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May this year (2015).

In this regard, I would like to thank all of you Colleagues and Members of Parliament for your support during the time of bereavement. As we are just coming to terms with the news of her passing, death has struck again with the passing of yet two dynamic women, Honourable Ndapewa Nambili, the Regional Councillor for the Otavi Constituency and Mrs Angelina Ribebe-Matumbo, the Honourable Hompa of the Sambyu tribe of the Kavango East Region. May their souls find peace and rest in everlasting harmony.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, allow me now the opportunity to briefly give answers to those questions as then posed.

**Question 1:** *What is the Ministry going to do regarding issuance of Employment Permits to scarce skills?*

**Answer:** In addressing the demand for scarce skills in the country, the Ministry follows the Provisions of the relevant Laws, especially the *Immigration Control Act, 1993* (Act 7 of 1993) which stipulates among others that the Immigration Selecting Board (ISB) shall not authorise the

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

issuing of an Employment Permit unless the applicant satisfies the board on the following:

- 1) he/she, that is the applicant, has such qualifications, education and training or experience as are likely to render him or her efficient in the employment, business, profession or occupation concerned;
- 2) the employment, business, profession or occupation concerned is not likely to be any employment, business, profession or occupation in which a sufficient number of persons are already engaged in Namibia to meet the requirements of the inhabitants of our country;
- 3) the issue to him/her of an Employment Permit would not be in conflict with other Provisions of this Act or any other Law.

The Provision stated above requires that an individual applicant is either applying to be employed by private business, or organisation or as an investor to run his/her own business. While individual applicants should prove their qualifications, prospective investors should prove viable business plans and funds or sources of funds available.

Equally, in order to ensure that there is indeed no relevant skill available in the local market, prospective employers should ensure that jobs are first offered to suitably qualified Namibians through public advertisements.

**Question 2:** *What is the Ministry going to do to stop dual citizenship in Namibia?*

**Answer:** The issue of dual citizenship is a constitutional matter where the Namibian High Court about four years ago ruled that Namibians by birth and by descend may hold dual citizenship. The Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration has discussed this matter on a number of occasions, especially the possible negative implications for a country of about two million people allowing dual citizenship.

The matter is of national importance, which requires it to be debated for a

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correct decision to be taken that can lead to the Amendment of the Constitution, if that is found to be necessary. The position of the Ministry is for the Amendment of the Constitution to prohibit dual citizenship, but I do not know how this can be done. This is a position that we have always expressed and maintained since the pronouncement by the High Court. While citizenship acquired through registration or naturalisation can be revoked, citizenship by birth and descend cannot be so revoked. Even Parliament is barred from enacting legislation purporting to revoke citizenship of the two categories.

**Question 3:** *What is the Ministry going to do to make sure that every Namibian has an ID?*

**Answer:** The Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration has an annual ID Registration Programme which aims to visit all secondary schools and the surrounding areas to ensure that pupils who have turned 16 years of age or older will be able to apply for an ID. The Ministry is also in the process of extending its ID Registration Services to additional Sub-regional Offices. During the last Financial Year, the Ministry purchased additional ID Registration Machines (IMAGOS) for this purpose and we have issued a circular to all Regional Councillors to register at least those above the age of 60 who do not have IDs as yet, and we are doing this for the purpose of these categories of persons to receive their pension payouts. We hope that when the time comes to go out for mobile registration, we will be giving these names in order to capture them.

**Question 4:** *What is the Ministry going to do to stop the high legal claims or legal challenges against the Ministry?*

**Answer:** Legal challenges are a result of administrative decisions made or actions taken by Ministry officials in the fulfilment of their Ministerial duties. Sometimes individuals who feel aggrieved, challenge our decisions or actions through the Courts of Law in which case sometimes the Courts find the Ministry at fault, while in others our decisions are confirmed to be correct.

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We feel that the training of staff members is one area that we should continue putting more efforts into so as to enable staff members to fully appreciate the requirements of their duties and the prescription of then relevant legislation. Some of the mistakes are avoidable if work is performed efficiently and professionally. Training will certainly eliminate avoidable mistakes which are the source of many of the legal challenges we encounter from time to time.

**Question 5:** *What is the Ministry going to do to stop the marriage of convenience?*

**Answer:** The Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration plans to table a new *Marriage Bill* before this august House. In the Bill, it is proposed that all prospective couples wishing to get married in Namibia must submit to scrutiny and receive permission by the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration. This will ensure an opportunity to scrutinise each application to prevent bad faith marriages.

Currently the Ministry is in a process of capturing all historical marriage records in the National Population Registration System. A complete automated marriage register will provide easy access to all demographic details, including marriage details.

**Question 6:** *If Home Affairs and Immigration made a mistake on a document, why should the client pay for the mistake of the Ministry?*

**Answer:** If the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration makes an error on an ID or any other National Documents, the applicant ought not to pay a fee for the correction thereof. It must, however, be noted that whenever it is proven that the fault is as a result of the supporting documents provided by the applicant or the client, then the client bears the costs of correction and replacement of the documents.

**Question 7:** *Are agents that are helping the members of the public registered with the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration? If yes, are they trained and is there a standard fee that they are asking clients?*



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**Answer:** People who call themselves agents are individuals who have no employment relations with the Ministry, but rather do it on either voluntary or commercial basis, charging a fee that is fixed by them. The so-called agents are, therefore, not trained by the Ministry and there are no standard fee systems imposed on them on how to charge their clients.

The Ministry is, however, discovering that the fees charged for various services are unjustifiably higher than those charged by the Ministry. We are also becoming concerned by reports that some clients lose their documents such as passports through the use of agents and are provided with false information, without being able to verify with the Ministry officials. The Turnaround Strategy we have initiated aims at improving service delivery and in a way removing the need for clients to go through agents, as it has been the practice.

**Question 8:** *There are long queues at the Airport, why is it like that? What is it that the Ministry is doing to put more computers at the Airport?*

**Answer:** The Hosea Kutako International Airport like other airports belongs to the Namibia Airport Company and the Ministry, like other stakeholders such as the Ministry of Finance, with respect to Customs Officials, is simply utilising the facilities to provide a service. However, we are all in agreement that the facility is becoming smaller and smaller as Namibia continues to open to the world with many international travellers using our Airport.

While other measures are still being explored, including sometimes using the old terminal, the lasting solution would be to build new a modern airport facility of international standards. Comrade Alpheus !Naruseb, the Namibian Airport Company is already seized with the matter.

**Question 9:** *IDs to the Zembas and Ovatue in Opuwo, in the Kunene Region. The Statement motivating this question states that there are people living in the mountains who do not have IDs and birth certificates. What is the Ministry going to do to make sure that those people are covered as Namibians for ID documents?*

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**Answer:** The Ministry reaches rural communities through mobile campaigns on an annual basis. However, the current Budget only allows visiting a few communities due to the high expenses related to mobile operations. Sending staff members from the Regional Offices to the field also negatively affect the services at our offices, as the Ministry staff compliment at the regional structure is not sufficient. I am sorry, the Right Honourable Prime Minister is not here to clear this statement.

Nonetheless, the Ministry has submitted an application to the Office of the Prime Minister to review our current staff compliment, with a view to increase the number of staff members.

**Question 10:** *When will the Ministry implement the e-ID and e-Passports?*

**Answer:** The benefits of e-ID is unquestionable from a security and administrative point of view. An introduction of e-ID will provide all Namibian Institutions an opportunity to verify the identities of all Namibians and Permanent Residents on the spot since the bio-data of the card holder is stored on a chip on the card itself.

However, it is not a Programme which can be implemented overnight. First of all, the current staff compliments will not be able to re-register all Namibians within a reasonable timeframe. Moreover, the e-ID has an expiry date for security reasons. This means that the customer turnaround for each office will increase considerably as well. Secondly, the costs on e-ID is considerably higher than the current ID. The current ID costs approximately N\$14 compared to N\$45 for an e-ID.

**Question 11:** *Is it not possible for passports to be issued for ten years like in other countries?*

**Answer:** A passport for every traveller will usually not even last for five years before pages become full of visa stamps and stickers, which in the end will require the person to apply for a new passport. This, including consideration for wear and tear, makes five years as a suitable average

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period for the validity of a passport.

**Question 12:** *How many applications for Citizenship are received? How many on Descent, Naturalisation and Marriages?*

**Answer:** During the period under review, a total of 2,125 applications were received, of which 1,195 were for descent. Of that total number of descent applications, 1,171 were granted citizenship, while 24 were rejected. The total number of applications by naturalisation received was 839 of which 835 were granted, while four were rejected. In terms of citizenship by marriage, 91 applications were received of which 82 were granted, while 9 were rejected.

**Question 13:** *Will the Ministry in future bring in particulars of grandparents on the birth certificates?*

**Answer:** The Ministry has currently no plan to introduce the particulars of the grandparents on the birth certificates. It has been simple so far to trace the family relations of a child through the National Population Registration System as parents and children are electronically interlinked.

**Question 14:** *Outstanding citizenship certificate for Riemvasmakers, when will it be delivered?*

**Answer:** All applications from members of the Riemvasmakers community who have applied for Namibian citizenship have been processed. During the past years, including last year, mobile teams for the registration for citizenship have been covering this and other communities, and if there are still those who have not applied for citizenship, yet who should be very few, the Ministry will welcome to receive their applications.

**Question 15:** *When will the Ministry start issuing death certificates at all hospitals?*

**Answer:** The Ministry has offices at 21 hospitals across the country. 19

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of those are issuing death certificates as well. The management of the Katutura State Hospital and Central Hospital had advised that deaths should not be registered at these hospitals in order to reduce the number of people entering the maternity wards, since the offices of the Ministry of Home affairs and Immigration are situated in the maternity wards.

**Question 16:** *Why can people not marry at the Magistrates Courts and the Churches could only bless the marriages?*

**Answer:** The current legal framework allows Magistrates and Marriage Officers appointed by the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration to solemnise marriages. Whether Pastors should continue to be appointed as Marriage Officers can be discussed when the new *Marriage Bill* and the *National Population Registration Bill* get tabled before Parliament in the near future.

**Question 17:** *Number of Asylum Seekers applications approved and rejected?*

**Answer:** A total number of One Hundred and Ninety-two (192) cases were considered by the Namibian Refugee Committee (NRC), One Hundred and Thirty-one (131) cases were approved and Sixty-one (61) cases were rejected.

A total number of 227 refugees went for resettlement to third world countries, as part of the durable solution.

A total number of Refugees in Namibia is 6,100. Refugees and Asylum Seekers were verified, amongst who 3,746 are active and 2,354 inactive population registered in our database system.

Inactive cases means Refugees who do not show up for re-registration and verification exercise, but are presumed to be in the Republic of Namibia. Normally they ask permission to visit other parts of the country, but never return or report back. The definition of active means those based in Osire Settlement and those who report themselves for re-registration and

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verification exercise and they come for food rations.

**Question 18:** *How many visas and permits were issued and to whom?*

**Answer:** *Types of Visas, Permits and Citizenships status that was processed during the period, 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2014 up to the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2015.*

- Employment Permit (E/P) applications approved: 5,168 and rejected: 884.
- Permanent Residence Permit (PRPs) applications approved: 648 and rejected: 141.
- Work Visa application approved: 35,649 and rejected: 1,456.
- Holiday Visa applications approved: 692 and rejected: 11.
- Study Permits application approved: 9,724 and rejected: 322.

The total of **51,880** were approved and **2,803** were rejected.

*Reasons for Rejection of Employment Permits Applications (E/P):*

Applicants who have not fulfilled all the requirements or who do not possess the rare skills, compared to the local job market do not get their applications approved. The same applies if the post, the applicant intends to occupy was not advertised in local print media so that Namibians can also compete.

*Reasons for Rejection of Permanent Residents Permits (PRPs):*

If the applicant does not meet the requirement such as the current legal status in the country, proof of sustenance while in Namibia, to mention but a few, the Immigration Selection Board (ISB) does not accord such applicant the PRP status.

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*Reason for Rejection of Citizenship by Descent:*

Should the applicant's parents or one of the parents turn out to be a non-Namibian citizen at the time of the applicant's birth, the Namibian Citizenship by Descent application will not succeed.

*Reason for Rejection of Citizenship by Marriage:*

The application for Citizenship by Marriage can only succeed if it is supported by documentary proof that he/she had a Legal Status in Namibia at the time of the solemnisation of the marriage between him/her and the Namibian Citizen. In the absence of the above mentioned factor, compounded with other marriage requirements such as continuous ten (10) year period of residence in Namibia, accompanying his/her Lawful wedded husband/wife, his/her application for the Namibian Citizenship by Marriage will not get approved.

*Reasons for Rejection of Applications for Namibian Citizenship by Naturalisation:*

The applicant who does not meet the requirements of PRP status will not succeed to have his/her application or Namibian Citizenship by Naturalisation approved.

In addition to this, the applicant is obliged to meet a continuous ten (10) year period of residence in Namibia before he/she applies for this status.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House those are the responses on questions posed to me and for which I did not have answers at hand by then. Now that I have given you the answers, let me thank you and rest my case. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Those were detailed

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comprehensive responses and I suppose it is sufficient, we leave it at that. However, I just wanted to draw attention to your plea with regards to the danger that our people face when it comes to cancer, and the danger represented by that disease. Periodical check up is necessary and I think you made a special plea for that, and I know the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services has also taken note of that plea. It is something that we constantly need to remind ourselves and the rest of the country. Thank you very much we move on.

The Secretary will read the Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND READING – PUBLIC  
ENTERPRISES GOVERNANCE AMENDMENT BILL [B.6 – 2015]**

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**SECRETARY:** Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – *Public Enterprises Amendment Bill*.

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**HON SPEAKER:** When the Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, the question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Public Enterprises that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable Dienda adjourned the Debate and I would now like to call on her to have the Floor.

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**HON DIENDA:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, as we are today celebrating the Day of the African Child, allow me to congratulate all the children in Africa, especially the children in Namibia. This is the day that we will always remember.

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Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to take this opportunity to focus my contribution on only one issue, which is the implementation of this Act. Namibia, Honourable Speaker, is one of the countries that has the best possible Laws, but the implementation is a problem.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to read from the Act that needs to be amended here on Part IV Article, Section 18. I want to concentrate and quote the following – ***“Performance Agreements with Board Members Individually,”*** and my emphasis lies on *Individually*. It does not say in a group, but individually. I will read further - *“The Portfolio Minister must, within one month of appointing a person as a Member of a Board, enter into a performance agreement with such a Member, with due regard to any directives laid down by the Council under Section 4.”*

Honourable Speaker, with all respect, how many performance agreements can the Honourable Minister table at this august House to prove that this Law has been implemented?

Secondly, Honourable Speaker, Subsection (2)(c) reads as follows – *“the Member, including after he or she has ceased to be a Member of the Board of the State-Owned Enterprise, must not make improper use of information acquired by virtue of his or her position as such a Member to gain, directly or indirectly, an advance for himself or herself or for any other person or cause detriment to the State-Owned Enterprises, which will be the Public Enterprises.”*

Honourable Speaker, I am referring to some documents that I have in front of me. I will table a formal question to you; there was an issue at Namibia Airports Company with the CCTV Tender. It was reported that one of the members or managers through an email said - *“I have modified Paulus’ comments to favour Syntex as per the Tender Committee Resolution.”*

Honourable Speaker, the Law is very clear, but we do not implement it.



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After Paulus Noah, the Director of the ACC investigated this matter, and I will even tell you that there is a Committee called Special Investigations, he followed it up and referred it to the Prosecutor-General a year ago. This letter was signed on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 2014, and up to today there is no feedback regarding this case. The Law, in Part V, Section 29 states that that special investigators must be appointed to follow up issues like this'. If the Law is so clear, why can we not implement the Law which is on the Table?

Honourable Speaker, my third concern is about the *Performance Agreements of Managements or Staff of State-Owned Enterprises*, which will now be *Public Enterprises*. Let me read Section 21 for you – “*The board of a State-owned Enterprise must require the Chief Executive Officer, and such other Senior Management Staff to enter into performance agreements with the board, with due regard to any directives laid down by the Council under Section 4.*”

Honourable Speaker, the reason why I am bringing these things up is because it seems that our CEOs, our Managers at these State-Owned Enterprises are being promoted for non-performance. We are reading it in all the newspapers about how things are going and how there is no money available and that we must bail them out every time, but yet there is nothing said about how far was the implementation of this agreement is. What was it called, (*interjection*)

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**HON MEMBER:** And bonuses!

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**HON DIENDA:** Yes, I will even come to bonuses. There is no mention about how they perform, who did the performance appraisal and how it was carried, nothing about it.

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Honourable Speaker, the *Remuneration of Board Members and Management Staff of State-Owned Enterprises* is clear, but again, when they are sitting, the law, Section 22 states that – “*The remuneration and the allowances payable to the members and alternate members of a board of a State-Owned Enterprise must be determined by the Portfolio Minister with the concurrence of the Minister of Finance and with due regard to any directives laid down by the Council under Section 4.*”

How many times did that happen Honourable Speaker, because we are reading that a certain CEO or a certain Manager has decided that he/she wants to improve his salary with N\$500,000.00 per year. I will continue Honourable Speaker.

The *Annual Reports of State-owned Enterprises or Public Enterprises* is really a big of a concern for me. I just want to read to you what the Law says at Section 26 – “*The Portfolio Minister must cause a copy of the Report of the State-Owned Enterprise to be laid before the National Assembly within 30 days of the receipt thereof if the National Assembly is then in Ordinary Session, or, if the National Assembly is not then in Ordinary Session, within 30 days after the commencement of its first ensuing Ordinary Session.*”

Honourable Speaker, I can tell you now, according to my list here, we have 52 of them. If we calculate today, how many of them have so far brought Reports to this since the establishment, you will end up with ten. During the Budget Debate, I specifically put a question about the National Disability Council and during my five-year term in Parliament I never seen a Report, so the list is even growing. Honourable Minister, my question is, why can we not implement (*intervention*)

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**HON SPEAKER:** I am not stopping you. No, just stay put. Just for clarity sake, I want to know whether you are sufficiently drawing a distinction between the past, the history, and what the Minister is actually

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bringing to the Table as part of his presentation. As you continue, I just want you to mention that you get the balance right. Thank you.

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**HON DIENDA:** Yes. These are things that are happening. It is mainly, only a name change of some titles that is brought about, but the Law will remain the same. It means that we will still remain with the same problem. My concern is whether the Minister will give attention to these problems that are currently there. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

Honourable Speaker, Part VI - *Restructuring of State-Owned Enterprises*. In most of our cases restructuring is only meant for the low-income people. When they table these documents you will see that the people who are affected are the cleaners, the drivers and the messengers, but not the managers. In fact, what they are doing is that they are promoting the managers with a higher salary, a thirteenth cheque and even a performance bonus. I do not know where the performance is, but this is what they call restructure - getting rid of the low-income people and giving themselves a better salary.

Honourable Speaker, my last point is on the Tender Board and the Board of Directors. I am against Namibia Airports Company; the same people do the evaluation, they do the recommendations and they also approve. They are, therefore, the players and the referee at the same time. Can we really continue to allow things like this to happen? Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, that is all Honourable Minister.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. We will come back to dealing with the questions. May I ask Honourable Mushelenga to take the Floor please?

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HON MUSHELENGA**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
AND COOPERATION:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.  
Honourable Members, I will be very brief.

First, let me thank the Honourable Minister for bringing the Amendments to the *State-Owned Enterprises Governance Act*.

Honourable Speaker, I would want to address the issue of governance in general. Honourable Minister, I think the Ministry should serious take the issue of sufficient training for board members seriously. Ideally, board members are supposed to be experts:

1. In the field or the company in which they serve.
2. In issues of governance and compliance in general.

I do not know how many of our companies take their board members for training or whether the State-Owned Enterprise Governors Council was doing that, in order for them to appreciate their fiduciary responsibilities; because they appear to be misunderstanding these fiduciary responsibilities. This is perhaps because the cheque and the payments that goes to board members come from the companies of which they are board members. (*Intervention*)

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**HON SPEAKER:** Point of Order. Honourable Member, would you like to speak on a Point of Order?

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**HON BEZUIDENHOUT:** I want to ask the Honourable Member a question for clarity. Honourable Mushelenga, can you just educate us about the legal term fiduciary responsibility, so that we all understand that?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
AND COOPERATION:** These are responsibilities of board members to do what is expected of them by the shareholders; in terms of complying with corporate governance rules as practised universally in accordance with, for example, the king report on corporate governance.

What I was trying to say is that because the salaries or allowances of some board members come from the companies on whose board they serve, they are under the impression that they are employed by that company; so much that they neglect to inform the shareholders of the information that the shareholder needs to know with regard to pertinent issues pertaining to the companies. That is why I am saying, training is of particular importance because when you are appointed by the shareholders, you must be reporting to the shareholders and you must serve the interests of your shareholders in accordance with the Laws governing the companies or a particular public enterprise.

Another issue that they need to be trained on is that, sometimes you also find board members who want to micromanage companies. Again, there is a misunderstanding of what is the duty of the board and the duty of management; because a board is not supposed to run the day-to-day activities of the companies. That is why you have managers that are supposed to be doing these things. This is why you often find the suspension of *this* and *that* suspension, *here* and *there*; because of this thing of the board willing to micromanage companies.

Then there is the issue of company secretaries. Of course, a company secretary is ideally is an appointee of the board. However, the role of a company secretary is sometimes also misunderstood in the companies. He/she is supposed to serve the board, of course, in consultation with management, but again you find, either the board is not properly served by the company secretary who takes to the board selectively what the management would want the board to hear. Therefore, these things needs to be properly addressed, Honourable Minister.

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Then again, there is the issue of Annual Reports. Honourable Minister, in this august House, I have seen Reports as old as four years being tabled and you ask yourself, for what? We are supposed to receive these Reports, discuss and address issues. If there are issues that need to be rectified they need to be debated here and the public needs to know.

Now when you bring a four-year old Report, what have you been doing for all those years, because these companies have auditing firms, they have a company secretary so what is so difficult to produce an Annual Report on time? An Annual Report is a very important document that informs the shareholders about the operations of the company, the running of the company and the financial position of the company. If you bring the Report after four years here when things have been overtaken by events, it will not really help the shareholders to be properly informed and take their necessary corrective measures.

With these words, Honourable Speaker, I would like to support the Bill. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. I am not sure whether you have taken note of the fact that, we normally go for tea around this time and I am hearing the Honourable Members whispering to me - *tea, tea*. I have not heard anybody talking about coffee.

I will be guided by the House; I think the majority of you would like to continue, however, if there are people who would like to have a cup of tea, they can walk quietly, enjoy themselves and come back, so that we can continue. That is what I am hearing, I am not deciding on my own. May I now ask the Minister of Finance?

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I also rise to support the Bill and I am doing that knowing that this Bill is

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HON SCHLETTWEIN**

nothing more than an interim legislation that merely replaces the Governance Council with the newly established Ministry and the Minister in that Ministry. Therefore, I implicitly take it that there are comprehensive Amendments to follow that will address many of the issues that are raised. Of course, we have to support the Bill in that spirit.

Having said that, I just want to alert the Honourable Minister on an issue that may not follow logically through the Bill as it is proposed. I want to start with the definition of a staff member, which defines a staff member as - *meaning a staff member as defined in Section 1 of the Public Service Commission*. I think that means that a staff member is a person appointed under the regime of the *Public Service Act*.

If that is so, and we go to Section 9 of the Bill, which reads – “*The work incidental to the performance of the functions of the Minister must be performed by staff members consisting of administrative personnel as the Minister may consider necessary.*” That will probably still be okay, if it does not mean that the Minister replaces the Public Service Commission in as far as the powers of the Public Service Commission with regard to the appointment and the conditions of service for staff members are concerned. We must, therefore have clarity that that is not meant by this Section.

However, if we go further to Subsection (2), it says – “*a staff member of the Secretariat referred to in Subsection (1) may –*

*(a) be a staff member in the Public Service designated for the purpose by the Minister; or*

*(b) be a person other than a staff member appointed by the Minister on such conditions of service,”* and that is where the problem starts. If my logic takes me through, a staff member is always a staff member, whether designated to the Secretariat or administrative personnel. If staff member means what the definition says, one cannot have a differentiation between the two.

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HON NUJOMA**

Going further, if my assumption is correct that staff members always have to be adhering to the Rules of the Public Service, then we must be careful when we give appointing powers to the Minister, because in the *Public Service Act*, the power to appoint is either with the Accounting Officer or in certain circumstances with the Right Honourable Prime Minister, but not with the Minister. I think we must just get clarity on that. I understand that the purpose of that is to enable the Minister to get a group of persons with the necessary knowhow and abilities appointed so that restructuring, the *Amendment Bill* and all these things can be drafted quickly and that the reward packages can be dealt with in a way that can attract these people. It is therefore, an interim regime that we are legislating for, but I think we must just get the logic right that we are not conflicting the one or the other piece of legislation that is already in place.

Lastly, Section 12 (1)(a) reads that - “*A staff member...*” and it goes on, “(a) *in the performance of any function and connection with the functions of the Council,*” which is now Minister. I wonder whether it is Minister or it should be Ministry. I guess it is the latter, because the Ministry’s functions are much broader. The same applies to Subsection (2)(a), which states that – “*for the purpose of proper administration or enforcement of this Act or the performance and functions of the Ministry.*”

Of course, if the intention is to replace whatever said is in the Act, that is, replacing *Council* with the function of the *Minister*, then the word *Minister* is correct. However, at some places it looks as if we mean the functions of the *Ministry* instead of only the Minister on his own. With those remarks, I support the Bill.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Minister of Lands.

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**HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM:** Thank you very much



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HON NUJOMA**

Comrade Speaker. I rise to support the *Public Enterprises Governance Amendment Bill* and I give my unconditional support to the Minister.

I am of the belief that perhaps the replacement of the Governance Council with the Minister responsible for Public Enterprises will bring some sanity to our SOEs. I also wanted to raise the issue of governance of our State Owned Enterprises in general, but my Colleague here, the Deputy Minister, Comrade Peya Mushelenga has raised most of those issues.

However, what is troubling me is that, if you have a company or you have a public enterprise, the mere purpose of establishing the company is to make money for the shareholder; to bring some profits or returns to the shareholder, but the way our SOEs are structured, it appears that it is the opposite. You always hear there is a Turnaround Strategy and all the time you have to bailout instead of getting the returns. I, therefore, think we have started on a wrong footing; maybe the Minister will now take corrective action so that the shareholder expect returns and profits, and not the other way round where you always have to bailout these companies with more and more money all the time. What is the board doing?

The Board of Directors are supposed to be experts who will run this company in a profitable way; exercising their fiduciary duties as my Colleague has put it, but we now run these companies in a completely different manner; where the State is expected to bail them out all the time.

Comrade Minister, with all these changes and all the support you can expect from all of us, I now hope the situation will change, and the shareholder will smile all the time. The shareholder must smile all the way to the bank, and not the opposite where the shareholder is always sick and we have to call other people to come and try to rescue the situation, which is not a healthy situation.

I hope from now on we will put proper structures in place; appoint people who will really make us to smile all the way to the bank, and not

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to get the headache of trying to raise money to rescue this and the other SOE. That is my small contribution. Thank you, Comrade Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Honourable Kavekatora please.

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**HON KAVEKOTORA:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I also stand up to support the Bill.

I also concur with the former speakers by saying that State-Owned Enterprises have a very significant role to play in our economy. However, I just want to make a few comments on the commercial State-Owned Enterprises.

I think many people who venture into establishment of businesses know that when you start a business, you also have to accept the fact that the probability of failure is also there. It does, therefore, not mean that the establishment of a business will only relate to success. To the Honourable Minister, I think this is an opportune time for Namibia and the Minister to really interrogate the financial viability of some of the commercial entities; because it has been said that so many Turnaround Strategies have practically resulted to nothing. After one Turnaround Strategy there is another Turnaround Strategy, and there is no improvement whatsoever.

I, therefore, think the need to interrogate the financial viability and the economic feasibility of some of the State-Owned Enterprises is the right thing to do, especially at a point where changes have been effected, we will be saving the State some resources that could be applied to some other things; because some of these State-Owned Enterprises are completing with the Private Sector and their failure to do so is just a clear indication that they are not performing according to the market

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expectations. Based on that, I would really think that the Honourable Minister will look into that and if the Minister comes to the conclusion that a commercial entity is simply not financially viable, instead of pumping in more money into that particular entity, the best thing to do is either to privatise it or to close it, so that we do not have to abuse our limited resources that could be applied to some other Social Programmes. That will be my input, Honourable Speaker. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. I think I have exhausted my list. Does the Honourable Minister wish to reply? Thank you.

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**HON MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Honourable Members, there are a number of issues that all of you have raised, so I do not want to repeat all of them over and over again.

I think one of the overarching issues have been dealing with quality and the appointment procedures for board members, which is obviously something which is allowed for in the legislation and which we will be dealing with in a completely different manner. We will be developing guidelines and procedures for that, and we will share that shortly. However, I want to go through the list. I want to make sure that we cover all the issues that were raised.

*Honourable Kawana* was the first speaker and on the accountability of boards, he raised another issue which many of you have raised; and that deals with performance agreements or the lack thereof.

Honourable Dienda is unfortunately not here now.

However, Comrade Minister Kawana, one of the problems is the lack of performance agreements, so the bigger problems is that there is no use

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having performance agreements and not having performance management. Again, performance agreements are just pieces of paper which people sign and are supposed to commit to it, but without performance management this again has no accountability, it is, therefore, something we will be taking care of.

Honourable Kawana also raised another overarching issue; which is the function of Commercial State-Owned or Public Enterprises. We must be careful there, because the primary function of many of them is not necessarily to generate a profit for the shareholder; the primary function of the existence of many of the Commercial State-Owned Enterprises is to fulfil a specific strategic role which the Private Sector cannot fulfil. Therefore, we must be careful with some of them, if we put too much pressure on them purely to generate a profit, that it may be to the detriment of the consumer, especially where we have monopolies.. Up till now, the typical examples are the Energy Sector, the Rail Sector and so on, so I just think we must be careful.

However, having said, even though all of them do not necessarily generate a profit or even have the mandate to do, they play a massive role and that was what the Minister was alluding to, in assisting the Government to attain its development objectives and particularly those as contained in the peace of our Vision 2030. The strategic mandates of these entities must be aligned to those strategic objectives of Government, otherwise there will be failures, and we support that.

*Honourable Bezuidenhout*, also not in the House now, raised an issue in connection with the Section dealing with the confidentiality, and he was asking whether that is not a problem with us making a commitment in my Budget Statement to be transparent. However, the confidentiality in this particular Bill deals with the confidentiality of the staff members of the Ministry and not beyond that. I, therefore, I do not think that there is any effect of that.

Then there is an important thing that a number of you have raised, and I

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am enjoying that. I can show some of the seasoned Members of Parliament that they missed something in the Bill and that deals with the name of the legislation.

**Honourable Venaani**, you have also raised that. It deals with the name of the *Amendment Bill* and not the change of name of the enabling legislation. However, you will see that under Section 12 of this Bill and it deals with the substitution for Section 50 of the following Section, and that is a Short Title - ***The Commencement of the Enabling Legislation***, which we also changed to *State-Owned Enterprises Governance Act* of 2006. Both those are aligned - that is on Page 5, Honourable Venaani. I think we have covered that.

Then there are items raised by **Honourable Sankwasa** that were also raised by **Honourable Schlettwein** today. They deal with the appointment issues under Section 7 and Section 9 of the Act, on Page 3 and 4. On those, I can allay your concerns and put you at ease after the Attorney-General and I have discussed that with the Right Honourable Prime Minister, and we will table an Amendment to that particular Section during the Committee State, so we will deal with that.

Honourable Venaani, again, you have raised that there is consistency in the declaration of dividends from commercial entities and again we share your concern. There must be a dividend policy for each of the commercial entities separately and that is one of the measures that will be implemented.

Another overarching issue that I have not dealt with is the Turnaround Strategies. Someone said to me that - *if you have so many turnarounds you become dizzy after a while*. Attempting a turnaround brings you to a circle, and it gets you to the same point you started at. I can thus share with this House that the Government will be dealing with Turnaround Strategies in a completely different manner. You know a Turnaround Strategy is not about money, many of these entities think that they merely need money to change the destiny of the entity, but sadly, money is most

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of the time not the bigger problem. Most of that problem lies with the quality of the boards and the management, so we will have to be convinced; we want permanent Turnaround Strategies, we do not want to approve a turnaround strategy in Cabinet, which fails after five years and then we have to simply have another one. We will, therefore be dealing with those people.

Honourable Venaani, your terminology was that corporate governance has been eroded and we agree with that. We will be implementing corporate governance principles and guidelines, which will be based upon the King III Report and our own NamCode; do not under estimate that small document that has some lovely elements in it, which will be enforced in all of these enterprises.

*Honourable Ankama*, again on the board. I think Honourable Ankama maybe missed my Motivation on an expansion of this Bill, but again, as the Honourable Minister of Finance said, this is purely a temporary legislation to give us a legal basis. There will be substantive new legislation in due time.

*Honourable Mutorwa*, I think you made a very important point where you reminded the House that these entities and in particular, the commercial entities are not private companies. As I said earlier that, although they may have to implement the corporate governance principles which are similar to that in the Private Sector, they are completely different from private companies, and their primary function is to align themselves to the strategic objectives of the Government, they can, therefore, not do as they please.

Then I come to *Honourable Dienda*. Something that I have to admit is that probably, up till now, there is a lack of implementation of the legislation, and I can assure this House and I give my personal commitment that, although this is a temporary legislation, we will be implementing this legislation; because there are good qualities in this legislation and I see a lot of that being potentially carried over to new

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Legislation, so we will be implementing that. She further asked a question, which will be later put formally, how many performance agreements, and I already spoke about that, the ones between the Chief Executive Officer or the Managing Directors and the management are all things we also need to update.

***Annual Reports;*** I think I have the same Report that she has from our former Honourable De Waal on the current status of Annual Reports as submitted to this House. Again, the implication of me saying that we will implement legislation, obviously translates that we will be fixing that. I also fear that the Annual Reports are not synchronised, they are not standardised at all; so we would like to develop a template so that all Annual Reports have the same components. I think the other issues are not vital at this time.

***Honourable Mushelenga*** was again speaking about governance and he spoke about training. There is provision in our legislation made to facilitate training. We have already started; the first course on corporate governance principles will be offered towards the last week of this months, and NIPAM, which is a crucial partner for us, is at the moment busy developing a dedicated course for board members of State-Owned Enterprises. NIPAM will, therefore be a crucial partner in that regard.

The same goes for company secretaries. A few people understand the role of the company secretaries, and we have found a dedicated training course to train company secretaries for them to be able to fulfil their roles. You also alluded to Annual Reports.

Honourable Schlettwein, I think I have dealt with all the issues that you have raised, so rest assured, we are bringing those in the Committee Stage.

***Honourable Nujoma,*** again governance and profits, I think I have covered and explained everything.

***Honourable Kavekatora,*** Commercial State-Owned Enterprises and the

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financial viability. I am happy you are at least in the House so I can answer to you directly. We will be assessing those. In the next twelve months we will be employing specialists to assess the viability of each of these entities and also the Sectors in which they operate. We need to understand the Sectors in which they operate far better, especially where we have monopolies. As I said earlier, in the cases of monopolies, we must make sure that the service offered is not to the detriment of our Namibian consumers. We will, therefore, be doing exactly that.

I spoke about Turnaround Strategies earlier as well, and yes, we may have to take some complicated, even unpleasant decisions, but I think together in our Cabinet, we are in a place where we are ready to do that - to take decisions that may in the short term not be as pleasant for everyone to enjoy, but in the long-term, we need to have faith in our strategy. Honourable Speaker, with that, my replies.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. I now put the question that the Bill be read a Second Time. Any objection? Agreed to. Thank you very much.

The Secretary will read the Bill a Second Time.

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**SECOND READING – PUBLIC ENTERPRISES  
GOVERNANCE AMENDMENT BILL [B.6 – 2015]**

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**SECRETARY:** Second Reading – *Public Enterprises Amendment Bill* [B.6 – 2015].

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ON REPAYMENTS OF COMMERCIAL FARM LAND  
HON VENAANI**

**HON SPEAKER:** The First Notice of a Motion is the one of Honourable Venaani. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion?

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**HON VENAANI:** I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Who seconds? Any objection? Agreed to. Honourable Venaani has the Floor.

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**MOTION ON THE NEED TO EXTEND PAYMENT  
MORATORIUMS ON REPAYMENTS OF COMMERCIAL  
FARM LAND UNDER THE AGRIBANK LOAN BOOK**

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Speaker, this is quite a very brief Motion. I shall not labour the House too much.

Honourable Members, in the interest of transparency, and given the motion at hand, I hereby refer to article 59(2) of the Namibian Constitution, read with the Parliamentary Standing Rules and accordingly declare that I indeed own a farm. However, let me from the onset start with a footnote before I enter into the intricacies of the Motion.

**Politicians or Members of the Parliament and the Media:** No political practitioners can survive - can disseminate information without the Media. I want to say the following in all sincerity - when we quote one another, the survival of any successful politician across the globe depends on the Media. The survival of good governance, good leadership also depends on the Media, but then the Media must also play a midwifery role of

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disseminating information fairly and correctly report issues. I was stunned to have read a report in the Namibian where I was quoted a year ago, just two months before the elections. The question that was posed to me was about people accessing communal farms and I addressed the element of people entering farms because they feel they have lost land. However, I was quoted - and other politicians - were also quoted that we are in a bread basket of land, as if farms that were acquired by politicians were just given to them; as if no commercial transactions of value were effected. I would really want to urge our young media practitioners whom I am very thankful for many stories that they are disseminating, but let us find one another when we are writing these reports. We should really have a culture of double checking facts before we go to print houses.

Be that as it may. Honourable Speaker, let me turn my attention to the matter at hand.

Honourable Speaker, having declared my own interests in this matter, I must say that my own interest is very insignificant on this important matter, but I am speaking in the interests of a broader Agricultural Sector that is the biggest feeder of at least 40% of our population, as this country remains largely a rural society reliant on subsistence farming and herding.

Over 40% of the Namibian population depends either on subsistence farming or crop and livestock production - both of which are highly reliant on rainfall. When the rain fails, the most devastating and visible impact is manifested in the Agricultural Sector. Lack of rain leads to poor harvest, poor pasture and grazing, and lack of drinking water resulting in loss of livestock or alternatively, farmers are left with emaciated livestock, which is incapable of reproducing at the normal rate and further, due to the emaciation and volatile nature of the meat market during a drought period, farmers are forced to sell off their cattle at very low prices.

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Those of us who are farming remember vividly that during 2013, if you had 100 productive cows, only less than 30% calved during that year - not realising that when an animal is not well fed its own reproducing ability also becomes weaker because of the drought situation. I must confess that the situation has turned around a little bit; we are seeing 2014/2015 as the year where the calving rate has really improved. I am at least seeing an increased production of calves. However, the increased production does, of course, not lead to the marketability of these animals because the situation causes the mothers to become weaker.

Our climate – Namibia’s climate is distinctly arid throughout the greater part of the country, with the exception being in the north and north-eastern parts of the country. Annual rainfall in Namibia is highly variable in that the inter-annual variability ranges from 30% in the relatively wetter north-eastern parts of the country to up to 100% in the south and western parts of Namibia. This variability and unreliability of rainfall means that the very nature of rainfall in our country is such that Namibia is inherently always threatened by; primarily droughts, but also floods in some areas.

During the 2012/2013 Budget Year, the rain season was the driest in the country in the last 30 years and affected all 14 Regions. The former President of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency Pohamba declared a State of Emergency on 17 May 2013, as a result of the widespread drought and the accompanying threat to food security.

Just as farmers-both commercial and rural, were beginning to recover from the devastating effects of the 2012/2013 drought, Namibia is now in the midst of another drought and just to compound matters, farmers and the Meat Industry also need to contend with the threat of the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). Given the importance of the Agricultural Sector to food security in the country, we simply cannot afford to let the whole Industry collapse.

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Thus one must ask, what measures can be put in place to aid farmers? Is it realistic to expect farmers who have bought farms via the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme to not only spend money on upgrading the mostly poor infrastructure which is found on these farms, , but also to budget for drought related costs like cattle supplementary nutritional feed and cattle migration to other areas that may have received slightly better rainfall? Additionally, in the midst of a drought, even when it is declared a National State of Emergency, commercial and AA Farmers cannot be expected to make their regular payments to AgriBank as if nothing has changed, surely this situation is counter intuitive.

Let me pause and say the following: 80% of farmers who bought farms under the Affirmative Action - and I must also confess that even farms that are brought under the land resettlement scheme - we must take into account that we are buying poor quality farms because the farmers who are selling those farms are choosing; a person is sitting with five farms and he wants to give two to the Government, so he chooses the worst ones and give it to you. I can tell you, I have visited many farms throughout this country of friends, family and politicians on both sides of the aisle who are farmers, but every farmer who has bought a farm under Affirmative Action, 80% to 90% of them are busy with the beginning phases. You need to put up fences, the houses are not there, you need to upgrade infrastructure, you are having labourers who are working for you - you cannot allow these people to just sleep in shacks, you want to have them have a descend place, you want to have more potable water and getting a better infrastructure for the cattle.

Honourable Jagger, let me tell you a historical point of the *Riemvasmakers* in the Damara area. When the whites were leaving Khorixas in the 60s, Khorixas was also a commercial farm (*interjection*)

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**HON MEMBER:** You Were not born then!

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HON VENAANI**

**HON VENAANI:** Yes, I was not born and so are many of us, but I am a product of history - of course, you were just herding cattle, what were you doing there? With all due respect, do you know what the white farmers were doing? If you come Khorixas is, they would demarcate and say - *jy Sien hierdie draad wat loop* - that is the farm - and if you follow the fence for two kilometres, you will find nothing. Even up to now you see that the in the current rural Damara area, the infrastructure has really gone down because it was either poorly maintained or it was not there. Every time you go and buy a farm, some farmers are put two or three new pipes in the boreholes, the engine is painted green and the dams are full to capacity, and as a Namibian who has lost land, you want to buy that farm. You are inclined to buy because you want to own land and you want to farm, but after seven months of farming, you will realise that it was only the three pipes that were new, the rest are falling apart. The engine is old, the dams are leaking and so on. Kapofi and all these people know these problems that I am talking about. I am saying (*intervention*).

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**HON SPEAKER:** You have to say the Honourable.

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**HON VENAANI:** Yes, the Honourable.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you.

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**HON VENAANI:** The Senior Honourable Colleague. These are problems that are facing us.

By the way, in 1962-1964, there was a severe drought in this country. If

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you go to the history of “Die Land Bank,” Agribank then – and see how farmers were aided for a period of ten years, you would be shocked that we are afraid to aid an Industry that creates more than 30% of employment in this country. People got farms, moratoriums, feeds, extensions, windmills and what have you in 1964 – go and read that history about what happened in this country. This is how the Agriculture Industry survived up to now.

A few months ago, four months ago in Outjo, a productive cow was fetching N\$2,000 on an auction. Now, with many of the farms that we have bought, the scheme that we have entered into is Affirmative Action because the Government is giving a guarantee, but when you are employed, you are paying 10 to 11%, so it is no longer an Affirmative Action Scheme. You are in fact on a commercial scheme basis because it is just money that you borrow from the bank that you have to repay. If farmers must be inundated with a cow or production animal that is costing N\$2,000 then we have to relook into the matter from a different perspective to make sure that our Industry is not falling. In this instance and in this Motion, I am not excluding commercial farmers who are farming with us because they are also affected by this drought and we must do something to make sure that they are aided.

This brings me to the crux of my Motion – we need do to some homework.

My proposal, therefore, is very simple - I propose that commercial and Affirmative Action Farmers be granted a moratorium pertaining to payments required to be made under the AgriBank Loan Book.

I also propose that during the drought period farmers are only required to bear or pay for the interest and not the capital sum on their loan repayments. Similar to the situation commonly found in the administration of student loans during the period of study, and sometimes a year or 6 months after completion of study, as an example.

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I further propose – and I want to make an Amendment Honourable Speaker - instead of referring this Motion to a Parliamentary Committee, because I was just gauging what a Parliamentary Committee can do with this Motion – that it be, in consultation with the Minister of Finance and the Office of the Prime Minister, referred to the Cabinet, to look into this matter and find an amicable solution rather than prolonging it with the Parliamentary standing Committee that will not be able to do anything about it.

Lastly, I conclude by saying that as a Nation we need to start planning ahead and stop being reactionary. It is high time we started being more aware of the impacts of climate change and stop being surprised by a drought each time it happens. Surely given the frequency with which Namibia is faced with a drought we now need to migrate from post-drought reactionary measures, by the Office of the Prime Minister to an ongoing pre-emptive methodology which prepares farmers to be able to bear and survive the harsh drought conditions, and ideally where possible, without the need for government intervention. If you look at other markets like the European markets, these people are even financing agriculture knowing well about the changing climatic conditions. However, most of the time, in our country we only address these situations when the time arises. Therefore, even financiers must start telling us how we should finance agriculture amidst the climatic conditions that we are finding.

Can we continue with the old matrix of financing agriculture in the old way while we have these climatic conditions? Probably many of you who are older, could be surprised as I am surprised that 2014, was the funniest year I had ever experienced where you get rain (*interjection*)

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**HON MEMBER:** How old are you?

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HON VENAANI**

**HON VENAANI:** I am very old, I am no longer young now. I am very old and I am also getting grey, the job is making me grey. These people like to destruct others.

What I am trying to say is that in 2014, we were receiving rains in months that no one expected rain, therefore, the whole idea of how we are financing agriculture must also be revisited so as to address these climatic conditions that are no longer matching the idea of saying that – *no, I am expecting rain in September.*

As I am concluding, all of us that are farming in the Agricultural Industry, are saying that we can keep animals until September, but if we do not receive rain in September then many of us have to go back to the rural areas and squat somewhere to be able to maintain these animals (*interjection*)

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**HON MEMBER:** But they are chasing us.

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**HON VENAANI:** Yes, they are already chasing us. If the rain does not come in September and support it comes in April 2016, what then happens to this Industry?

With these very few remarks, Honourable Speaker, I Move that this House take due cognisance of these facts, relook and support the Motion across Party lines and allow a much bigger Debate on how we are going to finance agriculture in the future, looking at our climatic conditions. Honourable Speaker, I so Move.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. The Mover of the Motion



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made a slight Amendment at the end of his presentation, I want to hear from the House, if the House is in agreement that this Motion be entertained - that is one.

Secondly, whether we should refer the Motion to a Committee and perhaps to broaden the participation, allow further consultation with the relevant Government Ministries. I see the Minister of Finance would like to come in. You have the Floor.

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I am rising, not to answer the question that you have posed, but to perhaps propose a way forward.

I think we are in agreement that the Agricultural Sector is an important Sector. It was in fact identified in our NDP4 as one of the four important Sectors that needs intervention and that need is based on the potential that that Sector has as an employer, but also as a productive Sector that can grow the economy. Therefore, the principle that agriculture is important, albeit in a climatic condition which is erratic and volatile, is accepted.

The second point that I wanted to make is that, if we do debate Agriculture as a Sector, we should not only debate the production side of it. There is a value chain development side in agriculture that needs to be addressed as well and I will refer to elements that should be included.

How we finance - whether it is production, value addition, droughts or emergencies, those are elements that are all part of that larger Debate and I think when we discuss matters of Agribank, we must bear in mind that that is a bank. It is a development bank that makes its business out of its loan book. If you ask for moratoriums, you are killing the bank because you are pulling the carpet from underneath them – they have to make an income and they cannot grow the loan book. However, I do realise that it is a Development Bank that needs to take the worries of agriculture into

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HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

consideration and we must be responsive to certain circumstances when they present themselves.

Comrade Speaker, I do accept that the Motion can be referred to the Government. We can then add value to the Motion by trying to address the issues that were raised from the Motion, table that Report and we can take the Debate from there. I think it will make more sense than debating it now where we have a number of elements that need to be factored into this Debate so that it becomes a fruitful one.

I would propose that, except the amended proposal that it be referred to Government, we come with Reports that contain an action plan with recommendations about how we want to move forward and then we can debate on that.

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**HON SPEAKER:** That was very helpful, thank you very much. My understanding is that, if you do that, as agreed upon, let the Government deal with broadening the scope of looking at the Motion and shape that. The consensus I am searching is whether with that understanding the matter goes via the Committee before it is tabled here - would that be helpful? It is more of a methodology that we are following - the Government will take it up, relook, reshape, broaden the scope and with all the elements that the Minister has referred to, it be obviously tabled at the appropriate Parliamentary Committee for further assessment and then it is brought here. I do not want to waste more time (*intervention*).

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**HON MEMBER:** It should come back to the House.

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**HON SPEAKER:** It should come back to the House. Thank you very

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HON VENAANI**

much. In that way, we will keep up with the time. Honourable Venaani does that meet with your expectation? Thank you very much.

With that understanding can I assume that we have disposed of this item? Basically, from our point of view we need to know the Government Line Ministry to which we will refer this matter. These are administrative issues.

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**HON MEMBER:** Why do we not look at the Ministry of Finance?

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**HON SPEAKER:** The Ministry of Finance? Thank you very much indeed. That was very quick and highly appreciated. Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration, did I jump the gun? Do you still insist or are you happy? Thank you very much. *D'accord*, that is agreed upon? So agreed. We move on.

The Second Notice of a Motion is the one of Honourable Venaani, does the Honourable Member Move the Motion?

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**HON VENAANI:** I Move the Motion, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Who seconds? Any objection? Agreed to. Honourable Venaani has the Floor.

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**MOTION ON URBAND LAND  
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SOCIAL HOUSING SCHEMES  
HON VENAANI**

**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Speaker, thank you very much. As I am addressing this Motion I take two matters into consideration:

1. That today is Africa Day, the Day of the African Child; and
2. That I am addressing this Motion when the climatic condition in our own country is probably the oldest in many years.

The issues that I am raising are issues of housing, issues of equity in the hands of the poor and what we are seeing happening now. We are reading the appear on what is happening in Katima Mulilo - people are resorting to acts of violence fuelled by frustration due to the lack of access to land.

However, I think as Leaders, we must send one strong message and that is - we can have a choice, but a choice can have negative reparations on the progress that this country has made so far. We cannot allow anarchy, disorderliness as a means to solve our problems. We should engage one another and spend more time talking about what we want to see for this country. Therefore, for those young people who are frustrated there - all of us, the country is frustrated, however, we cannot say that - *because we are frustrated, we no longer have a Republic worthy of living in.*

When you are looking at young people dying in the seas of the Mediterranean Sea, you ask a personal question - is this the Africa that our forbearers dreamt about? But, of course, whether we like it or not, we cannot compare our situation to those young people who are dying in the seas of the Mediterranean Sea. Our situation is by far better, but we can do more to accelerated and to bring transformation in this country. The Motion that I am going to table here needs the support of all of us to think about our country's future from a holistic point of view as opposed to partisans positions.

Honourable Speaker, Namibia is the least densely populated country in the word per capita and yet we are now faced with a situation where the biggest problem facing our country is the *land issue*. Traditionally, *the*

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*land issue* referred to land for farming purposes but in recent years the focus has shifted to an outcry about the lack of availability of affordable urban land for housing purposes, particularly in the bigger cities or towns in the country.

According to the latest Namibia Household Income and Expenditure Survey of 2009/2010, 75% of Namibian households have a combined household income of between N\$1,600.00 and N\$4,200.00 per month. At the upper end, only the top 1,1% of Namibians live in households with monthly incomes of around or in excess of N\$48,000.00. Besides the glaring inequality divide which sees Namibia ranked as the country with the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest Gini Coefficient in the world. The significance of this divide is put into greater perspective when you note that Namibian households must earn at least a monthly income of between N\$15,000.00 – N\$23,000.00 in order to realistically be able to afford an average residential property, according to FNB Namibia Holdings, as quoted:

*“This is almost three times the average household income for urban households in Namibia. Based on our calculations, the income requirement for the lower price segment came in at N\$15,000.00 per month. Less than 10% of the households in the country can afford a property in the lower price segment.”*

In July 2014, as per the FNB Namibia Holdings Housing Index, the following categories were raised:

- In the lower price segment, the average property price was N\$511,000.00.
- In the middle price segment, the average property price was N\$1,213,000.00.
- In the upper price segment, the average property price was N\$1,977,000.00.

As evidenced by the numbers, very few Namibians are in a position to buy residential property, which is why we currently find ourselves in a

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position with a national housing backlog of close to 150,000 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand) units. Given that housing prices are unaffordable to the majority of the population, over 500,000 Namibians live in shacks.

There are various factors, both internal and external, that have contributed to this situation, one can list them but ultimately the greatest problem is that the housing and property fraternity have treated housing as a speculative market where capitalist forces of demand and supply have been allowed to control the market, whereas in our Constitution, housing or the right to own property is classified as a Fundamental Human Right, that is the true crux of the problem. We can only begin to fix this problem once we begin to look at housing in its proper constitutional perspective and Government and all the relevant stakeholders accepts the mandate that comes with that. We can no longer afford to leave a Fundamental Right for the markets to regulate.

One of the reasons why the Mass Housing Programme is showing early signs of failure is that the NHE has deviated from its original mandate, perhaps due to capacity limitations, and has been forced to outsource its work to the Private Sector - to land developers, building contractors and property speculators - who are inherently profit driven, thus resulting in the interests of the poor being overlooked once again as the process is not shielded from external capitalist forces. One cannot realistically implement any social housing scheme - which the Mass Housing Programme was intended to be - in the same market in which private property developers operate and expect markedly different results. The primary problem with the Mass Housing Programme is that we are trying to find an alternative solution but are doing so within the confines of the current system, which we have already identified as problematic, unless you remove the middleman, you end up with the same problem and you continue to price out the working class. Low-income buyers who should benefit from this scheme have to run to the self-same commercial banks with existing excessive profit margins, Local Authorities continue to outsource the servicing of land earmarked for this Programme, thus there

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will be inevitable similarities between the Mass Housing Programme and the traditional free economy property market, and this surely could not have been the intention.

Peter Marcuse once said, and I quote - "*Homelessness exists not because the system is not working, but because this is the way the system works.*"

Honourable speaker, the simple truth is that there are powerful people with vested interests ensuring the situation does not change. One does not need to bring up how many Political Office-Bearers and other high ranking Government Officials have directly benefitted and accumulated their wealth from profits derived from the property market.

This phenomenon has seen the *financialisation* of housing, which has seen a basic Human Right reduced to no more than a financial asset in the hands of greedy property speculators and developers.

The crux of this Motion is to shift the focus back to housing as a Fundamental Human Right and to once again focus on the social aspects of housing and move away from the solely profit-driven agenda. Only once the Government commits to housing as basic Human Right will we begin to see true and speedy change. What does this mean in practice?

In practice, this would necessitate Policies and Laws that ensure equitable access to housing so that first time buyers and the homeless are given preference to those who already own homes or who buy residential erven to built flats and sublet them. Another option is to introduce rental caps and adequate rental Regulations and Laws to protect tenants as the bargaining power in a Lessor-Lessee relationship that is unequal, and tenants are forced to pay exorbitant rent and enter into Lease Agreements with extremely unfavourable terms. All young professionals in our society today are either living behind people's homes or garages because even the rental fee for an old single house in Katutura's Owambo *lokasie*, Herero *lokasie*, Nama 10 or wherever is already N\$2,000.00 per month. Everybody has gone for the kill. The whole system has been in

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such a way that, if you want to make money in this country, go one-way – the property market. Even grannies have realised that for one to keep a student in your home, overcharge that person to make a profit. That culture must change.

**SOCIAL HOUSING ALTERNATIVES**

Honourable Speaker, many of the leadership of this country and more so, the leadership of the Ruling Party have lived in foreign countries all over the struggle years and it is one thing that we have dearly omitted is that when you go around the world, you go to places where you see social housing schemes, but in Namibia, if a person who is in hospital today does not have a home to go to, you have nowhere to go. We have children who are living in riverbeds and we have no housing scheme alternatives in our society. Everything that we have tried to do, even with the Build Together Houses, we went for the kill to give property ownership to our people. However, what we have not addressed fundamentally is the question of social housing alternatives. I want to quote three examples that we can look at.

But both the aforementioned are quick stop gap fixes, what I propose is a comprehensive **National Social Housing Scheme**, with Windhoek as the test centre where it will be phased in, or introduced. The aim of social housing is simply to negate the impact and power of the private housing market by providing an alternative housing market that is largely subsidised through the Government, including construction and management of the scheme. An alternative social housing market can only be truly successful if it does not become a poverty island and caters to residents from a variety of income groups, otherwise all you are doing is creating formalised slums or a shack network. (*Intervention*)

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**HON SPEAKER:** On a Point of Order?

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**HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:** On a Point of Order Honourable Speaker - I just want to be very clear about the proposal that my Son is introducing, the Social Housing Scheme.

He talked about the high prices of housing, whether rental or purchasing, but then the Social Housing Scheme is - according to how I understood it - not meant to bring the prices down. It is meant to keep prices in the private hands at the same level, but then this Social Scheme should be subsidised by the Government. Where does it take us in that equation?

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**HON VENAANI:** Let me answer you, but if you listen to my Motion you will understand what I am saying.

The more we proliferate access to serviced land, the lower the housing prices will go. It is the economics of supply and demand. The reason why a plot where there is a serviced erf in Academia today would cost N\$1.8 million is because the non-availability of land. The more you proliferate cheaper schemes, people would have better options by moving to these scheme and this will drive the prices down. The one issue that we must also address, that we have not addressed in this country, is our Banking Institutions.

Let me say the following before I go to the banking institutions. There is competition coming – we have the Bank of Angola with Portuguese links coming into the country. Have you realised that when the banks heard that competition is coming, service fees have been removed. Banks told us that they cannot operate without service fees (*intervention*).

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**HON SPEAKER:** Are you saying that we should check our bank statements?

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**HON VENAANI:** Yes, Bank Windhoek was one of them that started. I think Standard Bank is also moving away from service fees, why is that? They are seeing danger in the market because if these people become new players, we must put our game in order. If you look at the way how European banks are financing mortgages and the way that our banks are financing mortgages, you can also see a discrepancy. So, this is also a matter that needs to be addressed because, sometimes you pay for one property three times or double fold the value of that property. However, I will interrogate your issues as I move on.

All I am saying is that our *housing crisis* is not a unique phenomenon that Namibia is the first country to experience, accordingly we are in the fortunate position where we can learn from the steps that other countries have taken to address their own housing crises and adapt and formulate our own unique National Social Housing Scheme that is specifically catered to our local demands and needs.

I will thus briefly elaborate on three social or public housing that have been and are still being successfully implemented around the world to reduce and address housing shortages, namely the model implemented in Vienna, Austria, the Kenyan model and possibly the most famous and most successful model used in Singapore. These three models cover 3 different continents in Europe, Africa and Asia respectively, and thus represent a wide spectrum. I will specifically not quote numerical figures specifying the subsidies or governmental contribution as these numbers are country specific and will not aid in understanding the models in our specific context.

**SOCIAL HOUSING MODEL IN VIENNA - AUSTRIA)**

European housing and socio-economic researcher, Christopher Reinprecht summarises Vienna's social housing model as follows and I quote:

*“There is a general political consensus that society should be responsible for housing supply, and that housing is a basic human right need that*

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*should not be subject to free market mechanisms; rather, society should ensure that sufficient dwellings are available.”*

Over 60% of residents in Vienna live in subsidised rental apartments; including the Government owned apartments - Vienna Municipal Department 50 - and a limited amount of apartments are owned by profit-orientated housing associations. The scheme originated in the mid 1920s when the Municipal Government constructed 61,175 apartments in 42 housing developments for all income groups all around the city to encourage social cohesion and interaction amongst different classes to narrow the rich-poor divide and encourage class interaction.

The Social Housing scheme is financed as follows: specific budgetary allocation is made each year for the erection of more houses in Vienna by the Federal or Regional Government, money derived from corporate taxes throughout Vienna that is specifically earmarked for this purpose and lastly, a housing levy that is paid by all working Austrians. Any shortfall is then made up by the local Municipality in Vienna.

In this scheme, housing subsidies are object driven and do not apply to specific individuals but rather to the construction work in and of itself. The result is that the construction of homes is cheaper and thus they can be sold at a lower price.

The system has proven so successful that in modern day Vienna, four-fifths of all housing being built now is subsidized via Public Funds. The exception being secondary homes for people who already own homes and the most expensive higher upper class homes are also not subject to subsidy.

The direct consequence of such a large sector of the population living in or having access to subsidised social housing is that the private housing market is forced to reduce prices as they directly compete with social housing schemes, and thus, as a result, private landlords cannot inflate

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rental rates and are forced to have prices on a relatively similar scale to those available in the social housing market.

The Vienna model works and has stood the test of time because it is diverse and caters for high income, middle income and low income families, thus it is a programme geared towards a centralised housing scheme, with a limited private housing market, and not just as in some cases with social housing models where the programmes are primarily - if not only - aimed towards building houses for the poor or low income families.

The main criticism or drawback of the Vienna Model is that the majority of the residents do not purchase the homes but are perpetual tenants, though at comparatively much lower rates than tenants in most places in the world.

**SOCIAL HOUSING MODEL IN SINGAPORE**

Let us look at Singaporean Social Housing Model example, which unlike its counterpart in Vienna, is premised on encouraging residents to purchase their homes. Singapore's Social Housing Programme is run by the Housing Development Board (HBD) and close to 85% of the Singaporean population live in HBD-built apartments and houses. Furthermore, 90% of HBD residents own the homes in which they live. Only in exceptional circumstances where an HBD resident can truly not afford to buy his/her home are they permitted to stay on as perpetual tenants instead of purchasing their home.

A key difference between the approach of the Austrian Government and the Singaporean one, is that the former uses a housing subsidy as a tool of redistribution of wealth, whereas the latter views the housing subsidy system as a tool to promote wider economic growth.

The Singaporean model does not prohibit an individual from purchasing more than one HBD house, however the size and extent of the grant or

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subsidy decreases with each additional home purchased, with first time buyers qualifying for the highest subsidy towards the purchase an HBD house. The HBD system is further designed in such a manner that it awards the highest grants to towards families with the lowest incomes, thereby also making it a tool for wealth redistribution and means to narrow the financial gap between the most affluent and the most impoverished.

The financing schematic of the HBD houses is not as complex as the Vienna Model, but has one obvious drawback which the Honourable Members will probably pick up on immediately. In 1968, the Singaporean Government introduced a policy which permitted the use of the Central Provident Fund - equivalent to the Social Security and Pension Fund systems here - to make down payments and monthly mortgage instalments. In modern day Singapore, 80% of residents who own HBD homes are not required to contribute any monthly cash sum towards covering their mortgage payments, but rather have the entire amount drawn monthly from the Central Provident Fund.

Another success story of the Singaporean model is that by building HBD neighbourhoods incorporating houses catered for different income groups, they have been able to achieve greater social cohesion and do away with neighbourhoods divided across racial or class lines.

As we know from our own Namibian example, since the end of Apartheid, we have struggled to do away with the consequences of Apartheid spatial policies, which has seen our towns, particularly Windhoek, divided across racial, tribal and class lines.

A further strength of the Singaporean model is that, like the Vienna model, the programme is committed to cutting-edge architectural design and all new homes are built with an emphasis on the use of eco-friendly materials and strategies.

The Housing Development Board controls and administers every stage of

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the process, in that it is responsible for every aspect of the system – from constructing and selling the HBD homes and additionally, also acting as the mortgage lender.

The greatest and obvious drawback of the Singaporean model is that whilst it is ideal for the youth and young professionals residents who wish to purchase houses as they still have enough time to accumulate retirement savings later on life, it leaves older residents very exposed and vulnerable. However, the trend has started in Singapore to take out additional private pension cover to serve as insurance against this possible shortfall.

### **SOCIAL HOUSING MODEL IN KENYA**

The Jamii Bora Trust, meaning “*Good Families*” in Kiswahili, was established in 1999, when the founder, Ingrid Munro extended loans to 50 women-headed “*street families*” or families from the Kenyan slums who wanted to escape poverty and build dignified shelter for themselves, as well as gain access to other social services like health and education, given that Government intervention was too slow.

The Jamii Bora Trust, which initially started as a *de facto* Savings Club for 50 homeless women. The Savings Club that started out by offering micro-loans to Jamii Bora members in the slums or informal settlements in Kenya has grown from its 50 members in 1999 to over 300,000 members today and has been converted to a micro-finance institution or bank that is however closer to a social or family trust than it is a bank in its operational design.

One of Jamii Bora’s greatest success stories is the construction of 2,000 housing units in the Kajaado district under the banner of Kaputei Town in the southern part of Nairobi. Kaputei Town provides new homes for 2,000 families, or approximately 10,000 people, drawn almost exclusively from the slums in or around Nairobi.

Jamii Bora’s low cost houses are built by the members themselves and all

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materials are produced and made locally by the members, thus drastically reducing the costs associated with construction, especially the import of construction material.

Jamii Bora is widely credited with lifting the burden of the Central Government by providing alternative, innovative and speedy means for building and financing low cost housing.

Members who wish to purchase homes built by Jamii Bora receive home loans at discounted rates ranging between 8.5-10% interest with a 10-15 year repayment period. Members further pay in a monthly member contribution which is used for all maintenance work required on the houses. Additional funding from Jamii Bora is also garnered from the Central Government, the business fraternity, civic and welfare organisations – thus making the funding of the project a *quasi* national affair.

Jamii Bora is a unique form of social entrepreneurship and works because the members are both the employees and the owners of the bank. Traditionally the construction of low cost housing is outsourced to property developers who may not necessarily be aware of the specific needs and the natural resources that are readily available in the locality, whereas the members were able to build houses using mostly free or cheap natural resources that they themselves converted into building materials on site, thereby reducing costs related to transportation of building materials.

Critically when designing the outlay for Kaputei Town, because the members themselves were the builders and the future owners they were able to suggest and incorporate essential facilities like primary schools, health care facilities, police stations and so forth thus turning the development into a *pseudo* independent town for low income families where they had access to most essential services. It is said that Jamii Bora has been successful in creating a “*new middle income*” by lifting people out of poverty in this way.

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**URBAN LAND RESETTLEMENT SCHEME**

Honourable Speaker, let me turn my attention to the Urban Land Resettlement Scheme. The second part of us addressing our housing needs – there is this big demand over the years about poor people accessing equity in their hands and those that are pushing it have a point and we must admit that they have a point. If you look at Windhoek today, everything east of Windhoek belongs to property owners while in the west of Windhoek, the hills of Windhoek belong to no one. People who are living there for years have no equity in their hands and it can be said throughout this whole country. Many of you who have read what Jaramogi Oginga Odinga once said that it is not yet *Uhuru* – those who say it is not yet *Uhuru* because we have not yet accessed land, have a point. However, we must have means to arrive at a safer landing place - to have a country that is able to aid the process and not to have a resource that we want and a country that is not able to aid the process. Therefore, we need to marry the two diverse positions to make sure that we bring equity in the hands of our people.

The basic rational in my argument is the same as the one behind the generic Land Reform Resettlement Scheme aimed at communal farmers and to a smaller degree commercial farmers.

Urban land tenure in Namibia has been regulated by a number of Acts and Regulations. The oldest Act which is still in operation is the *Deeds Registries Act* of 1937. In terms of this Act, all land in Namibia must be surveyed before it can be registered. Any transactions resulting in change of ownership of land, including long leases and servitudes, must first be surveyed by a professional land surveyor, approved by the Surveyor-General (SG), and thereafter registered in the Deeds Office. Of more recent date is the *Land Survey Act* of 1993. Surveying of land is done in terms of this Land Survey Act. Before land can be surveyed, an elaborate process of approval is often required, involving the use of various professional consultants -generally town planners - and a series of intermediate approvals by various individuals and committees. Most



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planning procedures are based on the Townships and Division of Land Ordinance, Ordinance No. 11 of 1963, and to a certain extent the Town Planning Ordinance No.60 of 1954. As you can tell, the process can be long and arduous.

I was having s meeting with the leadership of NCCI to acquaint myself with what they are doing and the challenges. One members of their leadership who runs one of the biggest private conglomerates said that – *I have applied for land to build houses for six hundred of my employees*, but this application has taken them a period of 7 years just for them to be able to access land in Windhoek to build houses for his employees, for them to be deducted. This, therefore tells you that we cannot access land in our own country because the system and the bureaucracy is of such a nature that you are not going to be able to afford and access land.

While the currently available Namibian surveyors, lawyers, government officials and even politicians have generally speaking adequately been trained and are suitably qualified in these formal land registration systems - systems defined in the broad sense, including planning, surveying and registration, the problem is that whilst the system is effective in terms of accuracy and security, it is completely ineffective in terms of cost and equitability. The same problems, which lead to the birth of the Land Reform Act and related policy frameworks.

The system is widely accepted to be very slow and most importantly, only serves to secure the property and housing rights of those already in possession of urban land and makes entry into the market very expensive and inequitable.

In Windhoek alone, less than half of the residents benefit from the Formal Land Tenure System. Approximately 18,000 families - at least 25% of the city population - live in informal settlements without any permanent tenure. Furthermore, the majority of the low income residents in the northern informal suburbs of the city who do have freehold ownership, do not have access to the economic benefits of freehold, being mortgage

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finance and other land development financing schemes as the formalised Commercial Banking Sector do not recognise their Rights.

As a result we sit with an institutional framework that protects the rights of urban land owners who partly obtained same due to the inequitable distribution that was prevalent in pre-independence Namibia and access to affordable urban land is reserved for a small affluent minority. We must not lie about it, go to every house in Pioneers Park, Windhoek West, Eros – you can see the number of erven that have houses of 700 square metres under the roof and still have 1000 square metres around the erf. Whether we like it or not, these things were done deliberately to promote the interests of certain people. However, go to any town in the world, if you want to see where poor people live, it starts from the sizes of the erven. Just the sizes of the erven tell you a story. We really need to address some of these anomalies.

I am aware that there will necessarily be costs associated with such an endeavour, however, to illustrate the potential benefits of such a scheme, let me use a simple model. If you were to assume that the costs of servicing one plot/erf, say in Grootfontein or anywhere is N\$50,000.00 – and this is the analogy I will keep using in this Debate - and you had N\$1 million allocated to do so, you would be able to service 20 plots, which would equate to 20 families whom you have provided shelter to. If one were to assume each family consists of 5 people then that is 100 Namibian's who now have a dignified dwelling to call home. Using the self-same model, suppose we start with an Urban Resettlement Scheme and spend N\$1 billion in the next 5 years, do you know how many Namibians will be able to have access to land? With N\$1 billion more than hundred thousand families will be able to have land in Namibians.

I disagree with those who are saying the youth must get the land because youth is a transit period, you cannot permanently be youthful. We should rather talk about poverty stricken Namibians that we can allocate erven to because they are many. I know of people who are working in Windhoek who own shacks. It has been more than 25 years, but that land does not

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belong to them. Therefore, for those who are saying the only youth must get the land, I think we should widen the net and try to give land in a systematic manner because the problem with grabbing land is that you start grabbing until nobody owns anything, because if you are 10 and you grab one place, who owns it? We, therefore, need to create a systematic manner on how we can allocate that (*intervention*)

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**HON SPEAKER:** Do you know that you can grab land without landing in jail?

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**HON VENAANI:** Excuse me?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Do you know that you can grab land without risking ending up in jail?

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**HON VENAANI:** Well, it is illegal for those who are advocating it. However, people say the Zimbabweans have done it, yes, every stresses the question of colour owning land, but is it really the result that we want to see? A changed colour without a running economy? Changing colour and have people proliferating other people's capital? We cannot go that route, but the route that we should take must be systematic and we should also not send a message as if we are going to deliver things for free. We must have trust and confidence in the system for it to deliver, because if you have elected a system in place and you are saying that the system is no longer useful, which system do you want? You must either replace the system abide by the Rules of the system and ask for the system to expedite its process wherever it can because a housing crisis are not Namibian

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crisis alone – go to bigger economies like Brazil, India and China, we have housing crises everywhere, but we are lucky in country. We are lucky in the sense that we have a very big country and very small population. We can start somewhere, but we must start with a systematic process of planning correctly, we should not rush the process and say – *let us deliver land tomorrow* – we cannot deliver land tomorrow. No person can deliver land tomorrow, but if we start planning systematically to find solutions to problems and find Social Housing (*intervention*)

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**HON SPEAKER:** Point of Order.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. I would like to pose a question, if accepted by the Mover of the Motion?

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**HON VENAANI:** It is accepted.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** I have been listening keenly from the beginning when you have been articulating all these issues. This was very fine and good.

As you were illustrating, you provided some examples of various developing countries like Singapore. Honourable Venaani, could you now perhaps give an illustration on the Namibian situation after Independence? During your lengthy Motivation of your Motion, you have never referred to what the Government of Namibia has attempted to do in the past 25 years to address the urban land and housing problems - like the Better

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Housing Programme that was introduced at the dawn of Independence, which was the Government's initiative. I know that this Programme was a success to a certain extent. It was really aiming to solve this problem, whatever came in between there, it is still an ideal. Then there is still Shack Dwellers Association, all these are ideas attempting to solve the urban land and housing problems. Then there is, of course, NHE which I would agree is somehow controversial. The latest is the Mass Housing Project, even if some people are saying it failed, it may not have failed, but it has some obstacles.

Could you perhaps also give some examples at home so that I can follow you properly? Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON VENAANI:** If you listened attentively to how I started, I have narrated the housing crisis that we have in this country - all that we have done fair and well. When this country got independent, there was no Hakahana, it started after Independence. We have done some projects, but the crux of the problem is the fact that we left everything to the markets to control the housing market and this is the crisis that this country is finding itself in. The markets dictate the Fundamental Human Rights of our people.

We need to start shifting towards addressing the backlog that we are having by looking at Social Schemes that will comparatively silence the markets. One of those schemes is the proliferation of serviced land to poor people in this country. South Africa, for example, has done extremely well under this RDP Houses that they have delivered. *(Interjection)* Yes, they have done well and South Africa is giving houses for free. RDP houses, are free houses that are given.

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**HON MEMBER:** RDP Houses? *(Laughter)*

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**HON VENAANI:** What do they call the acronym? It is not this RDP – the other RDP. (*Laughter*)

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**HON SPEAKER:** Please continue.

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**HON VENAANI:** Rural - what is the other name?

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**HON MEMBER:** Reconstruction and Development Programme.

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**HON VENAANI:** Yes, that word! Yes, those are the RDP houses.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Do not worry about the details.

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**HON VENAANI:** Yes. South Africa is giving houses for free. Free houses with solar panels on top, but you know what? Our problems people are also having problems - the problem with the RDP Houses is that one would apply for one RDP house in Windhoek, apply for one in Okanguti and for another in Rundu. One person will have six RDP Houses because they are given for free - so we know this.

However, we are saying, let us not start with a free route, what we can do is by subsidising our Local Authorities and have a scheme. The amount of money that we have spent on accessing Commercial Farming Land on

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HON VENAANI**

Urban Resettlement if you turn that money around and spend it on serviced urban land, you will resettle quadruple more people on serviced land than on farms. I am not saying we should stop the Land Resettlement Programme on the farms, but we must through our processes engineer a scheme that will be able to deliver because the reason why speculators are getting away with this is - you would come a morning at an auction wanting to buy a house and some of you have built new homes – and you know that when we go to these auctions, speculators will put their hands up. You would wonder that there is no house, but this person is ready to pay N\$3 million. Why is he ready to pay N\$3 million? Because he has the money in his hands. If you start competing with this person and you create two new more Local Authorities (*intervention*).

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**HON SPEAKER:** Point of Order.

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**HON VENAANI:** I am really done so to say.

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** I think the Honourable Leader of the Official Opposition is motivating a specific Motion that is on the Order Paper, but it appears now that he is overloading his Motivation with all kinds of things.

Would he just stick to the Motivation of the specific Motion as outlined on the Order Paper to enable other Honourable Members to later deal with the issue, obviously with the intention to address specific problems that we have at home here?

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HON VENAANI**

**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much for that Point of Order – I actually wanted to ask if you could conclude please?

---

**HON VENAANI:** I am just concluding. Honourable Speaker, I am concluding by saying (*interjection*) If the Honourable Member does not understand, I must debate it so that he understands it.

However, Honourable Speaker, what I am saying is that the expectation is on us the Leaders of this country across the political divide, across the *isms* that we have for one another. It is and it must be within out time to find a lasting solution to this problem, whether we plan for six years or a year to find a lasting solution, we must find it. And this House should not let our people down.

Honourable Speaker, I have concluded - do you want to say hello to me? (*Intervention*).

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**HON SPEAKER:** Have you concluded?

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**HON VENAANI:** Yes, I have concluded.

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**HON SPEAKER:** You concluded?

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**HON VENAANI:** Yes, I have concluded, she can take the Floor. (*Laughter*)

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RT HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Honourable Speaker, I wanted to make a Point of Information for the benefit of the Honourable Member and also the Members of the House and the public out there.

Firstly, I want to acknowledge that the issue that the Honourable Member is raising through this Motion is an important one. I also want to indicate that this is an issue that Government has been preoccupied with for quite some time and I was of the understanding that after the briefings that were provided from the Cabinet Chambers with regard to what is being done, there is now an understanding of what is in the pipeline in terms of the efforts that Government is making in trying to address the issue of land, whether it is commercial or urban land.

At an appropriate time, the relevant Ministers who are part of the team that has been put together by the Cabinet to deal with this matter, could have an elaborate presentation made here, of the ideas that we have come up with in order to address that issue, and I was hoping that, maybe the Motion of the Honourable Member could perhaps seek to request that that information be brought here by the relevant Ministers in order for the House to be updated with what is being done, instead of putting it on the Table as if it is an issue that is being considered for the first time because that may end with us making the same proposals that have been made and adopted under that initiative that I have alluded to.

If the Honourable Member is not aware of that, I just want to inform the Honourable Member and the House. I was looking around to see some of the Members that are on the Committee, but unfortunately some of them are not here and one of the Members of that Committee that I see here is relatively new. I do not know, perhaps the persons still need to familiarise themselves with the issue, but for the benefit of the public, I think it is important that it be known that the Government has already given consideration to this issue. The SWAPO Party has given consideration to it. There was a Committee established by SWAPO at the Political Bureau level and the issue came to Cabinet. We had several

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meetings, we even had a retreat where we looked at various aspects and came up with a Programme that was approved by Cabinet.

Various Ministries that are Members of that Committee are busy pursuing measures to give effect to the recommendations that were approved. I, therefore, think that it is important considering the importance of the matter, perhaps to have a platform where this initiative is presented in an elaborate manner so that people have an understanding of what is coming and they also have an opportunity to express themselves on the proposals adopted. These approved measures will go all the way to reviewing the Law, relooking at some of the Programmes and looking at the funding approach, including what the Honourable Member is talking about here - accelerating the servicing of land and so forth.

Without objecting to the Motion, I really just want to say that if the Honourable Member insists that the Motion be discussed, it would duplicate the efforts that are going on. He may want to say - *if that is so, let us hear what is on the Table*, and then he can decide whether he thinks that there should still be a parallel discussion to what is being done. Thank you.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Throughout the presentation of the Honourable Members, I was actually looking at the Minister responsible and I was also conscious of the language.

Some aspects of the issues that Honourable Venaani was raising were very identical to the intervention of the Minister when she spoke at several places and I was just thinking about, in view of the way how we treated the earlier Motion, whether Honourable Venaani will not perhaps liaise with the Minister concerned - with the Line Ministry to share the idea because some of these issues have actually been highlighted by the Minister concerned and it is very much part of the work in progress.

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HON SHANINGWA**

I would, therefore, like to hear from Honourable Sophia Shaningwa if she would maybe like to express her opinion this.

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**HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Yes, please.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the House and Honourable Venaani, as the Line Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, my team and I is seized with the subject matter and through the introduction of this Motion, my data is now given by Honourable Venaani. We are a team of Ministers; that is myself, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of Lands and Resettlement and the Attorney-General are also part and parcel of the Committee that is dealing with land, both for urban and commercial and housing *per se*.

When the Honourable Member was speaking, I was now thinking, was my piece of paper leaked to the Honourable Member or what is really what here? (*Laughter*)

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**HON SPEAKER:** They say great minds think alike sometimes.

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**HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Yes, but it is a genuine concern Honourable Venaani, we are hard at work. We are very open for new ideas and contributions, but we will definitely bring the document to the House so that the Honourable House is at least enlightened. I so submit, Honourable Speaker and thank you Honourable Venaani for also (*intervention*)

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HON VENAANI**

**HON SPEAKER:** Highlighting?

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**HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** For the concern. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Honourable Venaani, the request to you is whether you would mind submitting the issue that you highlighted in your Motion to be referred back to the Line Ministry so that it becomes part of the process of re-examining and thinking and perhaps when they report back to the House, all these elements will obviously be taken into account and you will have an opportunity to further interrogate the presentation that the Minister will eventually put to the House in the form of a Report. Honourable Venaani.

---

**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Speaker, one thing is that, on the Point of Information - the Right Honourable Prime Minister knows that I am not a Member of SWAPO, she also knows that I am not a Member of Cabinet, nor am I privy to the discussions of Cabinet, I would, therefore, not have known that Cabinet is seized with the matter.

However, I am trying to look for a diplomatic and safe landing of this issue, so that it does not die a natural death. If you look at my Motion, I referred this matter to two Committees because it has a social element and an economic element - perhaps we could refer this Motion to the Committee and this Committee will initiate the necessary paper work.

Honourable Speaker, I want us to be very consistent because this House is the House of the people and when an issue of the people come to the House it is referred to a Committee and that Committee would liaise with the Minister and come with a final narrate or Report that would come to

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RT HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

the House and the Minister would be privy to debate the issue as she Reports to the House and the Committee will say that - *we have taken note of the work of Government when we find progress* so that we just find each other. *Turi pamwe* Prime Minister? (Are we together, Prime Minister?)

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**HON SPEAKER:** Right Honourable Prime Minister.

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I really want us to try and find each other here because this is obviously an issue that we are all concerned about.

I was thinking that, now that the Honourable Member has referred the Motion to a Committee to consider the matter, maybe we could consider that the Committee that is established by the Cabinet meets with the Parliamentary Committee and present to that Committee the proposals that are put in place and engage the Committee so that we could see whether there would be additional proposals that will come from that Committee and they are then included in there, and then we see whether we would still want to have the Motion debated here instead of the other way round, because if the matter goes to the Committee first, the Committee must follow its procedures of having Public Hearings and so forth.

Some of the issues are very urgent, they need to be tackled urgently in order for us to unblock the system and pick up speed.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, Honourable Prime Minister. I think we are all concerned, the urgency of the matter is underscored by all of us. We refer the matter to the Committee, the Committee will consult further and if they feel that in their wisdom, the Cabinet Committee has

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**ADJOURNMENT**  
**RT HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

taken issues on board, they would then be able to decide on the spot. With that understanding, can we dispose of this issue and thank you all?

There being no other items on the agenda, this matter has been agreed to. So decided. Thank you very much.

There is a small matter that we should inform the House about and that is that, we go by the items on the agenda and on the basis of what I can see now, we have disposed of all the major issues before us for this particular Session. A number of items have been referred to Thursday and we obviously have very little on our agenda for tomorrow, unless if the Table Office can advise me otherwise.

We do have issues to discuss for Thursday, but as for tomorrow we do not have anything, can I thus, call on the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House until Thursday, the usual time?

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, I propose that the House adjourns until Thursday, at 14:30.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. The House stands adjourned until Thursday, 14:30.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:40 UNTIL 2015.06.18 AT 14: 30**

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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
18 JUNE 2015**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**ANNOUNCEMENT**

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, permit me to start with something that will take you back along memory lane. Today is the 18<sup>th</sup> of June, the Year of our Lord 2015; but if we are to look back, almost 26 years ago today, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia, Hage Gottfried Geingob, a person some of us prefer to call Hage and his team landed here. Having returned back home, they started the process of elections and those elections as you recall paved the way for the Independence of Namibia. Let me state that and leave it at that for the young people of today's Namibia to know and remember. I move on. (*applause*) Thank you very much.

Honourable Members, I would like to announce the Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons of the Parliamentary Standing Committees and in doing that, I would also be making corrections to those Standing Committees as received from our various Political Parties represented in this House. I will start with the:-

(i) *Standing Committee on Public Accounts:*

The Chairperson is Honourable Mike Kavekatora;  
The Deputy Chairperson is Honourable Hamunyera Hambyuka.

(ii) *Standing Committee on Constitution and Legal Affairs:*

The Chairperson is Honourable Sebastiaan Karupu;

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The Deputy Chairperson is Honourable Emilia Nuyoma-Amupewa.

(iii) *Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security:*

The Chairperson is Honourable Levi Katoma;  
The Deputy Chairperson is Honourable Agnes Kafula.

(iv) *Standing Committee on Natural Resources:*

The Chairperson is Honourable Sophia Swartz;  
The Deputy Chairperson is Honourable Marina Kandumbu.

(v) *Standing Committee on Economics and Public Administration:*

The Chairperson is Honourable Veikko Nekundi;  
The Deputy Chairperson is still to be elected.

(vi) *Standing Committee on Human Resources, Social and Community Development:*

The Chairperson is Honourable Jagger;  
The Deputy Chairperson is Honourable Namupala.

(vii) *Standing Committee on Gender Equality, Social Development and Family Affairs:*

The Chairperson is Honourable Hoffmann;  
The Deputy Chairperson is Gotthard Kasuto.

(viii) *Standing Committee on Information, Communication, Technology and Innovation:*

The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson are still to be elected.



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The following Members have been added to the:-

(i) *Committee on Constitution and Legal Affairs:*

Honourable Margaret Mahoto and Honourable Sophia Swartz.

(ii) *Committee on Economics and Public Administration:*

Honourable Loide Shinavene, Honourable Evelyn !Nawases-Taye, Honourable Julius Hambyuka and Honourable Nico Smit.

(iii) *Committee on Human Resources, Social and Community Development:*

Honourable Evelyn !Nawases-Taye, Honourable Norah Munsu and Honourable Elma Dienda. Honourable Muharukua's name is removed from this Committee as it was wrongly added to this particular Committee.

(iv) *Committee on Information, Communication, Technology and Innovation:*

Honourable Kandjimi, Honourable Nghaamwa and Honourable Jagger.

(v) *Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU):*

Honourable Clara //Gowases.

(vi) *Commonwealth Parliamentary Association - CPA:*

Honourable Clara //Gowases.

I now declare these Honourable Members as duly elected Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons of the National Assembly's Parliamentary Standing Committees, respectively.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS  
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

Honourable Members on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, when I made additions to the Standing Committee some names were omitted as I indicated earlier and they have now been duly corrected to reflect the record of the deliberations of the appropriate Committees and Members involved.

Once again, I say congratulations to the Members so elected - Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons of our various Standing Committees (*applause*) I know that the people noted the fact that the ICT Committee Chairperson and Vice Chairperson have not been read out. This is for the reason that is beyond the Chair. This is a matter that is still being discussed and I am sure the Chief Whip will be responding later. Thank you.

That basically conclude the announcement that I needed to make.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I will move on to Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Yes, Honourable Minister of Finance.

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**TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL**

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

- (i) Office of the President for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2014;
- (ii) Office of the Prime Minister for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2014;

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**TABLING OF REPORTS  
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

- (iii) Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2014;

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**HON MEMBER:** Foreign Affairs? Where is that?

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** When the year ended it was still the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. *(Laughter)*

- (iv) Ministry of Information and Communication Technology for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2014;
- (v) Ministry of Mines and Energy for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2014;
- (vi) National Assembly for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2014; and lastly
- (vii) National Council for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2014.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Please table the Reports, Honourable Minister. Other Reports and Papers? I think we have gone through that. Notice of Motions? Yes, Honourable Muharukua.

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS  
HON MUHARUKUA**

**HON MUHARUKUA:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I hereby give Notice that on Tuesday, the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2015, I shall Move - that, given the fact that large tracts of fertile agricultural land that we have at our disposal is not fully utilised due to bush encroachment and in light of the fact that we are faced with the current drought; further in light of the fact that in terms of the last Namibian Labour Force Survey of 2014, published by the Namibian Statistics Agency in March of this year (2015), 39.2% of the working age youth is unemployed and not studying or attending any post-school college or university;

That this House:-

*Discusses* the possibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry looking into entering into Public Private Partnership with commercial farm owners so that we can utilise unemployed youth to debush the land, and also the possibility of using unemployed youth to harvest vacant or underutilised State-Owned commercial land for them to earn a living and for the grass to be used by farmers as a means to cope with limited grazing and pastures.

That this Motion be referred to the Standing Committee on Natural Resources and the Standing on Human Resources, Social and Community Development for investigation and recommendations. I so Move Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Please table the Motion. Yes, Honourable Hambyuka please.

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**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS  
HON MUHARUKUA**

**HON HAMBYUKA:** Honourable Speaker, I Move without notice that Leave of Absence, due to ill-health, be granted to Honourable Gotthardt Kasuto until the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2015. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Message from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? None. I am going according to the list. There being none and today being Thursday, we are now going to first deal with Questions. Yes, please Honourable Maamberua you have the Floor.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS**

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**QUESTION 18:**

**HON MAAMBERUA:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2016, I shall ask the Minister of Urban and Rural Development questions following on this background information.

Honourable Minister, many concerns have been expressed in the media and elsewhere regarding the manner in which the Municipal Councils allocate land, more especially the Windhoek Municipality. Amongst concerns expressed about the inappropriate manner in land allocation include the following:

1. Concerns about Councillors at all levels, that is, Mayors, Deputy Mayors etcetera allocating themselves land directly or indirectly.
2. Concerns of big portions of land being allocated to politically well-connected individuals and their companies.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON MAAMBERUA**

3. Concerns about the size of land allocated to individual companies, sometimes up to 50 hectares to one company - that is about 50 football pitches – given to just one company.
4. Concerns (*interjection*)

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**HON SPEAKER:** Give him a chance.

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** Concerns that at this rate and size of land allocation, Windhoek could soon run out of land available for residential, industrial and institutional development.

5. Concerns about administrative staff also allocating land without Council's approval.
6. Concerns about technical and legal advice not being considered by politicians or Councillors and, therefore, decisions taken against such advice.
7. The Honourable Minister has also been quoted by a weekly paper about her dissatisfaction about land allocation to the elite by the Oshakati Town Council.
8. Concerns have also been expressed about Councillors allocating land to family members and friends.

Implications of the above cited concerns include the following:

- (a) Windhoek could run out of building spaces in a few years.
- (b) Allocating so much land to individual companies is tantamount to deprivation of opportunities to other residents of Windhoek.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON MAAMBERUA**

- (c) Since habitat is a Human Right, depriving others of land or habitat space is a violation of Human Rights.
- (d) Should this trend continue unabated, the gap between the rich and the poor could widen with dire consequences on inequality and poverty.

Therefore:-

- (i) To assure the citizens about these broad concerns, would you as the Honourable Minister responsible for urban and rural development, recommend to His Excellency President Geingob to set up a Commission of Inquiry regarding these matters of skewed land allocation in the Municipalities with special emphasis on Windhoek?  
Or
- (ii) Alternatively, could you as Honourable Minister institute a broad investigation into these matters?
- (iii) Could you order the Municipality of Windhoek to immediately hold on the allocation of big land as the investigations might be on-going?  
Or
- (iv) Would you order that contracts relating to all inappropriately allocated land be annulled?

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Please table the Question. Honourable Muharukua you have the Floor.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON MUHARUKUA**

**QUESTION 19:**

**HON MUHARUKUA:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, I shall ask the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Honourable John Mutorwa, the following questions:

The Veterinary Cordon Fence (VCF) west of Etosha is permeable of forest, as a result cattle from the north of the VCF will inevitably graze south of the VCF, especially during times like this where the area north of the VCF has been exposed to four consecutive years of drought. We have lately seen the killing of not less than 15 cattle of farmers from Kaoko Land belonging to at least three different farms all of whom were not consulted prior to the killing and not compensated for their loss.

Thus, I ask the following the question:

1. Were the cattle that were killed tested for FMD? If so, did they test positive?
2. Is the Government going to continue with the practice of killing cattle that go through the VCF from the north to the south, even if they are found not to have the Foot and Mouth Disease?
3. Is the Government committed to pursuing the practice of killing people's cattle without informing them of its intention to kill or the reason therefore? The Government's continuous delay to erect a buffer zone between Namibia and Angola exposes farmers north of the VCF to FMD infected cattle that may originate from Angola. In light thereof, does the Government have any intention to compensate farmers whose livestock is killed because it has tested positive to MDF?

---

**HON MEMBER:** What is FMD? It is FMD.



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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON KAVEKOTORA**

**HON MUHARUKUA:** For FMD.

4. Lastly, do the elephants that carry grass and sand back and forth across the VCF pose a risk of transferral FMD? If so, is the risk of one elephant crossing the VCF not greater than that posed by one cow? If there is indeed such risk, what does the Government intend to do to minimise the risk posed?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Are you submitting the question?

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Kavekatora please.

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**QUESTION 20:**

**HON KAVEKOTORA:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on the Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Urban and Rural Development, Honourable Sophia Shaningwa the following questions relating to the Mass Housing Scheme.

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**HON MEMBER:** Do you want to know whether your application was successful? (*Laughter*)

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON KAVEKOTORA**

**HON KAVEKOTORA:** I did not apply.

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**HON MEMBER:** Just apply for the position.

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**HON KAVEKOTORA:** However, before I do so, Honourable Speaker, I would like to record my appreciation to Honourable Shaningwa on the general moratorium she placed on the scheme.

1. Honourable Minister, what mitigating measures have you put in place for managing potential legal costs resulting from possible breaches of contractual obligations and related cost during the moratorium?
  2. During the development and design stage of the Mass Housing Scheme, has there been any thought given to the targeted and intended beneficiaries? (*Interjection*)
- 

**HON MEMBER:** Yes!

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**HON KAVEKOTORA:** I did not hear that *yes* from Honourable Shaningwa.

3. Has any assessment been made on the quantum of the targeted beneficiaries' income levels?
4. Honourable Minister, is there any appreciation of the basic housing units' design under the Mass Housing Scheme in terms of the income levels and the needs of targeted beneficiaries?

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**  
**RT HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

5. Given the fact that NHE has been the implementing agency, and still is, for the Mass Housing Scheme - and at the same time has the mandate to built low cost housing – to what extent has cross-subsidisation taken place, if any?
6. Lastly, under the Mass Housing Scheme, how many houses have nationally been handed over since the start of the scheme because I have observed that in the town of Outjo, for instance, there are housing units constructed under the Mass Housing Scheme that have been completed but are standing unoccupied and risk being vandalised? I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Please table the Question. Right Honourable Prime Minister.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I indeed, have a Notice of a Motion, if you would allow, Honourable Speaker. I have an urgent Motion that I would like to Move next week Tuesday and I seek your indulgence that I give Notice of tabling the Motion.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Yes.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Tuesday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2014, I shall Move that this Assembly in accordance with Article 112(3) of the Namibian Constitution:-

*Approves* the appointment by His Excellency the President of Dr Nashilongo Shivute as a Member of the Public Service Commission. I

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS  
BY HON VENAANI  
HON SHILUNGA**

Move so Honourable Speaker.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Please table the Motion, Right Honourable Prime Minister.

I think we have dealt with the Notice of Questions and Notice of Motions. Any Message from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements?

At the point where we are now, we are going to deal with Thursday's Questions. I will start with the first, being Question 1, that of Honourable Venaani directed to the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. Honourable Venaani, do you still insist on this question?

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**HON VENAANI:** Yes, I put the Question, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. The Minister concern is not available. I suppose the Deputy Minister will deal with this? Also not available?

We are going to move over to Question 2. It also falls under the same category, so we move on to Question 4 rather, from Honourable Venaani directed to the Minister of Mines and Energy. Is the Deputy Minister around? Yes, please. Well, do you want me to repeat the question? Not really?

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS**

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**QUESTION 04:**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY:** Honourable

18 June 2015

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS  
BY HON VENAANI  
HON SHILUNGA**

Speaker, Honourable Members, before I provide the answer to the question; this being the first time that I speak in this august House, allow me first and foremost to thank the Almighty God for according me this opportunity.

Let me also thank His Excellency Dr Hage Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia for having trust and confidence in me in appointing me as the Deputy Minister of Mines and Energy in the Republic of Namibia. I feel very much privileged and humbled to join the growing number of Members of Parliament for the next five years.

I consider it a privilege because I am given an opportunity to serve my country at the national level and I do not take lightly, the great responsibility and expectation from me to deliver quality services to our people. I believe that the Namibian people deserve nothing less than the best.

Let me then proceed with the responses to the questions. On the **first Question** by Honourable Venaani on what the capacity of electricity is that we import from South Africa and how we are influenced by their current power crisis:

I will respond by saying that Nampower and Eskom have two agreements - the bilateral one and the supplementary agreement. Both of these agreements are functional and they can provide the capacity of 300 megawatts respectively. They will both come to an end in April 2017. In the latter agreement, Eskom has introduced the right to terminate should Nampower exceed the allowable import energy value. This agreement also introduced curtailing the supply capacity to the same percentage level of reduced supply experienced in the Republic of South Africa. In case that happens, Eskom will curtail all export to Nampower. This then means that, if Eskom is reducing supply to South Africa by 10%, then the supply to Namibia should also be reduced by 10%.

In case where Eskom is unable to supply Namibia, Nampower is notified

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BY HON VENAANI  
HON SHILUNGA**

to start up a local generation and procure emergency energy on the market. The energy supply sources for 2013/2014 Financial Year indicate the reliance on Eskom that has decreased as follows:

From 27% to 12% for the total supply mix and from 45% to 21% for the import.

The total energy supply for the country in the past Financial Year reflect as follows:

We are getting 40% from Ruacana, but from Van Eck, Paratus Anixas we are not getting anything because they are for contingent planning. Eskom from South Africa is 12%, Zesco from Zambia is 11%, ZESA from Zimbabwe gives us 26% and 12% from Agrekko Mozambique.

The total supply is 101% due to a 1% of energy that was sold into the Region from Namibia. Nampower optimises its supply sources to ease the burden from the Eskom system by dispatching its own sources and buying from the region during the time when Eskom system is constrained.

On **Question 2**, which requires the Minister to appraise the House on the current general picture of our electricity generation capacity and the economic demand we have to keep up with:

Let me first provide background information on this question. The Ministry of Mines and Energy identified the need to develop a National Integrated Resource Plan (NIRP) for the Namibian electricity supply Industry mandating the Electricity Control Board (ECB) to lead and manage the project.

This project officially commenced in July 2011, as a prerequisite to addressing the security of supply and also given the rapid pace of the Power Sector reform and the strong interest shown by the investors to enter Namibia's power generation market. The National Integrated Resource Plan is a 20-year development plan for Namibia's Electricity

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Supply Industry, spanning from 2012 to 2031. It provides a projection of Namibia's expected future electricity demand and then identifies a mixture of resources required to meet the country's electricity energy needs in an efficient and reliable manner at a lowest reasonable cost.

The demand as per the NIRP is expected to grow from an observed 544 Megawatts recorded in 2014, to close to 900 Megawatts by 2021, and 1,124 Megawatts by 2031. The average annual demand growth for the first ten years, that is now between 2011 and 2021, is expected to grow thereafter.

Namibia is considering demand side management initiatives, including a programme for the replacement of domestic efficient incandescent bulbs with the energy efficient type such as the Light Emitting Diode or the LED bulb. Demand management participation, that is, reducing supply load of large power user on agreed terms and then a programme to roll out solar water heaters.

**Current Generation Facilities:**

1. Ruacana Hydro Power Station - the largest electricity generation facility in Namibia is the Ruacana Hydro Electric Plant that is located in the Kunene River along the border with Angola. The station was commissioned in 1978 and consists of three 80 Megawatts hydro generators and a fourth unit of 92 Megawatts, commissioned in May 2012 for a total installed capacity of 332 Megawatts. The output capability of this plant is highly seasonal and dependent on the Kunene River's water supply.
2. Van Eck Coal Power Plant - the other main generating facility in the country use fossil fuel. The Van Eck Coal-Fired Power Plant was commissioned in 1973 and is located near Windhoek. It has an installed capacity of 120 Megawatts, using 4x 30 Megawatts generators. A refurbishment program plan is underway to extend it life, and to increase the operational capability to 180 Megawatts.

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3. Paratus Diesel Power Station, which is located in Walvis Bay and has a total rating of 24 Megawatts. The station has a “Black Start up” Diesel Generator and was commissioned in 1976. It is used mainly as a Stand-by and Peaking Power Station. Paratus runs at very high marginal cost and, therefore, it is only being utilised in emergencies.
4. Anixas Power Station - this power station is located adjacent to the Paratus Diesel Power Station in Walvis Bay. This station benefits from the new and proven technology having high efficiency and reliability and less emissions and noise than the older power stations of its type. There are three Caterpillar V16 cylinder diesel generator sets, each with a net electrical capacity of 7.5 Megawatts, giving a total of 22.5 megawatts. The power station started operation at the end of July 2011, and was officially inaugurated in November the same year.
5. Imports - Namibia has relied on power import for a significant portion of its national requirement. Currently, Namibia is a net-importer, importing between 50% and 70% of its energy requirement from the Region, that is now the SADC Region, depending on the availability of water at Ruacana Power Station.

Eskom has traditionally been the largest source of such supply. In late 2008, Namibia entered into a five-years agreement with ZESA in Zimbabwe for the supply of 150 Megawatts of baseload and this contract ended in March this year (2015). The current import contract with end-dates are as follows:

- South Africa via Eskom - it will end in March 2017, that is the off-peak of 300 Megawatts and the supplementary of 300 Megawatts;
- Zambia through ZESCO - 50 Megawatts and it is going to end in 2020;
- Zimbabwe through Zimbabwe Power Corporation is going to



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end March 2025; and

- Mozambique through Agrekko, 115 Megawatts and this is going to end this year - 2015.

Negotiations with regional national utilities Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe are currently underway for the replacement of the 115 Megawatts contract that we are losing with Agrekko. Should Nampower experience any supply shortage in the short run, Namibia will have to buy this energy on the Day-Ahead Market called DAM - from the Region at emergency prices, which are normally high. The situation is expected to improve once Kudu Power is commissioned in 2019.

6. Future Generation Facilities - throughout the Southern Africa Development Community Region, substantial shortage of energy is being experienced at this stage and this situation will prevail for some years until enough new generation has been built. Although a number of generation plants and planned, most of these plants will only start generating after 2017. The current Agrekko 115 Megawatts contract that will expire in 2015, will leave Namibia with a capacity gap of approximately 115 Megawatts.

Nampower has since secured an 80 Megawatts contract with Zimbabwe Power Company. The effective generation capacity outlook in Namibia contains the following generators excluding import as referred to above.

- Temporary Generation - the system will need a further 70 to 260 Megawatts of generation capacity in the year 2016, prior to the commissioning of the Kudu Plant.
- Renewable Power Stations - 2016 - a Concentrated Solar Power of 50 Megawatts, a Photovoltaic Solar 30 Megawatts,

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70 Megawatts Solar PV and other renewables, numerous small installation with capacities of up to 5 Megawatts each.

- Gas Power Stations - 2019 - Kudu Gas is going to give 884 Megawatts whereby 484 is going to be used locally and 400 Megawatts for regional off-take.
- There is a Hydro Power Station that is called Baynes Hydro and it is going to give us 300 Megawatts and that is anticipated to take place in 2022. This is the bilateral agreement between Namibia and Angola.
- Demand Side Management - Namibia is considering the following Demand Side Management - the LED replacement programme of the bulbs, the demand management participation and the solar water heater rollout.

Then **Question 3:** two years ago, our power utility Nampower, loaned the Zimbabwe counterpart millions of dollars to help our sister to jumpstart one of the power plants. The question was about how much of this plant was loaned and how much was repaid back.

**Response** – The Power Supply Agreement response between ZESA and Nampower started in 2008, and continued to supply the same energy of 150 Megawatts until February this year. This agreement has been reliable and the supply has been met. The amount of loan that was granted by Nampower to ZESA for the purpose of rehabilitating the Hwange Power Station amounted to US\$40 million at an interest rate of 1%. This money was repaid within five years as initially planned and the total amount was repaid in 2014.

The total value of energy supplied to Namibia during the period was costing N\$1.4 billion. The deal was favourable for the country because it was a reliable source of supply that we got from Zimbabwe and it also had low energy tariffs compared to the rest of the Region.

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BY HON VENAANI  
HON VENAANI**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I hope that I have sufficiently answered the question posed to the Minister of Mines and Energy by Honourable Venaani. I thank you. (*Applause*)

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. I know we have a number of questions to deal with. That was Question 4. We have Question 5 before us. Is there a follow up to the responses Honourable Venaani?

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Speaker in view of the fact that the Honourable Deputy Minister is a new Member of the House, I shall pose the direct questions to the Minister of Mines and Energy. There are follow-ups but I do not want to engage her at this time. It is her Maiden reply, therefore, I will let her be.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. You could see that she dealt with those questions extremely well. May I then ask the Honourable House - the time is moving so fast to tea-time. Can we go for tea because we have an event outside there where we are required to show up. Can I propose that we come back at 16:00, sharp? Thank you.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:32**

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**HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:02**

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS  
BY HON VENAANI  
HON MUSHELENGA**

**HON SPEAKER:** Be seated please. We were busy with Questions. I have a special request from a Member who is not going to be available, so permit me to go to Question 10, that of Honourable Venaani, directed to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, and the Honourable Deputy Minister is here to Respond. You have the Floor please.

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**QUESTION 10:**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND CORPORATION:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to respond to the question posed by Honourable Venaani and just to refresh the memories of some Honourable Members that I am seeing asking, the questions is on Page 23 - Question 10. The answer is as follows:

Namibia suspended diplomatic relations with Libya in 2011 with the ouster of Muammar Gaddafi up until such time as the new democratic Government is elected in Libya.

As per Cabinet submission dated the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2012, the issue relative to the recognition of the new Libyan Government was discussed in Cabinet consequent to the General National Congress Elections, that is, the Parliamentary Elections that took place on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2012. The General National Congress was elected by popular vote and took power from the National Transitional Council (NTC) on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August 2012.

The African Union Observer Mission concluded that elections were free, fair and transparent. In addition, the European Union Election Observer Mission also concluded that the voting process was largely peaceful and smooth, although technical delays and violence erupted in several locations.

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BY HON VENAANI  
HON MUSHELENGA**

At the beginning of 2014, Libya was still governed by the General National Congress led by Nouri Abusahmain as its President. With conclusion of the mandate in January 2014, the General National Congress refused to step down and unilaterally extended its power.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2014, General Khalifa Hafter, a Libyan General and the Principal Commander of the opposing side, which is the House of Representatives or Council of Deputies, ordered the General National Council to dissolve as its integral mandate has become to an end, calling for the formation of a Caretaker Government Committee to oversee new elections. The General National Council ignored its demands, and this is where the conflict escalated.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2014, the Supreme Constitutional Court in Tripoli declared the Council of Deputies dissolved. The Cabinet Committee on Defence, Security and Foreign Relations, on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2014, deliberated on the issue relative to the recognition of the new Government of Libya to seek approval on the Government's proposed position that Namibia could take.

The Cabinet Committee on Defence, Security and Foreign Relations, subsequent to the submissions of the above, did not pronounce itself relative to the normalisation of relations with Libya, notwithstanding the latter's readmission into the African Union. Hence, before the following answers.

**Question 1:** The answer is no - seeing that their mandate which was transitional, seized with the holding of the July 2012 elections.

**Question 2:** The answer is yes - seeing that Namibia has always maintained that the formation of a democratic Government in Libya is of paramount importance to the normalisation of the diplomatic relations with that country and this has happened subsequent to the mentioned elections.

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BY HON VENAANI  
HON SHILUNGA**

**Question 3:** Considering that Namibia and Libya maintained normal relations with the latter's Embassy still operational in Windhoek, a recommendation was made to Cabinet to grant recognition to the Libyan Interim Government in the light of the July 2012 elections, which were subsequently declared free, fair and transparent, both by the Observer Missions of the AU and the EU.

The current occupants of Libyan Missions are duly appointed officials of that Government prior to the escalation of violence in that country. Namibia has not severed diplomatic relations with Libya and neither have Libyan diplomats been expelled. It was just a level of engagement that is forever being scaled down. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. I think we move on back to the questions as they are provided in the form. Question 5 from Honourable Venaani is directed to the Honourable Minister of Mines and Energy. Is that correct?

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**HON VENAANI:** Yes, I put the Question, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Yes. I will call upon the Honourable Deputy Minister of Mines and Energy. You have the Floor.

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**QUESTION 05:**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, let me thank you once again for the

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS  
BY HON VENAANI  
HON SHILUNGA**

second chance to respond to the questions as posed by Honourable Venaani.

The **first question** was to find out about the downstream benefit that could accrued from Namibia if a refinery for Angolan oil is set up in the Northern Region. For the benefit of other Members of the House who might not properly understand the downstream term - in the Oil and Gas Industry we talk about *upstream* and *downstream*. Downstream refers to the conversion of crude oil into other products and selling them.

Honourable Speaker, the Government of the Republic of Namibia, and by extension the Ministry of Mines and Energy, has no plans of setting up an oil refinery in the Northern Region to refine Angolan oil or any oil for that matter. It is not in our immediate plans at this stage. What we know though is that the Angolan has plans to set up a refinery in Lobito, in Angola, in the foreseeable future. If this happens, we will have to see how Namibia can benefit from such a refinery, but we have to cross that bridge when we get there.

The **second question** was whether there are any down price effects that could stimulate the Northern Region's economy, and if the answer is in the affirmative, the Minister needs to appraise the House. Due to the fact that the first question is not in the affirmative, it nullifies the second question.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, on the **third question** as to whether there have been any conclusive agreements between Namibia and Angola to date on the matter of oil refinery or access to Angolan oil products; the answer is that: The two countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding in June 2013, to cooperate in the field of Petroleum. Currently, we are engaged with the Angolans for them to supply Namibia with crude oil so that we can swap it with refined products on the international market for Namibia's consumption. Discussions are at an advanced stage and I will appraise the House of the outcome at a later stage.

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BY HON VENAANI  
HON SHILUNGA**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the **fourth question** deals with the assertion that our Namibian negotiating team has no broader understanding on the business values and strategic approach on how our counterparts conduct business and this negatively influence the process in the negotiation. If the assertion is correct, how does the Minister intends to mitigate the situation and put the talks on course. My response to this would be to say that the stated assertion is not correct. There are various sensitivities on the Angolan side that have to be taken into consideration, for example, the Angola crude allocated to Namibia should not compete with the rest of the Angolan crude on the market.

Secondly, Angola crude oil should not be swapped with refined petroleum products from countries that do not have cordial bilateral relation with Angola. The Namibian team has to demonstrate to the Angolan counterpart that they are ready for the transaction to go ahead. That also means entering into a separate agreement with the Angolan National Oil Company and drawing up a robust business plan.

The **last question** dealt with the current diesel and petrol prices in Angola, which currently stands at 0.55 cent US Dollars per litre and 0.76 cents US Dollars per litre for diesel and petrol, respectively.

Angola is Africa's second largest oil producer. It has increased fuel prices by an average of 25% to reduce subsidies and boost Government spending. The International Monetary Fund (IMF), asked Angola to cut fuel subsidies to achieve social benefits by replacing fuel subsidies with targeted cash transfers to compensate the most vulnerable household for any increase in fuel prices. Again, let me use this opportunity to clarify that our current engagement with Angola is not about refinery *per se*, but rather on Namibia getting crude oil allocation from Angola. We are hoping that the crude oil could be obtained on favourable terms from the Angolan Government.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I hope that I have sufficiently answered the questions posed to the Minister of Mines and Energy by



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

Honourable McHenry Venaani. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Honourable Venaani.

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**HON VENAANI:** I thank the Honourable Member and assure her that Venaani never ask questions about things he does not know.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Good. Anyway you are together in this House and from time to time, you can continue having private conversations.

The next Question is that of Honourable Maamberua directed to the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture. Honourable Maamberua, do you still want to put the question?

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** I put the Question, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. May I call upon the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture?

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**QUESTION 06:**

**HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members of the House,

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS  
BY HON MAAMBERUA  
HON HANSE-HIMARWA**

let me firstly, thank Honourable Usutuaije Maamberua for this important question he posed to me on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April 2015.

The matters raised by him are definitely important and, therefore, a cause for reflection and introspection, considering that we are marking 25 years of democracy and Independence from the yoke of colonialism. Indeed, the legacy of colonialism in Namibia has been one of many recorded and untold atrocities against our people.

As an ongoing process of our nation building, it is the view of our Government that the legacy of *Apartheid* and colonialism should continue to be addressed, particularly the distortion of significant historical aspects, such as the ones raised by Honourable Usutuaije Maamberua. However, with Independence also comes reconciliation and nation building, which means Namibian of all persuasions, including descendants of settler communities, have become part of our new nation building process. This does not mean that I seek to justify the incorrect reflection of our history, but merely that the heritage of our Nation should be balanced, fair and reflective of where we are coming from, both negative and positive.

In short, Honourable Speaker and Members of this House, I am saying that while history must be corrected where misrepresented and distorted, it is never less important that we acknowledge our heritage.

In respect to the question posed by Honourable Maamberua, I wish to reply as follows:

Honourable Maamberua is definitely correct in his observation that, if history is to be told correctly, it is our known historical fact that Jonker Afrikaner found /Ai /Gams - Hot Springs around 1840. In my understanding, and yours too, that was the foundation of Windhoek. Therefore, Honourable Maamberua it will not do justice to our history to say that Curt Von François founded Windhoek, as he settled in Windhoek some four decades after the Orlam Nama led by Jonker Afrikaner settled in present day Windhoek /Ai /Gams.

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS  
BY HON MAAMBERUA  
HON HANSE-HIMARWA**

Furthermore, I wish to state categorically, that this statue is not a national monument in terms of the relevant Provisions of the *National Heritage Council Act*, 2004 (Act 27 of 2004).

In my view, the direction the statue face and the decorum it may have enjoyed under previous colonial authorities bears no significance in regard to the view of our present day society, at least not for me as a descendant, and I equally believe, not for you as a descendant, neither for any other Namibian.

I am informed that the statue was erected on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October 1965, apparently in celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Windhoek. I can only infer from this fact that it was not erected as a direct celebration of colonial atrocities, but perhaps out of a distorted notion of the founding of Windhoek, which we dispute. Therefore, it can in no way be a celebration of German colonial atrocities by the Government of the Republic of Namibia, not now, not in the future.

Honourable Speaker, the role of my Ministry is to preserve and protect all items of historical significance that are proclaimed in terms of the relevant Provisions of the *National Heritage Council Act*. I have indicated earlier that this monument does not form part of our register of items of significant heritage and thus, the statue's value is but a novelty, which tourists and others may frequent as they like.

Since the defacing of statues in South Africa occurred, many Namibians now raise the issue of the removal of colonial statues here at home. It is really time that we get rid of the syndrome that when South Africa sneezes, we catch a cold. As Minister of Education, Arts and Culture, I would urge Namibians to stop copying from the so-called revolutionaries either in South Africa or elsewhere and follow our own thinking and actions. Considering the fact that the statue does not fall under the Provisions of the *National Heritage Council Act* and that it was erected by the then Municipality of Windhoek in 1965 to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the City, I would advice that the City of Windhoek may consider

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS  
BY HON MAAMBERUA  
HON MAAMBERUA**

evaluating the historical economic and novelty value of this statue and weigh that against the painful past that Namibians have suffered under the hands of the people like Von François.

In conclusion, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Maamberua, let me say that I know the history of our country and I am fully aware of the painful past we come from. I am not unsympathetic to the issue you raised, but I think we must take cognisance of the fact that we live in a country where Law and Order is supreme and not a country where you wake up one morning and decide to remove statues at will.

You will agree with me that there is a need for a collective, well-thought through and systematic response to colonial artefacts. Let us engage as Lawmakers on the best modalities to deal with issues such as the ones you raised in question. However, I otherwise, agree with you on the sentiments, if I would not be the first one who feels more aggrieved by the atrocities that has been meted out against my blood, my flesh and my bone. Thank you. (*Applause*)

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Honourable Maamberua.

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. In my normal tradition of responding to answers, I would be systematically go from question to question, but in this particular instance, I have to admit that I am so much moved by the honesty and the way the Minister has actually related herself to the question and to the history, and the direction that she has suggested we should take as a country. Therefore, I would not want to be technical in my response or to my reaction, rather than to express my profound appreciation of that very good answer that was provided by the Minister and I thank you very much. (*Applause*)

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS  
BY HON DIENDA  
HON SHANINGWA**

**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. When the House is united, it pleases the Speaker.

Can we move on to the next Question 8, that of Honourable Dienda directed to the Minister of Urban and Rural Development. Honourable Minister, do you want to deal with that question.

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**HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:**  
Thank you, Honourable Speaker (*intervention*)

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**HON SPEAKER:** Or are you insisting that you wait until the Honourable Member who posed the question comes back?

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**HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** The questions that I have did not come from Honourable Dienda.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Do we have different papers?

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**HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:**  
Maybe.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Question number 8, Page 23.

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS  
BY HON //GOWASES  
HON NGHIMTINA**

**HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** The question that are prepared for me to answer today are from Honourable Asser Mbai. Those are the questions that I have, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Well, we can easily skip that. Since the Honourable Member is not here, we can always revisit that.

Let me move on to Question 11 and that is the question from Honourable //Gowases asking the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation. The Minister is here and is ready to answer the question. Do you put the Question?

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**HON //GOWASES:** I put the Question Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. May I call upon the Honourable Minister?

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**QUESTION 11:**

**HON MINISTER OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I thank Honourable Clara //Gowases for her questions and interest in the issues of Social Security - regarding the provision services to our women in the rural areas.

The question read like this - The plight of our women who walk on foot for kilometres in the rain and sun from different Constituencies of

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS  
BY HON //GOWASES  
HON NGHIMTINA**

Windhoek, particularly informal settlement and townships to receive services at Khomasdal Main Offices of Social Security Commission irks me. Women are the ones who fall pregnant and give birth and experience 90% of problems relating to sustaining their newborns and families in this regard as well as domestic workers related scenarios.

Can the Minister look into the possibility of establishing sub-offices in the highly densely populated areas of Tobias Hainyeko Constituency, Moses Garoeb Constituency and Samora Machel Constituency in order to make lives easier for our people and women folk, especially in accessing these services?

I sincerely believe that in modern technology and cyber age, offices are linked to computerised databases and the decentralisation of services to sub-offices will be an added value to current service delivery.

The answers are as follows: Social Security has adopted a deliberate policy to decentralise its services to the Regions in line with the Government's Policy of decentralisation. However, the decentralisation of services is done with the following considerations in mind:

1. The economic activities within a particular Region and town;
2. The social economic conditions of the residents; and
3. The distance to access the existing nearest Social Security office.

Inspectors are considered before a decision is taken for the permanent opening of a service point for Social Security. In Windhoek, Social Security has two permanent offices in Khomasdal and at the Central Business District. In addition, Social Security intends to have offices in each Regional Capital that will serve as Health Centres of Social Security operations in that Region. However, at present Social Security does not have offices in the Regional Capitals of Erongo - Swakopmund, Kunene - Opuwo, Kavango West - Nkurenkuru and Oshikoto - Omuthiya.

For Social Security to establish one permanent Satellite Office

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BY HON //GOWASES  
HON NGHIMTINA**

accommodating a maximum of six staff members, it will incur monthly running cost of about N\$350,000.00, translating into an annual total expenditure of about N\$4.2 million.

At present, Social Security has seven offices outside and further five branch offices in different Regions. This high running cost resulted in some of the Social Security offices being cross-subsidised, hence permanent presence requires not only a high density of members, but also economic activity to sustain the establishment of such permanent structures.

In areas like Tobias Hainyeko, Moses Garoëb and Samora Machel Constituency where Social Security does not have permanent structures at the moment, Social Security services in such areas are on a periodical basis throughout the year with targeted inspection and mobile visits.

At this point in time, these areas are being serviced by the mobile vans which are fitted with the necessary equipment to ensure service delivery on the spot. Currently, Social Security has two vans, which are being utilised extensively to reach the most remote areas where Social Security does not have offices to provide services to these members.

As part of the Social Security strategy, it intends to reduce travelling distances to its offices to less than 300 kilometres radius. These offices would be empowered to render outreach services to the communities in all the Constituencies covering a range of Social Security services such as public education, registration campaigns, claims administration and compliance enforcements.

Because of the vastness of these Constituencies, the office will only be able to rotate these services based on the need identified in collaboration with these communities and other stakeholders. An impression should thus not be created that each Constituency would be served daily, by the Social Security office, but this shall be effected as and when it is served.



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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS  
BY HON //GOWASES  
HON NGHIMTINA**

As a matter of fact, Social Security has identified the need to improve national service coverage as one of its strategic priorities.

In relation to Maternity Leave Benefit, which is one of the leading benefit type offered by Social Security, when Social Security was established, this benefit was paid at a rate of 8% of the female employees basic salary with a maximum of N\$2,400.00 per month then. As we are speaking today, the Maternity Leave Benefit is payable at 100% of the employees basic wage with a maximum of N\$10,500.00 per month. Social Security has increased this amount to N\$12,000.00 per month with effect as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2015, and further improvement is anticipated in the next three to five years, when the possibility of removing the ceiling all together will also be investigated.

Finally, Social Security is committed to execute its objectives in line with its vision and mission while adhering to its core values to provide Social Security benefits and associated services in a financially responsible manner so as to ensure the sustainability of the fund. Improving benefits and introducing benefits for sections of the population not yet covered subject to funding, sustainability and ability to administer, are key considerations. Access to services and benefit as well as innovative ways of collecting contributions are required, to ensure that maximum population coverage is achieved.

Alignment with community organisations to access rural areas, cell phone communication and benefit administration, will increase the ability to deliver quality service to the maximum number of people. In line with this global trend to embrace Information and Communication Technology, Social Security is in the process to engage the Virtual Office Solution that will ensure Social Security's presence and improve access to service delivery in most of the areas where they do not have permanent infrastructure at the moment.

Therefore, Honourable //Gowases' concern of lack of permanent structure in this area is noted and would be addressed as part of the long-term

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BY HON //GOWASES  
HON //GOWASES**

decentralisation strategy of Social Security services. I thank you Honourable Members.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much.

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**HON //GOWASES:** Thank you, Honourable Minister for your effort in answering my question.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. We continue. The next Question is from Honourable Kavekatora and I do not see him in the room. It is directed to the Minister of Urban and Rural Development. He just stepped out. Honourable Minister, would you like to deal with that question? Yes, please.

---

**HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Honourable Speaker, I have taken note of the questions of the Honourable Members that were posed to me before the House was adjourned - when we went on recess, and maybe because of oversight, I did not take note that I should come back and respond to these questions. Therefore, the question that I am busy with and ready to answer are only those questions that were asked by Honourable Mbai on the 10<sup>th</sup> of this month, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** That is very clear.

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**HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** I, however, call for the indulgence of the House to postpone my response to the questions to next week, I will then be ready to accommodate the questions of the Honourable Member.

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**HON SPEAKER:** That is very clear. Thank you very much, we will do that. In the meantime, let me go through the list. The question from Honourable Kavekatora is deferred.

The next question in line is that of Honourable Smit, directed to the Minister of Higher Education. The Minister is not available. The Deputy Minister is not here either. Can we defer that question again and move on to question number 14 from Honourable Smit, directed to the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation? It depends whether the Minister is ready to answer the question, Honourable Minister, are you ready?

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**HON MINISTER OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION:** Honourable Speaker, can I ask the indulgence of the House for this question to stand over?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. I think it is understandable. The Honourable Member is not here so it is deferred to next week.

We move on to Question 15, that of the Honourable Venaani direct to the Right Honourable Prime Minister. Right Honourable Prime Minister you have the Floor.

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BY HON VENAANI  
RT HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

**QUESTION 15:**

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, Honourable Venaani asked four questions concerning Government Policy on acquisition of Government fixed property by public officials and made specific reference to one Erf No. 3 in Dolphin Street in Swakopmund.

He also asked about the retirement benefits of the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Speaker of the National Assembly, respectively. Taking note of the fact that Government's fixed properties are administered by the Ministry of Works and Transport, a fact that Honourable Venaani acknowledged in the introduction to his questions, I advise that the Honourable Member directs his questions concerning Government fixed properties to the relevant Minister.

On the question as to what the post-retirement benefits are for the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Speaker of the National Assembly, I would like to answer as follows:

*The Members of Parliament and Other Public Office-Bearers Fund Act, 1999 (Act 20 of 1999)* provides that all Public Office-Bearers and others designated by the President, may subscribe to a Pension Fund from which post-retirement benefits, that is, pension benefits as determined in the Act and the Rules there under, are paid out to them.

Further to that, in 2008 the President, on the recommendation of the Public Office-Bearers' Remuneration and Benefit Commission, approved special additional retirement benefit for the positions of the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Chairperson of the National Council and the Chief Justice. These benefits include a transport benefit, domestic worker's benefit, benefits for provision of state security and also benefit for the provision of secretarial services to these office holders.

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BY HON VENAANI  
HON VENAANI**

The provision of these benefits includes a Sunset Clause, which limit their provision to a five-year period post retirement. I believe that the document is a public document because this is a Report that was made to the President and the President approved in terms of the relevant Act of Parliament. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Honourable Venaani, do you want to follow up?

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**HON VENAANI:** Yes, please. Honourable Speaker, I want to thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister for being evasive, in my view. That is my view and I am here to express my views.

Right Honourable Prime Minister, you are the Leader of Government Business. As head of Government Business in this House, any question that is of national interest can be posed to you, any question, and if you look at Parliamentary (*interjection*) Yes. There is no question, if it is posed to the Right Honourable Prime Minister, especially if it is posed from my end here - it would mean that there is no question that you can refer to a Minister and say that a Member must repose that question. It is the responsibility of the Prime Minister to engage our society as the Head of Government Business. However, the reason why I asked this question - and perhaps I need to clarify (*interjection*) No, I have not overburden her.

This is one of the Prime Ministers who is never asked questions asked, however, the reason why I asked this question Honourable Speaker, is not about the individuals who are involved, but it is for us as a State to craft our policies in such a way that they do not need to raise questions. For example, we need to have a Law in this House that determines retirement benefits. You know these things are happening in other countries, but to

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BY HON VENAANI  
RT HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

have a retirement benefit that is just subscribed in a Government public paper that says a Prime Minister is only entitled to benefit for five years.

As a society in our country, we need to debate that and make sure that we have legislation in place to protect our own people and to protect our own statehood. I will not put another question Right Honourable Prime Minister, make time as the Leader of Government Business to reflect on those questions. Thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you, I think the Prime Minister does not have to have a second bite. I think she responded. You took up the issue and basically restated. Can I then, with your permission, move on to the next question? Prime Minister, do you want to come back?

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would like to respond to the last comment of Honourable Venaani.

Firstly, with regard to the requirement for the Prime Minister as Leader of Government Business in the House to answer all questions that are put to Government, I believe that it is not the intention of the Rules - that Members of the House can opt to insist that specific questions dealing with issues that are administered by Ministers who are present in this House and can answer such questions, should be answered by the Prime Minister, because questions are intended to seek information, that is all. And if that information can be provided, which the Ministers can do, there should be no reason why a Member should be concerned that that information is provided by the Line Minister and not by the Prime Minister, unless if these questions are not really intended to seek information. (*Interjection*) They were intended to achieve something else, which is the impression that is being created here.

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RT HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

I maintain that, as Leader of Government Business in the House, I am ready to provide leadership to the Members of Government who are Members of this House, but I do not intend to substitute for Cabinet Ministers in terms of responding to questions that are for them to answer because in terms of the Constitution, the Ministers have the responsibility to account for how they administer the work of the offices to which they are deployed - themselves in this House, outside, as well as to the President. That is on that first point.

On the second point where the Honourable Member advocates that the post-retirement benefits of the aforesaid Office-Bearers ought to be prescribed in an Act of Parliament, I do not necessarily agree with him. We have an Act of Parliament that prescribes the benefits of the President and the former President, but we have another Act that says - the benefits of other Public Office-Bearers would be determined by the President on the recommendation of the Public Office-Bearers Commission.

We can, therefore, not usurp the powers of the Commission that are granted in terms of an Act that we passed here by trying to determine our own benefits through an Act that we pass in this House. I think that will be a conflict of interest. There is no intention that these benefits, for now at least, would be prescribed in a separate Law. It is the intention of Government to leave these benefits to be determined by the President on the recommendation of the Commission, and I do not really think that there is anything wrong with that. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. I just felt there was a Convention governing the issue of division of labour, but if the Honourable Member insisted on calling on the Right Honourable Prime Minister to respond, she is also entitled to say - *please direct the question to the relevant Minister* and I think that is what happened. The issue is clear, it is stated, so we move on. Merci beaucoup. Can we move on?

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS  
BY HON DIENDA  
HON KAPOFI**

The next question is Question 16, that of Honourable Dienda, directed to the Minister of Presidential Affairs.

The Honourable Member who posed the question is not here  
(*intervention*)

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** Honourable Speaker, I put the question on her behalf.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Are you putting the question on her behalf? Honourable Minister, would you like to respond to the question? Thank you.

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**QUESTION 16:**

**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS:** Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to read the question that was raised to us, if I can still find it. I do not know, perhaps the Honourable wanted to ask the Prime Minister (*laughter*) because what is in the paper here says - *in view of this, can the Right Honourable Prime Minister inform this august House why the majority of them are not being recognised as veterans or being given veterans status?* But the paper that was circulated had Minister of Presidential Affairs written on it with a pen. However, I have taken the responsibility to respond accordingly, if I may, Comrade Speaker?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Yes.

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS  
BY HON DIENDA  
HON KAPOFI**

**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to respond to a question that was posed by Honourable Dienda. For the record, I wish to restate the question posed by Honourable Dienda as provided to me in writing. The question was framed as follows: I quote - *“It is common knowledge that the Council of Churches (CCN) and the Churches in Namibia were seen as the Ecumenical arm of SWAPO and many of the staff of CCN ended up as Members of Parliament, while others have become CEOs and high ranking officials of Parastatals. Church Leaders at the time, played a very important role during the Liberation Struggle. They gave food, shelter and some of them were even jailed because of their involvement. In view of this, can [ I am now going to put my title there] the Honourable Minister of Presidential Affairs please inform this august House why the majority of them are not being recognised as veterans or being given veteran status.”*

Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Members will recall, that when His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob reorganised the Executive Branch after taking office, he placed the veterans affairs issues within the Presidency.

Honourable Speaker, it is an incontrovertible historical fact that our National Liberation Struggle was waged by Namibians from all walks of life and sections of the population, at home and abroad. The struggle was waged on multiple fronts: military, diplomatic and political. Namibian clergy, teachers, doctors, nurses, students, young people, subsistence farmers, workers and communities made selfless contributions to this cause. Thousands suffered torture, detention, imprisonment and many others sacrificed their precious lives.

It is also no secret that the Government of the independent Namibia has consistently recognised and applauded the invaluable contributions and selfless sacrifices made by Namibians in all parts of the country to break the chains of *Apartheid* colonialism.

These contributions by Namibians, including those made by members of

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BY HON DIENDA  
HON KAPOFI**

the clergy and their congregations, will never be forgotten. I wish to state that these noble contributions should not be necessarily categorised. Our people participated in the struggle as patriots. It does not matter whether they acted as individuals or belonged to a particular group or institution.

I wish to thank Honourable Dienda for raising this important national issue. The recognition of veterans and the awarding of veterans' status are regulated by two pieces of legislation. These are: the *Veterans Act*, 2008 (Act 2 of 2008) and the *Veterans Amendment Act*, 2013 (Act 3 of 2013). Honourable Members,

Section 28(1) of the *Veterans Act* provides that a person who wishes to be registered as a veteran or dependent of a living or deceased veteran of the Liberation Struggle of Namibia, must apply to the Veterans Board for registration, in the prescribed form and manner.

Furthermore, Section 5(2) of the *Veterans Amendment Act*, defines a veteran as:

“(2) ... a person who –

(a) was a member of the liberation forces, provided the person was above 18 years of age on 21 March 1990;

(b) consistently and persistently participated or engaged in any political, diplomatic or underground activity in furtherance of the Liberation Struggle up to the date of independence; or

(c) owing to his or her participation in the Liberation Struggle was convicted, whether in Namibia or elsewhere, of any offence closely connected to the struggle and sentenced to imprisonment, provided the person continued with the Liberation Struggle activities after being released.”

It is, therefore, important to point out that the relevant laws do not make

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BY HON DIENDA  
HON KAPOFI**

provision for categories of persons to be granted veterans status. That is not part of the Law.

What the Law states is that registration for veteran status is open to any person, and I repeat, *any person who consistently and persistently participated during the Liberation Struggle*. The Law only makes provision for individual persons to register. It does not provide for institutional or group registration. Thus, it is not possible to all Church Leaders, as suggested by Honourable Dienda, or any other group of persons, to be granted veteran status as a group. Those who qualify, have to register as individual persons according to the guidelines laid down in the Laws, which were passed by our Parliament.

In terms of Section 28 of the *Veterans Act*, 2008 a written response is given to each applicant for veterans' status, stating whether the application has been approved or declined. Where an application is declined, the applicant is informed of the process of appeal against the decision of the Veterans Board. Such applicants may appeal to the Appeal Board.

I wish to inform the House that the process of applying for registration of veteran status commenced in 2008. To ensure full coverage and access, the process has been conducted at Constituency level in all Regions of the country. The process is continuing. It was never declared as concluded. This is a deliberate decision of Government to ensure that all Namibians who qualify get a chance to register.

Comrade Speaker, to date, Twenty Nine Thousand, Three Hundred and Three (29,303) persons have been granted veterans' status. These persons represent a cross section of our society, including former PLAN Combatants; teachers; communal farmers; students; the youth; workers; doctors; nurses and yes, Church Leaders, to mention a few. As I speak, a further Eighteen Thousand (18,000) applications have been vetted by the National Vetting Committee, and will be considered by the Veterans Board as provided in the Act.

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BY HON DIENDA  
HON KAPOFI**

Lastly, I would like to request those persons who participated consistently and persistently in the national Liberation Struggle and have not yet applied, to do so. I would also like to commend those veterans who have applied, for their patience, while their applications are being considered.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, during the process of registration and vetting quite a large number of fake Freedom Fighters have been detected (*laughter*) and as such their applications rejected forthwith. It is very clear that some people want to be part of this historical chapter not for the purpose it was created for, but for material gain. Why does someone wants to be what he or she is not?

Once again, I wish to express my appreciation to Honourable Dienda for raising this important matter, which is so dear to the hearts of all our people. Our Government is fully committed to assisting and attending to the welfare of all veterans of our national liberation struggle. They stood firm, in the face of danger so that Namibia can be free. Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, thank you for your attention.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. The Honourable Member is not here. Honourable Muharukua, do you want to insist. Thank you. Do you at least want to say thank you to the Honourable Member?

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** Honourable Speaker, I was once told that I was not here and born, so I suppose, I will not even attempt to go there. (*Laughter*)

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. I will continue with the Questions.

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS  
BY HON MBAI  
HON SHANINGWA**

Question 17 is that of Honourable Mbai, directed to the Minister of Urban and Rural Development. I think it is now the opportunity for the Minister to respond to this question.

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**QUESTION 17:**

**HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:**

Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker for the chance. I also thank the Honourable House, and particularly Honourable Asser Mbai.

Honourable Members, I would like to thank Honourable Asser Mbai for the questions on the progress made in the implementation of the Decentralisation Policy of 1998 and the *Decentralisation Enabling Act*, 2000 (Act 33 of 2000), as well as the measures that are being deployed to accelerate the process. I thank the Honourable Member for his interest in the decentralisation process and it is also my belief Honourable Member, that the basic functions that impact on the lives of our citizenry should be considered for decentralisation or delegation as a matter of urgency.

As the Honourable Members of this august House are aware, sub-national Government structures, namely the Regional and Local Authorities Councils have been created in accordance with Article 102 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia. This constitutional Provision was re-enforced through the enactment of the *Regional Council's Act*, 1992 (Act 22 of 1992) and the *Local Authorities Act*, 1992 (Act 23 of 1992) as amended, which show the establishment of Regional and Local Authority Councils and related executive and administrative structures.

While there is a shared recognition of the important role of sub-national governance as transmitting belts of service delivery by the Central Government to the grassroots, it is important to recognised that, and I underline that, that Namibia is a Unitary State, and the system of

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS  
BY HON MBAI  
HON SHANINGWA**

Government as it is the case here - we are talking about the Unitary State. The nature of decentralisation should then be understood in that context.

Honourable Member, in the future, if this is not very clear, you could also engage so that we can at least explain further what the meaning thereof is.

Let me now respond to the specific questions. Honourable Member, you posed two questions to me. Where are we as a country in respect to decentralisation? In response, I wish to report the progress under the following headings. To answer the questions of the Honourable Member, I would like to give a brief reflection of the progress made as follows:

**The Level of Readiness of Decentralising Line Ministries** - Ministries that are at the advanced stage of decentralisation or delegation and other Ministries with functions that are earmarked for decentralisation. We now start with decentralising Ministries that are ready. The following Line Ministries have decentralised functions by way of delegation:

1. Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture - the identified Education Functions, primary and secondary education; adult education and library services were gazetted in May 2009 and delegated to the 13 Regional Council with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2009. In line with the Cabinet Decision No. 3 of the 17<sup>th</sup> of February/09/007 and the *Decentralisation Enabling Act, 2000* (Act 33 of 2000).

The delegated functions were handed over to the 13 Regional Councils in 2009 and 2010. Special accounts were opened for decentralised functions by each Regional Council into which the Ministry transfers funds to enable the performance of the delegated functions on a quarterly basis.

2. Ministry of Works and Transport have also done so - the identified Maintenance Function was gazetted in May 2009 and delegated to the 13 Regional Councils with effect from August 2009 and in line with the Cabinet Decision No. 3 of the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2009/007 and the

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HON SHANINGWA**

*Decentralisation Enabling Act, 2000 (Act 33 of 2000).*

The delegated functions were handed over to the 13 Regional Council in 2009 and special accounts were opened for decentralised functions by each Regional Council into which the Ministry transfers for the delegated function on a quarterly basis.

3. Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry - the delegation of Rural Water Supply by the Ministry to the 12 Regional Councils, with the exception of the Khomas Regional Council, was approved by Cabinet with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2007 and gazetted on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2007.

However, to date the function has not been actually handed over to the 12 Regional Councils. Maybe you will have a question - what I have heard is that the function was delegated as gazetted, but then it was recalled. If you have some questions, we will discuss them later. The implementation of the delegation process of the Rural Water Supply Function to the 12 Regions, excluding Khomas, was temporarily put on hold by the said Line Ministry after discussions on the operational mechanism at various levels. The Ministry has, however, reaffirmed its commitment to the implementation of the Decentralisation Policy.

**The Other Ministries that are at an Advanced Stage of Delegation or Decentralisation:**

4. Ministry of Information and Communication Technology - the functions of Print Media and Audio Visual Production has been identified for decentralisation and the delegation to the Regions was approved by Cabinet in 2014 and was also subsequently gazetted in February 2015. The Ministry is currently busy conducting information sharing sessions with its regional staff members in preparation for handing off the said function to the Regional Councils. Thank you.
5. Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare - the Functions of

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BY HON MBAI  
HON SHANINGWA**

Community Development, Early Childhood Development, Child Welfare and Gender Equality have been identified for delegation. The Ministry undertook most of the preparatory activities and it has since obtained approval of its regional structures, and will proceed with a Cabinet submission once they have dealt with the remaining administrative modalities.

6. Ministry of Land Reform - the following Functions of the Management and Administration of Resettlement Areas, Management and Control of Communal Land, Land Acquisition and Land Use Planning and Provisions of Valuation Services and Advice and Cadastral Survey and Mapping have been identified for decentralisation.

The submission to Cabinet for delegation of the identified functions have been prepared as required in terms of the *Decentralisation Enabling Act*, 2000 (Act 33 of 2000). However, further consultations are being undertaken before Cabinet approval is obtained.

I would further like to give the following information to you, Honourable Member and the Honourable House.

**Other Ministries with Functions Earmarked for Decentralisation** - these Ministries have not decentralised any function to the Regional Council or Local Authority Council, but have only deconcentrated structures in the Region and report directly to the Ministries Headquarters which are centrally located here in Windhoek.

Some of them are just embarking upon preparations to decentralise, but are far from delegating any function. These are:

- Ministry of Sports, Youths and National Services;
- Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry;
- Ministry of Health and Social Services;
- Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development;



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BY HON MBAI  
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- Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources;
- Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation;
- Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare - just created;
- Ministry of Mines and Energy;
- Ministry of Environment and Tourism;

Mind you, Defence and Safety and Security shall never be decentralised.

They belong to their Centre.

**Question 2:** Honourable Members, **what is the Honourable Minister envisaging to do this time around in order for all phases of decentralisation to be implemented without any further delay?**

The Government, through Cabinet and the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development will continue to guide and facilitate the process in phases of the decentralisation in the country. The Government through the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development is pursuing the following measures that have been sanctioned by Cabinet:

- (a) The revival of the task force of Permanent Secretaries on decentralisation whose responsibility is to set and monitor targets on decentralisation, harmonise activities of, and between the various stakeholders and conduct regular consultations with the Regional Council.
- (b) Actively spearhead decentralisation by identifying by way of period or biannual reviews and to identify constraints in the process; and
- (c) To collaboration with the office of the Right Honourable Prime Minister to provide biannual updates on the progress of decentralisation to Cabinet.

I wish to take this opportunity thank the former Prime Minister, now His Excellency the President, Dr Hage Geingob and the current Prime

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BY HON MBAI  
HON MBAI**

Minister, Right Honourable Sara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila for their keen interest and steering role on decentralisation matters. They call on my office almost on daily basis to determine the level of progress and ascertain what I can do to at least to cater for the basic needs and provide the basic functions to all.

With this, Honourable Member, I think I have answered your questions. Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker for the chance. (*Applause*)

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Honourable Mbai, would you like to raise one or two points or to thank the Minister?

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**HON MBAI:** Honourable Speaker, thank you very much. I would like to thank and appreciate the response from the Honourable Minister. I believe and have full confidence that in her able leadership, the Ministry will attend to the outstanding issues pertaining to the implementation of decentralisation. I thank you very much. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. With that, I think we have concluded the questions.

As far as I can see, what is left is the Notice of a Motion by Honourable Venaani and I do not know whether he is on his way. Honourable Muharukua?

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** In fact, he gave the Notice and tabled the Motion on my behalf.

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**ADJOURNMENT**  
**RT HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

**HON SPEAKER:** This is a very technical issue now. Is he here or not, because that puts me in a very awkward position? This is a matter for him now, because in his absence it puts me in a situation where the Motion is likely to lapse. Unless if you can produce him now, we have to proceed and record the fact that he is not here and I can sight Rule 31 - *if a Member is absent when called upon to Move a Motion standing in his or her name, or he or she has failed to rise and Move such a Motion when called upon by the Speaker, the Motion shall lapse.*

Yes, Honourable Muharukua.

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Venaani was here. Unfortunately, he had to run out to attend to a family emergency. He has a family member who is operated and is in ICU. That is why he had to leave, but as I earlier on indicated, he actually gave the Notice on my behalf. It is my Motion and I am here now.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** No, no, I have full sympathy for the reason given, but unfortunately, the Honourable Member who has given the Notice of a Motion, if she or he is not able to move the Motion when called upon, then I am afraid we have to use the Rule and the Motion lapses.

I hope I have the understanding of the House, I am not being unreasonable. Thank you very much.

With that, the Business of the day is basically concluded and all that is left is for yours truly to call upon the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Honourable Speaker, I Move that the

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**ADJOURNMENT  
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

House adjourns until Tuesday next week, at 14:30.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. The House stands adjourned until Tuesday, the usual time. Thank you.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:35 UNTIL 2015.06.23 AT 14:30**

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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
23 JUNE 2015**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**HON SPEAKER**: Honourable Members, any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Yes, Honourable Kandjoze.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY**: Honourable Speaker, in accordance with the mandate of the Ministry of Mines and Energy, I table before this House, the Annual Report of the Electricity Control Board for the year 2015.

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**HON SPEAKER**: Yes. Please table the Report. Thank you very much. Other Report and Papers? Honourable Deputy Minister of Finance.

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**TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL**

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE**: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I lay upon the Table, Report of the Auditor-General

23 June 2015

**TABLING OF REPORTS  
HON NGATJIZEKO**

on the Accounts of the:-

- (i) Ministry of Defence for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2014;
- (ii) Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2014; and
- (iii) National Planning Commission for the Financial Year ended 13 March 2014.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Please table the Reports. I call upon Honourable Ngatjizeko.

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**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORTS**

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**HON MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION, TRADE AND SME DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I lay upon the Table the following two Reports:-

- (i) Annual Report of the Offshore Development Company (PTY) LTD for the Year ended 2012/2013; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Namibian Competition Commission for the year ended 2013 as well.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. You may table the Report. We are still

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON NAUYOMA**

on the Reports, or have we concluded the Reports? I think we are done with that.

Now we are moving on to Notice of Questions? I call upon, Honourable Nauyoma.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS**

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**QUESTION 21:**

**HON NAUYOMA:** Thank you Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 2015, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Information and Communication Technology, Honourable Tweya the following questions with regard to the NBC:-

1. Honourable Minister, when are we going to have the moratorium lifted for the Oshiwambo Radio, Open Line Programme – Ewilyamanguluka, in order for Oshiwambo speaking people to be able express their views like all the other people in the country?
2. What crime did we, the Wambos commit in this country to be deprived of our Freedom of Speech for many years without any explanation?  
(*Interjections*)

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, please allow him to complete that. I think he meant Oshiwambo speaking people.

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**HON NAUYOMA:** Yes.

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HON SHIKONGO**

3. What risk does Mudukuli - the Open Line of Rukavango Service in the Kavango West and East Regions pose to be threatened by the Honourable Minister so as not to freely express their views or opinion on this programme?

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you submit your questions please. We move on to Honourable Shikongo. Honourable Shikongo you have the floor.

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**QUESTION 22:**

**HON SHIKONGO:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I hereby give Notice that on the Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Education, Arts and Culture the following.

Honourable Minister, each year after the publication of the Grade 10 examination results, some learners who failed opted for re-marking and receive exciting new results to their disbelief or dismay.

For example, a learner who fails with 18 points would, after the re-marking score 5 or more points and pass.

The Questions are:

1. How accurate or reliable are these results each year?
2. How many Grade 10 learners have been deprived of proceeding to Grade 11 because of this injustice?
3. How can the Ministry assist the learners whose parents cannot afford the re-marking fees of N\$120 per subject?



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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON SHIKONGO**

**QUESTION 23:**

Honourable Speaker, I also give Notice that on the same day, the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Education and Culture the following:

This is the scenario that we are in:

- Each year a number of Grade 10 and Grade 12 teachers from various schools apply to become markers, some of these teachers teach Grade 8, Grade 9 and Grade 11 classes.
- While these teachers are on their marking mission, which they are paid for, the whole school comes to a standstill.
- The Grade 8, 9 and 11 learners are deprived of formal teaching and revision because of the absenteeism of their subject teachers.
- In the absence of these teachers, supervision timetables are drawn up for the remaining teachers at school and this also frustrates the rest of the teachers at school because they have to sacrifice their administration period to supervise, which lead to chaos and total disciplinary problems.

The questions are:

1. Will the Honourable Minister look into this matter and rescue or remedy this fragile situation at schools?
2. Can the Honourable Minister advertise the vacancies for Permanent Markers so that anybody who qualifies can apply to become Permanent Markers, or teachers who qualify may become permanent non-teaching marker, including retired teachers.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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HON VAN WYK**

**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Member, can you please table those questions? They will be responded to in good time. Thank you. May I call upon Honourable Van Wyk? You have the Floor.

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**QUESTION 24:**

**HON VAN WYK:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I hereby give Notice that on Thursday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 2015, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation, Erkki Nhimtina the following.

Honourable Minister, Namibia is soon to host the first Namibia Social Protection Conference 2015, under the theme - ***Towards Comprehensive Social Protection For All.***

Honourable Minister, Namibia with the implementation of the *Social Security Act*, 1994 (Act 34 of 1994) has made good efforts not to only improve the conditions of service for employees but it has also to a certain extent, managed to eliminate discrimination with regard to payment of social benefits.

However, Honourable Minister, the *Employees Compensation Act*, 1941 (Act 30 of 1941) as amended, still leaves room to deprive some persons from social benefits. Honourable Minister, this is due to the fact that persons earning more than N\$81,300.00 per annum are not regarded as employees.

Honourable Minister, my questions are as follows:

1. When will your Ministry consider putting in place legislation that suits our Namibian conditions by amending or replacing the mentioned Act in its totality?
2. What is the possibility to increase the ceiling amount from

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HON DIENDA**

N\$81,300.00 per annum to at least N\$100,000.00 per annum, in the absence of the much needed legislation?

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Please table the questions. We move on to Honourable Dienda please.

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**QUESTION 25:**

**HON DIENDA:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, I shall ask the Minister of Presidential Affairs, Honourable Frans Kapofi, the following, and I also want to thank Honourable Kapofi for the answers last week - I was at the symposium with the Council of Churches. Thank you very much.

In response to my question that I have tabled in this august House, the Honourable Minister indicated the amount of people who had been bestowed with the veteran status. I, therefore ask the following:

1. Firstly, can the Honourable Minister kindly provide this august House with a full list of the names of the people who have been granted veteran status?
2. Secondly, can the Honourable Minister kindly provide this august House with a full detailed list of the names of the people whose applications for veteran status were declined as well as the reasons therefore?

I so Move, Honourable Speaker. I am not done.

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HON VAN DEN HEEVER**

**QUESTION 26:**

**HON DIENDA:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, I shall ask the Minister of Safety and Security, Major General Charles Namoloh, the following questions:

In the light of the prevalence of rape cases in prisons across the country, specifically with reference to a recent Report in the New Era of Friday, the 19<sup>th</sup> of July 2015, in which it was reported that an inmate was impregnated by another inmate while awaiting trial in Swakopmund - I previously raised these two issues during the Budget Debate and did not receive an adequate answer and that is why I am asking this question once again.

1. Firstly, how does something like this happen when male and female prisoners are supposed to be kept in separate cells? Are there no specific security measures in place to prevent this from happening as it could expose female inmates or the accused to be raped?
2. Secondly, what is the stance and/or the policy of the Ministry of Safety and Security on the provision of condoms and other birth control measures to prisoners, particularly female prisoners?

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Table the questions please. I now call upon Honourable Van Den Heever.

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**QUESTION 27:**

**HON VAN DEN HEEVER:** Thank you Honourable Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, I shall ask the Minister of

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON VAN DEN HEEVER**

Urban and Rural Development, Honourable Sophia Shaningwa, the following.

The majority of Local Authorities indicate that they are unable to render serviced land at the required national rate due to a lack of financial resources, as the bulk of the revenue garnered from property taxes and sale of essential services like water and electricity is primarily apportioned towards covering the operational expenses, and consequently very little is left for Capital Projects, for example, the servicing of land and related matters.

When perusing through the Annual Audited Report compiled by the Auditor-General on the various Local Authorities, one cannot help, but notice that the majority of Local Authorities have inherited a huge debt burden as a significant portion of the yearly Budget is earmarked for repayment of what is categorised as “*pre-independence loans*.”

Given the imperious financial situation of some of the Local Authorities, one doubt whether they have the financial capacity to carry the burden of pre-independence loans, as well as allocate sufficient financial resources to address the current urban land shortage at the same time.

I thus ask the Honourable Minister the following questions:

1. Firstly, in order to enable these bodies to function optimally and to lift the undue inherited financial burden placed on them, would it be possible to write-off or alternatively, delay or defer the repayment of “*pre-independence loans*” until such time that the national housing crisis has been adequately addressed?
2. Secondly, the then Ministry of Regional Local Government Housing and Rural Development drafted a Local Authorities Reform Policy, signed in July 2013 and in 2014, various stakeholder consultations were held and it was concluded that the proposed reforms would be referred to the Cabinet Committee on Legislation and thereafter to this august House for consideration and implementation. It is interesting to

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HON SMIT**

note that, amongst others, it was already suggested within that document that in order to address the financial constraints faced by the Local Authorities, pre-independence debt repayments must be cancelled. My question therefore is - what is the status quo on the proposed reform of the Local Authorities structures?

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Please table the questions. Thank you very much. We move on to Honourable Smit please.

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**QUESTION 28:**

**HON SMIT:** Honourable Speaker I give notice that on June the 25<sup>th</sup> 2015 I shall ask the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture Honourable Katrina Hanse-Himarwa the following. I apologise for the incorrect pronunciation.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of June this year, the Namibian Newspaper carried report titled – “*Schools Struggle with New Curriculum,*” in which it was reported that teachers at public primary schools are struggling with the implementation of the new primary school curriculum, four months into the 2015 School Year.

According to the Article, one of the most common problems hampering teaching and learning is the shortage of mother tongue textbooks. The Article also points to the fact that the *one learner/one textbook* ratio remains nothing more than a pipe dream, despite the fact that one third of the school year has already lapsed. To make matters worse, this situation is not limited to primary schools, but textbook shortages have also been experienced at secondary schools.

Thus, I ask:

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HON SMIT**

1. what is the current situation with regard to the availability of mother tongue textbook for teachers and learners across the country?
2. What measures are being taken to ensure that a delay in the provision of mother tongue textbook, if any, is being addressed and resolved to ensure that outstanding materials are delivered as soon as possible?
3. Does the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture have any plan or measure in place to ensure that sufficient time is available for teachers and learners to work through the entire curriculum, and if so, what are these?
4. Is there a sort of a plan or measure in place to address the current situation within the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture as it relates to planning and implementation?
5. How do you plan to lay a solid foundation in early childhood development if one third of the school year is interrupted by a failure on the part of Government to ensure that the requisite materials have been delivered to learners?

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you.

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**HON SMIT:** I have another question.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Another one? Yes, can you proceed?

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HON SMIT**

**QUESTION 29:**

**HON SMIT:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, I shall ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Right Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah the following:

Early this year, the Ruling Party of the Republic of Burundi, the Hutu National Council for the Defence of Democracy – Forces for the Defence of Democracy, announced the nomination of current President, Pierre Nkurunziza, as its candidate for the country's then June 26 elections.

The announcement was met with local and international disapproval, citing the potential of a third term for current President to destabilise the country and re-ignite ethnic tensions, as well as widespread public protest against a third term. State and Police violence was the response to the public protests which has resulted in civilian deaths. The situation resulted in the displacement of approximately 10,000 Burundians,

and public protest grew into a movement to oust the Burundian President that ultimately culminated in a failed coup d'état.

In the wake of the doomed coup attempt, more than 100,000 people have reportedly cross Burundi's borders to neighbouring countries, fleeing the ongoing violence between the Police and Protesters.

Thus. I ask:

1. What is Namibia's official position on the situation in Burundi?
2. Why does the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation consistently fail to publicly pronounce Namibia's official position in relation to Human Rights violation and crises across the world?
3. Is the promotion of Human Rights a factor that informs and underlies Namibia Foreign Policy?



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**ORAL QUESTION  
HON VENAANI**

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Please submit the questions. I was not sure about the last question. The first one is more direct, it is a question, but the second one was only like a Statement. However, I will leave it to the Honourable Minister to respond.

Honourable Member, please submit the questions. It is fine. I might have it wrong, I was just trying to find out whether I heard the Honourable Member correctly. It is fine, we leave it at that. Notice of Motions? Yes, Honourable Venaani.

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**ORAL QUESTION**

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Speaker, I want to ask an Oral Question to the Minister of Defence in view of international publications that are linking Namibia to something.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Yes, you may.

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Minister of Defence, welcome back. Honourable Minister of Defence, it is reported in the European international media that Namibia, Botswana and Kenya are intending to buy warplanes from Swedish Sub Aviation. Is this report true? s there anything to go by because the whole of last week, the international media was linking Namibia to having interest in buying these aeroplanes that

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would cost N\$500 million each. (*Interjection*) Is t true or is it not true?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Let us not have a dialogue. You posed a question under a particular Rule. If it the case, the Honourable Minister will respond according to his own information and he might defer to respond in an appropriate manner. For now he might want to respond immediately to say how he is going to deal with the question. Honourable Minister of Defence, you have the Floor.

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**RESPONSE TO ORAL QUESTION**

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**HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker for the question. I am not aware of that (*laughter*) Thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. We move on. Messages from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements. There being none, I will move on.

The Notice of a Motion is the one of the Right Honourable Prime Minister. Does the Right Honourable Prime Minister Move the Motion?

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Yes, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Who seconds? Any objections? Agreed to. The Right Honourable Prime Minister has the Floor.

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**MOTION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF DR SHIVUTE AS A  
MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, in terms of Article 112(3) of the Namibian Constitution, the Public Service Commission shall consist of a Chairperson, not fewer than three and no more than six other members nominated by the President and appointed by the National Assembly by Resolution.

Currently, the Public Service Commission consists of the following members: Ambassador Eddy Amukongo, Chairperson, Mr Markus Kampungu, Ms Magdalena Wilhelmina Deetlefs, Ms Florence Munyungano, Mr Philemon Kondja Kambala and Mr Steve Motinga.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, there is a vacancy on the Public Service Commission which occurred in October 2012, due to the expiry and non-renewal of the Term of Office of Ms Teckla Lameck as the Public Service Commissioner. Therefore, in keeping with the Provisions of Article 112(3) of the Namibian Constitution, His Excellency the President, nominated Dr Nashilongo Shivute as a member of the Public Service Commission for a period of five years, with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2015.

Dr Shivute has vast experience in the Public Service, which could contribute to the work of the Public Service Commission in advising His Excellency the President as required by Article 113 of the Namibian

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HON DR ANKAMA**

Constitution. Her CV was distributed already to the Members, but I have brought a copy just in case someone does not have one.

I have the honour to request this House to appoint, by Resolution, Dr Nashilongo Shivute as a Commissioner of the Public Service Commission for a period of five years, with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2015. I Move so, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Any further discussions? Is there a consensus in the House? Yes, Honourable Ankama? I would like to add Chief Ankama.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINES RESOURCES:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would wholeheartedly like to thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister for tabling this Motion or rather having the addition of Honourable Nashilongo. I have personally worked with her for quite some time; she is a very humble person, hard working, committed and one you would, in actual fact, want to work with. (*Interjection*) Of course, we came a long way.

I hope she is going to bring a lot of experience to the board – the experience she has accumulated in the various fields she has worked would indeed, make her a valuable asset. As part of the team of the Board, the only thing I hope they will give due consideration to, is that the *Public Service Act* requires a serious overhaul. That is the opinion I hold. I keep on mentioning that, but I think during this tenure, they will be in a position to review that and perhaps bring it to this august House for discussion. It is very serious as it addresses issues pertaining to the governance of our country and I think this time, we will take this as a

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HON MUSHELENGA**

serious issue. In essence, I support the appointment of Dr Shivute.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. They say there is a room for improvement with respect to anything we do in life. I am sure that, with your experience or contact with her, you will be able to share those kind of things with her, to assist where it is necessary.

With that understanding and your full support, I move on to Honourable Mushelenga please.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
AND COOPERATION:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, I also rise to support the appointment of Dr Nashilongo Shivute as a member of the Public Service Commission.

Before I proceed, let me perhaps just first declare my interest that Dr Shivute is my subject as a Traditional Leader (*laughter*) It is true, but that is not a reason why I am supporting her. I am supporting a person because of qualities. She has vast experience both in the Public and Private Sector, as well as the Civil Society, which is necessary for members of the Public Service Commission.

Like Honourable Ankama, my appeal to the Public Service Commission is to review the Public Service Rules in order to make some Amendments, for example, Public Service is perhaps one of a few institutions where one is required to serve a probation period of twelve months, which may sometimes be extended and you know that there are things you cannot do during the probation period. You can, for instance, not take a home loan because people do not know whether you will be confirmed as a permanent Public Servant and you now have to wait for the whole twelve

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HON NUJOMA**

months that are sometimes extended with another three months. For most institutions, the probation period range between three and six months. I think six months would be at least reasonable for one to assess whether a person is capable for employment or not. And after six months, you are free to do some other things that normal permanent employees are able to do. With these words, I support the appointment.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. We move on to Honourable Nujoma.

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**HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I rise to support the appointment of Ms Nashilongo to the Public Service Commission.

I have worked with Ms Nashilongo for the past three months or the past hundred days and I have noticed that she is a person with impeccable credentials, a workhorse - a person you can rely on. I think she will be a great, great asset to the Public Service, however, unfortunately, she has been my Acting Permanent Secretary and I will suffer now. That is the unfortunate part.

I would have really love to retain her, I have tried, but if she leaves, I must say *aluta continua* (*laughter*) and see how we are going to survive. However, a loss to the one side is always a gain to the other because we are all in the Public Service, and I am sure she will do a great job in the Public Service. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. I was actually expecting

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HON MBUMBA / HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

Honourable Nujoma to raise an objection but he is very kind. I move on to Honourable Mbumba, the Secretary-General of the Governing Party.

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**HON MBUMBA:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Naturally, I am rising to support the nomination and campaign for the approval of Dr Nashilongo Shivute for two things, basically:

Firstly - way back when she started public service, she started with the Department of Gender Equality then, that was actually Women Affairs. I hope her sensitivity to matters of gender will not leave her when she get to that High Office when evaluating who qualifies to occupy which post.

Secondly - having come from the Ministry that is now responsible for Land Reform, when candidates who are needed by our Land Reform Ministry, as my Brother, Honourable Nujoma has just indicated that he is now searching for a new candidate for a Permanent Secretary's position – I am hopeful that those candidates, whether they are quantity surveyors, land surveyors, experts or technical people, are promptly analysed and appointed.

Thirdly - I am proud of the Right Honourable Prime Minister Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila that the first person she is motivating to go to the Public Service Commission is a woman and I support the move. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. I am actually, always constrained not to say anything of my own, but I as well, recall her as being very much part of the early team of the Namibian Council of Churches - being involved in gender related issues. We are all looking forward to her contribution to the Public Service Commission. Does the

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Right Honourable Prime Minister wish to reply?

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**HON PRIME MINISTER:** Yes, I do, Honourable Speaker and I would like to do so by way of expressing my appreciation to the House for supporting the Motion and agreeing to the appointment of this very dynamic lady to be a member of our Public Service Commission, and I am confident that she will add value to the work of the Commission.

I took note of the comments made, highlighting the need for the review of the *Public Service Act* and I would like to inform the House, and through the House, the public out there that that Law is indeed under review. There are extensive proposals for adjustments being made and we have been going through them over the past days. We want to be able to bring the Bill to the House during the course of this year and we are, therefore, counting on the support of our Colleagues at the Ministry of Justice, whom I know are overloaded with a lot of other work, but because we are all affected by the current problem related to the shortcomings in this Law, we are hoping that it will be given priority and would be finalised for tabling in this House during the course of this year. Thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. I now put the question that the Motion be adopted. Any objection? Agreed to.

The Secretary will read the Order of the Day.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE - PUBLIC ENTERPRISES  
GOVERNANCE AMENDMENT BILL [B.6 – 2015]**

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**COMMITTEE STAGE - PUBLIC ENTERPRISES  
GOVERNANCE AMENDMENT BILL  
HON JOOSTE**

**SECRETARY:** Committee Stage - *Public Enterprises Governance Amendment Bill* [B.6 -2015].

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**HON SPEAKER:** Does the Honourable Minister of Public Enterprises Move that the Assembly now goes into Committee.

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**HON MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:** I so Move, Comrade Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Who seconds that? Any objection? Agreed to. I now call on the Deputy Speaker, who is also the Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair.

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**ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE**

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
The Whole House Committee is called to order. The Committee has to consider the *Public Enterprises Governance Amendment Bill* [B.6 -2015].

I put Clause 1 and 2. Any discussions? I recognise, the Honourable Minister.

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**HON MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:** Thank you, Comrade

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**COMMITTEE STAGE - PUBLIC ENTERPRISES  
GOVERNANCE AMENDMENT BILL  
HON JOOSTE**

Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. In Clause 2, I submit the following:-

Substitute Paragraph (c) with the following paragraph:

“(c) by the insertion after the definition of “prescribed” of the following definition:

*“Public Enterprise” means a State-Owned Enterprise or State-Owned Company or any other entity established under any Law or in terms of any other instruments, and the purpose of which is to advance any interest of the public”*

I so submit.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Please table the Amendment. Any discussions on the Amendment moved? Any objection? Agreed to.

I put Clauses 3, 4, 5 and 6. Any discussions? Any objection? Agreed to.

I put Clause 7. Any discussions? I recognise the Honourable Minister.

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**HON MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:** Yes, Comrade Chairperson, in Clause 7;

Substitute for Clause 7 the following Clause:-

**“Deletion of Section 9 of Act 2 of 2007**

*7. The Principle Act is amended by the deletion of section 9.”*

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**COMMITTEE STAGE - PUBLIC ENTERPRISES  
GOVERNANCE AMENDMENT BILL  
HON VENAANI**

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Please table the Amendment. Any discussion on the Amendment moved?  
I recognise, Honourable Venaani.

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I just have this one matter - just for our future engagement on this matter - and that is the matter of calling each every Government Institution that is not a Ministry, a State-Owned Enterprises as to whether we are really doing justice to the terminology *enterprise* because enterprising is something else. I think we must be careful calling Namibia Training Authority a State-Owned Enterprise because our definition cannot extend to each and every Board that is has Government responsibilities, but is not a Ministry, to be called a State-Owned Enterprise - this is why there is a confusion.

When many people took the Floor, speaking about State-Owned Enterprises, the logical understanding was that we want these bodies to become profitable because they are enterprises in their nature, since they are engaged in one way or enterprising in one way or the other. I do not want to stall the process of accepting this Law as it is, but I think at a later date when the Minister gets little greyer and older, after three years, he will come back to this House to try and relinquish some of these Boards because the premise of some of the Boards, has nothing to do with enterprising and we must be very careful wholesaling everything and saying that non-Ministries are enterprises, because they are not enterprises. Those are my few remarks. Otherwise, I support the Clause.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Any comment from the Honourable Minister?

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**COMMITTEE STAGE - PUBLIC ENTERPRISES  
GOVERNANCE AMENDMENT BILL  
HON JOOSTE**

**HON MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:** Comrade  
Chairperson, Honourable Venaani, thank you very much.

We will take that into consideration - but also to refresh on our discussion previously; hence, the term public enterprises, which is the global accepted term – and not referring to the ownership as such. However, I will consider those remarks, when we replace this Law with significant new legislation.

---

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Any further discussions on the Amendment moved? Any objection?  
Agreed to.

I put Clause 8. Any discussion? Any objection? Agreed to.

I put Clause 9. Any discussion? Honourable Minister.

---

**HON MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:** Thank you  
Honourable Chairperson, 3. After Clause 9-

Insert the following Clause:

**“Amendment of Section 15 of Act 2 of 2006**

9A Section 15 of the Principle Act is amended

(a) by the substitution in Subsection (1), for the words preceding Paragraph (a) of the following words:

(1) With effect from a date to be specified by the Prime Minister by Notice in the *Gazette* whenever it is necessary to appoint

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**COMMITTEE STAGE - PUBLIC ENTERPRISES  
GOVERNANCE AMENDMENT BILL  
HON BEZUIDENHOUT**

members of the Board of a State-Owned Enterprise, either upon a first constitution or a new term of the Board or fulfilling a vacancy, **[the Head of the Secretariat]** staff members designated by the Minister must, after consultation with the Portfolio Minister and with due regard to Section 14(2), make a report to the Council containing” and

(b) by the substitution for Subsection (4) of the following Subsection:

“(4) When advising a Portfolio Minister on potential candidates whom the Council considers more suited for appointment as members or alternate members of the Board, the Council is not bound by the recommendations of the **[Secretariat]** designated staff members referred to in Subsection 1.”

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Please table the Amendments. Any discussion on the Amendments moved? I recognise, Honourable Bezuidenhout.

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**HON BEZUIDENHOUT:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I just need clarity from the Minister. When we go through the proposed Bill, the word *Council* is taken out. In this Amendment, *Council* is brought back. I need clarity on that please, because you previously took *Council* out and substituted it with *Ministry* and now in this Amendment last word there say - *make a report to Council containing...*, and also - *the Council is not bound by the recommendations...* I need some explanation on the *Council*.

---

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Any comment?

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HON JOOSTE**

**HON MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson, and thank you Honourable Member. That has been provided for. You are correct, but that is provided for under Section 1 of the Amendment which says – that the *State-Owned Enterprises Governance Act of 2006 and this Act refer to as the principle Act is amended by the substitution for words Council and Prime Minister wherever they appear in the Act with the word Minister*. It is, therefore, provided for in that Provision.

---

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Any further discussions on the Amendments moved? Any objection? Agreed to.

I put Clause 10. Any discussions? Any objection? Agreed to.

I put Clause 11. Any discussion? Honourable Minister.

---

**HON MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:** Thank you Honourable Chairperson. After Clause 11;

Insert the following Clause:-

**“Amendment of Section 37 of Act 2 of 2006**

11A Section 37 of the Principal Act is amended by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following Subsection:

“(1) The Minister may, in writing direct designated staff members to prepare and submit to **[Council]** Minister proposed plans for the restructuring of a State-Owned enterprises provisionally identified under Section 36(1)” ”

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HON VENAANI**

After Clause 11A;

Insert the following Clause:

**“Amendment of Section 38 of Act 2 of 2006**

11B Section 38 of the Principle Act is amended by the substitution for the words preceding Paragraph (a) of the following words:

“In formulating a proposed restructuring plan, [members of the “Secretariat] designated staff members referred to in section 37(1) must”  
”

---

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Please table the Amendments. Any discussion on the Amendments moved? Any objection? Agreed to.

I put Clause 12, 13 and 14, any discussions? Yes, I recognised Honourable Venaani.

---

**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, pardon me if my mind is moving too wild, but I just want one clarity, Honourable Minister.

We have this Act that we are amending, and then in every Ministry where you have State-Owned Enterprises, you also have Acts which governs the appointment, the firing and the reporting of State-Owned Enterprises under those Ministries. I just want to understand the purpose of the legislation. What are we doing? By adopting this Amendment, are we saying that all State-Owned Enterprises under the Ministries would fall under your Ministry, that is my understanding - would fall under your

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**COMMITTEE STAGE - PUBLIC ENTERPRISES  
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HON JOOSTE**

Ministry, and will you take away - that is why I said my mind is moving too wild - would you take away the powers of the firing and hiring authority that are already in other Acts, for example, the Act that establishes Air Namibia or any other enterprise.

I just want us to understand what we are doing because, are you now only supervising or you are taking over the responsibility of hiring and firing, therefore, the power of the Ministers, like that of Works and Transport, which has a lot of Parastatals under them, would fall away from them, or what is it that we are doing? I just want to understand you very clearly.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Honourable Minister?

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**HON MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. Honourable Venaani's concern is relevant.

First of all, I want to refresh the House again with my Budget Motivation Statement where we explained that we would be appointing experts under our Corporate Advisory Reform Unit to perform or carry out various analyses and research. One of those - we have a large section dealing with Law Reform, so you are absolutely correct.

We need to synchronise all the legislation. We, therefore, have a massive Law Reform process ahead of us. Currently, coming back again to the actual functions of this Ministry; these are simply the functions that were performed by the previous Council. Again, nothing is changing there, it is just that the Ministry will be performing the same functions as the Council has done until now. Therefore, nothing changes until we have concluded our research; we will after that make a formal recommendation to Cabinet on the actual governance ownership model, all these procedures and the



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**THIRD READING - PUBLIC ENTERPRISES  
GOVERNANCE AMENDMENT BILL  
HON JOOSTE**

various Law Reforms of the enabling legislation of State or Public Enterprises. Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

---

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Any further discussions? Any objection? Agreed to.

I put the Title. Any discussion? Any objection? Agreed to.

I will report the Bill with Amendments.

Honourable Speaker, the Committee has gone through the Bill [B.6 – 2015] as set forth in the accompanying copy and agreed to it with Amendments.

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**ASSEMBLY RESUMES**

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Bill reported with Amendments.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. I now put the question that the Bill be read a Third Time. Any objection? Agreed to.

The Secretary will read the Bill a Third Time.

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**THIRD READING - PUBLIC ENTERPRISES  
GOVERNANCE AMENDMENT BILL [B.6 – 2015]**

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**ADJOURNMENT**  
**RT HON KUUGONGELWA-MADHILA**

**SECRETARY:** *Public Enterprises Governance Amendment Bill* [B.6 – 2015].

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Honourable Members, we have exhausted the item before us for this afternoon Session and according to the information available to me we do not have any items for tomorrow, except Thursday, but I must quickly add that we only have the Motion of Honourable Dienda - that will be the only item, but we are likely to add one or two items from the Committees etcetera.

I just wanted to bring you up to date so that we can all be on the same page. Therefore, we could meet, but it is going to a very short Session. I propose that we go ahead on that day basis so that we can dispose of all these items before we adjourn on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July. Are we in agreement that we convene tomorrow despite the fact that we have fewer items or do we combine everything for Thursday?

---

**HON MEMBERS:** Combine everything for Thursday!

---

**HON SPEAKER:** We combine everything for Thursday and we deal with that so that tomorrow, you can attend to other things. Is that agreed to? I see there is a consensus for Thursday. So agreed. Good.

With that understanding, I will call upon the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House until Thursday, 14:30 pm.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Honourable Speaker, I Move that the House adjourns until Thursday, at 14:30.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. The House stands adjourn until Thursday, at 14:30 pm.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:55 UNTIL 2015.06.25 AT 14:30**

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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
25 JUNE 2015**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**HON SPEAKER**: Honourable Members, in our public gallery today, I would like to acknowledge a visiting delegation headed by Professor Immanuel Kreike from Princeton University in the United States of America. Professor Kreike and 15 of his students are currently in Namibia on a Summer School Programme, exploring and doing some historical research about our country.

Welcome to the National Assembly and I hope you will find this Session insightful, give the gleans about life and discussion in Parliament of the Republic of Namibia. Welcome.

Further announcements Honourable Members, I have been informed that Mr Somen Debnath a national of India is going around the world on a bicycle tour and he has already covered 191 countries to spread awareness about HIV/AIDS through lectures and seminars as well as covering the Indian culture during his tour, which began on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2004. He plans to achieve this goal by completing his journey in 2020. He plans to travel through 99 countries that took him all the way to the southern part of the continent and he recently visited Botswana and he is now in Namibia making the total number of countries visited so far 100.

Honourable Members, at this juncture, I have the honour to acknowledge Mr Somen Debnath in the gallery over there. You can see him (*applause*) and thank him for this noble achievements and efforts made so far. On behalf of the Parliament of the Republic of Namibia, I wish you all the

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BY HON VENAANI**

best for the rest of the trip that you are undertaking. We really acknowledge your efforts. The particular challenges that you are confronted with, for which you want to raise awareness, is a global issue of great concern to the rest of our common humanity. All the best.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Motions? Messages from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements?

That takes us to today's Business. Being Thursday, we are here to deal with a number of questions raised and I would like start with a Question posed by Honourable Venaani. Question 1 is addressed to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. Did I miss something? Yes Honourable Maamberua.

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I beg the indulgence of Honourable Venaani because I am observing one unusual modality here and that is some of the questions, particularly the question that I asked was edited and cut in half. The background to the questions was actually omitted. Is that a new tradition or what exactly has happened?

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you for drawing my attention to that but I would suggest when we come to that particular question then we can deal with it to find the explanation and to get the necessary explanation provided. We will definitely with deal that when we get to that question we will. If you permit me, I will then proceed with the actual programme before us. Thank you. Can I ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry to take the Floor?

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

**QUESTION 01:**

**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**

Thank you, Comrade Speaker for giving me the Floor to respond to this question that was asked long time ago. Of course, we were dealing with the Budget and there was no time to deal with it. My response, therefore, has been ready since April.

A Joint Project of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and the Germany Geo-Science Agency (BGR), undertook to investigate the groundwater resources in the Cuvelai Basin. The project is being implemented over three phases since 2009. The first phase stretched from 2009 to 2011 and that phase focused on studies and surveys, as well as planning, as to how the project had to be implemented. Phase two stretched from 2012 to 2013 and it focused on drilling and analysis of the drilling results, while phase three, which started last year has to stretch up to 2017. This phase will focus on consolidation, capacity building and sustainable management, and the utilisation of the aquifer in question.

**The Progress to Date is as Follows:**

1. Water of a significant amount is detected in an aquifer, which is, according to the studies named Ohangwena II below the normal ground water aquifer, which is Ohangwena I, at a depth of about 350 to 400 m below the surface. There is quite a significant amount of water at that level. (*Interjection*) Yes, even the water that we get from Kombat, the borehole there is 400 m deep.
2. The water quality west of Eenhana is poor due to high levels of fluoride presence in the water.
3. The areas east of Eenhana such as Omundaungilo have better water quality and is already being used at a small scale by NamWater.
4. A test well-field is constructed at Ondobe to supply about 800,000 m<sup>3</sup>

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

of water. The infrastructure at Ondobe includes:

- Production boreholes;
- Pipelines to convey water to NamWater Schemes; and
- A de-flouridation plant to get the fluoride out of the water.

5. Most of the infrastructure is already in place except the pipelines.
6. Production boreholes at Omundaungilo is up and running and the communities as well as Government Institution in the village are already utilising the borehole water at this stage, but, of course, as I said, the last stage is the determining phase in terms of utilisation at a larger scale.

The estimated cost of the infrastructure development is N\$1,000,000,00. This is now at Ondobe.

The infrastructures stated above are meant for domestic water use only – the one that is already in existence at Ondobe - that is, for household use and livestock watering.

With regard to job to be created, the construction works require a limited number of workers expected not to be over Two Hundred (200). However, more jobs will be created, if the irrigation initiative proves to be viable, later in the future.

The beneficiary Region or Regions will be determined by the plans that will be put in place after all studies have been successfully completed.

**Plan Measures and the Way Forward:**

1. The possibility of using water for irrigation is still to be investigated scientifically considering the water quality and soil condition in the area.

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BY HON VENAANI  
HON VENAANI**

2. Students from the Polytechnic – the Namibian University of Science Technology and UNAM, as well as young Geo-hydrologists from the Department of Water Affairs in the Ministry, are being coached and trained by the German Expatriates to build the necessary capacity, in order to be able to manage the groundwater source in the medium and long term time frame, after the German Expatriates have left in 2017. We are very comfortable, because when I look at some of the activities in the Ministry, particularly in the Directorate of Extension and Engineering Services, most of the Projects that we are implementing are being done by young Engineers who are trained locally here at the University of Namibia and the Polytechnic of Namibia. We, therefore have that confidence.
3. Consultations with the Angolan Authorities, obviously, are almost completed to pave the way for the joint management of the resource, because in as much as it is discovered here, it might extend to the other side underground, as it is a trans-boundary groundwater aquifer. Comrade Speaker, I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Honourable Venaani.

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Speaker, I just have a quick, brief question just to elucidate a point.

Honourable Minister, you spoke about the fluoride in the water, would that mean that this water cannot be used for irrigation purposes? If it is not good for human consumption, would it not be good enough for irrigation purposes?



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BY HON VENAANI  
HON MUTORWA**

**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Minister, would you like to respond to that question?

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**  
I made mention of fluoride to indicate that some of the water that was discovered there has a lot of fluoride and it is, obviously, not good enough for human consumption, that is what scientists tell me. I am not a scientist in that area - that is why they are de-fluoridating it, but whether it is suitable for irrigation, I do not want to venture into that, I have not consulted those experts who are knowledgeable in terms of this aspect, so I have to be on the safe side, do you understand? Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you, we move on. The next question is also from Honourable Venaani addressed to the same Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. I supposed this does not cover water.

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**QUESTION 02**

**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**  
Thank you, Comrade Speaker once again. Well, I am not so sure about the use of the word in the preamble to the question where Honourable Venaani is talking about *overuse* of water. That is your word, but I am not commenting on that one. The substance of the question is as follows:

The Water Sharing Agreement on the Lower Orange River has been discussed at the Permanent Water Commission (PWC), between Namibia and South Africa for quite a long period of time, actually for about 20 years. Hitherto, no agreement could be finalised as the two parties cannot as yet, agree on the volume of the free allocation and the principle to

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BY HON VENAANI  
HON MUTORWA**

arrive at a cost of water used by Namibia - capital and/or operation and maintenance. That is the end of the response. The negotiations are still ongoing.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Do you want to continue?  
Yes.

---

**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**

In principle, Namibia wants the Agreement to acknowledge her property rights, that is, our natural and historical rights to the waters of the Orange-Senqu River - the current use of about 50 m<sup>3</sup> at no cost. Additional water needs could be met from existing dams in South Africa, for which Namibia has already contributed to capital cost and, therefore, only operation and maintenance cost be charged on temporary basis, until such time that the dam at Noordoewer is developed to further regulate the Orange River for downstream users and the environment.

As such, the PWC already agreed that the Parties' understanding on the principles of cooperation regarding current and future equitable and reasonable utilisation, joint development and management and the design, construction, operation and maintenance of joint infrastructures in the Lower Orange River, be recorded in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). A draft MoU has been finalised and each Party should consider it at Country level – and that is what is happening - to allow for easy negotiations, on equitable and reasonable use of the Orange River's water.

Namibia, currently uses about 50 m<sup>3</sup> of water from the Orange River and South Africa about 2000 m<sup>3</sup>. With the current plans to develop more irrigation schemes on our side, like Tandjieskopje and other Projects that we have on the Namibian side, that figure of 50 m<sup>3</sup> will have increase. We have to increase our share of the water.

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS  
BY DIENDA  
HON KLAZEN**

A Study on the feasibility of the Noordoewer - Vioolsdrift dam is being carried out jointly by Namibia and South Africa, and it is expected to be completed in early 2017, after which, the dam design and construction can, and should start. Thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Honourable Venaani, satisfied?

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**HON VENAANI:** Not entirely.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. I think we are in the process of increasing our access to water utilisation and I am sure with time that will happen.

The next question is from the Honourable Elma Dienda addressed to the Minister of Urban and Rural Development. Unfortunately, I do not see the Minister, but of course, the Deputy Minister is here. You have the Floor.

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**QUESTION 08:**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker for granting me the opportunity to answer this question on behalf of my Minister.

The question is coming from Honourable Dienda - **how many tenders have been awarded so far in all fourteen Regions? To whom were**

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS  
BY DIENDA  
HON KLAZEN**

**they awarded and what is the monetary value of each?**

The total number of companies that have been awarded constructions tenders by the National Housing Enterprise, the implementing agent for the initial Phase 1 of the Mass Housing Development Programme is 22. However, work only started at 21 sites, excluding Omuthiya in the Oshikoto Region.

Regarding the reasons where the Housing Projects are being implemented, I wish to clarify that, while the intention was to have at least a Project implemented in each of the fourteen Regions of the country, namely the Regional Capitals, this was found to be not possible mainly due to funding as well as the unavailability of serviced land.

The remaining Regions of Omaheke, Kavango East, Ohangwena and Oshikoto are not covered under the current initial Phase 1 of the Programme and will be prioritised in the next Phase. However, I wish to point out the Housing Construction Project at Rundu in the Kavango East - these Projects were initiated as a Turnkey Projects and the Government appreciates the participation of the Private Sector.

The total monetary value of all the tenders that have been awarded under Phase 1 of the Programme is N\$2,723,900,018,350 (Two Billion Seven Hundred and Twenty-Three Million, Nine Hundred and Eighteen Thousand, Three Hundred and Fifty Namibian Dollars).

**What is the amount of houses that have been awarded per tender?**

The total number of houses that are planned to be constructed under the entire Phase 1, which is over a two-year period - the Financial Years 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 is 9,304 houses.

**How many houses have already been completed and already handed over to their owners?** Here I can mention that a total of 1,468 houses of various categories have been constructed as at June 2015, of which 221 have been handed over to identified beneficiaries in Walvis Bay, Oshakati

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS  
BY DIENDA  
HON KLAZEN**

and Mariental last year, 2014. There is a table that I can show you. In Erongo - Walvis Bay there were 89 houses, Oshana - Oshakati 92 houses, in Hardap - Mariental there are 40 houses and the total is 221.

**How many houses remain outstanding and by when will these houses be completed?** The total houses planned to be constructed is 9,306. The total constructed to date is 1,468. The total to be constructed is 7,838. From the total number of houses so far constructed totalling 1,468; 797 of these houses are still in the process of being connected to bulk municipal services systems. You will find these houses in Swakopmund, Keetmanshoop, Karasberg, Mariental, Rehoboth, Oshikuku, Katima Mulilo and Khorixas. The main constraints are financial and technical capacity on the part of the Local Authorities.

I can just give you the breakdown of the number of houses completed, but not yet connected to municipal services - in the Regions of Erongo - Swakopmund, the number of houses is 285, with no services at all. //Karas Region - Keetmanshoop 135, with no electrical connections. Still in the //Karas Region - Karasberg 69, with no electrical connections. In the Kunene Region - Khorixas 41, with no electrical connections. Hardap - Mariental 60, with no electricity, water and sewer connections. Hardap - Rehoboth 62 with no electricity, water and water metres. Omusati - Oshikutu 78, awaiting NORED's inspection on electricity connections: Zambezi - Katima Mulilo 67, with no electricity, water and sewer connections. The total number is 797. Services need to be provided before the handover.

The Number of houses that are ready for handing over, although not specifically asked, I wish to add that some 412 houses of the total completed houses of 1,468, are fully connected and ready to be handed over to the beneficiaries. This is the difference left, after subtracting the 221 houses that have already been handed over and the 797 houses that are yet to be fully connected to municipal services, from the total of 1,468.

**What criteria is used to determining and choose the potential owners**

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS  
BY DIENDA  
HON KLAZEN**

**for this scheme?** The criteria that are to be followed in the selection of beneficiaries and allocating houses for which construction has been funded by the Government's Social houses are as follows:

- Applicants/beneficiaries must be Namibian citizens.
- Applicants/beneficiaries must be at least 21 years of age.
- The applicant/beneficiary must be a first time home owner.
- Applicants/beneficiaries must submit a Police declaration of not owning a house.
- Applicants/beneficiaries must provide a proof of income - pay slip or sworn statement of income from a Commissioner of Oath or a three month bank statement, including Pension Grants.
- These houses may only be sold after ten years of continued occupation.
- These houses must not be rented out; and
- No shacks to be built on the plots.

The lists of beneficiaries that are funded by the Government for the Social Houses are compiled by the Local Authorities to whom residents who are in need of housing, but are unable to secure such houses through the conventional market system, submit applications.

The Ministry and the respective Local Authorities jointly use those applications to verify the details of the listed candidates. The Ministry has directed Local Authorities to ensure fairness in the selection and allocation process and also argued that all the key stakeholders in the Regions - Governors, Regional Councillors and Local Authorities work together and are involved in this process as a team.

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS  
BY DIENDA  
HON DIENDA**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, these are my direct responses to the specific questions posted by Honourable Dienda and I wish to thank the Honourable Member for the questions.

I, however, wish to give a brief update to this august House on the status of the implementation of the Mass Housing Development Programme. The current status of the Programme implementation - I wish to inform this august House that I, on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May 2015, issued a directive to NHE to hold any further construction of houses under the Mass Housing Programme until further notice. The reasons for this intervention are as follows:

I would like to assure this august House that the Mass Housing Project shall continue, but here are issues that must be ironed out to make it easier for the end users of the product we intend to provide. Government is determined to provide houses to the needy and also to meet its obligations, but I must repeat myself that the end user must be happy. I thank you Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Honourable Dienda do you want to have a go?

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**HON DIENDA:** Honourable Speaker, the 400 houses that are ready to be handed over, is there already a waiting list for them or can people still apply for these houses?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Yes, Honourable Deputy Minister. You have the Floor.

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS  
BY KAVEKOTORA  
HON KLAZEN**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Honourable Speaker, as I have indicated, the allocation of these houses is jointly administered by the Local Authorities, Governors, Regional Councils and the Ministry, therefore, there will be beneficiaries when these houses will be handed over. Thank you.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** It is work in progress. Well, I suppose if there are further announcements to be made, you will be able to do that as part of the response to the question. She would like to know whether there is a standing list of people who have already been identified, if not, is this to be done at a later stage?

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Yes, Honourable Speaker. The lists of beneficiaries are there with the Local Authorities, as the houses become available – from 1 to 200, for instance, the beneficiaries will then move in.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Okay - So there is a standing list where people will be drawn from? Thank you very much. We move on.

The next question is that of Honourable Kavekatora addressed to the Minister of Urban and rural Development. I am assuming that the Deputy Minister is ready to respond to that question. Thank you.

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**QUESTION 12:**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Once again, Thank you, Honourable Speaker.



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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS  
BY KAVEKOTORA  
HON KLAZEN**

Honourable Members, Honourable Speaker, the question that was raised was:

**What is your view on the use of the EVMs without paper trail in all forthcoming elections?**

The **Answer** provided is: The Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) has officially and successfully used the Electronic Voting Machines in its current form in the following elections:

1. Endola Constituency by-election
2. Ohangwena Constituency by-election
3. Bukalo Local Authority election
4. Otjinene Local Authority election
5. Windhoek West Constituency by-election
6. 2014 Presidential and National Assembly elections

The results of all the above mentioned elections were widely accepted by all the contesting Political Parties and candidates as well as the voters and not one single incident or malfunction of these machines was reported during the said elections. Our experience has shown that voters of all ages have no problem using the EVM's because of its simplicity and a user friendly interface.

**What is your timeline and projection of when Namibia will comply with the peremptory stipulations of the *Electoral Act*, as cited above?**

First of all, Sub-sections 3 and 4 of Section 97 of the *Electoral Act*, 2014 (Act 4 of 2014), have not come into operation yet, therefore, they cannot be considered peremptory stipulations in terms of the Law. Most importantly, Honourable Members should bear in mind that the process of acquiring the EVM's started already way back in 2006. At that time the idea of a Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail was not even conceived in India. The Namibian EVM's were designed and manufactured in accordance with our own specifications, which did not factor in the use of

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a Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail.

Let me further state that the Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail is not even being formally used in all parts of India for elections by the Electoral Commission of India. Instead, in line with the Supreme Court of India's decision the Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail is **“introduce the same in gradual stages or geographical-wise in ensuing general elections.”**

The ECI is only running some trials on an experimental basis with a view to add this functionality to their EVM's in future. Similarly, the Electoral Commission of Namibia will be required to do some preliminary groundwork before advising on a timeline by which such functionality would be implemented.

**In the light of the Supreme Court ruling of India, in respect of the use of EVMs in India, the country of origin of EVMs, is it not prudent to revert back to the time proven manual system which provides baseline prove in the event of electoral challenges?** This is now the 3<sup>rd</sup> question.

A serious misconception has been created by sceptics of the EVM with regard to its ability to produce a paper trail in the event of a dispute. In fact, the EVM can be commanded to produce a printout clearly showing to which candidate or Political Party each and every vote has been cast. Therefore, as stated earlier, we have full confidence in the use of the EVM in its current form, and there is thus no need to revert back to the manual paper based method of casting votes.

This is the 21<sup>st</sup> century and our election management body is required to maintain a dynamic and vibrant electoral process. For your information, a high profile delegation from the Electoral Commission of Lesotho will be visiting Namibia with a specific objective to learn from our experience with the EVM. The Electoral Commission of Botswana has already shown a high interest in this voting technology and staff members of the

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ECN recently visited Botswana to share information about the EVM.

The 4<sup>th</sup> question - **Do you think that the use of EVMs will provide the voters with the best possible options, in the event of the voter wanting to vote, but with the expressed intention to spoil his or her vote?**

The ECN has been conducting a very comprehensive voter education campaign since the time when manual paper based voting was conducted with a specific objective of minimising of eradicating spoiled ballots. It is thus not in interest of the ECN for a single vote to be spoiled even with the use of the EVM's. During the 2009 Presidential and National Assembly elections, the number of spoilt ballots was equivalent to the votes needed for one seat. Do you want this to happen to your Political Party?

Fortunately, with the EVM's the possibility of spoilt ballots is zero. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Honourable Kavekatora, do you have issues that you want to take up? Yes.

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**HON KAVEKOTORA:** Honourable Speaker, let me start off by thanking the Honourable Minister for attempting to answer my questions - it was a very good attempt. Question 1 for the Honourable Minister is:

*Is the Honourable Minister aware of the fact that our Electoral Laws for good intentions calls specifically for the utilisation of the Electronic Voting Machines, commonly known as EVMs with paper trail? Is the Minister aware of that, that there is a Legal Provision in our Act?*

Question 2: *Is the Honourable Minister aware of the fact that the reason why the EVMs with paper trail in India is being introduced incrementally*

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*is because of financial consideration and nothing other than financial consideration?* I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. That sounds like additional questions and I thought you are seeking clarification, but I will leave it to the Deputy Minister to choose whether to respond or not to do so? Honourable Deputy Minister, would you like to have a go at it?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Yes, I think this can stand over until the next round of questions comes. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. We move on the next question, that of Honourable Smit directed to the Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation and as far as I can see, the Honourable Minister is not here and the Deputy is not here either, but I am sure that they will take care of this.

We will skip that and move on to the next question. A question from the same Honourable Member, Honourable Smit directed to the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation. The Honourable Minister is here. Honourable Minister you have the Floor.

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**QUESTION 14:**

**HON MINISTER OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, and I

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also want to thank Honourable Smit for the questions. The first question reads as follows:

**What is the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation doing to formalise the Informal Sector and to extend social protection to those employed in the informal economy?**

**Answer:** The Government in general, and the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation in particular, is very much aware of the fact that almost 60% of the Namibian labour force works in the informal economy. Namibia's second National Labour Policy states that: *"the informal sector faces a host of challenges, including lack of recognition, lack of inclusion in decision-making, lack of skills and capital to move beyond survivalism, low wages, lack of access to finance, lack of social protection, poor health and safety, etcetera. However, the informal economy presents opportunities for employment creation and thus will be systematically supported."* Our Ministry, therefore, has committed itself to support the process of transition to formality, including the extension of social security to the informal economy.

To this end, in reporting to the President at the end of May this year, I committed our Ministry to carry out the following strategic intention: *"To develop a strategy, in conjunction with other institutions of Government, the Private Sector and civil society, to facilitate the transition of the informal economy to a formal economy and the extension of labour and social protection to Informal Sector workers and to implement the strategy."* The transition is a complex and cross-cutting challenge that will require all of the afore-mentioned institutions, including those representing the informal sector, to work together.

Our work on the extension of Social Security to the informal economy began quite some time ago. The proposals being developed to establish the Social Security National Pension Fund will include the informal economy. In addition, research is about to be conducted jointly by our Ministry, the Social Security Commission, the National Statistics Agency

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and the Ministry of Trade and Industry to determine, among other things how to best provide other Social Security Benefits, such as Maternity, Sickness and Death Benefits to the informal economy.

I would also like to inform the Honourable Member that the vulnerability of informal economy workers and the realisation of the potential of the informal economy is not only a challenge to the Namibian Government, but it is an international challenge. The ILO adopted in June of this year a new International Labour Standard-Recommendation 204 on the Transition from the Informal Economy to the Formal Economy - which will give critical guidance to our work in this complex area.

**Why has the Minister not moved to ensure that public infrastructure projects create work solely for Namibians, where that work can be adequately performed by Namibians?**

**Answer:** This august House enacted legislation to ensure that, in filling positions of employment, preferential consideration should be given to Namibian citizens first, provided that such Namibian citizens meet the requirements of the job, that is, they are suitably qualified. The *Affirmative Action (Employment) Act*, 29 of 1998, provides for employers to give preferential treatment to Namibians before they consider employing expatriates. However, I must point out, Mr Speaker, that work permits for expatriates to work in Namibia, are granted by the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration and I trust that the Immigration Selection Board only issues work permits to Non- Namibians when suitably qualified Namibians are not available. If employers adhere to the relevant Laws that govern the hiring of expatriates and these Laws are effectively enforced, I believe that infrastructure projects could take many Namibians off the street as employment opportunities that are created by these projects should only be reserved for Namibian citizens.

**Why has the Ministry stood by idly while Chinese Construction Firms have employed foreigners at the expense for Namibians?**

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**Answer:** Honourable Smit has chosen to single out Chinese Construction firms as the only culprits in this regard. I am not convinced that it is only Chinese construction firms that employ foreigners. I am aware of fishing companies, commercial banks, mining houses and other private companies, which employ expatriates, sometimes, without having advertised the vacancies to test the local market for suitably qualified Namibian candidates. As I indicated in my earlier response, the mandate to grant work permits does not fall within the ambit of my jurisdiction, but the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation does what it can to enforce the Laws that fall within its mandate.

**Why jobs in the construction sector are not identified among those to be strictly reserved for Namibians?**

**Answer:** I have already alluded to the fact that the Law requires employers to give Namibians preferential consideration when filling positions of employment. This Provision of the Law applies to all Sectors of employment, including the Construction Sector. The challenge is not the absence of the policy directive or legislation, the challenge could rather be that of enforcement.

I trust that I have satisfactorily responded to Honourable Smit's questions. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Smit, any particular aspect you want to query?

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**HON SMIT:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would like to thank the Honourable Minister for his answer, especially on question 1, I think the answer that the Minister provided is very promising, we will monitor the

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situation and I would that hope that things will happen as the Minister has anticipated.

On questions 2, 3, and 4 - I accept the Minister's responses to that. I also accept that some parts of the question are not actually in this area of responsibility, so I will come with another question to the Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. We move on to the next question, that of Honourable Maamberua directed to the Minister of Urban and Rural Development and I have taken note of the fact that there was a query here. He felt that some elements contained in these questions have been taken out.

Can I just remind the Honourable Member that as far as I can judge, I think those elements are the ones that fall under the particular Provision of the General Rules for questions that reminds all of us that questions shall not contain arguments, inferences and opinions, if so, then obviously the administration of Parliament will have to make sure that they are taken out and as far as I can see, the meaning of the questions that were put forward are hopefully not diminished in any form or shape. Yes, Honourable Maamberua.

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Some many years ago, we used to fight against something that was called UDI (*interjection*)

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**HON MEMBER:** Where?

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** In Rhodesia. That was the fight against unilateralism.

May I refer the Speaker to Rule 80 - Amendments of Questions, if I may, with your permission read that Rule - *If the Speaker is of the opinion that any question of which a Member has given Notice to the Secretary, infringes the Provisions of any Standing Order or is in any way an abuse of the right of questioning he/she may direct [that is now the Speaker] that the Member concerned be informed that the question is Out of Order or that the question be entered in the book with such alterations as he/she may direct. (Interjection)* No, but this presupposes that before the alteration is done, the Member is informed. *(Intervention)*

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**HON SPEAKER:** I noted the point you are making, but generally speaking, I think you would also expect that the Secretariat are also required to make sure that questions are put in a manner that would be consistent with the Rules. However, if you require that every time arguments are injected in the Rule that basically falls outside the Rules, as a courtesy to you, we could do that, but you should also accept when it is done in order to be consistent.

I think - let us not continue with the dialogue on this issue, let us rather call on the Deputy Minister to respond to this question and if there is something that is distorted in the manner in which you have put the questions, we will be more than happy to rectify that. Thank you. I now call upon the Deputy Minister to respond accordingly.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Honourable Speaker, thank you again, for giving me the Floor. In the light of these questions - Question 18, as well as Question 20, that was brought to the Floor last week, I would really ask

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the indulgence of this august House for both questions to be deferred to next week so that we can do justice to them. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. I would like to refer the questions back to Honourable Maamberua and if there is any distortion in the way the questions were placed on the Order Paper, by the way how they have been edited, I am sure the Secretariat would take care of that.

With that understanding, we move on. The next question is that of Honourable Muharukua directed to the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. Minister it is your day.

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Equally, Comrade Speaker this is a question that requires some proper verification and investigation of some of the issues raised, and on that score, I would like to, through you Comrade Speaker, beg the indulgence of Honourable Muharukua that the question stands over so that we will be able to give factual responses to these questions. I so Move.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Honourable Muharukua will you grant the Minister the chance to do that? Thank you.

Well, you have every right to raise an objection and you are being very kind or have I jumped the gun?

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** No, Honourable Speaker. I would just like to say that the Right Honourable Prime Minister pointed out the other day that

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the purpose of questions is to get clarity and the Minister is saying he wants time to get the clarity and inform the House accordingly, so we shall wait.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Good. Thank you for agreeing to that. The next question is the (*interjections*) yes, indeed, thank you very much. Having done justice to those questions, we are now moving on to the next item.

The Notice of a Motion is the one of Honourable Dienda. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion?

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**HON DIENDA:** I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Who seconds it? Any objection? Agreed to. Honourable Dienda has the Floor. You have the Floor Honourable Member.

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**HON DIENDA:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, this is matter very close to my heart and I have followed issues affecting Senior Citizens or elderly people for quite some time now.

There have been concerns raised about Senior Citizens gambling all their pension out, cases of alcohol abuse being reported, abuse of children

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towards their parents/grandparents after having laid their hands on the respective parent or grandparent's pension, and also the fact that some pensioners remain the primary breadwinners in some homes and are thus left with no alternative but to spend their pension on school fees and other related expenses for their children and grandchildren, in most cases at their own expense as they then become unable to cater for their own basic needs.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to first explain what the purpose and goal of an Old Age Home is intended to be.

An Old Age Home is supposed to be a secure, safe and comfortable housing option for Senior Citizens in their twilight who wish to be surrounded by people at similar stages in their life development.

In order to meet this requirement, a standard Old Age Home must at the very least, provide the following basic amenities:

- a) Nursing care must be available at all times of the day, in order to assist with the administering and in-take of various medication;
- b) There must be an organized routine of social events and group activities to keep the pensioners active and busy;
- c) Provision must be made for 3 nutritious healthy meals per day;
- d) A Medical Practitioner must be available for regular in-house visits with all of the residents;

These, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, are what I understand to be the basic requirements for any establishment that purports itself to be an Old Age Home.

Very often, particularly within our ethnic Namibian cultures, sending an elderly parent or grandparent to an Old Age Home is considered as taboo and is frowned upon, therefore; it is never an easy decision to take for any

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child or family member. What further contributes to this difficult choice is the exclusive, few private expensive Old Age Homes. The majority of Old Age Homes, do not meet the basic requirements as defined above, only the expensive one. Consequently, sending a parent to an Old Age Home, even where there is no other credible alternative, is widely seen as a form of abandonment from the side of the children.

However, the reality and cost of living in Namibia in 2015, are of such a nature that one cannot afford basic goods and services without fixed full time employment. Consequently, the majority of Namibians have around the clock jobs, meaning that there is often no one to stay at home and to look after the elderly. Moreover, as one's age increases so too do the ailments and health issues that affect you, meaning that in most cases, even where there are relatives who indeed have the time to care for elderly family members, they are not equipped with the nursing skills and know-how to do so.

As a result, often sending an elderly parent to an Old Age Home becomes the only option available to family members. Additionally, sending an elderly person to an Old Age Home provides families with several benefits that are hard to overlook – not only is there nursing care available, but there are also people with similar life experiences with whom the elderly person can socialise and interact with daily.

These benefits can make a huge difference in the lives of elderly people, because they have the potential to make their lives not only more convenient and hassle-free, but most significantly, more enjoyable.

Additionally, Old Age Homes also cater for people who have nowhere else left to go, people who face health problems that have overwhelmed family members, those with cases of depression or even just feelings of loneliness and neglect brought about by being left alone at home all day. Crucially, Old Age Homes can also serve as a safe haven for elders who are being abused or exploited by family members for their pension.

Honourable Speaker, this brings me to a 2012 Report and Study titled

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*“Seeking Safety”* by the Legal Assistance Centre. If the Honourable Members want to read it, I have the document with me.

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**HON MEMBER:** We do not read in Parliament.

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**HON DIEANDA:** No, you must start reading in Parliament. This Report originally focused on women and child abuse, however, allow me to list some of the alarming statistics pertaining to the abuse of elderly people that originates from this Report:

- a) One in ten people who apply for a protection order are over the age of fifty;
- b) Violence between a parent and child or a grandparent and a grandchild is the second largest relationship group between the complainant and respondent after intimate partner relationships;
- c) Within this group, there are more cases of violence by a child/grandchild against a parent/grandparent than a parent/grandparent against a child;
- d) The study also showed that elderly people who applied for Protection Orders requested Provisions such as *no communication, custody of grandchildren, limitations of access by the abuser to grandchildren and temporary maintenance.*

This data illustrates the fact that domestic violence affects people of all ages, and given the vulnerability of elderly people, they are an equally susceptible group as women and children, however, mainstream focus has remained on the abuse of women and children when there is another equally vulnerable group.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, there exists widely-held opinions that Old Age Homes do more harm than good, and I will briefly highlight the pros and cons to disprove this wrongly held believe. The me first talk about the Pros, which is the positive side.

**The Pros – the Positives**

1. Elderly people are in need of a more structured environment as they grow older, especially when they are mentally or physically disabled. Old Age Homes, due to their rigid routines and programmes offer them a more stable environment. This schedule includes regular daily activities and fixed set meals to ensure elderly people lead a normal life without too many environmental disruptions as this can negatively affect them.
2. The daily nursing care and assistance in other forms required by elderly people is often too great and overwhelming for family members, and thus, Old Age Homes are able to fill this void and provide the critical assistance that may be required, particularly where more hands-on assistance is required pertaining to toilet-use and bathing.
3. Old Age Homes are specifically geared towards taking care of residents who may be suffering from various health-issues as they have numerous health care professionals who do regular rounds and visits to the residents who require medical assistance.
4. Old Age Homes have group and individual activities specifically designed to stimulate and maintain enthusiasm amongst the elderly and thereby cater for the lifestyles of Senior Citizens.
5. Old Age Homes guarantee a secure and safe environment which offers the requisite amount of privacy, independence and freedom of movement so that residents are able to do the things they enjoy.

Secondly, I will address - **The Cons - the Negatives.**

1. Many people contend that - “*it is not our culture*” to make use of Old Age Homes, and I believe this may be one of the contributing factors as to why this area receives so little attention from Government.

I would reply that often needs will preside over what we deem as culturally acceptable. Also, Honourable Speaker, cultures are not dead objects, cultures are living and dynamic and change over time. The lives we led 50 years ago are not the lives we live now. We live in a modern society where the majority of people have full time jobs and there is not necessarily always someone available to take on the job of looking after an elderly person.

2. Some people also cite the fact that Old Age Homes are expensive as a reason why they cannot be considered an option as the pension is not enough to cover those costs. However, this is partly due to lack of subsidies and adequate financial assistance from government.
3. There is also a scarcity of Old Age Homes available near to where the family members live so that they can regularly visit their parents or grandparents and thus, people rather choose to keep them at home. There are also long waiting lists at some Old Age Homes and this discourages potential residents. Again, this is down to an under-funded and forgotten segment of society.
4. Some people argue that some elderly people have trouble living in a retirement home due to various reasons:
  - 4.1. Personalities – we have different personalities.
  - 4.2. Difficulty in getting along with staff members.
  - 4.3. Do not want to accept help from others.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to quote from the Constitution - Chapter 11, ***Principles of State Policy***. Article 95 - ***Promotion of the Welfare of the People***.

*“The state shall actively promote and maintain the welfare of the people*



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*by adopting, inter alia, policies aimed at the following:*

- *insurance that Senior Citizens are entitled to and do receive a regular pension adequate for the maintenance of a decent standard of living and the enjoyment of social and cultural opportunities.*
- *consistent planning to raise and maintain an acceptable level of nutrition and standard of living of the Namibian people and to improve public health.”*

Honourable Speaker, also allow me to quote Article 2 of the *Aged Persons Act*, 1967 (Act 81 of 1967), and I quote:

*“Establishment and maintenance of homes for the aged, payment of subsidies to homes for the aged and certain clubs, service centres and welfare organizations.”*

Honourable Speaker, I am quoting from this one because this one for 1967 is the current one that we are still using – everything in here is just - *South Africa, South Africa*, and we are even be referred to as Blacks, Indians, Coloureds and I do not know whatever we are still being referred to as, in this Act.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, first of all, let me state that it is indicative of how much our Nation has neglected Old Age Homes and old people that we still rely on, and apply, an old Act from 1967 passed by the colonial Government.

I think vast legislative and policy change is required to truly bring about meaningful change to the way we administer and deal with Old Age Homes. There are a lot of things in this document. I can provide a copy for anybody who needs it for his/her contribution.

In that regard, my recommendations are as follows:

1. That this Motion be referred to the Standing Committee on Gender

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Equality, Social Development and Family Affairs.

2. That the committee look into the matter whether the current pension which is being given to the elderly is being correctly used to cater for them, and whether there are no other forms or mechanisms in which the pension can be distributed so that the pension money is not abused by family members and actually goes directly towards catering for the needs of Senior Citizens.
3. That the Committee further look into the possibility and legality of alternative means of payment of the pension, besides merely a monthly lump sum.
4. That all Old Age Homes be directly subsidised by the Government as it is stipulated in the *Aged Persons Act*, 1967 (Act 81 of 1967).
5. That the Committee hold meetings with the elderly, both the ones who are currently staying in Old Age Homes, and the ones who are not living in Old Age Homes.
6. That the Committee look into, and research the general attitude of children and grandparents, into the care of senior citizens and their opinions on Old Age Homes as a viable options for their parents upon retirement.
7. That the Committee consult NGOs, Faith-Based Organizations and other relevant stakeholders on this matter.
8. Lastly, that the Committee report back to this august House with their findings and recommendations for further action to be taken.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Any discussion? I recognise, Honourable

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Hinda. Deputy Minister, you have the Floor.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
AND COOPERATIONS:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, conscious of the spirit of my late mother Otilie Apollus-Hinda and of my ancestors, which surrounds and protects me, with your permission Honourable Speaker, I wish to address this august House for the first time under the theme - *Peace, Stability and Prosperity*.

Praise be to my Creator who guides and protects my journey through life that brought me here to save the people of Namibia and humanity at large. He carried me through trials and tribulations and helped me to overcome adversities. I am grateful for the blessings and opportunities presented to me. It will be remiss of me if I do not express appreciation to our former President His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba who recognised potential in this Vaalgras girl and nominated me to the SWAPO Party list and thereby accorded me an opportunity to be part of this pool of respected and tenable Members of Parliament.

My special thanks go to His Excellency President Dr Hage Geingob who appointed me as a Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the SWAPO Government has succeeded to transform Namibia into a peaceful home for all through the dynamic and charismatic leadership of our Founding President Dr Shafisuna Sam Nuyoma. This legacy was continued by his successor, His Excellency Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba who ensured stability through his unique leadership style, which *inter alia*, earned him the Ibrahim Prize for achievement in African Leadership.

I recall the quote of Salim Salim in making the announcement saying - *"His ability to command the confidence and the class of his people is exemplary. During the decade of his Presidential mandate, he*

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*demonstrated sound and wise leadership. At the same time he maintained his humility throughout his Presidency.*” Indeed, a master of elegance and modesty. He believed in collective leadership and now the call is to play our collective interest to redress the challenges for prosperity.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, His Excellency Dr Hage Geingob has directed us all to put the collected interests of the Namibian people first - *nobody should be left out*. Poverty is to be eradicated and living standards elevated. This is a call for a people centred Government indeed, but not a new call, not at all. It is the fundamental principle and the foundation on which SWAPO was formed and the basis of its political programme then.

After Political Independence, we put the political framework in place - the policy, and we have to march to a people centred Government.

Honourable Members, the necessary implementation drive we have, but seldom with misplaced interests. His Excellency Dr Hage Geingob has consistently defined the task facing our Nation today as that of prosperity inclusiveness.

Before I dwell on the issue of prosperity and inclusiveness, which relates to the Motion before us today, I wish to underscore that peace and stability is a *sine qua non* for development. It is, therefore, important to preserve the achievements of peace and stability.

Honourable Speaker, at this point, I also wish to say that the concerns raised by Honourable Dienda are shared by all Members of this House and are shared by the Namibian Nation, but maybe at this stage is a bit premature in my view, as the Government has just two structures in place to review those processes.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, at the turn of the century, however, African Leaders declared the 21<sup>st</sup> Century as Africa’s century. Fifteen years down the line we are here to see tangible signs of the prospects for prosperity. Africa has the potential and Namibia can take

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the lead. We have what it takes to realise the goals as set out in Vision 2030 and in Africa's Agenda 2063. In actual fact, it is our responsibility to pursue within the market economy a window for social justice and that is the directive of our Government. Yes, there are enormous challenges that we have to overcome in our march to prosperity.

Honourable Speaker Honourable Members, I would like to call us to the latest survey available on the distribution of households by main source of income probably just to add to what was said, which states that - *an average of 22.5% of rural households depend on Old Age Pension as a main source of income as compared to about 5.5% of urban households.* However, in some Regions, it is even at times as high as 41.6% of the households that depend on pension as the main source of income.

Interpreting this – one can even say that the need for Old Age Homes could even be high in rural areas. The provision for Old Age Homes, however, is grounded in our belief that while we pursue a market economy, we have to take social responsibility and protect vulnerable groups in our society. This is the context in which the provision of Old Age Home and any other safety net has been provided and it is envisaged to be provided for by the Government of the Republic of Namibia. However, it does not take away the family responsibility to care for their elders.

Caring for the weak and the poor is a moral obligation on the side of the Government, and also the SWAPO Party. I say the SWAPO Party, not only because we are the Ruling Party, but because even back in the days of the Liberation Struggle, the SWAPO Political Programme was clear as, I remember the song that took us to Independence that says - *“Forward, forward we shall move. There will be houses, security and comfort. We shall move towards a People's Government.”*

It was clear that at Independence, we will not have arrived, but it will be the start of the journey to economic prosperity and we will move forward and strive towards achieving the people's Government where *nobody will be left out*. This is precisely what we have done as SWAPO Party. We

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**HON HINDA**

have marched in the right direction consistently. From the time that the political programme of SWAPO as a Liberation Movement, we ensured during the negotiations of the Namibian Constitution in 1989, that social responsibility, including caring for the vulnerable groups is an obligation and a Right. We are committed to restore and guarantee a Basic Right to dignity for all, including the aged. They are embedded in our Constitution. It may not always be achievable, but desired, and we are working towards that.

These moral values should permeate the structures and consciousness of our society as we move towards realising total eradication of poverty and unemployment. We collectively and individually have the moral responsibilities to offer, not just leadership, but moral leadership.

Honourable Speaker, I am saying the only decision we need to take is to put national interests first and the rest will fall in place. Moral leadership only ask you to do what is right and in the best interests of our people for common good. Naturally, moral leadership will have the necessary psychological impact, it will snow-ball and realise the required paradigm shift.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to salute a distinguished daughter of Namibia, Africa and the world at large, Dr Helena Ndume for her well-deserved award. She is an outstanding example for the moral leadership I am talking about. If each and every one of us take these responsibilities seriously, then we can make Namibia a better place for all. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you, Honourable Hinda for your intervention. If I link your intervention to the Motion, I would say both of you are reminding us that our Namibian society should continue to seek to occupy the moral high-ground, particularly when it comes to matters relating to poverty and underdevelopment. I think that is what both of you are saying.

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**HON VAN DEN HEEVER**

Having said that, I would again ask whether there are other interventions on this Motion? Yes, Honourable Van den Heever, please you have the Floor.

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**HON VAN DEN HEEVER**: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would like to adjourn the Motion or postpone it until Tuesday for further contributions and input. I so submit.

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**HON SPEAKER**: You are proposing that we defer the Motion until next week Tuesday?

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**HON VAN DEN HEEVER**: Yes, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER**: Can we do that in the absence of any intervention? It is so agreed.

Well, Honourable Members, that essentially brings us to the end of today's Session. Since we do not have any item on our agenda, may I, therefore, ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House?

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

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**ADJOURNEMENT  
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Honourable Members, the House stands adjourned until next Tuesday, the usual time, 14:30

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:30 UNTIL 2015.06.30 AT 14:30**



**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
30 JUNE 2015**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, following the appointment of Dr Nicky Iyambo as the Vice-President of our Republic, a vacancy was created on the SWAPO Party list of Members of the National Assembly. In line with established practice, Ms Katrina Hanse-Himarwa, who was next in line on the Party list, moved upwards to fill that vacancy.

This movement in turn, created a vacancy among the 8 non-voting Members of Parliament appointed by the President in terms of Article 32, Sub-Article (5)(c) of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia. In order to fill the vacancy resulting from the upward movement of Ms Hanse-Himarwa, His Excellency the President has nominated Ms Petrina Haingura in terms of the Constitutional Provision cited above. I now call upon the Deputy Chief Justice to administer the Oath or Affirmation to Ms Petrina Haingura.

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

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*“I, ..., do hereby swear/solemnly affirm that I will be faithful to the Republic of Namibia and its people and I solemnly promise to uphold and defend the Constitution and Laws of the Republic of Namibia to the best of my ability. (In the case of an oath:) So help me God.”*

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**OATH/AFFIRMATION BY NEWMEMBERS  
HIS LORDSHIP DEPUTY CHIEF JUSTICE SHIVUTE**

**DEPUTY CHIEF JUSTICE SHIVUTE** administers the  
Oath/Affirmation to Honourable Petrina Haingura.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. I now declare Ms Petrina Haingura a duly elected Member of the National Assembly, congratulations.

That having been done, I now call upon the Sergeant at Arms to escort the Deputy Chief Justice from the Chamber and, of course, with our thanks and appreciation for a job well done. Thank you.

Honourable Members, I have an important piece of information to communicate to you, that being something that does not happen often but it is important that we convey this piece of information to you.

It is a change of a surname of a Member of this House. We have been notified by the Honourable Member with the necessary documentation from the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration, which means the information that we are conveying to you have been authenticated by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

I cannot continue when I am hearing you talking there.

The surname of Honourable Beukes has been formally changed and she is now formally assuming her actual Maiden Surname, that of Ms Boois - that being her maiden name. We would like the Honourable Members of this House to take note of that change - no longer Beukes but Boois, please take note.

The Secretary will read the Order of the Day. I think I am jumping the gun and that should not happen.

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

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**TABLING OF REPORTS  
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

**TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL**

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

- (i) Ministry of Finance for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2014;
- (ii) Ministry of Justice for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2014;
- (iii) Ministry of Environment and Tourism for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2014;
- (iv) Office of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2014;
- (v) Anti-Corruption Commission also for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2014;
- (vi) Film and Video Development Fund of the Namibian Film Commission for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2014; and
- (vii) Meat Board for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2014.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. I am sure the Members have taken note that those Reports are on time. That is impressive. Thank you. We move on to the Notice of Questions. Honourable Smit.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON SMIT**

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS**

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**QUESTION 30:**

**HON SMIT:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 2015, I shall ask the Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service, Honourable Jerry Ekandjo the following:

Netball Namibia received confirmation in November 2014, that the country has been selected to host the **2015 African Netball Championships**. Local media reported last week that the tournament held this past weekend was moved to Botswana and furthermore, that Namibia did not send a team to participate in the Regional Championships.

During the 25<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary Celebrations, the Senior Netball Team was also due to play against Zambia as part of the proceedings of the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2015, this year. However, this too was cancelled at the last moment.

The brilliant achievement of our National Soccer Team - the Brave Warriors, as they won the **2015 COSAFA Cup** was short lived as media reports first claimed that the National Football Coach, Mr Ricardo Mannetti has resigned. Shortly thereafter, the Namibian Football Association claimed that Mannetti's resignation as the National Coach has been a misunderstanding and that it expects him to continue in the role.

Furthermore, late last week, the National Rugby Coach Danie Vermeulen resigned from his job at the Namibian Rugby Union (NRU), just three months prior to the start of the **2015 Rugby World Cup**. Vermeulen had led the Namibian National Rugby Team to qualify for the rugby show piece in 2015, later this year, and cited among others, interference from the NRU Management in sports selection as his recent resignation as National Coach.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON SMIT**

Thus, I ask:

1. Since Netball is the largest female sport in Namibia - for how long will the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service allow total incompetence on the part of netball administration in the country to tarnish the image and reputation of Namibia in general?
2. Did Netball Namibia inform the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service of the award of hosting the 2015 African Netball Championships?
3. If yes, what support, including financial, logistical and administrative - did the Ministry grant Netball Namibia towards organising and hosting this prestigious event?
4. The failure to host the 2015 African Netball Championship is a serious embarrassment for Namibia. What action is the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service taking to ensure accountability for this state of affairs?
5. What action is the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service taking to ensure accountability in terms of Namibia's failure to field a team at the 2015 African Netball Championship?
6. Sports administration and management appear to be one of the biggest challenges to the development of-, and achievement in sport in Namibia. What corrective action is the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service taking to address the administrative and managerial incompetence and mismanagement plaguing three of Namibia's biggest sporting codes; namely Football, Rugby and Netball.
7. What are the requirements for a sport code to be officially recognised by the Ministry of Sport, Youth and Culture and what are the requirements for sport code to receive financial support from Government?

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HON NADI-NDAITWAH**

8. Does the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service employ a formula for allocating State resources to officially recognised sporting codes in Namibia, and if so, please share this information with us?

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Please table the Questions. Thank you very much. We continue.

Any further Notice of Questions? None. Notice of Motions? Messages from the Head of State? Ministerial Statement? Yes, Deputy Prime Minister.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

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**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

Honourable Members, I am taking the Floor to share with this august House the outcome of the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, which was held in Santon, Johannesburg, South Africa, from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2014.

The Session was held under the theme – *“2015 Year of Women Empowerment and Development Towards Africa’s Agenda 2063,”* and was presided over by the Chairperson of the AU, His Excellency Robert Mugabe, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

As it is customary, the Assembly was presided by the 27<sup>th</sup> Ordinary

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Session of the Executive Council of Ministers that was held in Johannesburg from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, as well as the 30<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representative Committee (PRC) held in Pretoria from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of June the same year (2015).

The Namibian delegation to the Assembly was led by His Excellency Dr Hage Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia and the issues that stood out from the agenda of Summit includes:

1. The First 10-year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063;
2. The Implementation of the Decision of the Assembly of January 2015, for the AU to fully fund its operations and the concomitant financial implication to the major contributors to the Budget;
3. Approval of the new scale of assessment of contribution to the Budget;
4. The 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Nation and the state of multilateralism;
5. Streamlining of the AU Summit and the working methods of the African Union;
6. Free movement of people, goods and services on the Continent; and finally
7. Harmonisation of qualification of higher education in Africa.

The Assembly was held against the backdrop of increased young Africans perishing in the Mediterranean Sea while trying to migrate to Europe, as well as the attacks on African migrants. The Heads of State and Government deliberated on the strategic issues of migration and xenophobia and their interrelationship. Following the discussion, the Assembly decided that the African Common Position on Migration and Development adopted at the Banjul Summit in 2006, needed to be effectively implemented to address those developmental and social

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challenges. The root causes as well as the measures to remedy the challenges that emanate from migration are well articulated in the said African Common Position. Those causes of migration are poverty, unemployment and the illusion that they will have a better life abroad.

In highlighting the theme of the year, awards were given to African Member States that have made strides in the empowerment of women. Namibia was among those honoured, as well as being singled out as one of the six (6) best achievers on the empowerment of women. (Applause) Thank you. The Assembly adopted the Johannesburg Declaration on 2015: *Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Agenda 2063*.

For some time now, AU Heads of State and Government has expressed concern that for too long at time, the Budget of the AU has been funded largely through donations and this has been of concern to the AU Heads of State and Government. Hence, at the January 2015 Summit in Addis Ababa, the AU adopted the Agenda 2063, together with the decision that the AU Member States would be able to fund both its operations and projects, particularly the First Ten Year Implementation Plan of Action of Agenda 2063.

Subsequently, assessed contributions were revised and resulted in the increased contribution for all AU Member States over the next five years. In this regard, Namibia's contribution will increase from the current US\$995,236.13 to US\$5 million by 2020, pending the finalisation of the new assessment to be concluded in October this year.

Honourable Speaker, at the Johannesburg Summit, the Assembly adopted the First Ten Year Implementation Plan for Agenda 2063 while emphasising the need for alignment with existing continental frameworks. It also makes reference to development in several areas such as:

- inclusivity, particularly of women and the youths;
- challenges of more Island States;



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- the need for strengthening ownership and domestication and value addition by Member States and Regional Institutions. In this regard, let me point out that it was decided that henceforth, 25% of raw material originating from the African continent should be processed for value addition and job creation on the continent. As we all know, Namibia is going to work effectively to implement this decision.

Let me also point out that in January 2012, the AU Assembly decided to establish a Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) in order to boost inter-African trade. I am delighted to report that the Continental Free Trade Area negotiations was launched on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, in Johannesburg. This is a very important element which will not only lead towards the achievement of Africa's Agenda 2063, but also to the establishment of an African Trade Conference, similar to the World Trade Organisation.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the President of Sierra Leone, in his capacity as the Coordinator of the African Committee of Ten on Security Council or the UN Reform, presented the 16<sup>th</sup> Report of the C10 to the Assembly. During the deliberations that ensued, the summit reaffirmed the African Common Position as set out in the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration, and that Africa's demand is legitimate, as it is geared towards addressing the historical injustice towards Africa. This discussion also took place within the context of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the United Nation. This year, the Assembly underscored the need for continued advocating of the African Common Position that Namibia fully supports. Namibia as a member of the C10, has offered to host the next Summit of the C10 at a day to be determined with the Chairperson of C10.

Honourable Speaker, during the last two Summits, the Assembly focused on the Ebola crisis which greatly affected our continent. The last assembly considered the Commission on the Ebola Crisis Progress Report that highlighted the improvement in the situation since January, and that the AU was scaling down the number of volunteers by 92% by mid-June 2015. Liberia was declared Ebola-free by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2015. Member States, including Namibia that

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heed to the call of the affected countries were highly commended.

In this connection, the Assembly adopted a decision which, among others, reaffirmed the commitment to strengthen health systems and increase domestic funding in line with the Abuja Declaration which demands a 15% target. The major recommendation that emanated from the discussion was to review AU Humanitarian Policy Framework *vis á vis* health emergencies such as Ebola. Member States were encouraged to participate in the Global Summit on Ebola which is scheduled to take place in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> of July 2015, under the theme “*Africa Helping Africa in the Ebola Recovery and Reconstruction.*”

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, you are all aware that Namibia is a member of the Peace and Security Council. Prior to the Assembly, the AU Peace and Security Council Summit was convened and discussed the situation in Burundi and South Sudan. The Summit was informed that elections in Burundi would be held before the expiring of the mandate of the Government on the 26<sup>th</sup> of July 2015. The Summit also stressed the need for warring parties in South Sudan to adhere to the agreement signed and to implement them fully.

In addition, the Summit exchanged views on the state of terrorism on the continent, especially the activities of Boko Haram in West Africa and Al Shabaab in East Africa. Other issues discussed included the situation in Western Sahara, the peace process in Mali, the situations in Madagascar and Somalia, terrorist activities in Nigeria and Kenya and the increased trafficking of narcotic drugs in Africa. President Geingob’s visit to Mali was also highly appreciated, especially by the ECOWAS Member State, as well as Namibia’s consistent position on Western Sahara.

Namibia will continue to be an active member of the Peace and Security Council until our mandate expires in April 2016.

Honourable Speaker, on the recommendation of the Executive Council, the Assembly endorsed the proposal to name the garden in front of the AU

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Conference Centre after the late Professor Wangari Mathai. We know her. She was a well-known and highly regarded Kenyan Environmentalist and that garden is an expressed appreciation by Africa for her contribution to the continent and the world at large.

Honourable Members, The Assembly also provided an opportunity for Heads of State and Government to network, an opportunity that His Excellence President Hage Geingob has utilised.

Finally, Honourable Speaker, the 26<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union will be held in January 2016, at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from the 30<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2016. I thank you for your kind attention.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Can I call on the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry?

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**  
Thank you, Comrade Speaker for affording me this opportunity to provide some information to the general public, in particular to the farming community. Before doing that, I would like to join you and the Chief Whip in welcoming our Colleague and Comrade, Comrade Petrina Haingura to the House that she knows best - the National Assembly of the Republic of Namibia.

Comrade Speaker the World Organisation for animal health is the international organisation that monitors, that advises, that supervises the activities of Member States with regard to programmes that those Member States execute in their respective countries with particular reference to programmes dealing with controlling diseases in animals. That is, while Dr Haufiku will talk about the World Health Organisation, we talk about our World Organisation for Animal Health.

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Now during their recent General Assembly which was held in May this year, in Paris, our country was recognised for certain activities that are implemented through the Directorate of Veterinary Services within the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry in terms of the implementation of some of the programmes that we have.

Maybe just a little bit of a background - in terms of the Government Policy on the eradication of Transboundary Animal Diseases (TDAs), particularly in the northern communal areas, our country is zoned for animal disease purposes by the Veterinary Cordon Fence which runs from the Botswana border in the east of the country, to Palgrave Point in the desert to the west, in three distinct animal disease control zones:

- The Infected Zone, which is the Zambezi Region and the eastern part of the Kavango East Region.
- Then you have the Protection Zone, which is composed of the western part of the Kavango, Ohangwena, Oshikoto, Oshana and Omusati Regions, as well as Kunene north. Unfortunately, as we all know, this protection zone has also been affected now with the recent outbreak, which we are dealing with and I think we shall also prevail at the end of the day.
- Then you have the Free Zone, which is composed of Kunene South, Oshikoto South, Otjozondjupa Region, Omaheke, Khomas, Erongo, Hardap and Karas Regions. Then you have two Farm-wide Surveillance Zones that form part of the Free Zone, which is immediately south of the VCF, as well as //Gam in the Otjozondjupa Region.

In these particular zones, we have specific programmes that we implement to deal with controlling of diseases, in particular FMD, Lung sickness and other diseases. This organisation - the World Organisation in Animal Health, has given us three certificates in recognition of how we are implementing those programmes effectively.

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I will just read as it is here, although this Statement is also transcribed in the ordinary paper for the purposes of the media whose task it is to inform the general public.

The first certificate with regard to Pest des Petitis Ruminantes status of Namibia - this is to certify that following a recommendation of the OIE Scientific Commission for animal diseases, the World Assembly of delegates of the OIE approved on 26 May 2015, the proposal that a zone of Namibia located south of the Veterinary Cordon Fence, as described by the delegate of Namibia on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2015, be recognised by the OIE as a zone, free from Pest des Petitis Ruminantes (PPR), normally a disease that infects goats and sheep. It was never discovered in Namibia, but it was suspected. In accordance with the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code, this recognition is based on the documentation submitted to the OIE by the delegate of Namibia, who is Dr Musilika-Shilongo. The delegate of Namibia to the OIE has the obligation to notify the OIE immediately, if there is any change in the epidemiological situation relating to PPR in Namibia and to confirm annually, that the epidemiological situation has remains unchanged according to the requirements of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code signed in Paris, on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May 2015, by the President, Dr Karin Schwabenbauer and Bernard Vallat, the Director-General. This is regarding to PPR.

The second certificate is with regard to the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP), which is a Lung sickness in animals, particularly cattle. Maybe I do not need to repeat the whole thing because it is the same (*interjection*)

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**HON MEMBER:** *Ja.*

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**  
But it is important - do not say *ja* (*laughter*) It is absolutely important for

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the farming community to take note of. This is coming from the World Organisation. This one is for the Lung sickness and the other one is the Foot and Mouth Disease in terms of the control programme that we have been implementing, not only during this outbreak, but all the time. In actual fact, the recent outbreak was a setback for us. If the recent outbreak did not take place, the next step could have been to apply to the OIE to declare that part of the Protection Zone to be FMD-free, however, it is now a little setback, but we hope we shall overcome.

These are the three certificates, which have been awarded to our country by the OIE for our efforts. I think we need a laud of applause (*applause*). Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, indeed. I think we need to congratulate ourselves for a job well done. I call upon the Prime Minister please.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, before I make my Statement, I would like to indicate that I have circulated a copy of the Statement of His Excellency the President, on the performance of Government over the first hundred days in office alongside a more detailed summary of the Reports from Ministries. I hope the Members could take time to acquaint themselves with the Statement of the President and the details as contained in the Report.

Having said that, I will proceed with my Statement.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, I rise to inform this august House of the status of declaration of interests and remunerative work outside Public Service employment by all staff members, members of the services and members of the Regional Councils.

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Honourable Members, Section 17 of the *Public Service Act*, 1995 (Act 13 of 1995) provides that:-

A staff member shall place all his/her time at the disposal of the Government and shall, therefore, not perform or engage to perform remunerative work outside his/her employment in the Public Service. However, on application by a staff member, permission may be granted to perform or engage in remunerative work outside his/her employment in the Public Service. The Permanent Secretary of an Office/Ministry/Agency (OMA), on the advice of the Public Service Commission (PSC), may grant such approval in case of officials below the level of Permanent Secretaries – and for Permanent Secretaries, the Secretary to Cabinet - on condition that such work will not be related to his/her official duties or hamper the performance of such duties in any way.

The purpose of this Policy as contained in the Public Service Act is to regulate this matter in an open and transparent manner in order to protect the interests of the Public Service by ensuring that staff members and member of the services place their whole time at the disposal of the Government; and to prevent unfair competition between staff members and persons in the Private Sector; and possible conflicts of interest. In terms of Section 35 of the *Public Service Act*, the Prime Minister may issue Public Service Staff Rules or PSSRs. A PSSR was developed under the Act that prescribes the procedures a staff member must follow when applying for permission to do remunerative work outside employment in the Public Service and how the application should be dealt with.

The following factors are taken into account when applications for remunerative work are considered;

- (i) The nature and extent of the work and the relation thereof to the normal duties which the staff member or member of the services performs in the Public Service;
- (ii) If the work will in any way hamper the performance of the official

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duties of the staff member or member of the services;

- (iii) The general availability of persons outside the Public Service to undertake the work to be performed;
- (iv) If the work is of an educational, cultural or physical recreational nature which is in the interest of the Public service or of a specific community or where the staff member concerned possesses special qualifications, talents or abilities which would make it either difficult or impossible to find a person with these attributes outside the Public Service;
- (v) If the work will be performed outside the prescribed official hours of attendance; and
- (vi) If the work is of such a nature so as not to cause an embarrassment to the Government in any way.

Over time, Government became concerned about the increased number of Public Servants involved in work outside the Public Service and the impact it may have on public service delivery. There were also concerns that the monitoring of the system is not adequate. It was, therefore, decided to put a moratorium on further approval of requests to do remunerative work outside the Public Service by public officials and to undertake a study to investigate how the system can be improved.

The study was concluded and following conclusions were drawn from the study:

It was found that the measures in the Public Service Staff Rules are of general application, whereas some Ministries operate in quite unique environments and, therefore, may requiring Industry specific policies.

It was thus recommended that Offices, Ministries and Agencies should develop Industry specific policies based on their respective peculiar environment, but subject to the approved framework. Such policies will



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be approved by the Prime Minister on recommendation of the Public Service Commission.

The Study also underlines the need for staff members to be conversant with the policy. The primary responsibility for implementing the Policy lies with an individual staff member in ensuring that he/she complies fully with all the Provisions of the policy. However, just as important, is the OPM as custodian of the policy, and the supervisors in the Government Offices, Ministries and Agencies to ensure compliance and act on cases of non-compliance by staff members.

Robust awareness creation strategies were, therefore, identified as a critical requirement and these include the following:

- Incorporating the measures on remunerative work outside employment in induction programmes that newly recruited staff members are put through.
- Conducting information sharing sessions.
- Distribution of flyers.
- Ensuring access to the policy framework by making sure the whole document is available to them.

The need for a sound system for monitoring and evaluation was also identified. This includes having defined period for the validity of the permission granted to Public Servants to do remunerative work outside of the Public Service and subjecting this approval to periodic review with the possibility to terminate it in case of identified adverse impact on service delivery or possible conflict of interest.

The permission granted in terms of the pre-revised measures was specifically open-ended. This has now been revised to provide that permission granted to perform remunerative work outside employment only be valid for 12 calendar months and may be renewed upon expiry,

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only subject to the agreed approval process and not automatically A database on the Human Capital Management System is also under development and it will assist the monitoring and evaluation process by ensuring the establishment of a database on approved requests and the nature of businesses involved to facilitate the review.

The need to continuously monitor the Impact on service delivery was also identified. The management of work outside employment does not stop with the granting of permission by the relevant approving authorities. The assessment of the impact on performance is a continuous process.

Monitoring of such impact shall be done by supervisors through the existing performance management assessment tools, like the Quarterly Review Reports. This means, when the staff member's performance is being reviewed, part of the assessment shall include the impact of the engagement in work outside employment on the performance of the staff member. If it is found that performance of remunerative work outside employment negatively impacts on the performance of service delivery of the staff member, a decision may be taken to terminate the authorisation.

The engagement in work outside employment should in no way compromise service delivery or violate governance principles. The Ministries are thus required to guard against, and continuously monitor factors that inhibit effective and efficient performance of the Public Service. This relates to time lost as a result of absenteeism through vacation leave, sick leave and time spent on activities not related to the job, the use of official resources such as telephone, stationary, electronic equipment, email or photo copying machines, as well as using Government premises like offices, buildings, and possible conflict of interest – such as insight into the procurement of tenders, access to information of services/products to be rendered for which invitations have been made the submission of bids.

In order to improve transparent a Government, Government has now decided to also introduce compulsory declaration of financial interests by Public Servants.

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Regulation 11 of the Regulations issued by the Prime Minister in terms of Section 34 of the *Public Service Act* was amended to ensure such compulsory declaration.

All the Permanent Secretaries are expected to declare their interests by the end of June 2015, which is today, while all the staff members below the level of the Permanent Secretaries shall declare their interest by the end of July.

All supervisors will be responsible to ensure that the completed declaration forms of all those staff member under their supervision are submitted to the Human Resource Office in their respective Office, Ministries and Agencies and that such offices will forward them to the of Department Public Service Management at the Office of the Prime Minister.

Each form will be evaluated against a set of criteria focusing on possible areas of conflict of interest and level of commitment in terms of involvement in remunerative work outside employment in the Public Service. If concerns arise, it will be discussed in detail with the staff member concerned.

The proper management of the declaration process requires that a component or unit be dedicated to this function. Therefore, a unit will be created in the Office of the Prime Minister to take charge of the central database and the management thereof. In the interim, a number of staff members from the Departments Public Service Commission Secretariat and Public Service Management, have been identified and tasked with the capturing and analysis of the declaration forms received.

As part of the reform process, the Public Service has introduced a Performance Management System in order to improve service delivery. It is expected that the signing of Performance Agreements Permanent Secretaries and by all Public Servants will be concluded by end of June and July 2015, respectively. In fact, for Permanent Secretaries it was expected that all of them would have already drafted their Performance

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Agreements and would have discussed them with their Political Principals, and most would have submitted their signed performance agreements today. I know that the one of the Office of the Prime Minister has done that.

I, therefore, just thought it appropriate to appraise the House and also the public through the House, especially given the concerns that were expressed following the announcement that the moratorium on the authorisation for Public Servants to do work outside the Public Service was lifted, and this was understood by the public to mean they are given a *Carte Blanche* to do as they please. I also just want it to be understood that the moratorium was never intended to ban remunerative work by Public Servants outside the Public Service, but it was only intended to allow time for us to conduct a review of the Regulatory System for the issue which was now concluded and we have now instituted measures to make sure that we are able to regulate the conducts of public officials in this regard so that the work of the Government is not compromised and that we do not allow corruption or conflict of interest to be fostered through this. Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you, Prime Minister. Let me call upon Honourable Tweya.

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**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY:** Honourable Speaker, Sir, I rise to give a very brief Statement on a very disturbing issue that is going on in the media, which is morally and ethically not conducive to nation building.

This is a Press Statement that we have issued yesterday and it is a very serious caution against circulation of violent videos on the social media.

The Ministry of Information Communication and Technology has noted

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with great shock and dismay, over the circulation of a video showing the late Fred Savage, a young boy aged 13, being mauled to death by dogs in the capital, this past weekend.

The circulation of such video is not only unethical in the public eye, but also unlawful as it is traumatising to, especially the family members of the late Fred.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, this is not the first time videos of this nature are circulated on social media, as the Ministry has noted in the past that videos of violence, sexual and hateful nature, have been circulated. The Ministry would, therefore, like to caution members of the public to please stop circulating such videos.

Anyone who will be found in possession or circulating videos or visuals of such nature will be dealt with by Law (*applause*) I thank you, Comrade Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. It is quite appropriate to respond as rapidly as possible to cases of that nature. Thank you for that Statement. I call upon the Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration.

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**HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:**  
Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, I rise this afternoon to inform this august House on the outcome of the Tripartite Commission Meeting, which took place between the Government of the Republic of Namibia, Botswana and UNHCR, which took place from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of May 2015, in Francistown, Botswana.

This meeting was a follow up on another Tripartite Meeting called specifically on the implementation of the Cessation Clause in respect of Namibian refugees in Botswana.

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The Tripartite Commission is a standing platform between the two Governments and UNHCR to deliberate on matters relating to Namibian refugees at Dukwe, in the Republic of Botswana.

Last year, 2014, the Government of Botswana took a decision to invoke the Cessation Clause in respect of Namibian refugees from the Zambezi Region of Namibia, who fled to that country as a result of events that took place in 1998 to 1999. Further, the deadline of December 2015, was attached to the invocation. That means, that come the 31<sup>st</sup> of December this year, Namibians who have been enjoying refugee status in Botswana will cease to be characterised as such.

Furthermore, the objective of this Tripartite Commission Meeting was to discuss the preparations toward the repatriation procedures of the Namibian refugees in Botswana before the implementation of the Cessation Clause.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration has placed the issue of the Namibian refugees in Botswana amongst its top priorities as several trips were undertaken to Dukwe in Botswana to inform the affected persons about the country's readiness to receive them should they be willing to voluntarily return home.

I am happy to inform this august House that as a result of those meetings some of the refugees have already voluntarily repatriated and are integrated within the Namibian community and are now making constructive contributions to the development of our motherland. In preparations for the implementation of the Cessation Clause, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration, together with other stakeholders has intensified the campaign activities and to a certain extent allowed what is called - *go and see and come and tell* visits to the particular Region of our country. As we speak today, a group comprising of about 11 refugees from Dukwe are visiting in the Zambezi Region.

Honourable Speaker, the process to implement the Cessation Clause will

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be done in line with international standard as set out in various international instruments. In this regard, the United Nations High Commission for refugees will provide cash grants to the refugees on return and a travelling allowance from the drop of point until the final Destination, while the Government of Botswana will provide transport and luggage allowance and the host country, that is Namibia, will provide building materials such as zinc sheets, building poles, nails and timber, as well as integrate such returnees into the society. We will also facilitate the allocation of land through the Local and Traditional Authorities.

During the Tripartite Commission Meeting, delegates undertook a visit to Dukwe Refugee Camp to address the affected community in an effort to promote voluntary repatriation before the invocation of the Cessation Clause. The refugees were addressed by the respective Ministers, that is, yours truly here, and the Minister of Defence of Botswana and a representative of the UNHCR and were informed of the effect of the Cessation Clause on them, hence, they were encouraged to take up voluntary repatriation. It was made clear to them that after the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2015, the UNHCR will no longer provide assistance to them as refugees. The World Food Program will stop providing food rations, and of course, the Government of the Republic of Botswana will remove them from the refugee database and their profile will be handed over to the immigration officials to be dealt with in accordance with the Immigration Provisions of that country, which will entail that they will need another status to remain in Botswana.

Detailed information on the conditions of return to Namibia are being made available to the refugees in Dukwe to enable them to make an informed decision and ensure they return safely and with dignity. The Tripartite Commission will periodically visit the Dukwe Refugee Camp to share with them the outcomes of the meetings. During the same meeting, it was also agreed that the clearance period of the repatriates should be reduced from four months to about two weeks.

Honourable Speaker, I would also like to make use of this platform to reiterate my usual call when I always address the Namibian refugees in

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Dukwe, that Namibia is their home, there is no need for them to live in a foreign country as refugees, and hence, they are encouraged to register for the UN voluntary repatriation exercise. This is very important because the only time for them to decide is between now and the 31<sup>st</sup> of December, which is the last date for the voluntarily repatriation exercise. As we are sitting in this Chamber this afternoon, the officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration and UNHCR are in the Zambezi Region to receive the delegates that I have talked about - the delegation from the Namibian refugees at Dukwe who came for the *go and see and come and tell* visit within the framework of promoting this exercise.

It is on this basis that I consider it appropriate to inform this august House on this matter. As a Ministry we have requested stakeholders, such as Security Agencies to expedite the processing of clearance application for the repatriations and that the immigration procedures for the returnees would be done on spot at Katima Mulilo upon their arrival. It is against this background that I am once more, urging the Namibian refugees in Botswana to make use of this opportunity at their disposal to register for the voluntary repatriation, which is being advocated by both our Government and that of Botswana, and the United Nation High Commission for Refugees.

It is, therefore, my conviction that those who did not register themselves for the voluntary repatriation exercise yet, will do so within the remaining limited timeframe. The time is against us, we have to transform the remaining five months into five weeks to enable ourselves to meet the deadline.

I would like to make a special appeal to all the concerned Namibians, that is, our the Traditional Authorities, particularly in the Zambezi Region, Political Leaders, Education Authorities, Health Authorities and all those whose assistance would be required in the resettlement of the returnees from Botswana, to do everything possible to make the return of these Namibians as comfortable as possible. With this few words, Honourable Speaker, I rest my case.

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HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, indeed. Honourable Minister, you have the support of this House in this important undertaking, and obviously, we look forward to hearing from you once again, in terms of progress that is being made on the ground and how the people are finding themselves in the new country. All the best.

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**ANNOUNCEMENT**

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, we are moving on. Permit me to firstly indicate the fact that I would like to announce the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson of the *Standing Committee on Information Communication and Technology and Innovation* who were not previously announced. The Chairperson is Honourable Faustina Caley and the Deputy Chairperson is Honourable Rebecca Ipinge.

I would also like to announce that the following Members have been designated to serve the *Standing Committee on Rules and Orders and Internal Arrangements*, namely:

Yours truly, the Speaker (Hon Prof Katjavivi) as a Member;  
Honourable Loide Kasingo;  
Honourable Evelyn !Nawases-Tayeley;  
Honourable Nangolo Mbumba;  
Honourable McHenry Venaani,  
Honourable Sebastiaan Karupu;  
Honourable Leevi Katoma;  
Honourable Sophia Swartz;  
Honourable Veikko Nekundi;  
Honourable Bernadette Jagger;  
Honourable Ida Hoffmann;  
Honourable Faustina Caley;  
Honourable Mike Kavekatora;

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Honourable Hamunyera Hambyuka;  
Honourable Marina Kandumbu;  
Honourable Heather Sibungo;  
Honourable Stephanus Bezuidenhout;  
Honourable Apius !Auxab;  
Honourable Asser Mbai;  
Honourable Ignatius Shixwameni;  
Honourable Salomon Fleermuys;  
Honourable Usutuaije Maamberua;  
Honourable Clara //Gowases;  
Honourable Jan Johannes Van Wyk; and  
Honourable Jennifer Van Den Heever.

I further wish to announce additions and changes as revised from Political Parties, to the composition of the following Parliamentary Standing Committees and Organisations.

*Standing Committee on Public Accounts*

Honourable Agnes Kafula.

*Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security*

Honourable Petrina Haingura.

*Standing Committee on Natural Resources*

Honourable Clara //Gowases; and  
Honourable Annakleta Sikerete.

*Standing Committee on Information, Communication Technology and Innovation*

Honourable Petrina Haingura; and Honourable Agnes Kafula's name has been withdrawn from this Committee.

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*Standing Committee on Human Resources and Community Development*  
Honourable Clara //Gowases's name has been withdrawn from this Committee.

*Standing Committee on Gender Equality, Social Development and Family Affairs*

Honourable Petrina Haingura.

*Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)*

Honourable Petrina Haingura.

I now declare these Honourable Members as duly elected Chairpersons, Deputy Chairpersons and/or Members of the relevant Parliamentary Standing Committees, International Parliamentary Bodies and Organisations. We are moving on.

The Secretary will now read the Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON OLD AGE HOMES IN NAMIBIA**

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**SECRETARY:** Resumption of Debate on Old Age Homes in Namibia.

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**HON SPEAKER:** When the Debate was adjourned on Thursday, the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, the question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Dienda. Honourable Van Den Heever adjourned the Debate and I now give her the Floor.

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**HON VAN DEN HEEVER:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, I would like to start with a quote from the former Vice President of the USA, Hubert Humphrey, who said – *“the moral test of Government is how that Government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of light, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped.”*

The most vulnerable people in society are often unable to attend to their own needs and this is when and where Government intervention is needed. The latest available statistics from Namibia Statistics Agency predicted that by the year 2031, the number of Namibians above the age of 55 will increase from 124.334 to 369.121. This is a significant number of elderly people and if we fail to start planning for how to address the need now, any intervention in later years may come too late.

Honourable Speaker, the first concern that I am have is the lack of specialised training programmes, be it at UNAM, Polytechnic, the University of Science and Technology or other Vocational Training Centres that are specifically geared toward geriatric care or the care of elderly people. Whilst nursing programmes are available in abundance, there is an absence of specific programmes, which specifically focus on training caregivers for elderly people. We are thus faced with a situation where one of the most vulnerable groups in the society is basically left to anyone who is desperately looking for a job. The consequence is that the people who work at old age homes around the country, are often not passionate about their work and are bad tempered towards the elderly people as their only interest in the work is the salary that they receive at the end of the month. This could explain why so many elderly people complain of abuse and ill-treatment in Old Age Homes.

The second concern that I want to highlight is the Government’s general approach to Old Age Homes. In some towns in Namibia, the only available Old Age Homes are run by private companies which charge the residents extremely high fees, meaning that they often have to spend their entire monthly pension on paying for boarding, leaving them with little to

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nothing for other basic needs such as, toiletries, medication etcetera.

With the situation where Old Age Homes have become a moneymaking scheme for the Private Sector, and with the few available State run and State funded Old Age Homes that are full, with long waiting lists, leads one to wonder exactly how high on the priority list the care of the elderly have been placed on the Government's agenda. Yes, the pension increments were necessarily welcome and duly applauded by our Party, but over and beyond that, there need to be a serious rethinking of the general approach and policy on Old Age Homes, for example, Honourable Speaker, I recently attended a workshop by the Ombudsman last week, where the National Human Rights Action Plan 2015-2019 was launched. They came up with specific objectives and key interventions such as to look into the assessment and improvement of social housing solutions undertaken by the Local Authorities and Regional Councils and it seems that it is definitely a need that we should categorise Social Housing and also look into the definition of it. I went as far as looking into the UN Rapporteur, but could see a clear definition for it.

I would like to thank the Deputy Minister of Urban and rural Development, Honourable Sylvia Makgone who defined Social Housing to us this morning and that it is a new concept for certain Local Authorities when it comes to Old Age Homes. I would like to thank her for that, but it leads to encouraging us to look into the advocacy and strengthening of Social Housing. It is often said - *that failing to plan is planning to fail*. We cannot afford to fail the people to whom we owe our Independence.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, for those reasons, I support the Motion tabled by Honourable Dienda and recommend that the concerns that I have raised, as well as recommendation in her Motivation Speech be referred to the Committee on Gender Equality, Social Development and Family Affairs for investigation and recommendation. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you, Honourable Clara //Gowases.

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**HON //GOWASES:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, I rise to support the Motion tabled by Honourable Dienda for the following reasons:

It was a properly researched Motion where all aspects concerning the dilemma of the old age persons in Namibia were identified and highlighted. Aspects of social and health status of our Senior Citizens were clearly spelt out. Old Age Homes are meant to be a blessing and a sign of appreciation for the labour they toiled into the economy of our country.

Let us take it from an angle of highlighting the topic by taking examples: According to Potgieter – *Behuising vir Bejaardes*–

- It is a home away from home;
- It is manned by professional staff and consists of consulting rooms manned 24 hours by medical doctors who properly take care of the inhabitants;
- Nurses that are professionally trained to cater for the physical, mental and health care of the inhabitants;
- With patience care and consoling professionalism, these Senior Citizens are treated with social and sports clubs they belong to;
- Their hobbies and Church Services are catered for;
- Flower gardens and afternoon organised walking trips they participate in for fresh air - even those using wheelchairs.

Now let us face the reality of reckoning of our elders in our community.

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The only day our elders receive an excellent treatment at the hands of a close family is on the payday of their pensions. Only about 20% of our communities' Senior Citizens are taken care of properly by their next of kin. 80% are neglected with dirt, hunger as well as their physical and mental wellbeing.

Their houses are skimmed off from their names. They are hosted in ghettos behind the houses that once belonged to them. They became the victims of exploitation. Why should we pretend that everything is well while there is a smell of rot.

Our Senior Citizens sacrificed their livelihood to build this beautiful infrastructure we inherited today. The current Old Age Homes in the formerly disadvantaged communities are in a deploring state. Hence, I appeal to the Ministry of Health to revisit these Institutions and upgrade them. Not all children are kind-hearted towards the Senior Citizens and will take tender care of them, hence the idea of Old Age Homes. We should not dump our Senior Citizens, rather give them the opportunity where they would be given professional care and stay in a healthy environment. Let us move forward and think outside the box.

We cannot afford today, but once we become Senior Citizens, do we want to be a burden to our kids or minded citizens who think outside the box in comparison to a conservative mindset, where our kids will squeeze out the lump sum of our pension and dump us in the backyard, while we can live a decent life in Old Age Homes and die a dignified death at the end. Hence, the Government can subsidise the formally disadvantaged citizens, if they opt to live in Old Age Homes.

Paramount Institute is a good example where an Old Age Home is combined with a state-of-the-art Medical Facility. Let us value our lives and have a positive outlook on issues. We must move on and enjoy the fruits of our Independence.

Based on the above arguments, I regard Old Age Homes as a blessing and as a much needed must, to honour and appreciate the contribution made

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by our Senior Citizens. I support the Motion and I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Honourable Mushelenga please.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
AND COOPERATION'S:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I also rise to make a contribution to the Motion on the elderly, introduced by Honourable Dienda.

Firstly, looking at this Motion, we need a holistic approach and we need to have many considerations.

Taking care of the elderly should not be seen to be a task of the Government alone. In my culture – traditionally, the youngest man in the family does not leave the homestead of his parents. The idea is that, as your parents gets older and older, you having grown up and got married, there would at least be some sort of taking care. Of course, things have changed, because not so many people are staying in the rural areas. Many people have moved to the cities. Some opt to get their elderly family member to come and live-in with them, in order to take care of them, while others prefer to take them to the Old Age Homes. Now the question of nursing the old age in the Old Age Homes should also be understood in the context of the *general taking care*.

We have hospitals where patients are generally not taken care of by negligent hospital workers, both in the Private and Public Sector, not only in the Public Sector, some people think when we talk of negligence it is only in the Public Sector. When one goes to private hospitals, you find that workers get dismissed time and again for failing negligently to attend to their patients.



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Let us not be naive to think that, if we take our elderly to the Old Age Homes, we have solved the problems. Let us not think that those who are taking care and nursing these old aged people in these homes will automatically do wonders as if they were angels. I think it should be optional whilst they have a choice. There are really elderly members of our society who do not have the next of kin to take care of them. In that case, that is where we talk of Old Age Homes and the responsibility of the Government, according to the *Old Age Act* to subsidise these homes so that these elderly people can be taken care of, but then we should not be encouraging even those that can be taken care of to be moving to Old Age Homes. Being a student of sociology, other studies also indicates that the Old Age Homes are not necessarily the pleasant places for elderly people, both physically and psychologically - very boring, isolated, you only associate with those that you find there, you are cut off from your family, and so forth. Let us not forget about that.

Let us also think of programmes where the elderly would be supported while under the care of those that are comfortable with, to be taken care of, usually their family members. The Church to which I belong, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCIN), has a Diaconia Programme of taking care of the elderly people, of course, while living with their family members. Perhaps it is those programmes by Churches and NGOs that need to be supported so that they can also do more to take care of the elderly people while under the care of their beloved ones.

There is an issue of the meagre resources of the old aged being shared, because people dump their children with the elderly. The nature of elderly people is such - do not think if you take them away to the Old Age Homes, you have solved the problem of children being dumped here and there. I can assure you these elderly people, even if they stay in this Old Age Homes, they will be thinking of their grandchildren. In my language they say – the older one prefers to take care of the grandchild than one's own child.

We should then also address this issue of irresponsible fathers and mothers, dumping children with their parents, your parents have taken

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care of you, again you are bringing your offsprings to your parents as if it is their side of responsibility. That is also the issue that should be addressed on its own because people are just loitering here around, having dumped their children with the elderly – now we come to the Motion - as a result, the meagre resources that these elderly people are receiving is now shared by a lot of family members.

However, as I said, it differs from one culture to the other. For those who are comfortable to stay at Old Age Homes, we should look at the improvement of conditions - there are some facilities there, but at least we should make sure that they live comfortably there. However, for those whose death will be sped up by taking them there, we should not try to do that. It is true, in some cultures, if you just take these people away from their comfort zones and they do not like where you take them, you will speed up their death.

We should also create a culture of caring because one should really be ashamed when your parents are taken to an Old Age Home while you can take care of them. You should be ashamed of that because they should only be taken there when there are no other options left. There is also an element of abuse. Since there was mention made of Paramount Hospital here, many years ago, I read about families in South Africa who had a habit of always taking their elderly members of the families to hospitals while they are not sick, by collaborating with some corrupt doctors, during the December Festive Season when they travel out. It was in the press. The Medical Aid would be paying for their accommodation in hospitals and cover doctors' bill while the person is not sick in the meantime - it is just that people have nowhere else to leave them.

We must also be careful that the same tactic is not used for the Old Age Homes. Just because people know that the Government will subsidise these facilities and so on, now even those who are capable of taking care of the elderly will just go and dump them – using the Old Age Home as a dumping ground. With these few words, Honourable Speaker, I put my case to rest.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Honourable Jagger please.

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**HON MEMBER:** Please give the elderly the chance first.

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**HON JAGGER:** I will allow Honourable Nekundi to take the Floor first  
(*laughter*)

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**HON SPEAKER:** Well, I think there is an agreement between Honourable Jagger and Honourable Nekundi. Honourable Nekundi, you have the Floor.

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**HON NEKUNDI:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. There is nothing wrong to be associated with a mother and I am very happy for that.

Honourable Speaker, I rise to contribute to the Motion on the Floor and before I start, I would really want to appreciate Honourable Mushelenga's contextualisation of the subject matter on the Floor. This is the actual context in which this matter should be perceived.

Having said that, Honourable Speaker, it must be understood that the Government of the Republic of Namibia - indeed under the leadership of the SWAPO Party, is a caring Institution.

What happened a few months ago, is reminiscence that for many years, our Government has been taking care of our elderly. It has been a trend to this day. Early this year, the same responsible Government of ours, had increased the Pension Grant of our elderly with over 66%. This is indicative of the caring nature of our Government. It is an assurance that

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our Government will continue to care for its people, particularly the elderly.

Honourable Members, you will also recall that during my Maiden Statement, I have moved that there would be a need that we introduce a Parent Care and Protection Legislation so that the children who are able and capable of taking care of their parents, do take care of them, just as parents are suppose to take care of their children by Law.

Honourable Speaker, the same Government is at an advanced stage to introduce the Food Bank. All these are principle elements that shows that we are a caring Government. This is indeed, also an indication that a Motion of this nature is a Motion that is not worth throwing away, however, that cannot take out the element that our Government is already in the process of initiating Programmes of this nature, which among others, is to take care of our elderly people.

Honourable Speaker, it is also essentially important to engagement the relevant Ministries that have been established by this same Government and are already at the preliminary stage of investigating various modalities to address Old Age Homes.

It is, therefore, important that we do not spread our already narrow based resources when an element of this nature is already being engaged by a Line Ministry, which is a responsible Ministry for that matter. Let us afford it an opportunity to at least prepare itself and bring the necessary documents as required by this Legislative House, table them here so that we take it from there.

In that regard, Comrade Speaker, I Move that at this moment in time, with my engagement with the Line Ministry – the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (*sic*) who are already engaged at a preliminary stage of investigation to come up with the modalities as mention earlier, to address Old Age Homes. I further Move, Comrade Speaker, that it takes the full responsibility with the blessing of this august House. I so Move, Honourable Speaker. Thank you.

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**HON VAN WYK**

**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Van Wyk.

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**HON VAN WYK:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, I rise to support the Motion. Honourable Members, I yesterday, had an opportunity to visit, perhaps one of the better Old Age Homes in the country. I was sort of surprised to find that some of the Old Age Homes in our country are managed by volunteers. These volunteers in turn appoint other volunteers to do the work. I would like to add to what was said by Honourable Van Den Heever, regarding the treatment that our elderly gets at some of the Old Age Homes.

Yes, the workers at the Old Age Homes are underpaid, they receive a salary as little as N\$400.00 per month. If one receives N\$400 per month as a salary and you have a house to look after, you will not always concentrate and give your best to the task at hand. However, another concerning issue is that these people are not even registered with the Social Security Commission to sort of help them when a problem arises.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, another point is that the elderly in these Old Age Homes do not have access to management to complain or to bring problems to the fore and this also results in frustration, which, of course, causes people to leave the Old Age Homes to live on the streets, at the end of the day. Some Old Age Homes receive donations and there are no measures in place to account for all those donations so received.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I would say that we recognise the efforts of the Government to attend to our elderly, however, we as the children the elderly also have a responsibility. Together, we should sit and work out something. We can as well initiate that, as it seems, it has become a habit of us always sitting and waiting for Government to do something before we start doing something ourselves.

I would like to request that, the time has come for Government to take the

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**HON FLEERMUYS**

lead as was said by the Honourable Member here, and work towards a future for our elderly. With those few remarks, I support the Motion.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Honourable Fleermuys.

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**HON FLEERMUYS:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I also rise to support the Bill (*sic*) (*Interjection*)

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**HON MEMBER:** The Motion!

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**HON FLEERMUYS:** The Motion, Yes (*laughter*) What I have to contribute to this Motion is that I know where I am coming from - where I live, I do stay with old aged people who receive monthly payments from the State and most of them even do not have children. Of course, there is no one else to take care of them where they are staying (*Interjection*)

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**HON MEMBER:** What about you? You are staying with them.

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**HON FLEERMUYS:** And, of course, if anybody wants to know who they are, you can come with me and I will go and show you, because I come from Goreangab Dam and it is the same issue around Katutura. 99% of these people live close to *Shebeen* and when they get paid, the money that they receive stop to exist the moment they get it because they already have personal accounts at the *Shebeen* where they buy some

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foodstuff, alcoholic liquor, etcetera.

There is, therefore, a the Government has already done its part, of course.  
(*Interjection*)

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**HON MEMBER:** And of course?

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**HON FLEERMUYS:** It is sad, of course, but I believe that if someone is a Leader, he cannot stand far from the people and say - *I already helped you, I gave you that money*. when the money is finished, these people will, of course, start drinking again at the very *Shebeen*, all of a sudden, they do not have anything to eat, but to drink *tombo*, etcetera. (*Interjections*) We can make jokes here, but most of us who are making jokes here, drive passed them day in and day out, but do not even take note of them, because we do not care. We only express our care here in the Parliament Building when we talk too much. I support this Bill (*sic*) (*Interjections*)

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**HON SPEAKER:** Order, order! Please give him a chance,.

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**HON FLEERMUYS:** Of course, I know why you are teasing me, but if something is itching, then take care of it. The General is the one who is always loving and instigates others to make jokes of serious issues. I bless the General with that

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**HON MEMBER:** I know why you are blessing him!

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**HON NAMBAHU**

**HON FLEERMUYS:** I support the Motion. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. We are moving on. Next is Honourable Makgone please.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** I am being neighbourly.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Yes, I know it is according to the agreement between the two of you there. That is fine.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I just want to make sure that you are recorded properly because the name that appeared was that of Honourable Makgone.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** It is the system.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Okay.

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**HON NAMBAHU**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:**

The system is one. I hope you can hear me, Honourable Deputy Minister. Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker.

Honourable Members, I also want to add my voice to this topic. Unfortunately, I did not have the benefit of hearing what the Motivation was, but I think it would be in the context of its contribution to the public discourse and to see what the best options are that we can take to addressing this issue. In the first place - I do not know whether to call it food for thought, meat for thought or fuel for thought, but I am going to try to do whatever is going to stimulate your thinking.

Just yesterday, Comrade President was informing us that he has signed into a Law, the *Child Protection Act*. Can we not think of something similar where we can also come up with something like an Adult Protection Legislation?

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**HON MEMBER:** Old age!

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:**

Old Age or call it what you may, but there must be one that one should have obligations, so that not all the Cannons and *Katyushas* face the Government, but those who are offsprings of these people should equally be placed under obligations to take care of those who brought them on earth. It is just a moral thing, it is a legal thing, a patriotic thing and it is the right thing to do. In as much as we protect those that are actually in a vulnerable position, the elderly should also be considered to fall in that category. (*Intervention*)

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**HON SPEAKER:** Yes. Is that the Point of Order?

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**HON NAMBAHU**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:** Yes, it is a Point of Order. Honourable Speaker, I just want to ask my Learned Colleague a question - a tiny-winy one.

Let me give you a scenario that happened in real life. This young fellow was with his grandpa in the house and the grandpa was smoking from a pipe and because this young fellow was taught at school about the apparent serious dangers of tobacco. He snatched the pipe from his grandpa, broke it and threw it away. Would you refer to this as abusing the elderly or what would you call this?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** But you just said that the young fellow was taught at school that tobacco is such a bad thing - I always ask why we do not come up with an Adult Abuse Rule in this House – if a person is telling us as if it was someone who just smoked recently, can we not say that that is adult abuse?

Anyway, let me go back to the topic. When it comes to this obligation, now that we are really crafting the Namibian identity and we are approaching this issues like the totems. Can we also not oblige those who belong to totems or have totems to take care of those who belong to the same totem and not just to say - I am a *what* or *what*, but yet they are neglecting the ones falling under their totems. How can you go and first express solidarity to others when your own totem is actually suffering? I would want us to start something in that direction and come up with something.

Home Design and Work - if you take a person who was living alone in a home in the rural area or in a home of a certain design and you take him elsewhere, you have taken that person to a house, but not a home. Can we

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**HON NAMOLOH**

design these houses to probably also be homes and perhaps also construct them in those areas, and not just in towns and big cities, because when you listen to the context of the contributions, one deduce that it is mainly pointing to the big cities. If we are talking about unity in diversity, we should probably also design these houses in accordance and with a popularity that reflects that unity in diversity. If I am a Himba, just for argument sake, and you put me in three storey house up – it does not in any way resemble where I was living, unless you want to accelerate my death.

Let us put these kinds of things into context and conduct research and come up with something that is actually peculiar, taking the lifestyle or the way our people live into account and build these Old Age Homes in those areas where these people come from, instead of building them in towns, place that obligation under the State and wash our hands without us placing any obligations on those that are actual offsprings of these elderly people. I would not support something of that nature, but if it is a discourse that is taking all these things into account, I will definitely support that kind of a Debate. I rest my case. I thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. For the record, that was Honourable Nambahu, I want to make sure that it is recorded accordingly. I call upon Honourable Charles Namoloh.

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. While I would like to make a contribution to this Motion, I also want to assure Honourable Fleermuys that the time of fearing me is over, it is now time for reconciliation. You do not need to fear me anymore. Just be at ease. (*Laughter*)

Comrade Speaker, I think we need to understand the concept of why people came up with Old Age Homes - under what circumstances and why

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**HON NAMOLOH**

were they designed and how did Old Age Homes come into use? Instead of only looking at old people and say - *we are going to take them to Old Age Homes.*

I think, it possibly has to do with social the conditions of people during a particular time. For most of us who are still living in the rural areas, the situation might be different, but as we are developing - I think what we are doing now, is for the future, it is not only for today, but also for tomorrow, the day after tomorrow and forever, because our social conditions will change with time as we go. The villages will change to settlements while settlements will change to towns and towns to cities. And as we develop, the social conditions also change.

That is almost the same with birth control. You may have had 20 grandchildren yesterday, today you may have five and tomorrow you only have one. All these mean that as I grow older, I may not be in the same position my grandmother was or my own mother is now. The conditions will change. I think this Motion should look at the future for all of us. I was not an advocate of Old Age Homes, but what I have seen in the area where I come from (*intervention*)

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**HON SPEAKER:** On a Point of Order.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:** I like the way you are talking. Before I ask you a question, just I want to say - you see a situation where we culturally inherit, through the word of mouth from our elders and I, therefore, want you to reflect a bit on a situation where an elderly or old aged person is taken away to a different house somewhere else.

1. Would they not think you have taken them out of their home so that

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you can own it?

2. Secondly, would you not perhaps accelerate their death?
3. What do you think about cultural exchanges in terms of growth and Understanding? Would you be able to say something on that?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Let the General respond.

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Thank you. I think the old people will not be forced to go to the Old Age Homes, this is done in accordance with the need. That is why I was saying, I have seen what I have seen, until the Church intervened, which made me think that these people need to go to an Old Age Home. And these people who are under protection of their so-called own children, their daughters and sons, who even lie to them. When they receive their pension on their behalf, they do not give them money, but instead tell them that - *your money is kept in a Government bank somewhere, so that when you get sick, you can only go to the hospital, they will treat you and deduct the money from your bank account* – of course, knowing that the Government has exempted the old people from paying for medical services. This is how they are lied to.

However, I think the cultural inheritance that you are talking about is also phasing out, that is what I was saying. It is phasing out and be it 50 or 100 years from now on, the way we live in our villages today will not be the same. I think we need to put our house in order so that it can take care of the old ones. It may not be me, but what about my grandchildren? Sometime in the future they would need Old Age Homes.

We need to make a research and interrogate how these Old Age Homes came about - who came up with them, why were they designed, what purpose were they designed to serve and at what stage did they emerge?

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**HON HOFFMANN**

We all came from villages. Windhoek was also a village, but those people came from Europe and started Old Age Homes because of the social conditions that have changed and I do not think we are an exception. It will also come to us. With these few words, I want to support this Motion. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. We move on to the next Honourable Ida Hoffmann.

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**HON HOFFMANN:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker and the Honourable Members in the House. I hope that you are going to listen to me carefully.

I stand to raise my voice on this Motion on Old Age Homes and I think most of the people who were speaking here have left one important part out. I believe that some of us or most of us, if not all of us, are involved in community activities, in political activities and we are involved in Church activities - we have to ask ourselves where each one of us' place is in all these activities. Being a politician, I am very much involved in community activities.

I do not want to talk about something that I have read in the newspaper or that I have heard people say. I want to talk about my own experience within my community. I have two aged people whom I take care of: One since 1996 and the other, since 2000. One has only one daughter whose name is *Liefde* – Love while the other does not have children. One morning as I was taking care of them, I thought to myself that - I believe what I am doing for these two people is more than what their own families do for them because they do have families who surround them, but they are not there for them.

I was one morning, thinking over this as I use to run around looking after

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them and now my children are also grown and my grandchildren are in hostels, so I asked myself what can I do? Lucky enough I prayed and said – *Lord, when I go to these Old Age Homes and I do not get any help, help me Lord not to lose the feeling to continue taking care for these people.* Then I got into my car and I drove. I went visited several Old Age Homes. I spoke to different people, but one thing that I have learned they are not doing, is accepting handicapped in their Homes – so these people are stranded. The last place I went to was the Pioneers Park Old Age Home. I did not meet the Secretary at this last Old Age Home, but one of the old aged mothers asked me - *what are you looking for?* I explained to her and she said – just know that you will not find a place where they will take in people who cannot help themselves. She finished explaining and I turned to walk out I said to myself – *it is fine, it is good that I prayed, because I now know what to do if I do not get help.*

However, on my way out, an old man called me and he said - *listen my dear, let me tell you a story. An old man was living with a rich family consisting of his son, the wife and their children. As you know, some old aged people cannot help themselves and this left an unpleasant smell in the house that the children did not like. One day this son, decided to wrap his father in a sack, tied it with wires, place him in the car and drove him into the deep forest where he dropped him.*

*His aged father called him back and said to him - my son, please do me one favour and help me out of this sack, you can leave me here, but I know for sure that you and your family will also need to use this sack for yourselves one day.*

I laughed from the beginning and halfway to the end when this old man was telling me the story, but I was struck by his last words - that was the moment that brought me to a standstill. I paused and asked myself a question - *is this what our children are doing with us?* For me, this will make a good discussion, if this story is true, because I have not gone far

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**HON KAPOFI**

into the other Regions to find out yet - I am only talking about Windhoek where there are no places to take handicapped old aged persons.

This for me, is a very important part and the highlight of this Motion. We have to investigate look into this, and if what Ida has said is true, how can we help the handicapped members of our Senior Citizens who are in need – those who do not have children and those who have a family that do not want to take care of them? The main reason why I brought this up is because I want to keep what our President, Hage Geingob has said alive that – “*no Namibian should feel left out.*”

We must, therefore, search deeper into ourselves to find answers that will ensure that - *no Namibian one will be left out.* I support the Motion and I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Kasingo.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I just want to postpone the Debate until tomorrow, but I can see that there are other Colleagues who want to take the Floor.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Can I then first exhaust my list and then come back to you? Thank you for your understanding. Honourable Kapofi please.

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS:** Comrade Speaker, the Motion is very emotional and it is real.

We have problems with our elderly people all over the country and I think



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HON KAPOFI**

the Mover of the Motion wants this House to discuss how best we can attend to the need of our elderly people. Yes, perhaps building more Old Age Homes, which is not going to be an easy solution as of now - I do not think that is realistic because looking at the size of our population, the population size of the elderly people and the geographical size of our country, it is very difficult for Government to do that.

However, the Government provides Social Grants and social amenities everywhere. There are so many Safety Nets that the Government has introduced. There are organisations, groups or companies that are involved with the distribution of the Grants to the elderly people. I do not know what exactly is there, apart from dishing out money to the elderly people. What else do they do to help these people? I think we need to expand the activities of these companies and other groups like - NGOs, Churches, etcetera, because service can be provided to people where they are.

It is basically not good for us to approve them because we cannot afford to do it, but it is maybe practical for us to provide the service where these people are. When the elderly are taken to the pay points at end of every month, almost everyone is there; from those who are selling alcohol and food to those who are just there to transport the elderly people with their 50 kg bags of maize meal to their villages. We could, for instance, expand and say - *yes, you have a contract to distribute or pay out the elderly people's pension, but we want you to do more*, they are in a position to do so because they know where these people are. If not, then we as a Government should, through the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Services or Poverty Eradication, create a possibility for volunteers to go around Constituencies, villages and wherever to help us identify our elderly people who need help. We can do that. If we are able to give them money, we can equally make sure that the money they get is used in the best possible way and is not being dished around.

As we continue to debate, I think we should perhaps look at the

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**HON KAPOFI**

practicality of this. As Honourable Namoloh has said, the idea of Old Age

Homes will be a good consideration over a long-term period because we will all get old and may not have people who are going to look after us, but the programmes that we are initiating to help the elderly people must look at ways and means to help them where they currently are and there are people of goodwill.

There are quite a lot of people who are willing to get involved, for example, it was mentioned here that there are people who are already looking after these people in Old Age Homes, people who are nursing them at the cost of N\$400.00. If in a Constituency, we look at youngsters and say - how many old aged people are here who cannot look after themselves and then we engage other social partners. I think we would be able to address the problem better than just thinking of uprooting them and bring them to the Old Age Homes.

For now, we cherish and value the contributions made by elderly people, our parents, because they are the custodians of our cultures and the values of some of our traditions are imbedded in these people. If we take them to Old Age Homes, there will be no way we can share social evenings with them and the reason you see them having their grandchildren around them is because they want to impart what they have onto the new generation. It is, therefore not so easy to say - *let us take them to Old Age Homes*, because we need them right where they are, and we should support them there. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Honourable Shapwa.

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**DEBATE ON OLD AGE HOMES IN NAMIBIA**  
**HON SHAPWA**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, I also want to contribute to this very important discussion on the Old Age Homes. I may, however sound a little different.

I know we want to call upon the Government to take responsibility over its citizens, however, from the discussions here I also heard that the Old Age Homes are being manned by volunteers. The attitude of those who are working there is termed to be very abusive to the elderly. I then ask myself, what exactly do we want Old Age Homes for? Is it for our elders to be abused? What about if for a day there are no volunteers working at these Homes?

I think we should look at this matter and approach it from very different perspective. My view is that, we are letting our society to disintegrate. If as Leaders and Political Leaders for that matter, as well as Church Leaders can allow people in our communities to neglect their parents, and we know them because every time, you hear stories - you would hear that - *they have now come to bury their father with expensive cars, but their father was just left alone in the house* - and we know them. Why do we not name and shame them because we know them? They live in our neighbourhood, but we allow them to leave their elderly parents in a very deplorable state. We let children remove their parents from their own homes and put them at their backyards, but we just remain quiet about it. Why do we, as communities and as Leaders not call those people out, and even call the Police and say - *this person was removed from his or her house*, and open a case.

I think we need to do more as Leaders in this country, through our communities and make sure that our children actually start caring for us. I am afraid because I am also getting old now and if we leave it this way, I think we are going to have a society where all the elders are thrown away because as it was said here, this Old Age Homes are good, but let them be

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HON PROF KASINGO**

exceptional for those who do not really have anybody to take care of them. However, I also know that in many communities, the elderly persons who do not have next of kin are taken in by neighbours, Church Leaders or church members and cared for. And to tell the truth, they are less expensive they are less expensive to care for.

Why can we as Leaders, not engage our young people and educate them through our communities and teach them not to neglect their grandmothers, mothers or grandfathers. However, I think if we can even come up with Community Committees to monitor the welfare of the elderly people, we can go a long way because people are at times just naïve and do not even understand the importance of the elderly. For those who take their pension, what happens when this person dies and you no longer have access to this pension. We need to make them understand the importance of an old aged person.

Honourable Speaker, with these comments, that was my contribution to this Motion. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. I am looking at my list and Honourable Kapofi's name is still appearing on my list. I will call upon the Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Kasingo.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Speaker, I would like to adjourn the Debate until tomorrow. I would like to request for the postponement of the Debate until Wednesday, tomorrow so that I can contribute.

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**ADJOURNMENT  
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

**HON SPEAKER:** Tomorrow is Wednesday, is it so agreed? The Debate is adjourned until tomorrow, at 14:30. Thank you very much.

With that, essentially we have concluded all the items before us. All that is left is for me is to declare that the House stands adjourn until tomorrow, at 14:30. Thank you very much.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:12 UNTIL 2015.07.01 AT 14:30**

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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
01 JULY 2015**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**ANNOUNCEMENT**

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**HON SPEAKER**: Honourable Members, I would like to inform you that I have asked the Secretariat of the National Assembly to give each and every Member a copy of the *Draft Code of Conduct and Declaration of Members' Interest* Forms. I will kindly request all the Honourable Members to study these documents as we will place them on the Order Paper of tomorrow, Thursday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 2015, for discussions and eventually for adoption. I believe we are expected to do this. It is in the best of interest of this House that we comply with this requirement.

This document is not coming before this House for the first time, it has been here before for information, for discussion and it went on for further consultation. I believe that the time has come to move on and do the right thing as it is required. I will count on your usual cooperation in this regard. That is the first announcement and the documents will be made available to all of you shortly.

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

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**TABLING: PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT  
AND POST ELECTION REPORT**

01 July 2015

**TABLING OF REPORTS**  
**HON PROF KATJAVIVI / HON SCHLETTWEIN**

**HON SPEAKER:** In this regard, I lay upon the Table, the Performance Assessment and Post Election Report on the 2014, Namibian Presidential and National Assembly Elections.

I so Move, and submit it formally. Yes, Honourable Minister of Finance?

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**TABLING: REPORTS OF AUDITOR-GENERAL**

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

- (i) Municipality of Walvis Bay for the Financial Year ending 30 2014;
- (ii) Municipality of Gobabis for the Financial Year ending 30 2014;
- (iii) Municipality of Mariental for the Financial Year ending 30 2014;
- (iv) Municipality of Grootfontein for the Financial Year ending 30 2014; and
- (v) Village Council of Koës for the Financial Year ending 30 2014.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Minister, please table the Reports. Thank you very much. We move on to Honourable Errki Nghimtina.

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01 July 2015

**TABLING OF REPORTS  
HON NGHIMTINA**

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
EMPLOYMENT EQUITY COMMISSION**

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**HON MINISTER OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND  
EMPLOYMENT CREATION:** Thank you Honourable Speaker. I lay  
upon the Table, the Annual Report of the Employment Equity  
Commission for the year 2013/2014.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Please table the Report,  
Honourable Minister. Any Notice of Motions? Honourable Minister of  
Fisheries and Marine Resources.

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

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**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:**  
Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, I give Notice  
that on Thursday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 2015, the Year of the Lord - I shall  
Move:-

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to amend the *Marine Resources Act*  
of 2000 so as to insert and substitute certain definitions; to provide for the  
sovereign exercise of ownership by the State over Marine Resources; to  
amend the Provisions relating to the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and  
the allocation of quotas; and to provide for incidental matters.

I so Move Comrade Speaker.

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01 July 2015

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON IIPUMBU**

**HON SPEAKER:** I think we have concluded any reference to Motions. Messages from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? Yes, Honourable Iipumbu.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ECONOMIC PLANNING:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I rise in this august House to give a brief statement on the question that was raised during the Debate of Vote 26 of the National Planning Commission as requested by Honourable Elma Dienda to provide information regarding the Memorandum Of Understanding between the National Planning Committee and Council of Churches in Namibia.

However, before I proceed to that, since it is the first time that I am rising in this august House, allow me Honourable Speaker, to make a few remarks of acknowledgement.

Honourable Speaker, first and foremost I would like to extend my profound gratitude to His Excellency Dr Hage Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia for believing in me by trusting me with the responsibility of assisting Comrade Tom Alweendo in planning the economy and various Developmental Programmes of this Land of the Brave. This demonstrates the faith he has in the youth and women of this country.

I would further like to appreciate the support of my family who have been my source of inspiration over the years. Equally, I will fail in my duty if I do not appreciate my Comrades of the SWAPO Party Youth League who identified me amongst many others as a candidate to the Electoral College. I further thank all my Comrades in the SWAPO Party, the entire rank and file and the leadership for the unwavering and overwhelming support throughout the process of democratic elections. I equally thank the Namibian voters for giving SWAPO another mandate to rule this country for the next five years.

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Comrade Speaker, my political journey started many years ago. It was 15 years ago since I entered the door of the SWAPO Party Headquarters and there were two special people whom I regard as my Political Parents, who showed me the left and the right of the political spectrum. I, therefore, would like to acknowledge my late Political Mother, Comrade Rikumbi, Gertrude Kandanga Hilukilwa. In the same vein, I would also like to extend my appreciation to my Political Father, though he is not present today, I am privileged to serve and share this august House with him - that is, Honourable Alfeus !Naruseb.

We can only pledge to deliver to the best of our abilities on these mammoth task ahead and deliver we will and we must, because failure is not an option. I equally pay homage to our heroes and heroines and, particularly to His Excellency Dr Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, the Founding President and Father of the Namibian Nation and his successor, His Excellency Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba.

Each of us had a prescribed journey that led us here, however, our common denominator is to serve the Namibian people without fail. We must, therefore, resolve while early in our term that all what we say here and deliberate on must mean something to our society. Surely the good expressions and phrases will not feed the hungry, will not employ the unemployed, will not give hope to those in despair and neither will it convenience the electorate. What will make them happy is to craft favourable Laws that address their needs and aspirations.

I now move to the briefing on the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the National Planning Commission, as the representative of the Namibian Government and the Council of Churches in Namibia.

Honourable Dienda asked whether the Memorandum of Understanding between National Planning Commission and CCN is still effective and whether it is reaching the necessary beneficiaries and how many have benefited under the Memorandum of Understanding thus far. The Government of the Republic of Namibia has entered into a Memorandum

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of Understanding with the Council of Churches of Namibia on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2010.

In terms of the Memorandum of Understanding, the Government of the Republic of Namibia is to facilitate support by engaging CCN with relevant Government Institution to respond constructively to the socioeconomic needs of the people of Namibia. The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to facilitate the engagement of CCN Member Churches and Organisations in the development agenda of Government of the Republic of Namibia through the development of community projects.

The Government shall, through the relevant Offices, Ministries and Agencies, facilitate that CCN Members Churches and organisations be accorded an opportunity to engage into agreed community development projects in line with the national policies such as Vision 2030 and subsequent National Development Plans like the (NDP4).

Since the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding falls under the mandate of the National Planning Commission in collaboration with the Offices, Ministries and Agencies, the National Planning Commission has been organising consultative workshops with Office, Ministries and Agencies such as the Office of the Prime Minister; Ministry of Urban and Rural Development; Ministry of Veteran Affairs, Ministries of Gender Equality and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Education.

As a result of this Memorandum of Understanding, CCN responded constructively to the former Head of State's announcement of the State of Emergency in May 2013, by establishing a Soup Kitchen Project in the Regions to give nutritional soup to every orphan, the sick and other vulnerable community members. The Office of the Prime Minister's cooperation with CCN have thus derived in the Emergency Drought Relief Programme being launched by the Office of the Prime Minister under the Disaster Management Unit and had engaged CCN to respond to the situation and granted N\$5 million for the distribution of soup to the

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elderly, the sick, the Orphans and Vulnerable Children under the age of six, including those people who are on Anti retroviral treatment and other treatments. The scope of beneficiaries at some kitchens included unemployed young mothers who are breastfeeding, as well as unemployed people whom the church sees as being in need of food provided by the Feeding Kitchens.

The Regions mostly affected were Omaheke, Erongo, Kunene, Otjozondjupa, //Karas and Hardap. Others were Zambezi, Kavango, Oshikoto, Ohangwena, Omusati and Oshana. The drought situation affected nearly 780,000 people translating into about 37% of the Namibian population. Consequently, the President of the Republic of Namibia declared a National Drought Emergency on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May 2013, calling for assistance.

During the implementation process of Soup Kitchens, CCN observed that the entire Feeding Kitchens raised high expectations among the communities and they expect more food after the completion of the scheme. Therefore, as it is recommended almost by every kitchen supervisor, they would like the Feeding Project to continue as it has rescued many children and the elderly. The biggest concern is with the San Community in Western Zambezi, Kavango East, Omaheke and Kunene Regions. Some of the concerned communities need further attention as they have not received good harvest.

All Feeding Kitchen staff, coordinators, supervisors and general workers were volunteers, especially the cooks were volunteers and they were each given an allowance of N\$300.00 per month. The Feeding Kitchens were also provided with N\$300.00.00 to secure wood, pay for water in some cases or to pay for the storage of soup bones and vegetables.

The Drought Response Programme of CCN took eleven months when it started in August 2013 to June 2014. The Soup Kitchens Programme managed to cater for 134,304 people in all the Regions. The number includes the elderly, orphans and other vulnerable members of the community like they were referred to earlier on. During the verification

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process, which is the part of monitoring and evaluation of the Project, CCN discovered that though much part of the country received some good rain, there are some parts of the country which are still facing serious drought conditions. Such communities, especially in Kunene, Omaheke, Otjozondjupa, Erongo, Eastern Kavango and Western Zambezi still need assistance. Supervisors and coordinators recommended to the Office of the Prime Minister to consider Feeding Schemes to continue to the vulnerable community members of the Regions mentioned earlier on.

The following is the breakdown of the beneficiaries per Region and this is per head, per month - that is why in some Regions, you will get a higher number that exceeds the actual population of the Regions.

**Total Beneficiaries in 14 Regions**

<b>REGION</b>	<b>BENEFICIARIES</b>
<b>Kavango West</b>	7,135
<b>Kavango East</b>	10,016
<b>Ohangwena</b>	4,024
<b>Omusati</b>	4,998
<b>Oshana</b>	6,524
<b>Oshikoto</b>	7,873
<b>Zambezi</b>	11,715
<b>Erongo</b>	10,288
<b>Otjozondjupa</b>	12,138
<b>Khomas</b>	5,559
<b>Omaheke</b>	20,881
<b>Hardap</b>	11,329
<b>//Karas</b>	7,277
<b>Kunene</b>	14,497
<b>Total</b>	<b>134,314</b>

Omaheke is the Region where a significant impact was made. In summary the Soup Kitchen established by CCN through significant

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support from the Office of the Prime Minister to the tune of N\$5 million has put a smile to about 134,314 people nationwide.

Finally, in terms of Clause 2.6 of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Namibia and CCN, the Government is expected to facilitate entry into Namibia for persons as well as their dependence to be engaged in work related to community development in line with the agreement by Member Churches and Organisations of CCN in respect of the necessary work visas or temporary work permits as required by the Laws and Regulations of the Republic of Namibia.

To this end, the National Planning Commission has continuously been assisting the Dutch Reformed Church in Namibia with the endorsement of their renewal and new applications for work permits, resulting in the deployment of 13 Pastors and Reverends, which was observed during the period under review and they have since been deployed to all the Regions.

Of note is that, the National Planning Commission's role in this case is to facilitate the enabling environment for the Civil Society, including Faith-Based Organisations, engagement in developmental agenda. In the same vein, we are urging Offices, Ministries and Agencies that have projects falling within the Strategic Plan of CCN, to directly engage CCN in the implementation thereof, in order to strengthen the national development efforts and implementation of national development plans. I thank you, Honourable Speaker for the Floor.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much for that important piece of information. I would like to call on Honourable Dienda.

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**COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ON MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

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**COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ON  
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON DIENDA / HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

**HON DIENDA:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I really just want the assurance whether this Programme will continue because we find it to be very good and we have to continue with the good things. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much for the positive response from Honourable Dienda. I must really speak from the heart, when I say the work of various Churches throughout the country is highly commendable, welcomed and thus complement the efforts of the Government.

I was in the Church over the weekend in Otjiwarongo and I was impressed to see a group of young people in the Church who are very positive about the future of this country. As a typical weekend farmer, I was touched by a comment by a young man, a Leader of the youth in the Church, who stood up and welcomed the very presence of the President and the First Lady in that particular Church and said and I quote - *“Seeing you here Mr President, is a joy equivalent to the joy felt by farmers when they witness the first rain. The first time when it starts raining, that rain put smiling faces on farmers,”* and you know what that young man is talking about.

I would say, well done Deputy Minister. Thank you for the work that you are doing in the National Planning Commission, it is very much valued and appreciated.

If you visit any part of Namibia, you will come across Church Leadership and Traditional Leadership. That is how our country is organised, those are the people you come across. Typical grassroots people who are involved in to day-to-day endeavours of improving the quality of lives of our people. I listened to your presentation with great interest and I wish to thank you very much.

We move on, and that is now to call on the Secretary to read the Order of the Day.

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**DEBATE ON OLD AGE HOMES IN NAMIBIA  
HON PROF KASINGO**

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE  
ON OLD AGE HOMES IN NAMIBIA**

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**HON SPEAKER:** When the Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, the question before the Assembly was a Motion of Honourable Dienda. The Honourable Deputy Speaker adjourned the Debate and I now call upon her to take the Floor.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker for the Floor. In fact, the information I wanted to help me contribute is not yet complete; hence, if there is no one who would like to take the Floor, I would like to postpone the Debate to next week, Tuesday.

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**HON SPEAKER:** If there are no Members who would like to take the Floor, can we then agree that we adjourn the Debate? So we adjourn the discussion on the Motion until Tuesday next week, is that agreed upon? So decided.

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**HON MEMBER:** Are we not meeting tomorrow?

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**HON SPEAKER:** No, we are meeting tomorrow. Yes. We are only adjourning the discussion on the Motion until Tuesday, next week, the usual time.

For now, the Business will continue beyond today. In the absence of any item before me, I am basically now in the position to say we have come to



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**ADJOURNMENT  
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

the end of today's Business. Can we adjourn the House until tomorrow the usual time? So decided. The House stands adjourned until tomorrow 14:30.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:30 UNTIL 2015.07.02 AT 14:30**

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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
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The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**HON SPEAKER**: Honourable Members, any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Yes, Honourable Deputy Minister of Finance.

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**TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL**

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

- (i) Ministry of Land Resettlement for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2014;
- (ii) National Road Safety Council for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2011; and
- (iii) National Road Safety Council for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2012.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER**: Thank you very much. Any other Reports and

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**UNOPPOSED MOTION BY THE SPEAKER  
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? On that one, I would like to take the Floor.

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**UNOPPOSED MOTION BY THE SPEAKER**

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I shall Move an unopposed Motion that this Assembly:-

*Recalling* the Head of State's Maiden Address to Parliament on the day that he officially opened the First Session of the Sixth Parliament; his Speech he has made to this House served as his Statement of Intent of road map.

The President's Maiden Speech highlighted an inclusive Namibia. He touched on poverty eradication and prosperity agenda, decent housing, shelter, food and nutrition security, and decent job creation. His Speech touched the core of the challenges faced by Namibia and its citizens today.

In a bid to follow his road map, within his first 100 days in office, the President has ably created new relevant Ministries to address institutional gaps and appointed competent officials to key positions where they can make properly targeted interventions.

Once again, the President demonstrated his visionary and exemplary leadership by kick-starting the process of national accountability through the disclosure of family assets.

True to the nature of the Statement, the President's first 100 days in office has done the Nation good. He has been exemplary.

I, *therefore*, take this opportunity to express Parliament's satisfaction and commend His Excellency Dr Hage Geingob, the President of

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HON //HOEBES**

the Republic of Namibia for his foresighted, visionary, exemplary and unifying leadership.

That the House wishes His Excellency and the First Lady, many productive years ahead in their service to the Namibian Nation. I thank you. (*Applause*)

Obviously, I put that brief Motion to the House and hopefully it will receive your support. Do I put the hammer down to signal acceptance. Thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** We move on to Messages from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? Yes, Honourable //Hoebes.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to bring to the attention of this august House the celebration of Africa Public Service Day, which is due to take place next week in Eenhana.

The Africa Public Service Day as an event, is entrenched in the AU calendar. It originates from the Conference of African Ministers for Public and Civil Service held in Tangier, Morocco, in 1994.

The commemoration of the Africa Public Service Day is a biannual event at continental level. However, Member States are mandated to celebrate the day annually. This year's biannual Commemoration of the Africa Public Service Day under the theme – *“The Role of the Public Service in Women Empowerment, Innovation and Accessible Service Delivery in*

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*Africa*,” was held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, for the period of the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2015, to which I led the Namibian delegation. This 5<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the Africa Public Service Day, reiterated the necessity for a Gender-centred Public Service and Administration on the continent towards the Agenda 2063 aspirations.

The effective guarantee of women empowerment in AU Member States was identified as a non-negotiable prerequisite to ensure the participation of women in all decision-making platforms and provide equal opportunities for both men and women in our societies. African women, and by extension Namibian women, constitute more than half of the continent’s population and should, therefore, be well represented in Public Service and Administration for them to contribute significantly and meaningfully to the accomplishment of Agenda 2063.

The Namibia Public Service went through transformation of many sorts over the past 25 years. We have not arrived yet, but are making giant leaps in areas of reform and innovation as can be seen from the reform processes we have adopted and are in the process of implementation, such as the Performance Management System and soon to be introduced Unified E-Governance System, etcetera, aimed at efficient and effective service delivery.

This process will, however, not see its logical conclusion without the necessary political support and buy-in from both the Executive - Cabinet Members, as well as Members of Parliament. It is against this background, that the Government of Namibia under the auspices of the Office of the Prime Minister commemorates the Africa Public Service Day from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of July 2015, in Eenhana, in the Ohangwena Region, which will culminate in the main event to be addressed by the Right Honourable Prime Minister on Thursday, the 9<sup>th</sup> of July 2015.

You are, therefore, all invited to celebrate this very important day with the rest of the Namibian Public Servants in recognition of values and virtues of service to the community, where services and goods will also be showcased and to promote values, such as professionalism, accountability,

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HON VENAANI**

responsiveness, ethics and performance in the delivery of Public Services. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, indeed. We move on to question time and we start with questions from Honourable Smit directed to the Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation, but I take note of the fact that the Honourable Member who posed that question is not here. Can we leave it at that?

Thank you very much. We move on to the question from Honourable Maamberua to the Minister of Urban and Rural Development. Equally, the Honourable Member is not here. Yes, Honourable Venaani.

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Speaker, I am rising on a Point of Order. I am just seeking your guidance - under which Rule is the Speaker omitting the questions from being answered if the Members are not in the House, because if the Members are not in the House, any other Member of that Party or any other Members can put the question on behalf of that Member, since questions are asked in the interest of the public and not necessarily in the interest of the Members who pose them. I just seek guidance from the Chair.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Yes, if you permit me to return to the question - I posed the question and I was informed that the Member is not there. You did not raise your hand to say to something. (*Intervention*)

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**HON VENAANI:** I did raise my hand, Honourable Speaker.

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BY HON SMIT  
HON DR KANDJII-MURANGI**

**HON SPEAKER:** Did you?

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**HON MEMBERS:** No, he did not!

\_\_\_\_\_

**HON VENAANI:** Yes, I did!

\_\_\_\_\_

**HON SPEAKER:** You cannot just raise your hand, signal the Chair so that I can see you very clearly. In future, please do so. You should put your light on so that it is very clear for me to see. Thank you.

I will call upon the Minister of Higher Education to respond to the question.

\_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 13:**

**HON MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INNOVATION:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members. Having come up with concise responses to the questions presented, in the spirit of division of labour, the Deputy Minister within Higher Education will present the responses. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Well, I will respectfully request the Deputy Minister to take the Floor.

\_\_\_\_\_

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BY HON SMIT  
HON DJOZE-OJO**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INNOVATION:** Honourable Speaker, thank you very much for the opportunity and I just want to indicate to the House that this is the first time I am speaking and I do not intent to link this to my Maiden Speech - it is going to wait, but at the request of the Minister, I will answer the questions.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, firstly, I wish to thank Honourable Smit for the three questions asked.

However, before I venture into answering the three questions, specifically as asked, allow me to give a brief background to help contextualise and establish the rationale for the merger of the four (4) Colleges of Education, with the University of Namibia (UNAM).

The Advisory Council on Teachers' Education and Training (ACTET) started to review teacher education and training in 2006.

ACTET was primarily established, among other things, to advise the Minister of Education on the direction of the teacher education and training at the then four (4) Colleges of Education at Ongwediva, Rundu, Caprivi and in Windhoek.

This Advisory body, the ACTET, undertook the Teacher Education Reform Programme, which recommended that the four Colleges be merged with University of Namibia's Faculty of Education.

A number of studies were conducted and highlighted challenges in the education system and the findings revealed then that, the General Education System was not effectively preparing learners to contribute meaningfully to Vision 2030. For instance, it was found that learners at both Upper Primary and Junior Secondary School levels had poor numeracy and literacy skills.

Moreover, The Basic Education Teacher's Diplomas (BETD) was found



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BY HON SMIT  
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to be lacking sufficient content, and with no well-articulated progression path, for those who needed to study further.

Furthermore, for many years the Colleges struggled to establish an identity for themselves as tertiary institutions within the structure of the Ministry of Education in terms of Management; Funding; Support Services and Quality Assurance.

These problems and others pointed squarely at the inadequacies in teacher education in the country.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, an improved and quality education system was identified as the fundamental vehicle for equipping citizens with requisite knowledge, competencies and skills, to support the knowledge economy, reduce unemployment and to ensure long term sustainable development in the country.

The Advisory Council on Teacher Education and Training (ACTET), under the able Chairmanship of the late Dr. Mose Penaani Tjitendero, the founding Speaker of this august house - may his soul continue to rest in peace and rise in glory - made credible recommendations which were implemented on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011. The four Colleges of Education were merged with UNAM's Faculty of Education. Subsequently, the BETD was gradually phased out and replaced by the Bachelors of Education (B. Ed) Degree.

**The benefits of the merger are evident to all:**

- Quality assurance mechanisms are in place.
- Improved qualifications of teacher educators with Bachelor's degrees; Masters and PhDs abound.
- Research output has increased.

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- Efficient use of resources are applied.
- Proper governance structures with clear support structures are in place.
- Improved infrastructure such as – libraries resources, laboratories and ICT centres have been built or upgraded.
- High standards of assessment have been put in place.
- Lower Primary phase improved, in the teaching of literacy and numeracy – Teacher Education specialisation in Pre- and Lower Primary, now focus on effective teaching of literacy and numeracy.
- Proper Articulation mechanisms which are clearly mapped out from one level to the other are in place to ensure continuity for further studies.

I would also like to state that, the merger was aimed at Quality rather than Quantity. Nonetheless, the merger in itself did not cause or bring about the shortage of teachers in the country, but to enhance Quality.

It is true that there was shortage of teachers even before the merger and there are still. Having said that, the Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation (MHETI) concurs with other stakeholders that the critical shortage of teachers need urgent attention and interventions. There is clearly room for improvement in this respect, and we as the Ministries responsible for Education and Training are having our hands on deck to ensure that this critical mass of educators is put in place for adequate qualitative and quantitative education provision throughout our beloved country Namibia.

Now to answer the specific questions as asked, I would like to answer as follows:

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BY HON SMIT  
HON DJOZE-OJO**

**QUESTION 1:**

**Does the Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation (HETI) agree with the statement made by the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture (EA&C), and if so what is the Ministry doing in this regard?**

The **Answer** is as follows: Looking at the quality of teacher education and training in our country today, I speak with pride and confidence when I say the merger has transformed and set teacher education on the right path.

It is in the interest of Namibia and all her citizens to unconditionally enhance quality in Teacher Education and Training as we explore and venture into accelerated approaches to address the quantity question.

In 2014, the first batch of over 120 students, graduated with B. Ed Degrees from UNAM – well-grounded in their respective subjects of expertise and pedagogical methods suited for Lower and Primary School levels.

The merger was effected 4 years ago and need to be allowed to consolidate to reach its full momentum and intended impact.

**QUESTION 2:**

**If the Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation (MHETI) does not share the same sentiments, will the situation as it relates to teacher education and training remain as it is?**

Teacher education and training is key in un-locking, sharpening and harnessing the citizenry's knowledge, competencies and skills for development. Uniformity and standardisation are key to this unlocking processes.

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BY HON SMIT  
HON DJOZE-OJO**

All academic programmes at UNAM, including the Teacher Education and Training Programmes are subjected to curriculum reviews after 3 to 4 years, and benchmarked on best practice regionally and internationally.

All Academic Programmes must be registered on the Namibia Qualification Framework - at the right level of the (NQF) under Namibia Qualification Authority (NQA).

However, one major challenge facing Namibia currently is un-qualified and under-qualified teachers within our school system.

These categories of teachers are receiving attention from both Ministries of Education – the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture has already sent a word to the Regions to identify teachers who fall in these categories so that their upgrading can take place.

A Joint Committee of both our Ministries is in place, to work out modalities of running a Teacher Upgrading Programme without disrupting the teaching schedules of the affected teachers.

The two Ministries of Education are thus hard at work, to put in place a programme to reduce the number of unqualified and under-qualified teachers in the school system. The University of Namibia (UNAM) and National Institute of Education Development (NIED) are fully involved to work out the detail modalities on how best to tackle this problem.

**QUESTION 3:**

**What plans are in place to improve the quality of teacher education and training and what is Government doing to address the critical shortage of teachers?**

To a certain extent, answers to questions 1 and 2 above address this third question. Nonetheless, may I buttress the fact that the Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation is aware of its mandate to educate; to train to quality and to innovate.

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTION  
BY HON MUHARUKUA  
HON SHIWEDA**

The Ministry of High Education Training and Innovation is seized with this matter and we are currently looking at an earlier submission by UNAM's Faculty of Education to the then Ministry of Education to find a common ground on how best to make forward arrangements on this critical issue that is at the centre of our core business as a Ministry, we are aware of it and we take responsibility for that.

Honourable Speakers, Honourable Members, and specifically Honourable Smit, may I assure you that as soon as a common understanding is reached and resources found, we will respond to the problem of teachers' shortage, head on. The idea is to institute this as early as next year (2016). Thank you for your kind attention. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. We move on to the question raised by Honourable Maamberua. Honourable Members, is there anyone who feels that this question should be responded to. I can see Honourable Muharukua wants to say yes. If you say so, put up your hand so that I can see. Okay, I am not going to insist.

We move on. The next Question is from Honourable Muharukua directed to the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. Maybe the Deputy Minister is here. Yes, you have the Floor.

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**QUESTION 19:**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this August House, I rise to respond to the questions raised by Honourable Muharukua.

Following the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in Ohangwena

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTION  
BY HON MUHARUKUA  
HON SHIWEDA**

on the 11th May 2015, the whole of the Northern Communal Areas, that we refer to as NCA, was declared a Control Area in terms of Section 19 of the *Animal Health Act*, 2011 (Act 1 of 2011). This gave veterinary officials powers to enforce stricter measures in order to curb further spread of this dreadful disease, including restrictions on the movement of animals, animal products and other potentially infectious materials.

These measures were announced publicly through various media and people were requested to cooperate accordingly because the country stands to lose billions of Dollars if the Beef Industry collapses due to the FMD. It is therefore important that veterinary officials and all other stakeholders do everything within the law in order to safeguard this important Industry. It is, therefore, of paramount importance that all Namibians are aware of the high stakes involved in the control of this disease.

It is against this background that I wish to respond to the specific questions by Honourable Muharukua as follows:

1. The 15 cattle that were killed tested for FMD and we are awaiting confirmatory results from the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) reference laboratories. It should be noted that the animals also carry a risk for lung sickness since the areas south of the Veterinary Cordon Fence (VCF) are free of this disease whilst cattle north of the fence are not free and as a result get vaccinated, annually against lung sickness. Unfortunately, there is no definitive test for lung sickness in the live animal because the organs that are lung and lymph nodes, are required to culture the organism. The animals are, therefore, killed to harvest the organs for confirmatory testing.
2. High elephants activities as well as cases of vandalism in the mentioned area west of Etosha makes maintenance of the Veterinary Cordon Fence (VCF) extremely challenging. However, this does not absolve the livestock owners from their responsibilities of making sure that their livestock do not, illegally or stray, cross the VCF in

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contravention of movement restrictions imposed under Section 19 of the Animal Health Act, more so when the whole NCA is under threat from FMD.

3. Section 16 of the *Animal Health Act* empowers veterinary officials to destroy, without compensation [Section 30 (2) (a)], any animal which is suspected of having been in contact with an infected animal and has been found in contravention of the said Act. Simply put, animals found crossing the VCF fall under this category, regardless of whether or not they test positive for FMD or Lung sickness; and yes, veterinary officials will continue to destroy any animal that will be found to have crossed the VCF illegally as per Section 16 of the Act. The Law is the Law and it should be followed by all. In the case of lung sickness there are no reliable laboratory tests in Namibia or abroad, that can be used to determine the disease status of an animal. Therefore, livestock owners should take responsibility for their animals if we are to curb the spread of FMD to the rest of the NCA and the FMD Free Zone.
4. A fence was erected on the Namibia-Angola Border immediately after Independence, and the purpose thereof was to prevent the situation we find ourselves in as far as FMD is concerned. However, that fence was vandalised and destroyed in no time because the people continue grazing their cattle in Angola. It was, therefore, not negligence on the part of Government, but pure resistance to the presence of a fence by the people at that time. This FMD outbreak in the NCA is a sure reminder of the importance of safeguarding our borders and therefore protecting ours cattle against FMD and other trans-boundary animal diseases.
5. Elephants, unlike cattle or other cloven- hoofed animals are not susceptible to FMD. They are therefore, in themselves, not a direct risk with regard to FMD transmission. However, elephants do pose an indirect risk, as alluded to earlier, through their damage to the VCF. In this regard, more teams have been deployed on the ground in order to repair the areas of the VCF which are under constant threat from

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elephants.

With this, I thank you Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Honourable Muharukua you would like to follow up? Yes, please.

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I do have follow up questions to the Honourable Deputy Minister. The Honourable Minister referred to the fact that the owner of livestock is not relieved of the responsibility to ensure that his animals do not cross the fence. The question that I would like to pose is this - does that onus relieve the Government of its responsibility to maintain the fence, to ensure that innocent owners' animals do not cross the fence?

Secondly, the Honourable Minister has indicated that the lucrative or the livestock market South of the Redline has to be protected has to be protected. My question, therefore, is the following - is it not equally the Government's responsibility to guard the livelihood of the people that are farming north of the Redline, given the fact that these rural communities are largely sustaining themselves from subsistence farming? Honourable Minister, the next question is the following.

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**HON SPEAKER:** No, no, I think it is a supplementary question. Let the Deputy Minister respond because she was basically seeking clarifications and I think you have succeeded in doing that. Now I am requesting the Honourable Deputy Minister to respond. Honourable Deputy Minister.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker and thank you Honourable Muharukua. You want to know whether it is not the responsibility of the Government to maintain the Veterinary Cordon Fence or to keep it intact so that animals do not stray from the north to the south?

Yes, I think I have alluded to that in my response. We are busy basis rectifying the Veterinary Cordon Fence on a daily and that is not only the Ministry of Agriculture alone, but even the Minister of Environment and Tourism is involved.

You probably have some more information that the Ministry would be privy to know - if you have areas where you think that no maintenance team has been at all, please contact our office and we would be very glad to visit those areas where maintenance is not being done. However, the fact that I am stating is that we have maintenance teams and they are on the ground. If you have more information, kindly come to us so that we can talk.

Honourable Muharukua, I am not sure whether this is really a genuine question, but you know that our Beef Industry is a very lucrative market and every farmer south of the Veterinary Cordon Fence knows that very well.

While we are protecting the farmers south of the Veterinary Cordon Fence, we are also doing that for the farmers in the north and that is why the Government has made some efforts in setting up all the roadblocks, as well as initiated vaccination campaigns - and Cabinet has made an effort to approve a very substantial amount of money of about N\$200 million to contain the FMD. Therefore, I think it is not only that we are only looking at the southern farmers, but also at the farmers north of the Veterinary Cordon Fence.

I think you will agree with me that N\$200 million is considerable amount and up to now, the Minister has been using its own Budget to contain the

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FMD in the north, even without the amount the Cabinet has approved. I would like to stop here, Honourable Speaker. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. I know there is an opportunity for the two Honourable Members to have a cup of tea in the meantime to continue the dialogue and I am not going to say who is going to pay.  
*(Laughter)*

Anyway, the next question is that of Honourable Kavekatora addressed to the Minister of Urban and Rural Development. I will call upon the Minister to deal with that question.

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**QUESTION 20:**

**HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:**  
Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, and specifically Honourable Kavekatora who posed the questions to me.

Honourable Kavekatora wanted to know:

**What mitigating measures the Minister had put in place for managing potential legal costs resulting from possible breaches of contractual obligation and related cost during the moratorium of the Mass Housing Programme.**

As the Honourable Members of this august House would recall, a detailed response on various aspects relating to the Mass Housing Development Programme was given by my Deputy Minister, Honourable Klazen last week, including the reasons why it has been found necessary to put any further construction on a halt, firstly to prevent an increase in the already huge unpaid bills to contractors and secondly to allow the Government to

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review and rectify issues in order to avoid similar challenges in the future. However, I must inform this august House that the Mass Housing Development Programme shall continue, but I shall expect those who would be entrusted by the Government with the implementation, to adhere to financial prudence and good governance.

In addition, I wish to state that the central aim of the Programme is to enable the construction of houses that will meet the housing needs of our people in general, and especially the ultra-low and low-income groups, in terms of quantity, quality and pricing. It is common knowledge that the cost per square meter of the houses as per contracts signed are exorbitant and this has resulted in extremely high prices of the consequent houses built, thereby defeating the affordability goal, which I believe all of us want to achieve for our people.

The question is - should we stand by and allow this identified undesirable situation continue and even escalate? No, we cannot and should not. This will be irresponsible. Our intervention is not to unnecessarily disadvantage anyone, but simply to try to rectify a problem that is there for everyone to see, including the contractors who still have huge unpaid bills owed to them. It is a collective responsibility of every caring Namibian to play their part to make housing affordable to our people, not only the Government's. I thus, wish to seek the understanding and patience of contractors and other parties who have been affected by the halting of work in order to allow the Government and its agency to verify the situation on the ground and find a feasible solution thereto in the interest of all.

As far as possible legal challenges or claims are concerned, we will deal with any such as they come. We have one of such claims already lodged against NHE, the Government and the Minister, and we are dealing with it. It is my conviction that we all belong to this Government and shall only stand proud when our Government is standing out with pride.

**Had there been any thought during the development and design stage**

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**about the targeted and intended beneficiaries of the Mass Housing Programme?**

Yes. In particular, the social houses that the Government decided to budget for, are meant for the ultra-low and low-income earners who applied for, and are on the list of the respective Local Authorities where they reside. The information required and provided by the applicants, including a confirmation of the applicants' income in order to enable the selection and matching to the housing units when they are built and ready for allocation.

Additional qualification requirements were given in our response by Honourable Klazen last week.

**Has any assessment been made of the quantum of the income levels of the targeted beneficiaries?**

Yes, I have just responded on this just now. However, if there is any outcry, we shall rectify.

**Minister, is there any appreciation of the design of the basic housing unit under the Mass Housing Programme in terms of the income levels and needs of the beneficiaries?**

Yes, our desire is to facilitate the delivery of houses that meet the basic needs of our people in terms of design, quality and affordability. These are some of the key elements and desired outputs/outcomes that we want to see; and this is amongst others the one reason why the Government is intervening with a review to try to put the Programme back on course and direction where these desired outcomes can be achieved.

The houses that are being or have so far been built under the initial phase of the Programme are largely based on the designs that NHE has been using over the years. We believe there are other designs available and which can be more cost-effective and responsive to the needs of the low-

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income groups. Going forward, we will look into alternative designs and building materials and technologies with a view to reduce the cost of houses that are being built under this Programme and other Government supported housing development initiatives. I must, however, indicate that this time, I am not going to dance to the market forces' prices in delivering shelter to the needy citizens. (Applause) Thank you.

**Given the fact that NHE has been the implementing agency for the Mass Housing Programme, and at the same time has the mandate to build low cost housing, to what extent did cross-subsidisation take place, if any?**

There is a clear separation between the housing development projects that fall under the Mass Housing Programme and those that are part of NHE existing mandate in terms the *NHE Act*. The Government has directed and has been ensuring that there is no mix up. The funding for the two are also separate - that is, for Social Houses and Credit Linked Houses.

**How many houses under the Mass Housing Programme had been handed over nationally since the start of the Programme because I have observed in Outjo where housing units have been completed but standing unoccupied and risk being vandalized?**

I would like to respond as follows:

Two Hundred and Twenty-One (221) have been handed over. Four Hundred Fifty (450) houses are fully completed and ready to be handed over. Twenty (20) of the Four Hundred and Fifty houses that I have mentioned are in Outjo. We are challenged that not all the houses have been paid for and, therefore, they cannot be claimed by the NHE from the contractors. This is the reason why we, through the Ministry of Works and Transport have commissioned an assessment team of Quantity Surveyors to verify the work done and the payment due to the contractors. As I am speaking, the Quantity Surveyors are onsite. This information will enable NHE and the Government to find a solution on how the

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certified payment due can be sorted out. Once the payment is sorted out, all the houses that are fully paid will then be handed over by the contractors, contractually first to NHE, and then NHE will in turn notify and confirm to the Government the number and related details. That being done, Government shall then take responsibility to pay for the Social Houses, and the Credit Linked houses that are completed, Government through Cabinet shall direct the way forward.

Honourable Members, you should understand that the Credit Linked houses were supposed to be the baby of the National Housing Enterprise, which would have to go out and look for funding. That is why to date; NHE did not yet obtain funding from commercial institutions. Therefore, I am talking about – after the whole assessment from the field is done, the Government, through Cabinet, will direct what is to be done with the Credit Linked houses.

Honourable Speaker, I think these were the responses to Honourable Kavekatora's questions. Thank you very much for the chance.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Honourable Kavekatora, do you want to raise something on the respond of the Honourable Minister? Yes, you have the Floor.

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**HON KAVEKOTORA:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Minister, thank you very much for the attempt to respond. It was a very good attempt. (*Laughter*)

Honourable Speaker, I perhaps just want to test my understanding with regard to question 1. The question is very specific in terms of wanting to find out what the mitigating measures that the Ministry has put in place are, to prevent possible lawsuits.

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However, what the Honourable Minister is telling us is that - *we will deal with the lawsuits when they come*. That to me is not a prudent respond in the sense that - *dealing with it when it comes*, comes with a cost. What I am asking here is a specific cost associated question and Honourable Speaker, I must say that in the beginning I did say that I support the moratorium, but it was omitted here, which is fine.

However, supporting the moratorium does not mean that one should blindly breach contractual obligations. Contractual obligations are contracts that you enter into with other parties and as we speak now, Honourable Speaker, there is already a lawsuit that the Honourable Minister has spoken about and the possibility, if there are no mitigating measures that have been put in place, then obviously, the possibility of more lawsuits is there and that is a cost to the taxpayer. Dealing with it means that you will go to Court, you will fight it out in Court and in the Court of Law, you can either get it or you can lose the case and losing the case will be an additional cost to the taxpayer.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, I think you are very clear. Let the Minister comment because she has responded to your question. Let me allow her to come back, if need be. Is there any other issue you want to raise? I do not want us to dwell on the lawsuits. Yes, please?

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**HON KAVEKOTORA:** Honourable Speaker, you do not want to dwell to the lawsuits, but that is exactly my question - *how did we prevent the lawsuits* and the Honourable Minister did not respond and say how she prevented the lawsuits.

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**HON SPEAKER:** No, no, I do not think you would expect her to deal

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with that. As a responsible Minister, you have to draw a line. She cannot deal with specific possible lawsuits. If you want to talk to her in private, I think it maybe be better but not on the Floor of the House. Your microphone please.

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**HON KAVEKOTORA:** Honourable Speaker, if I pose a question and I feel that there seem to be a lack of clear understanding in her response, do I basically not have the right to explain why I am asking that particular question so that I can probe the question further?

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**HON SPEAKER:** No, no, Honourable Member, you were actually so eloquent in terms of the follow up; the follow up question that you are raising is getting us much more closer to the question of possible lawsuits and you cannot expect the Minister to deal with that in an open discussion like this because any lawsuits will not have to be addressed here on the Floor of the House. She has particular constraints that she cannot deal with it.

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**HON KAVEKOTORA:** Okay. It is Fine, Honourable Speaker, I understand that there were no mitigating measures so I leave it at that.

My next point is on Question 4, where the Honourable Minister responded that the Social Housing would be based on NHE design. Now the NHE design was not based on Social Housing, therefore, I just want to get clarity as to how the NHE design will fit into the Social Housing concept and I think for the rest of the questions, I have already made an appointment with the Honourable Minister.

Perhaps the best way is for me to just engage her and get more clarity



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about some of the issues that are still outstanding. Thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Wonderful. Honourable Minister, do you like to deal with the issue he raised?

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**HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Kavekatora and I, worked for the National Housing Enterprise.

Honourable Kavekatora was my boss and I must say that I was one of the first members of the Board of Directors of the National Housing Enterprise for four years. I think that I was inherited by the National Housing Enterprise in the way, after the expiry of my directorship, therefore, I employed him then before I became an employee (*laughter*) after which he became my boss. He knows very well that I worked for that company for more than ten years.

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**HON MEMBER:** So, you made money!

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**HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Oh, yes! I made money when I was there, he can testify to that. I was working very hard. Yes, nod your head so that I appreciate you. You know very well what we are saying when we are talking about the designs of conventional houses of the National Housing Enterprise.

The Core 8, Core 5, Core 6, Core 7 and all these types of things - you know all what we mean and how we were matching these Cores with the

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income levels of our customers. I do not know now, why you are pretending not to understand (*laughter*) when I am telling you about the designs of the National Housing Enterprise that you for sure know, because you were part and parcel of the team that was involved in these designs. Thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. I think the two Honourable Members; Honourable Shaningwa and Honourable Kavekatora can easily go and have a cup of tea and continue with their dialogue.

We move on to a question raised by Nauyoma directed to the Minister of Information and Communication Technology. The Minister is here and ready. Can I give him the Floor? Honourable Minister.

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**QUESTION 21:**

**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, let me first thank the Honourable Member of the APP, Honourable Nauyoma for the questions and hasten to appreciate that it is not for himself alone, but also for the information to the Nation through this Honourable august House.

Allow me to put these questions in context by referring to the Supreme Law, the Constitution of the Republic - Article 21 that deals with Fundamental Freedoms:

*“(1) All persons shall have the right to:*

*a) Freedom of speech and expression, which shall include freedom of the press and other media.”*

The rest of the freedoms, that is from (b) to (j) you can read for

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yourselves. After those freedoms listed, in Sub-section (2), it says:

*“(2) The fundamentals freedoms referred to in Sub-article (1) hereof shall be exercised subject to the laws of Namibia, in so far as such law imposes reasonable restrictions on the exercise of the rights and freedoms conferred by the said sub-article, which are necessary in a democratic society and are required in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of Namibia, national security, public order, decency or morality, or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence.”*

But Article 22 gives limitations to such Fundamental Rights and Freedoms and I quote:

*“Whenever or wherever in terms of this Constitution the limitation of any fundamental rights of freedoms contemplated by this chapter is authorised, any law providing for such limitation shall:*

- a) Be of general application, shall not negate the essential content thereof, and shall not be aimed at a particular individual;*
- b) Specify the ascertainable extent of such limitation and identify the article or articles hereof on which authority to enact such limitation is claimed to rest.”*

It is against these Constitutional Provisions that the overwhelming majority of Namibians have, since the birth of the Land of the Brave, have in their wisdom proudly invested their trust and elected the, SWAPO Party to govern them believing it will preserve and nurture our hard won freedoms and democracy. We freed all citizens to enjoy the right to trustful information that as guaranteed under our Constitution and the establishment Act of NBC of 1991 as a Public Broadcaster. It is the oath we all took in this august Namibian House and an oath I, as the custodian Minister, shall always uphold.

**Question 1:**

On the Ewilyamanguluka Programme in our NBC Oshiwambo Language

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HON TWEYA**

Radio station, it is true that a Moratorium was placed on this Programme and on all other radio stations' call-in Programmes as well. The Nation knows that the reasons for these actions were many and justified. Firstly, abuse of the airwaves to insult our Leaders both national and sub-national became a daily nuisance and intolerable.

Secondly, promotion of divisive and tribalistic tendencies in our communities did not bode well for our country's future. We need to build a strong and unified Nation that is at peace with herself, neighbour and beyond. To that end, in 2009, Cabinet instructed the National Public Broadcaster to ensure effective controls were put in place before these Programme can return to air.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I am happy to report that all Radio Stations have since re-introduced call-in Programmes over the past 2 years and our Oshiwambo Language Radio station will be next.

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**HON MEMBER:** When? Why not now?

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**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION:** In the further consolidation of our democracy and furtherance of Freedom of Speech, our Oshiwambo language service will re-introduce the Programme known as Ewilyamanguluka as of Friday, the 17th of July 2015. It will air on Mondays to Thursdays between the hours 19h15 and 20h00 on a weekly basis.

Further to that, and to dispel the myth that NBC tramples on rights of citizens to free speech, I want to also share with this august House a list – because Honourable Shixwameni, the President of the APP does not want to agree, let me give you the proper information - of the other 8 Radio

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Stations and the call-in Programmes that are being aired:

<b>Radio Station</b>	<b>Programme Name</b>	<b>Air Time</b>	<b>Air Days</b>	<b>Format</b>
1. Afrikaans Language	Sê jou Sê	16:30 – 17:15	Monday - Thursday	These are call-in and topic specific shows and host guests who often come in to comment or provide feedback on concerns/challenges raised by listeners.
2. German Service Language Radio	Telefon Hörer	18:00 – 19:00	Every Second Tuesday	Chat show/call-in followed up by feedback shows
3. Damara>Nama Language	ShowKhom #Gaots ra-e khom	09:20 – 10:00	Week days from Monday to Friday	Chat show/Call-in Programme followed by feedback shows
4. Tirelo Ya Setswana Language	Dilo Makwati	11:05 – 11:30	Monday - Friday	Chat show/call-in - Programme followed by feedback shows
5. Otjiherero Language	Indjo Kepu	16:05 – 17:00 and 20:00 – 21:00	Tuesdays and Thursdays	Chat show/Call-in Programme followed by feedback shows
6. Rukavango Languages	Mudukuli	19:05 – 20:05	Week days: Mon, Wed and Fri	Chat show/Call-in followed by feedback shows
7. National Language	The People's Parliament	19:00 and 20:30	Monday to Friday	Chat show/Call-in followed by feedback shows
	The 9 <sup>th</sup> Hour	09:00 and 10:00	Monday to Friday	Topic Specific followed by feedback shows
8. Silozi Language	Nako ya Maikuto	20:00 – 20:55	Tuesdays and Thursdays	Chat show/Call-in followed by feedback shows
9. Oshiwambo Language-	Ewilyamanguluka	19:15 – 20:00	Monday to Thursday	Chat show/Call-in followed by feedback shows
10. !Ha Language	TBC			

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**Question 2:**

Since our successful migration from analogue to digital broadcasting on the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015, all our Language Radio Services have been decentralised and will be available wherever you are in this Land of the Brave. They have indeed become national available to respective Language communities. That is development and progress. From my response on question 1, I believe this question is already covered.

**Question 3:**

Unfortunately, the Honourable Member, Honourable Nauyoma, has not been briefed correctly and honestly. There was no threat by the Minister for the people to speak freely and voice their questions and views on the Programme of Mudukuli. In fact it is to the contrary. The Minister is obliged by the Constitution, as I quoted earlier, and the Government Policy and by the commitment from His Excellency the President, that - *no Namibians should feel left out in the Namibian House*, and I add that inclusive of our visitors, to be treated with dignity and respect as their Fundamental Human Rights.

Since you were not informed correctly, I said – *“The Programme was created for the purpose of promoting democracy, public debate and to serve as an informative platform, but should it be abused through insulting, instigating hatred, humiliating or using derogatory language towards other citizens or promoting racism, etcetera, such language will not be tolerated or allowed and the Programme will be removed from air, as it happened to other language services that are now being re-introduced.”* This is what a responsible SWAPO Party Government as fully mandates by the 80% National Assembly Voters and 87% Presidential election voters will do in the furtherance of the expressed wishes of the Namibian People.

I am pleased to inform the Honourable Member and the public at large that the residents in the 2 Kavango Regions – Kavango West and Kavango

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HON NAUYOMA**

East understood me correctly and the Programme is serving its purpose.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, with all these Open line Programmes in all languages, including the National Radio, should the caller fail to adhere to this good conduct to express his/her views on air, we have a new technology called a *delaying device* and the presenter at that point in time will use this device and not allow deplorable expressions to go on air. We will do that by using technology.

It is our responsibility to maintain the peace, stability and build a united Namibian Nation with respect and pride.

Finally, this august House and the Namibian House all over the republic wherein our gallant citizens find themselves, should rest assured that our Government will guard their aspirations jealously and provide them quality and timely information. There shall be no thirst for information in this country. Namibians, we shall not fail you in this regard and we shall honour the trust bestowed on us and His Excellency, the President against exclusion as clearly expressed in the 80% and 87% SWAPO Party and President Geingob's landslide victories respectively. I thank you for your attention.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Nauyoma is there anything you want to raise, once again?

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**HON NAUYOMA:** No, thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I think the Honourable Minister has answered. I am happy that for the last five years since that has been there, you have waited until we questioned

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BY HON NAUYOMA  
HON NAUYOMA**

**HON MEMBER:** Iyaloo!

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**HON NAUYOMA:** So that you react and it is good. There is a saying in Oshiwambo that says - *somebody will not move until he is whipped*.

The Oshiwambo speaking Members will understand that very well. Nevertheless, I am still not happy because this is a very big community that uses these waves, but to only have two days in a week, I think still needs some thorough reconsideration because there are a lot of people who need to be calling in and air their views.

I, therefore, think that where there are only two days in a week, whether on the National Radio or other Radio Services, the Honourable Minister still needs to look into that.

With that said, I thank you very much and I hope that what was alleged in the Mudukuli story will not be repeated. I thank you, Honourable Minister. (*Laughter*)

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. I think both Honourable Nauyoma and the Minister have communicated sufficiently to reach a mutual understanding.

I, however, would like to remind the Honourable Members, and it is just a gentle reminder that - I know we are moving towards a paperless Parliament and I have taken note that the Honourable Minister, Honourable Tweya, is moving in that direction, but just a general reminder that whenever Members are making Ministerial Statements and addressing the House, reading from their tablets, it is advisable (*interjection*)

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HON NGHIPONDOKA**

**HON MEMBER:** To provide a hard copy!

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**HON SPEAKER:** You jumped the gun before I could finish. Thank you very much. I think that is exactly what I wanted to say, because the message we are conveying is in the response to a question, but we also want to share it with the media because we want to be transparent and accessible. Well done.

We move on. Next is the question raised by Honourable Shikongo, addressed to the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture. The Deputy Minister will have the Floor.

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**QUESTION 22:**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker for the chance to respond to the very important questions from Honourable Shikongo.

Honourable Members by introduction, I would like to mention that the main functions of the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, through the Directorate of National Examination and Assessment and Certification, are to provide national assessment and certification services for the school system, to assist in enhancing the quality of the education and monitor educational standards. Every year, a number of teachers appointed as markers, report in Windhoek for the central marking exercise. For the 2014 national examinations, the Ministry did appoint 1,527 markers for grade 10 for 35 subjects and 1,040 markers for the grade 12 - Ordinary and Higher Level with a number of 53 subjects.

To revert to your questions Honourable Shikongo, the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture would like to inform this House that, the

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credibility, quality and integrity of the national examinations is maintained at all costs and at each level of marking.

I am now going to respond to the questions:

**How accurate or reliable are the results of each year?**

Honourable Shikongo, the results that are released every year are reliable, valid and credible. The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture have stringent procedures when it comes to the setting of question papers and marking of the answer scripts.

Before the marking of the answer scripts starts in each component/paper, the Chief Markers, the Assistant Chief markers and the Team Leaders have to meet for three to four days to standardise the memorandum to the questions that are asked in a question paper. This is a framework of agreement to which all relevant markers must adhere to ensure that all processes associated with marking are performed within a set guidelines. This is done to ensure that the marking process has a consistent quality, and that any conclusions made in relation to the results are comparable with all other results in the previous years.

With regard to the memorandum, the Chief markers, Assistant Chief markers and the Team Leaders always mark a number of answer scripts to ensure that all answers required by a question are accommodated in the memorandum. The same exercise is also repeated on the arrival of markers. The markers will mark similar dummy answer scripts for discussions and finalisation of the memorandum. This is referred to as prior training and standardisation of the marking before markers are allowed to mark live answer scripts.

During the marking exercise a number of four to five markers are always allocated to a Team Leader, for supervision and moderation of their answer scripts. A Team Leader is in turn supervised by the Assistant Chief Marker who is also supervised by the Chief marker.

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To ensure quality marking, Chief markers, Assistant Chief Markers and Team Leaders have a mandate of moderating 30% of the answer scripts marked by a Marker and provide corrective measures on the outcome of moderation. The primary objective of moderating an examination paper is to ensure that answers are concise and relevant to the question asked and not ambiguous; the marks allocated are fair and relative to the degree of the difficulty of the question; and that all learners are marked at the same level without discrimination and prejudice.

Honourable Shikongo, the Ministry has a mechanism in place for ensuring that the exact marks obtained by a learner are correctly captured on the computer. For this activity, a double capturing of marks at the marking venues has been introduced. The marker has to enter the marks on the primary optical mark reader forms and the staff members hired by the Ministry have to capture the same marks on the secondary optical mark reader forms.

The two optical mark reader forms are captured separately by the optical mark reader machine and where differences in marks are identified, verification is done again by checking the marks on the answer scripts at the marking venue. This is done to ensure that the correct mark of the candidate is captured by the system.

Therefore, I wish to conclude the question by saying that the results that are released by the Ministry of Education are reliable, valid and credible.

**How many Grade 10 learners have been deprived to proceed to Grade 11 of this injustice?**

In order to be transparent in the administration and conducting of the national examinations and to ensure that quality marking takes place, the Ministry did introduce the following services to the grade 10 and 12 learners after the release of results:

- A full-clerical re-check of the marks at N\$25.00 for Grade 10 and

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N\$60.00 for Grade 12.

- A re-mark of a subject at N\$110.00 for Grade 10 and N\$220.00 for Grade 12.
- An explanation of an incomplete result on the Statement of Results on request, is free of charge for both Grade 10 and 12.

The above fees are Treasury approved fees and the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture must adhere to Treasury Instructions in the implementation of such services.

Honourable Shikongo, the re-marking of answer scripts is usually done by a different Marker, usually a Senior Marker. This ensures that a Marker does not re-mark the answer script that she/he marked during the normal marking. Historically, the Ministry has been doing re-marking of Grade 10 and 12 answer scripts on request from candidates, parents or guardians. For the past three years the re-marking outcome for Grade 10 has been as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Number of learners registered</b>	<b>No of applications received</b>	<b>No of changes</b>	<b>% change</b>
2012	33,428	1,284	20	1.56%
2013	34,054	1,359	12	0.88%
2014	35,592	2,013	8	0.40%

Looking at the statistics for the past years, I would like to inform the members of this house that there has been a significant degree of decrease in the change of marks or grade after the remarking exercise. This show that the marking process is properly controlled though there are still minor defects detected after remarking.

I would also like to re-iterate that the concept of allowing remarking of

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examination answer scripts is widely applied, not only at the levels of academic institutions, but also in industries where formal examinations are conducted. The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture has a policy or guidelines that govern the remarking process.

The Ministry looked at the answer scripts where change in marks occurred and found the following to be causes of errors:

- Errors during carry-through of marks of incorrectly/partially correct answers. This error seems to be equally advantageous and disadvantageous to the learners, depending on the changes made.
- A detailed mark scheme makes it difficult for the markers as more alternative answers are accommodated not to disadvantages the learners.
- Poor subject knowledge of the marker was also found to be a contributing factor in some of the changes.
- It was also found that learners answer questions in bits and pieces of which some answers are missed during initial marking and this seem to contribute significantly to changes in marks or symbols.
- Deteriorating handwritings and letters and digits that have to be interpreted rather than read is a major challenges and equally applicable to Markers and learners.

I would like to conclude by saying that, all indicators are positive that remarking can be used as a tool to quality-assure the marking process.

Based on the historical data and analysis there had been no injustice caused to the system and the learners, as only very insignificant changes occurred to the learners who applied for a remarking.

**How can your Ministry assist the learners whose parents cannot**

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**afford the remarking fees of N\$ 120.00 per subject?**

Honourable Shikongo, before I respond this question, let me use this opportunity to correct your statement that the re-marking fees are N\$110.00 for Grade 10 and N\$220.00 for Grade 12 per subject. The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture has a policy in place on exemption of needy learners who are not able to pay the examination fees for Grade 10 and 12. The Examination fees are subsidised by the Government at 54% for full-time and 40% for part-time learners.

Therefore, re-marking and clerical re-check fees are Treasury approved fees and learners/parents/guardians must pay for the extra fees for the services that are applied for after the release of the results. The good news is that the cost will be refunded if the subject grade changes and no refund if it is only the mark, rather than the grade that changes. It is also worth noting that the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture do not change the grade of the learners if a mark goes down following a remark, the original mark will be kept.

As these are secondary services, there is some monetary fee attached to them as approved by Treasury. The fees are related to the administrative costs and marker remuneration are also involved.

Therefore, the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture cannot exempt learners, parents or guardians who would like to apply for re-marking and rechecking of answer scripts.

In concluding, your questions, there are two main factors that affects control measures such as checking, adding and transfer of marks by another person than the Marker.

- The first one of these two factors is mental fatigue. The Junior Secondary Certificate (Grade10) marking is always a high volume of work that must be completed in a short space of time under extreme

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pressure of deadlines, normal “*human error*” will definitely start to exert its toll.

- The second factor, not always recognised, is the role of language when marking. As you are aware that some of the Markers might not be fluent in English as a communication language, it is always a natural tendency for these Markers to think in one’s mother tongue when marking as this commonly happens even during their teaching.

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**QUESTION 23:**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE:** Honourable Shikongo, I will move onto your questions on Teachers as Markers.

Each year a number of Grade 10 and 12 teachers from various schools apply to become Markers, some of these teachers teach Grade 8, 9 and 11 classes and this causes a fragile situation at the school, as it was your concern.

**Will the Honourable Minister look into this matter and rescue remedy this fragile situation at schools?**

In the first place, I would like to inform the House that the criteria for appointment of teachers as Markers was approved by the National Examination, Assessment and Certification Board of the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture in terms of Part IV of the *Education Act*, 2001 (Act 16 of 2001).

The criteria are as follows:

- A teacher should at least have a three (3) years Professional Teacher Qualification or similar academic and professional or some other

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appropriate qualification according to the needs of the subject.

- A teacher should have a teaching experience of at least 3 years in Grade 10 or higher in the subject concerned. In addition to the subject knowledge, teachers should have a thorough understanding of the syllabus and should also be conversant with the technical and academic terminology of the subject in English.
- A teacher should currently be teaching the subject at Grade 10 level.
- If a person has been a marker in previous years, he/she should have obtained a C grade or better in the subject concerned during the last marking session.

In the application for appointment of markers, teachers are required to indicate if they are teaching Grade 8, 9, and 11 apart from Grade 10. The Principal of the school is the first person to recommend or not to recommend the teacher for appointment as a Marker in the subjects he has applied for. The Principal as the Head of the school must determine, the number of teachers to release for marking in consideration of the workload at the school. In most cases, only teachers who are teaching Grade 10 should be released for marking, however, there are cases where the Ministry would request the Regional Directors to intervene and release some teachers due to shortage of teachers for marking.

Teachers are appointed as markers for a particular subject component or paper. Each component is marked for a number of days not exceeding 14 days. Thus, preventing teachers from being away from school for a long time. The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture has a marking programme that needs to be followed by teachers appointed as Markers. The marking programme starts from October each year and ends in the middle of December.

Markers report on a weekly basis depending on the marking programme. The marking programme is designed in consideration of other activities at



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the school level for which the Marker is still responsible for. These are activities as mentioned in your statement. The Ministry also ensures that a teacher is only appointed for one subject or component and not in multiple subjects as she/he must report back at the school.

Therefore, schools should not have problems in the administration and conducting of the Grade 8, 9 and 11 activities, as the principal has that authority of ensuring that the school is well managed, even if some teachers come for marking.

Honourable Members, for future developments, the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture did a pilot electronic marking in five Grade 10 subject. This is a new development in the marking paradigm which has more advantages than the current manual marking as it reduces costs on marking, number of days for marking and number of teachers to be appointed as markers for a particular subject.

As I am addressing this House today, a submission for the technical assistance is with the Office of the Public Service for consideration for full implementation of the project in five Grade 10 and three grade 12 subjects. The number of subjects for electronic marking will be increased every year. The most important aspect is the sustainability of the project after technical assistance and capacity building of our teachers who are Markers. The outcomes of the pilot electronic marking were presented to the National Examination, Assessment and Certification Board and they were pleased with the outcome. This will also shorten the examination and marking period.

Therefore, the Ministry of Education is not sitting idle but is busy exploring some alternatives to ensure that more teaching is achieved at school level, during the marking period.

**Can the Honourable Minister advertise vacancies for Permanent Markers so that anybody who qualifies can apply to become a permanent marker or teachers who qualify become Permanent non-**

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**teaching Marker, including Retired Teachers?**

Honourable Shikongo, as I have alluded earlier in my responses, not everybody can be a Marker as it may seem to be. Marking is a technical activity that requires a person to be competent and possess sound knowledge of the subject to be marked. It is an exercise that requires a person to be teaching or have taught the subject at a particular level. The person must have a teacher qualification and have majored in the subjects to be marked. The person must have sound knowledge of the syllabus content and be conversant with the topics as outlined in the syllabus.

Marking is an exercise that happens once in a year from October to middle December and for a maximum of 14 days for a subject only, as I said. Appointing Permanent Markers for a once-off period will not be a solution as the Public Service Regulations does not allow appointing a person permanently for week long intervals. Also, appointing any person who qualifies without having access to the teaching syllabus and being in contact with the subject content and the learners will be detrimental to the administration and quality of the national examinations. However, the Ministry is still using retired competent teachers as Markers, but the person should have been involved in the marking process before retirement, especially in the same subject.

Therefore, as marking is a once-off activity, it will not be cost effective to appoint a Permanent Marker who will demand payment from the Government even when they are not involved with marking. The exercise of Permanent Markers is not feasible at all, as no SADC Examination Body has ever applied it, we are living in a global world.

I would like to assure the House that the administration and conduction of the national examinations is progressing well and there is nothing to fear.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Are you done?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE:** Yes, I am done. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Deputy Minister, in future just try to respond to the point, that will be sufficient and secondly, the questions are numbered, so once you are with a one question, we refer revert to the Honourable Member who has raised the question to come back at you, but now you have covered both question 22 and 23 collectively.

However, in future, please do not do that. We appreciate the response and I think after this, nobody is going to ask a question about Markers again *(laughter)* Can I revert back to Honourable Shikongo.

Honourable Shikongo, do you want to come back to some of those questions? You have the Floor.

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**HON SHIKONGO:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. There are some points that I really need to get some clarity on, but I will make an appointment with the Honourable Deputy Minister to discuss that.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Wonderful. Thank you very much. In the interest of time, we move on.

Question 24 is that of Honourable Van Wyk, addressed to the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation. The Minister is here.

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BY HON VAN WYK  
HON NGHIMTINA**

**QUESTION 24:**

**HON MINISTER OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
EMPLOYMENT CREATION:**

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I want to thank Honourable Jan Van Wyk for the questions and the questions are as follows:

**When will your Ministry consider putting in place legislation that suit our Namibian conditions, by amending or replacing the mention Act in its totality?**

The *Employees' Compensation Act*, 1941 (Act 30 of 1941), which is currently applicable to the Namibian workforce and their dependants, was amended by the *Employees Compensation Amendment Act*, 1995 (Act 5 of 1995).

Social Security Commission is currently in the process of reviewing both the *Employees' Compensation Act*, 1941 (Act 30 of 1941) and the *Social Security Act*, 1994 (Act 34 of 1994) to bring about operational efficiencies.

**What is the possibility to increase the ceiling amount from N\$81,300.00 per annum to at least N\$100,000.00 per annum in the absence of the much needed legislation?**

Section 3 of the *Employees' Compensation Act*, 1941 defines an employee as – “Any person who has entered into a contract of service with an employer, including domestic employees employed in a private household and whose annual earnings do not exceed N\$300.00.”

However, by virtue of the same Section, persons earning more than N\$81,300.00 may be brought within the scope of the Act by a special agreement entered into between the employer of such persons and the Commission.

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This means that any person or class of persons, whose earnings are above N\$81,300.00 per annum, may be covered and brought within the scope of this Act, if the employer of such person or class of persons has made special arrangements with the Commission. As a matter of principle, the employer can make special arrangement to cover all their employees, regardless of their income. In fact, the Act creates room for persons whose annual earnings are above N\$81,300.00 to be brought within the ambit of the Act.

In furtherance of the objectives of the Funds, the Commission conducts annual actuarial valuations of its Funds to adjust the benefits and limits on employees' earnings. The present limit of N\$81,300.00 is a result of these valuations and will also be revised in future based on actuarial recommendation.

I trust that I have satisfactorily responded to Honourable Van Wyk's questions. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Honourable Van Wyk.

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**HON VAN WYK:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Thank you Honourable Minister, yes, I am really glad to receive this information and I believe that the workers out there are also on the lookout for these Amendments. Thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. The next is a Question from Honourable Dienda asked to the Minister of Presidential Affairs. I will call upon the Minister to respond to the question.

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BY HON DIENDA  
HON KAPOFI**

**QUESTION 25**

**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS:** Honourable Speaker, I am trying to locate my answers.

Comrade Speaker, I would like to respond to the questions raised by Honourable Dienda regarding the recognition and awarding of veteran status to qualifying persons in terms of the applicable Law. The questions are as follows:

**Can the Honourable Minister currently provide this august House with a full list of the names of people who have been granted veteran status?** That is question number one.

**Question 2: Can the Honourable Minister kindly provide this august House with a full detailed list of the names of people whose applications for veteran status were declined, as well as the reasons thereof?**

Comrade Speaker, my response will probably be similar to the two questions. Firstly, in terms of the applicable Law the application for veteran status is a voluntary exercise. Each person who may qualify chooses either to apply or not. Each person has his or her reasons for that decision. For the sake of respect for privacy and confidentiality, I do not believe it is appropriate for me to divulge the names of the persons who have either applied and have been granted veteran status or whose applications have been declined.

I believe that the Honourable Member would appreciate the respect for privacy is a Right which is protected by the Namibian Constitution. If there is a specific applicant who has requested the Honourable Member to look into his or her application, such applicant, together with the Honourable Member, may approach the Veteran Affairs Department to inquire about that kind of status.

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HON NAMOLOH**

I also believe that these response has covered both questions raised by Honourable Dienda. Alternatively, we will have to seek approval and consent of every member to allow us to publish their names. Honourable Speaker, I so submit.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Yes, we move on - Question 26 is also from Honourable Dienda asked to the Minister of Safety and Security. The Honourable Minister has the Floor.

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**QUESTION 26:**

**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker.

I would like to answer to the questions of Honourable Dienda in connection with someone who got pregnant while in custody of the Correctional Services. Yes, this story is true that someone became pregnant in prison.

Someone was in custody and the inmates happen to communicate with her, because there was a hole in between their cells through which they communicated (*laughter*) It is not funny. You want the truth, is it not? But then there was also a certain Constable who was working there and who got paid to help them meet.

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**HON MEMBER:** Did he also enter through the whole?

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BY HON DIENDA  
HON NAMOLOH**

**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** No, this person used the door now and brought them together, because he was paid. As we speak, this person is being investigated and is under suspension. He was suspended.

The man who impregnated the female is a Zimbabwean National who was arrested for drug trafficking and selling them in Namibia. The female inmate was detained for rape and human trafficking. This is what has happened, but there is another case.

When I went on my familiarisation tour, I found an inmate with a girl of maybe one and half- or two years and she declined to inform the prison authorities about who was responsible for her pregnancy and ultimately the father of the child. I asked her in confidence and she said – I will tell you if you come back, I do not want to reveal this because my life will be in danger as I am in this place. This is the second incident and I noticed this during my familiarisation tour. This is what has happened.

The second question is on the provision of condoms to the inmates. I do not know, if the Honourable Member is encouraging sodomy in this country. Sodomy is also an offence. If we keep on distributing condoms to inmates what are we encouraging? The majority of the inmates population do also not want condoms to be distributed. Why? Because there are people in prison who are married and their spouses are outside. If you distribute condoms in jails, does it mean that they have partners there?

This is something that is going to be very difficult for us. Of course, it is a policy - it is not the Ministry - it is a policy of the Government and it is Law that we cannot distribute condoms within the facilities and the SADC Members of Correctional Services also met and they have rejected the proposal of distributing condoms in prison facilities. I think I have answered the questions of Honourable Dienda.



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BY VAN DEN HEEVER  
HON SHANINGWA**

**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. We move on to Question 27, that of Honourable Van Den Heever directed to the Minister of Urban and Rural Development. Honourable Minister, you have the Floor.

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**QUESTION 27:**

**HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:**  
Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members and in particular, Honourable Van Den Heever. Is that right?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Yes.

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**HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:**  
Thank you very much my Sister. The questions, with their introductions are as follows:

**In order to enable these bodies to function optimally and to lift the undue inherited financial burden placed on them, would it be possible to write-off or alternatively, delay or defer the repayment of “*pre-independence loans*” until such time that the national housing crisis has been adequately addressed?**

The **answer** is as follows: It is true that some of the Local Authorities still have pre-independence loan repayment obligations and that such presents a serious financial burden on them and constrains the ability of the concerned Local Authorities to deliver on basic services. In principle, yes, everything is possible. However, prudence requires that a careful analysis of the situation is first done for each of the cases before a decision can be made of whether or not there are valid grounds for a possible writing-off.

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HON SHANINGWA**

My Ministry has already written letters to Local Authorities for those who have this problem to provide proof thereof. After our analysis of this information, we will obviously have to submit the cases that we find merit in, to Treasury for final consideration and decision. There may also be a need to consult the Attorney-General and Auditor-General on these or some of the cases.

Having said that, I do, however, not see a direct connection between the pre-independence loans and what the Honourable Member called the “*national housing crisis*.” I acknowledge that we have a backlog in the development and supply of affordable housing in the country, which requires, and is being given urgent attention, and also that Local Authorities, as per the *Local Authorities Act*, 1992 are expected and can play an important role. But in my view, the inability of Local Authorities of Local Authorities to build houses for leasing or sale is not necessarily as a result of the pre-independence loans. There are other more direct and diverse constraining factors most of which are already known to many of us.

Your other question:

**What is the status on the proposed reform of the Local Authorities structures?**

**Answer:** Since initiation by Cabinet in 2005, the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development has been driving the Local Authority Reform initiative. While the question from the Honourable Member refers to a “*Local Authorities Reform Policy signed in July 2013*,” which I was not able to establish from my enquiry and reading up, I agree that the various work and consultations spearheaded by the Ministry resulted in the existing “*Local Government Position Paper*,” which was tabled before the Cabinet Committee on Overall Policy and Priorities, (CCOPP) in late 2013. A need for further final consultations was identified and the Committee directed the Ministries of Urban and Rural Development and Finance consult each other and reach common grounds on some of the

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issues - six issues to be specific, especially the financial implications of the proposed reforms.

My colleague, the Minister of Finance and I, with our respective teams met on these matters two days ago and we have reached common grounds and we will be reporting back to CCOPP on what we have agreed on the six (6) issues that were referred to us by the Committee in due course.

Honourable Member, I hope I have successfully responded to the questions and believe me, we are hard at work to get it right. Thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Member, you have the Floor.

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**HON VAN DEN HEEVER:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would like to thank the Honourable Minister for acknowledging that there is something to be done about the *pre-independence loans* and I can even come to your office, because I do have some papers on it, as well as on the Reform Policy, since the stakeholders' meeting took place in 2014, and I do not know whether there was any feedback provided on the document as such - because there were so many proposals made on that policy.

I will make a turn at the office of the Minister. Thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. I encourage that direct communication there.

Honourable Members, Question 28 is that of Honourable Smit asked to the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture. Honourable Deputy Minister, you have the Floor.

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BY SMIT  
HON NGHIPONDOKA**

**QUESTION 28:**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, I will run through the answers to Honourable Nico Smit's questions.

**What is the current situation with regard to the availability of new mother tongue textbooks for teachers and learners across the country?**

I would, firstly, like to inform Honourable Smit that the junior curriculum that has been implemented now, is not a totally new curriculum; it is a revised curriculum where some changes have been affected in some syllabus content. Thus, schools can still use the old books while cognisant of changes in the syllabus and innovate accordingly.

Otherwise, the books are still being delivered to schools.

**What measures are being taken to ensure that a delay in the provision of mother tongue textbooks, if any, is being addressed and resolved to ensure that outstanding materials are delivered as soon as possible?**

As I mentioned previously, the textbooks are being delivered in schools. However, I would like to inform Honourable Smit that the delay, which was experienced this year was not caused by administrative issues, but it was a technical one.

Textbooks are developed and translated or versioned by the publishers. It is a well-known fact that the expertise in African Languages is limited in this country, because the development of African Languages has been neglected for a very long time. Translators took longer time to translate the textbooks from English to African Languages, because they also have to invent new words and/or concepts in the process of translation. Knowing this challenge, the Ministry had to do quality assurance of the

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work of the publishers. The quality of translated textbooks varied from very good to very bad. Therefore, the Ministry has to spend time re-translating the textbooks that were already translated by publishers. The textbooks, which were properly translated were verified quickly, but there were those requiring major work to be done, and these are the ones that caused delays. It is only after that that publishers printed and distributed the books to schools.

I would also like to inform this House that as much as we may argue that we know our languages and we have enough expertise in the country, the type of language that we use on a daily basis might not be at an acceptable level in terms of orthography and standardisation of words and terminologies.

As country, we really need to invest in the development of our African Languages and this has to be done urgently.

**Does the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture have any plan or measure in place to ensure that sufficient time is available for teachers and learners to work through the entire curriculum, and if so, what are these?**

The Ministry develops a curriculum policy document known as the Curriculum Guide for Basic Education, which stipulates, the period allocation for each subject and the guidelines for the implementation of the entire curriculum. The Ministry also develops syllabuses, which provide guidelines on how to teach and assess learning. In addition, the Ministry develops subject policies and manuals for teachers so that teachers are informed about the expectations of each subject syllabus. Teachers develop their own schemes of work, which guide them in the preparation for their lessons and thus, determine how much time to spend on what concept.

The teacher support structures at regional levels are there to monitor curriculum implementation. They are responsible for curriculum

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management at regional and schools level, respectively.

**Is there a sort of a plan or measure in place to address the current situation within the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture as it relates to planning and implementation?**

As far as the curriculum planning and implementation is concerned, the Ministry has developed a policy that aligns curriculum development and textbook development. This policy has an implementation plan detailing the review of the curriculum of each school phase and the development of textbooks. We are following this implementation plan and so far it is working well.

Honourable Speaker, the last question:

**How do you plan to lay a solid foundation in early childhood development if one of third of a school year is interrupted by a failure on the part of Government to ensure that the requisite materials have been delivered to learners?**

Honourable Member, It would not agree with you that one third of the school year is interrupted, because as I said, before the junior primary curriculum that is being implemented is not a totally new curriculum. Teachers received English version textbooks in January and in addition, schools have “old” textbooks that are still relevant. Those books did not become obsolete, therefore, we are not waiting for the delivery of books before we start teaching.

By receiving the new textbooks, schools will have more textbooks than before, especially in African Languages. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Let us move on to question

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS  
BY SMIT  
HON HINDA**

number 29 that of Honourable Smit directed to the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation. Now, that obviously falls away until such a time that the Deputy Prime Minister is here.

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**HON MEMBER:** But the Deputy Minister is here.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Oh, the Deputy Minister is here? Deputy Minister you have the Floor.

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**QUESTION 29:**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION:** Honourable Speaker, I rise to answer the questions as posed by Honourable Nico Smit on the situation in Burundi.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Yes, you have the Floor.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION:** On the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 2015, the Ruling Party of Burundi - the National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for Defence of Democracy announced the nomination for the Presidential candidate in the person of the incumbent President for the election, which was then set for the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2015.

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Honourable Speaker, I wish to actually move that we postpone the response on these questions because when it was prepared the situation was different, but the election in Burundi has taken place and the situation is different at the moment. The AU has to pronounce itself, therefore, I would wish to move that we postpone the response and the question to next Thursday. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I think there is an understanding and appreciation of the fact that there are new developments in that country almost on a daily basis and we cannot commit ourselves, we need to be updated.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
AND COOPERATION:** Since the AU is still to pronounce itself, I think it is advisable to withdraw this statement (*Intervention*)

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much and I am sure that the Honourable Members will appreciate that, when you are ready, you will come back and make a Ministerial Statement, that will go a long way in responding to some of the issues raised. Thank you very much.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
AND COOPERATION:** Thank you for your understanding, Honourable Speaker.

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**FIRST READING - MARINE RESOURCES  
AMENDMENT BILL  
HON ESAU**

**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much and I am sure that members would appreciate that. When you are ready to come back and make a Ministerial statement, that will go a long way in responding to some of the issues raised. Thank you very much.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
AND COOPERATION:** Honourable Speaker, thank you once more, for understanding.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Well, we move on. The Notice of a Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources. Does the Honourable Minister Move that the Bill be now introduced?

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**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:** I Move so, Comrade Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Who seconds? Any objections? Agreed to. Will the Honourable Minister please table the Bill? Thank you very much. The Secretary will now read the Bill a First Time.

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**FIRST READING - MARINE  
RESOURCES AMENDMENT BILL [B.7 – 2015]**

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**SECRETARY:** *Marine Resources Amendment Bill [B.7 – 2015]..*

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**SECOND READING - MARINE RESOURCES  
AMENDMENT BILL  
HON ESAU**

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

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**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:** I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**SECOND READING - MARINE  
RESOURCES AMENDMENT BILL [B.7 – 2015]**

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

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**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:**  
Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker.

Honourable Members of Parliament, I stand before this august House to table the Amendment Bill to the *Marine Resources Act*, 2000 (Act 27 of 2000). It suffice to indicate before you, Honourable Members, that global challenges both in terms of climate conditions and marine eco-systems have heralded some changes in our domestic legislative and policy frameworks of many coastal Nations to best respond to these critically important matters.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, Namibia, as a signatory to some major International Treaties, which seeks to uphold, protect and responsibly harvest marine and related products on a sustainable basis for the benefit of present and future generations, is equally duty bound to

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HON ESAU**

interrogate, review and realign its authorising legal framework in order to help optimum alignment between its available marine resources and the international economic development agenda.

The legislative framework governing fishing activities in Namibia's Marine Sectors is embodied in the Namibia's Marine Resources Policy - *Towards Responsible Development of the Marine Resources Sector*, which came into operation in August 2004, and the *Marine Resources Act*, 2000 (Act 27 of 2000) that came into force in 2000 and its Regulations, as set out in the Regulations Relating to the Exploitation of Marine Resources Schedule, No. 241 of 2001. The *Marine Resources Act*, 2000 was enacted to "*provide for the conservation of the marine ecosystem and the responsible utilization, conservation, protection and promotion of marine resources on a sustainable basis; for that purpose to provide for the exercise of control over marine resources; and to provide for matters connected therewith.*"

The Act has been in operation for one and a half decade now and has never been amended or revised. However, the Fishery Sector is very dynamic and ever changing in response to the global trading climate as well as local market demand. Equally, it is imperative that the Act responds to these dynamics and national interest as articulated by His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia. In his inaugural address, plus recent statement on the occasion of his 100 days in Office, our President His Excellency emphasised and reiterated the focus of the Government in addressing the socio-economic gaps that exist in our society, fight abject poverty and high income inequality.

These, therefore, necessitate that the Laws administered by the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, which is one of the economic Ministries, should be aligned to Government goals and objectives of:

- to fight poverty and reduce inequalities and disparities;

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**SECOND READING - MARINE RESOURCES  
AMENDMENT BILL  
HON ESAU**

- to stimulate sustainable economic growth and diversification;
- to promote job creation; and
- improved service delivery.

Further, the *Marine Resources Act* needs to be streamlined to support the Government Policies and Strategies of “Growth at Home,” aimed at accelerating industrialisation in the Commodity-Based Sectors of our economy as catalyst to growth and economic transformation, such as fish processing, which translates into greater value addition.

The Amendment will therefore create policy space for the Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources to identify entities that are diligently contributing to the above mentioned governmental objective, Policies and Strategies so that such entities may be incentivised with special quotas aimed at cementing such initiatives that positively contribute to our governmental objectives. These cardinal objects could not be effectively achieved should our *Marine Resources Act*, 2000 (Act 27 of 2000) be maintained in its current form.

The current *Marine Resources Act* has, its primary focus, resources management for the purpose of stock recovery. While this is commendable and should be maintained, the Act needs to take into account the socio-economic needs and aspiration of our Namibian people. Therefore, it is important that Amendments are introduced to the *Marine Resources Act* to give Government scope to actively pursue policy decisions aimed at addressing the socio-economic needs of our people. In addition, there is a need to amend the Law to reflect Government Policy and Objectives of the use of our marine resources for poverty alleviation and other Social Programmes.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, Amendment to the Act is

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AMENDMENT BILL  
HON ESAU**

required to allow the Minister, in consultation with Cabinet, some scope particularly with regard to abnormal situations that warrant Government intervention.

There is also a need to make it possible for the State to respond to the urgent needs of our citizenry in distress, for example, due to flood or drought. The Government has to be in a position to meet such needs in the form of fish for food, if we are able to keep a part of the set Total Allowable Catch (TAC) in reserve for such natural calamities that might be unforeseen.

The Amendments introduced by the Bill also take into account the recent increased numbers of right holders in the Fishing Industry from 155 to 338 right holders at the moment. This is aimed at broad-based and maximum participation and sharing of wealth from our natural resources, which will in turn lead to the realisation of the reduction in inequalities and poverty alleviation. Despite these increase in the number of Rights Holders, the resource has relatively remained stable, it thus requires greater flexibility in its management approach. Therefore, the Amendment observes the Marine Resources Policy of managing and allocating TACs to Right Holders in different Industries to ensure sustainable and diverse utilisation of the resources while enhancing Fisheries Specific Sectors and our national economy.

The current Provisions of the *Marine Resources Act* of 2000, are deficient towards allocation of quotas to Non-right Holders for whatever purposes. While the Act will maintain that the harvesting of marine resources for commercial purposes should be exclusively reserved for those with Harvesting Rights, the Ministry views it necessary to allow allocation of quotas for non-commercial purposes to Non-right Holders as well, like the Fish Consumption Trust, provided that such allocation is aimed at the furtherance of governmental objectives and is in the public interest.

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HON HINDA**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in addition, the proposed Amendment provides for the exercise of “*sovereign rights of the State for the purpose of exploring and exploiting marine resources and further control over marine resources in accordance with provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (UNCLOS) of which Namibia is a party; and for matters incidental thereto.*” We are, therefore, trying to bring the *Marine Resources Act* in line with UNCLOS.

It is a matter of the UNCLOS that a State shall exercise Sovereign Rights over its marine resources and the question of ownership over resources as per Article 100 of our Namibian Constitution and this Amendment amplifies such Provisions dealing with marine resources, which is currently inadequately provided for in the *Marine Resources Act, 2000* (Act 27 of 2000).

Honourable Speaker, allow me to submit, to this August House, the *Marine Resources Amendment Bill* [B.7 – 2015] for consideration and speedy approval. I thank you, Comrade Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. There you have it. Any further discussions? Yes, Honourable Hinda, you have the Floor.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I just want to call on the House its indulgence, to postpone the discussion on the Bill until next week Tuesday.

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**CODE OF CONDUCT AND DECLARATION  
OF DECLARATIONS MEMBERS' INTEREST  
HON PROF KASINGO**

**HON SPEAKER:** Until next week, Tuesday? Is that proper, do we agree to that? Yes, the discussion on the Bill is postponed until next week, Tuesday, usual time.

The Secretary will read the Order of the Day.

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**CONSIDERATION OF CODE OF CONDUCT  
AND  
DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTEREST**

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**HON SECRETARY:** Consideration of Code of Conduct and Declaration of Members' Interest.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Yes, I will call upon the Deputy Speaker.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Yes, thank you for the Floor Honourable Speaker. Due to the importance of this item and the time factor, I wonder as to whether we will do justice to it within fifteen minutes because it is an Agenda Point and we did not Move for the extension of time. Henceforth, I would like to ask the Honourable Speaker to save us so that we can postpone this for thorough discussions because I do not think we are going to do justice on it.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Well, I was going to allow the Deputy Speaker to say something and then we postpone, and then she will carry on Tuesday.

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**CODE OF CONDUCT AND DECLARATION  
OF DECLARATIONS MEMBERS' INTEREST  
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Speaker, thank you for giving me the Floor to table for discussions and adoption, by this august House, the Code of Conduct and the Declaration of Interest Forms, for us as representatives of the people to declare our assets as required from us in terms of the Laws made by us.

Following the discussions of the said document during the Fifth Parliament in this Chamber, the Secretary of the National Assembly and his staff incorporated the changes requested by us during the discussions and also made some changes without changing what was agreed upon. In the same vein, the Privileges Committee of the Fifth Parliament also met and discussed the document and made some changes that were needed.

I am, therefore, presenting to you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the revised Code of Conduct and Declaration of Interest Forms for discussions and eventually, the approval. I so submit and I now have the honour of tabling the document.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Of course, due to the time constraint, we will not get into the substantive discussion of the document. Yes, Honourable Chief Whip, you have the Floor.

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**HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE:** Honourable Speaker, on that note, may I ask for the indulgence of the House to postpone this Debate until next week Wednesday, and that will be on behalf of the Attorney-General, Honourable Shanghala. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objection to the postponement? Agreed to? So



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**ADJOURNMENT  
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

decided. The discussion is postponed until Wednesday the usual time. So decided.

That basically brings us to the end of this Session. There are a lot of interesting changes that have taken place, so may I now adjourn the House until next week Tuesday, the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2015. Did we say Tuesday or Wednesday? Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of July, the Year of our Lord - 2015.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:35 UNTIL 2015.07.07 AT 14:30**

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