

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)

Dr S Kuugongelwa-Amadhila (Ms)	<i>(Prime Minister)</i>
Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwah	<i>(Deputy Prime Minister & 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 & Forestry)</i>
Ms K Hanse-Himarwa	<i>(Education, Arts & 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 & National Service)</i>
Mr A !Naruseb	<i>(Works and Transport)</i>

Bishop Z Kameeta (Mr)	<i>(Poverty Eradication & 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 & Communication Technology)</i>
Mr P Shifeta	<i>(Environment and Tourism)</i>
Mr T Alweendo	<i>(Economic Planning & 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 & Cooperation)</i>
Mr E !Nawatisseb	<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 & Social Welfare)</i>
Ms P Boois	<i>(Poverty Eradication & 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>
Dr P Mushelenga (Mr)	<i>(International Relations and Cooperation)</i>
Ms A Tjongarero	<i>(Sport, Youth & 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 & 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 & 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 (Speaker)
Dr S Kuugongelwa-Amadhila (Ms) (Prime Minister)
Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwah (Deputy Prime Minister)
Dr S Ankama (Mr) (Deputy Minister)
Ms P Beukes (Deputy Minister)
Mr J Ekandjo (Minister)
Mr B Esau (Minister)
Prof L Kasingo (Ms) (Deputy Speaker)
Ms J Kavetuna (Deputy Minister)
Dr A Kawana (Mr) (Minister)
Ms S Makgone (Deputy Minister)
Ms A Manombe-Ncube (Deputy Minister)
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 Iipinge-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	
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 FEBRUARY 2016**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have three announcements to make. The first one is to welcome all of you, Members of Parliament, as well as congratulate the newly elected Members of the National Council. I wish you strength and wisdom from above.

Having said that, allow me to recognise amongst ourselves – I was told that the Founding President of the Republic of Namibia and the Father of the Namibian Nation would be here – as well as the Vice-President of the Republic of Namibia and the Former Chairperson of the National Council.

Honourable Members, I wish to announce that today the 09th of February 2016, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia, Dr Hage Geingob, will officially open the Third Session of the Sixth Parliament of the Republic of Namibia.

Honourable Members, I now suspend the Business of the House and ask leave to go and invite His Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia to the Chamber, accompanied by the Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly and the Chairlady of the National Council.

In the mean time please remain standing until the His Excellency the President's procession enters the Chambers. So agreed.

BUSINESS SUSPENDED

09 February 2016

**WELCOMING REMARKS
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

WELCOMING REMARKS

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, be seated. We begin with this important event. His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia and First Lady, Madam Monica Geingos; Honourable Members of Parliament; His Excellency Dr Nickey Iyambo, Vice-President of the Republic of Namibia; Right Honourable Dr Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Prime Minister; Honourable Margaret Mensah-Williams, Chairperson of the National Council and Mr Williams; His Lordship Peter Shivute, Chief Justice His Lordship Petrus Damaseb, Deputy Chief Justice and Members of the Judiciary; Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for International Relations and Cooperation; Honourable Laura McLeod-Katjirua, Governor of the Khomas Region; Honourable Gurirab, Former Speaker of the National Assembly and Mrs Guriras; Honourable Asser Kapere, Former Chairperson of the National Council and Madam Kapere; Your Worship Mr. Muesee Kazapua, Mayor of the City of Windhoek; Your Excellencies Ambassadors and High Commissioners and, Members of the Diplomatic Corps; Distinguished Service Chiefs; Mrs. Rosemary Jane Katjavivi, my dear wife; Eminent Invited Guests; Fellow Namibians; Media Practitioners; Ladies and Gentlemen;

On behalf of the Chairperson of the National Council, myself and Members of both Houses of Parliament, I would like to welcome you all to this Joint Session of the Official Opening of Parliament, 2016.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank Honourable Loide Kasingo, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, for presiding over the first phase of the proceedings of this opening of Parliament.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, Article 63 (1) of the Constitution states that – “*The National Assembly, as the principal legislative authority in and over Namibia, shall have the power, subject to this Constitution, to make and repeal laws for the peace and good*

09 February 2016

**WELCOMING REMARKS
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

government of the country in the best interest of the people of Namibia.” These functions are, *ipso facto*, also extended to the National Council under Articles 74 and 75 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia. These Constitutional provisions include the oversight function of the two Houses of Parliament, which is an important dimension of our democracy. This provides for checks and balances between the three organs of the State – which is the hallmark of a true democracy. And ours, ladies and gentlemen, is a true and vibrant democracy!

In keeping with the our oversight role, we in Parliament fully support the President’s call to use service agreements as a benchmark upon which senior officials should set targets and indicators of success upon which their performance can be monitored and evaluated. Indeed, this is something that needs to be replicated in all our various structures!

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a Constitutional requirement that each year at the opening of Parliament, the three organs of the State; The Executive, Legislature and Judiciary, are jointly in attendance. Equally, in terms of Rule 15(d) of the Standing Rules and Orders of the National Assembly, the President of the Republic, delivers an Opening Address to the Joint Session of Parliament. True to the democratic values that are ingrained in our parliamentary system, we are standing here today, to re-affirm that long-standing tradition.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, there are three things I would like to highlight during this official opening:

- Why the chosen theme;
- The coinciding of Opening of Parliament with Constitution Day; and
- Why meet in the Parliament Gardens.

The theme of this Third Session of the Sixth Parliament is – ***“Striving Towards Gender Equality and Raising Awareness Against Gender-Based Violence.”*** Given the unacceptable level of gender-based violence

09 February 2016

**WELCOMING REMARKS
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

in Namibia, this theme will be our lodestar throughout the year. It is essential that the entire country is united against gender-based violence.

The theme is also very befitting in the sense that the governing SWAPO Party has, for the first time, a fifty-fifty gender representation in the National Assembly. This commitment to gender equality perspective is shared by other Political Parties in Parliament, and is equally shared by many parliaments around the world. We should be proud that we are ahead of many countries in the equal representation of women in Parliament. We need to deepen that commitment to other areas of society. I take this opportunity to present to this House, this sculpture right before us entitled '*Helping Hands*,' by a local artist, Mr. Ismael Shivute, which is symbolising our theme of the year.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, as you are aware, the 9th of February is the Constitution Day of the Republic of Namibia, an important Day in the history of Namibia. This year the opening of Parliament has coincided with Constitution Day. It is the responsibility of Parliament to uphold the Constitution of the country, therefore, this coincidence is timely.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, one may wonder why we are meeting in the Parliament Gardens. The answer is obvious to many of us. With the increase in the number of Members of Parliament in both Houses of Parliament, it has become impossible to accommodate all of us within the National Assembly Chamber during events that bring both Houses of Parliament together. Nevertheless, we are pleased to hold this important National event within the premises of Parliament despite the obvious challenges we face in this regard.

Of course, this brings us to the need to have a larger and more appropriately designed Parliament Building. As has been indicated before, the proposed new Parliament Building will create a better working environment where both Houses of Parliament can work efficiently together. Furthermore, Members of the National Assembly have increased from 78 to 104, while those of the National Council have

09 February 2016

OPENING ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GEINGOB

increased from 26 to 42. As a result of this, we also have a deficit of office space for the Parliamentarians and support staff, as well as a lack of secure vehicle parking slots. Therefore, we cannot escape the need for an appropriate National Parliament building in line with other key institutions of vital significance to national governance in the country.

I now have the honour and distinct pleasure to invite you, Your Excellency, Dr. Hage Gottfried Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia, to deliver your address for the opening of Parliament.

Your Excellency, I now have the honour and distinct pleasure to, in terms of Rule 15(d) of our Standing Rules and Orders, invite you, Your Excellency Dr Hage Gottfried Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia, to deliver your address for the Opening of Parliament. Your Excellency, you have the Floor.

OPENING ADDRESS

HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GEINGOB: Speaker of the National Assembly, Professor Peter Katjavivi; Chairperson of the National Council, Honourable Margaret Mensah-Williams; Right Honourable Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia and Leader of Government Business in the House, Right Honourable Doctor Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila; Leader of the Official Opposition, Honourable McHenry Venaani; Honourable Members of Parliament;

Now that I have recognized the official role players in the Legislature, let me also acknowledge some of our distinguished invited guests to this occasion.

Vice-President of the Republic of Namibia, Comrade Nickey Iyambo; Your Honour Chief Justice, Peter Shivute; Madam Katjavivi; Mr.

09 February 2016

**OPENING ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GEINGOB**

Williams; Madam First Lady; Distinguished Service Chiefs; Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps; Members of the media; Ladies and Gentlemen;

As per common practice in Commonwealth Countries, I am deeply honoured to open the Third Session of the Sixth Parliament of our Republic.

As you may be aware, exactly one week ago on the 2nd of February, I presented my first address to Cabinet this year, and by so doing opened the Executive Branch of our Government. Later in the same week, I addressed the Judicial Branch of our Government at the opening of the 2016 Legal Year at the Supreme Court.

Today, I am here to complete the “*trinity*” by opening the Legislative Branch of our Government.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, it is no coincidence that “*trinity*” or in other words the three organs of State function perfectly in our country. Indeed the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary encapsulate the separation of powers in our Republic. This is the pride of our democracy.

Today, in this country, we are also witnessing another “*trinity*,” which symbolizes just how far we have come as an independent and democratic nation. We have the Founding Father of our Republic, Comrade Sam Nujoma. He is the man who led the fight for Independence and laid a solid foundation of our Namibian House. This is the foundation of peace, security and democracy that we enjoy to date. He was succeeded by Former President Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba who stabilized the situation, solidifying and consolidating our peace.

They have been followed by me, the newly elected third President of Namibia, who has been charged with the responsibility of bringing prosperity to the people. There are not many countries in the world where one can witness all former Heads of State and the current President living

09 February 2016

**OPENING ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GEINGOB**

peacefully in the same country and working together. That is how we are building the Namibian House.

The trinity continues. Comrade Speaker, you are the third Speaker of the House, following on from our First and Founding Speaker, Comrade Mosé Tjitendero – May His Soul Rest in Peace. He laid the foundation of this House. He was followed by another illustrious Son of Namibia, Comrade Theo-Ben Gurirab and now you, Comrade Speaker.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, while on the issue of “*trinities*”, let me turn to an issue which has been ablaze on social media, namely the new Parliament building. I have received numerous messages from people imploring me to halt the construction of the building.

In this connection let us all be reminded of the separation of powers between State Organs which I alluded to earlier. In terms of this, each of these State Organs has to act independently, and that is good because it provides for checks and balances in our democracy. To underscore this point, the Executive cannot interfere in the Legislature, just as the Legislature cannot interfere in the day-to-day operations of the Executive or the Judiciary. This separation of powers dictates that the building of a new Parliament is a matter of the Legislature and not a matter of the Executive.

Therefore, calls for the abandoning of plans to build a new Parliament building should be, if at all, directed to the Speaker of Parliament and not to the Presidency.

Furthermore, I have noted with concern that some of these calls are emanating from some Honourable Members of Parliament. Thus, perhaps there is a need for an open debate on this matter in the Parliament. That being said, I would like to note that since Independence, Government has always prioritised developmental issues.

That is why the bulk of our budgetary resources, has always and continues to be directed towards the Education and Health Sectors.

09 February 2016

**OPENING ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GEINGOB**

Construction of buildings that are symbols of key institutions has never enjoyed priority over developmental objectives. That is why the new State House and the Supreme Court were constructed only two decades after our Independence.

In the context of preserving our Constitutional values that we are lauded for in the International Community, three things are of importance, namely processes, systems and institutions. While Namibia is leading in this regard, let me briefly elaborate on these fundamental concepts.

Firstly, we need processes that are inclusive and transparent. We need processes that will instil confidence in our democracy, and that will minimize the risks of rumour mongering and conspiracy theories. For instance, our electoral processes must be transparent and above board so that those who lose elections admit that they have been defeated in a transparent way and do not complain and run to the Courts.

We want to achieve the same with regards to our tendering system. That is why we have cancelled tenders, due to processes and procedures that were questionable.

Secondly, we need robust systems that will ensure that service delivery is not compromised. For instance, if there is a dispute regarding election results the system must remain intact and the public service should continue to deliver goods and services to the people.

Thirdly, when all else fails, we need strong institutions that will have the final say. An example of this is the infamous 2000 United States election between Former President George W. Bush and then Vice-President Al Gore when there was a dispute regarding the counting of ballot papers. Despite the furore, President Bill Clinton was still in office and there were no armoured vehicles in the streets. The process of recounting was transparent and televised for all to witness. When all else failed, the matter was taken to the Courts, Al Gore, having received more popular votes admitted defeat to President George W. Bush as the latter had won using the Electoral College System which is unique to the USA.

09 February 2016

**OPENING ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GEINGOB**

Similarly, when we quarrelled about election results following the 2009 elections, the systems continued to function smoothly while the challenge was taken to the Court. That is what I am talking about when I say we need processes, systems and institutions to preserve our constitutional values.

I had the opportunity, last week to, Judicial year, where I reaffirmed my unwavering commitment to protect the independence of the Judiciary.

I am glad that I am standing here today to open one of the most important legs upon which our democracy rests, namely our Parliament.

As we are gathered here in Parliament – the ultimate symbol of our commitment to democratic rule – we must bear in mind that without a collective spirit, in which we look out for each other and the wellbeing of each and every Namibian citizen, we can never achieve true democracy.

Therefore, when I refer to the spirit of *Harambee* it is not a mere slogan, but it is a call on the people of this Nation to adopt an ethos of unity, devoid of selfish ambition, and to pull in one direction for the sake of National prosperity.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, there is much for us to celebrate, 26 years after Independence.

Our democracy has withstood several challenges and continues to be a beacon of hope and motivation, not only on the African continent, but in the world as a whole.

Our democracy provides a solid foundation on which we can build a Nation of peace, unity and prosperity. We are well aware that democracy alone is not the panacea to hunger and poverty. This is why I have said and continue to say that the people do not eat democracy. As elected representatives of the people, our responsibility is to ensure that we make use of our democratic platforms to actualize the aspirations of the electorate.

09 February 2016

**OPENING ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GEINGOB**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, the year 2015 can be described as a call to arms. It was the year in which as President, I endeavoured to rally the Nation behind a shared Vision through themes such as, *War on Poverty, War against corruption, No Namibian Must feel left out and Harambee*. I am certain that by embracing these themes and applying them to our policy making decisions, one day we will be able to eradicate poverty.

In 2016, it is time to turn words into reality, it is time to implement and therefore I refer to this year as the *Year of Implementation*. The eyes of the Nation are on us. I repeat, the eyes of the Nation are on us.

As the Legislature, you have a key role to play in our development efforts. You represent the platform of inclusive political dialogue and national debate and are, therefore, crucial in spearheading Namibia's developmental agenda.

At this juncture I would like to commend the Members of Parliament for the work done last year. Many of the laws that were passed by Parliament have gone a long way in improving the livelihoods of our citizens. Congratulations for your good work.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, I would now like to focus specifically on the issue of poverty and the role that Parliament can play in the war that we are waging against this crippling scourge.

As Parliament, you represent the voices of the poor and the disadvantaged people. I would like to quote Article 45 of the Namibian Constitution which says, "*The Members of the National Assembly shall be representative of all the people and shall in the performance of their duties be guided by the objectives of this Constitution, by the public interest and by their conscience.*"

Therefore, every day you come to Parliament, you carry with you the hopes, fears and dreams of hundreds of people who look upon you with the expectant hope that you will speak and argue on their behalf, guided

09 February 2016

**OPENING ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GEINGOB**

by the Namibian Constitution, their interest and your conscience.

Having spoken of the Constitution, since today is Constitution Day, let us pause and thank the founders of our Republic for having given us a splendid Constitution. I am glad to see many of you here today, who spearheaded the process, and I am proud of having been Chairperson of the Drafting Committee. In the same vein, let me acknowledge the efforts of one of our citizens, Mr. Chris Jacobie, who single handily fought for this day, Constitution Day, to become a national day. So, happy Constitution Day.

As we are commemorating Constitution Day, we must raise the level of debate. We must look at the way we can strengthen our institutions. For one, the debate should not focus on trivia. Rather it should be directed towards improving the democratic institutions that we so dearly hold in our hearts. This is what so many Namibians fought for.

In this regard, there is yet another “*trinity*” I would like to refer to. On this day 48 years ago, a stalwart and icon of our struggle for independence, Comrade Andimba Toivo Ya Toivo was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment to be served at the infamous Robben Island Prison. It was at this trial where he famously said – “*We are Namibians, and not South Africans. We do not now, and will not in the future, recognise your right to govern us; to make Laws for us, in which we had no say; to treat our country as if it was your property and us as if you are our masters. We have always regarded South Africa as an intruder in our country. This is how we have always felt and this is how we feel now and it is on this basis that we have faced this trial.*” Moving words indeed.

It is due to the steadfastness and courage of heroes such as Comrade Ya Toivo, that today we can celebrate living in an independent Namibia, where we govern ourselves and make our own laws. I, therefore, congratulate this icon for his strength of character and courage.

Today is also a day we recognize the maternity of humanity, our women. Under the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia we are all obliged to

09 February 2016

**OPENING ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GEINGOB**

protect and defend human rights and the lives of all our people, especially the rights and lives of women and girl children. We, therefore, recognize the important role played by women who are the pillars of strength on which our Nation rests. In this regard, as we recognize the importance of our women, let me take this opportunity to congratulate the newly elected Chairperson of the National Council, Honourable Margaret Mensah-Williams.

This represents another *trinity*, as we celebrate Constitution Day, the same day one of our icons who fought for the principles encapsulated by the Constitution was sentenced to prison and the same day we acknowledge our first female Chairperson of the National Council.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, because of what I mentioned above, I have a strong belief in our Constitutional Democracy for; we have seen that when citizens lose hope in their constitutions, institutions and in elected officials, they place their hope elsewhere and this is usually to the detriment of peace, solidarity and national unity. We should, therefore, ensure that our Parliament is an institution where the voices and preferences of the people, especially the poor, should be represented. In this year of implementation, our Parliamentary Committees will have their work cut out in investigating several poverty related issues and in monitoring and evaluating our policies and national development plans to ensure that they are having the desired effect in the wider war against poverty.

I have great faith and belief in your ability to carry out these vital responsibilities.

I am encouraged by the fact that you will be debating on a number of crucial Bills during this Session of Parliament amongst them being:

1. *Appropriation Bill*
2. *Agronomic Industry Bill*
3. *Business and Intellectual Property Bill*
4. *Child Justice Bill*

09 February 2016

**OPENING ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GEINGOB**

5. *Estate Agents and Property Developer Bill*
6. *Land Bill*
7. *Marital Property Bill*
8. *Namibia Industrial Development Agency*
9. *Property Valuers Profession Amendment Bill*
10. *Whistle-blowers Protection Bill*

On the issue of whistle-blowing, as an avid football supporter, I have seen many referees or “*whistle-blowers*” blowing wrong whistles. Those that watched the recent match between Chelsea and Manchester United can attest to this. So let us ensure that when we blow our whistles, we blow for the right reasons and not to settle scores.

The Bills I have just listed are crucial in our efforts to combat a number of burning issues that we are currently faced with, namely; poverty, violence against women and children, inability of local entrepreneurs to participate in the business market, rising cost of housing and unavailability of land. I, therefore, urge you to debate these Bills knowing that you are not speaking on your own behalves, but on behalf of the country’s poor, the country’s young and old and the country’s women, men and children.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, my main role here today is not to delve into the policies of Government and to provide account of our achievements or shortcomings. That task I shall carry out during my State of the Nation Address. Let me, however, just state, for now, that the State of Our Nation is sound. We have a growing and a stable economy, and we continue to be favourably rated by international rating agencies. Just recently, Namibia stepped up ten places in the Corruption Perception Index rankings by Transparency International and is currently ranked as the 4th least corrupt country in Africa.

Unlike what some wanted to portray, the Namibian Government is not broke. To the contrary, we are a credit worthy Nation and the long-term outlook for Namibia is positive. This Government will continue to build on the legacy of fiscal discipline and prudence that was built over twenty-five years. Furthermore, within less than one year, we have demonstrated

09 February 2016

**OPENING ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GEINGOB**

that we mean business when it comes to poverty eradication, promotion of transparency and building an inclusive Namibian House. This assertion is supported by the following actions.

We have significantly increased the old age pension; asset declarations took place; ministerial declarations of intent and performance agreements were released publicly; and a shared Vision is being promoted. Finally good progress was made with the development of the *Harambee* Prosperity Plan that will be released during the State of Nation Address.

Today, I am here to mainly encourage the Legislature by saying; let us put aside personal differences and the desire to settle scores. Let us think of our people.

Let us think of the poor and pull together as one people in one direction with one goal – prosperity for all.

In this regard, let me share with you a quote by Jean-Francois Cope who said, *“I invite everyone to choose forgiveness rather than division, teamwork over personal ambition.”*

Let us adopt the spirit inspired by these words and burry the hatchets of hate and distrust and choose forgiveness, choose to work as one team, team Namibia, in the spirit of *Harambee* and put aside our personal ambitions for the greater good of the Nation. Let the Parliament of the Republic of Namibia be the representation of true African democracy in the 21st century. Let this Parliament be the foundation of the Namibian House.

Now I have great pleasure and honour to declare the Third Session of the Sixth Parliament of our Republic officially open. May you all have a productive and successful Session.

Long live the Republic of Namibia, Long live the Land of the Brave. I thank you.

09 February 2016

**VOTE OF THANKS
HON MENSAH-WILLIAMS**

HON SPEAKER: Comrade President, thank you for that fulsome address, full of substance and helpful hints for the Members of this Parliament, delivered with a personal touch and, as usual, sense of humour. Thank you indeed.

I now invite, Honourable Margaret Mensah-Williams, the Chairperson of the National Council to deliver a Vote of Thanks on behalf of Parliament.

VOTE OF THANKS

HON CHAIRPERSON OF NATIONAL COUNCIL: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Your Excellency Dr Hage Gottfried Geingob and our First Lady Madam Geingos, Right Honourable Dr Nickey Iyambo and Right Honourable Doctor Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Chief Justice, I would like to further stand on the existing Protocol as established by His Excellency and the Speaker earlier because it is very hot in here.

It is a great honour and privilege to extend our grateful thanks as the two Houses of the Namibian Parliament to the Head of State, His Excellency Dr Hage Geingob for his powerful and encouraging statement, made just few minutes ago. I assure you, Your Excellency Comrade President, that all the Members of the two Houses of Parliament will join hands to meet the emerging challenges and will contribute towards ensuring that the Laws that we are making are dynamic, responsive and sensitive to the needs of the citizens of the Republic of Namibia in all our strengths that we would receive from God in the spirit of *Harambee*.

Comrade President, we thank you for your valuable leadership at all times, your continued guidance and encouragement that will always give a new impetus to our work. I deem it imperative that Parliament always work

09 February 2016

**VOTE OF THANKS
HON MENSAH-WILLIAMS**

together to ensure that the democracy of our country is jealously guarded.

As Members of the two Houses of the Namibian Parliament we shall intensify our efforts in nurturing our democracy and ensuring peace, national unity and prosperity. We have indeed taken note of all you have said and will ensure Your Excellency that not only does Parliament remain the heartbeat of our democracy but will continue to play its role as an institution that fosters transparency, accessibility, accountability and effectiveness. On this Constitution day we pledge to form part of the Namibian House and we shall ensure, Your Excellency, that all development projects shall be implemented and Laws implemented to the letter and spirits.

As lawmakers we will continuously engage the citizens in the work of Parliament for outreach programmes, public hearings and Committee visits to all 14 Regions of the country so that our Debates and the resulting Laws and Policies reflect the well and aspirations of the citizens of the Republic of Namibia. Through these outreach programmes, Your Excellency, and other activities Parliamentarians are held accountable by the electorate. I personally like this year seen which is; ***Striving Towards Gender Equality and Raising Awareness Against Gender-Based Violence***. The theme is addressing two of the most pressing issues that we are faced with today as a country. As lawmakers we have to ensure that gender equality is strengthened.

The National Assembly also deserves to be commended and indirectly, therefore, SWAPO Party and all the other Opposition Parties who contributed to an immense increase in the National Assembly. Therefore, we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the National Assembly.

The National Council has improved from 7 to 11 women, but more still need to be done. However, we are thankful that for the first time a female is at the head of the Institution at the National Council. On the issue of

09 February 2016

**VOTE OF THANKS
HON MENSAH-WILLIAMS**

Gender Based Violence Parliament and Civil Society plays a vital role in ensuring that their partnership is strengthened, especially in combating gender-based violence and work together with our community.

Furthermore, I wish to express our warm appreciation even though unfortunately they could not make it here today to His Excellency Comrade Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, the Founding Father of the Namibian Nation and Leader of the Namibian Revolution, and our former President Honourable His Excellency Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba our former President. We thank them that they are always there to guide us in Parliament when we call on their wisdom. We salute them and we would like to take our sworn commitments today that we shall strive to always ensure that the Namibian Parliament is one of excellence.

May God the Almighty continue to bless you as we tap from your wealth of wisdom. My further vote of thanks on behalf of both the Speaker, myself and the Members in both Houses goes to His Lordship Peter Shivute Chief Justice of the Republic of Namibia and to the Members of the Judiciary for your continuous positive support to the work of Parliament.

Similarly we wish to thank you, Your Excellency Ambassadors and High Commissioners and Members of the Diplomatic Corps, for always embracing the occasion, every year, with your presence and making our day a success.

Finally, let me at this juncture take a minute to appreciate our wonderful beloved spouses and families of the entire leadership of the country starting from our very active, supportive and beautiful First Lady of the Republic of Namibia Madam Geingos. The two former First Ladies Meme Pohamba and Meme Nujoma as well as the spouse of our Honourable Speaker, Madam we appreciate your support that you always render to our beloved Speaker. Also to my beloved husband, Mr Williams not Mensah-Williams, but Williams, thank you very much for your

09 February 2016

**VOTE OF THANKS
HON MENSAH-WILLIAMS**

support. Then to the entire spouses of rank and file of the rest of our Members of Parliament and our beloved children and families, thank you for being there during good and bad times and always taking the brunt for being the family members of politicians. Thank you for that.

I would also like to thank those special invited guests of which His Excellency has made mention of, one of our Founding Fathers that in the presence of Comrade Andimba Toivo Ya Toivo and all our beloved invited guests. Thank you for your time and thank you for your wisdom that you always render when we call on you.

Last but not least, great appreciation goes to the Parliamentary staff, Protocol and Security Services, learners for their hard work and all those performing artists. We appreciate all your hard work, especially to our beloved members of staff from both Houses of Parliament for putting up this tent that we have changed into an august House. Thank you so much for all the stress that you took from all of us in the leadership.

It is now my distinct honour and privilege to invite all invited guests and all of you ladies and gentlemen being here today with us to a reception here in the Parliament Gardens on behalf of the Speaker and myself as soon as the President and his entourage leave the Chamber. May God bless you and may you have a prosperous 2016. I thank you.

BUSINESS RESUMES

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. All that is left for me is simply to say that this particular Joint Session is adjourned until further notice. However, the National Assembly will resume its Business tomorrow,

09 February 2016

**ADJOURNMENT
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

Wednesday, the 10th of February 2016, at the usual time.

I will now ask the Sergeant at Arms to lead the procession as we leave the Chamber, while the rest of you will follow as indicated by the Chairperson of the National Council. For that, thank you very much.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:30 UNTIL 2016.02.10 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
10 FEBRUARY 2016**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

FILLING OF VACANCY

HON SPEAKER: Welcome back, I can see from your faces that you are refreshed and ready to serve your people.

Honourable Members, I had been informed this afternoon that the United Democratic Front has withdrawn Honourable Torka Victoria Shikongo, who will be replaced by Mr Themistokles Dudu Murorua in terms of Article 48(2) of the Namibian Constitution – I know only yesterday, we were praising ourselves how well we have done with gender equality.

Anyway, notwithstanding however we might feel about the move, I now call upon the Chief Justice to administer the Oath or Affirmation to Mr Murorua. Let us hear them, please.

**OATH AND/OR AFFIRMATION
BY NEW MEMBER**

CHIEF JUSTICE SHIVUTE administers the Oath/Affirmation to the Members.

10 February 2016

**ANNOUNCEMENT
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

“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.”

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now declare Mr Themistokles Dudu Murorua a duly elected Member of the Assembly. We extend our congratulations and, of course, he is already seated. Welcome.

I now call upon the Sergeant in Arms to escort the Chief Justice, of course, with our thanks and appreciation for a job well done.

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I would like to inform you that a Workshop on Customary Law, the Constitution and Statutory Law will be held in the Conference Room C1 at the Parliament Building, tomorrow, from 08:30 and it will run during the course of the day. At the end of that important event, there will be a book launch providing us, and the country at large, with a very important volume touching on Customary Law and other related issues.

I, therefore, have the pleasure to invite you to attend this important event as from tomorrow, Thursday, the 11th of February 2016. It is a workshop and you definitely stand to benefit from the information that will be provided there.

Furthermore, Honourable Members, in view of the fact that the President of the Republic of Namibia, Dr Hage Geingob and the Chairperson of the

10 February 2016

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON VENAANI**

National Council, Honourable Margaret Mensah-Williams, yesterday spoke about the female representation in the Parliamentary Structures of our country; as many of you may recall, I noted the fact that there was an omission to mention my successor, Honourable Evelyn !Nawases-Taeyele – our current Government Chief Whip and I am told that, if the records are correct, she is the first female Chief Whip of the Governing Party since Namibia acquired Independence.

May I extend the same congratulations and best wishes, and this is, indeed great in stride in our democracy. We should congratulate her and wish her well in her new position, although it might not be new, since she has been running the show for almost a year now. Well done and congratulations.

HON SPEAKER: With that said and done, any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Yes, Honourable Venaani.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 01:

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I hereby give Notice that on Thursday, the 18th of February 2016, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business the following:

In view of the fact that irregular suspension and dismissal of State-Owned Enterprises Chief Executive Officers without due process has become common practice. Having also noted with concern that this practice has contributed to creating the prevailing perception that our great Republic of

10 February 2016

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON VENAANI**

Namibia is a nation where critical voices and free speech are punishable crimes, effectively rendering us a banana republic – an image we cannot allow to stand and urgently need to fight against.

I ask the following pertinent questions and wish to remind this august House that under Article 38 of our Constitution, the Honourable Member is under oath and is required to provide truthful and accurate information.

1. Is the assertion true that there was never a NIPAM Council meeting that tabled and deliberated on the performance of the former Executive Director, Professor Joseph Diescho, with a possible outcome to terminate his employment contract on the basis of such Council discussion and resolution? If indeed such a meeting took place, may the Prime Minister provide this august House with the minutes of such meeting and its deliberative outcomes? May the Prime Minister tell this august House; what was the version of the expelled Executive Director, Prof. Joseph Diescho, at the said meeting, if indeed it took place, as it would have been due process in accordance with principles of natural justice?
2. Is the assertion true that on 7 December 2015 an offer of Cordial and Mutual Termination of Employment Relationship was made to the Executive Director and that he was given 15 hours to accept such offer?
3. It is alleged that on the 8th of December 2015, an agreement was reached between the Council Chairperson Mr. Simataa and the Executive Director Prof. Diescho that a mutual statement would be drafted by both parties to pave the way forward and that neither side would speak to and through the media – is this averment correct? And if so, who gave or authorized Mr Simataa to act as the accuser, the prosecutor and the judge of appeal against a mutually agreed principal, namely to refrain from media commentary pertaining to this issue while negotiations were still underway?
4. Is it true that the erstwhile Executive Director of NIPAM Prof.

Diescho never signed any Rental Agreement with any Government agency, let alone the Office of the Prime Minister, and in the event that such rental agreement does exist; may the Prime Minister avail such a copy to this august chamber? Was the agreement not that the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) would advise Prof. Diescho on the availability of any market-related rental property owned by Government and is it not true that such information was never provided by the OPM to him?

5. Is it true that the Permanent Secretary in the OPM only sought the information regarding the rental property from the Ministry of Works on the 13th of November 2015, and in a subsequent meeting held on 25 November 2015, this information was not available to the employer nor the lessor of the property? Why is it that only partial and incomplete information was sent to Prof. Diescho pertaining to the property, and then only at night via e-mail on 26 November 2016? When the Chairperson of the Council announced his failure to pay the rent at the meeting on 25 November 2015, he was not in possession of the required information and he did not even know what amount was to be paid. Do these acts, when viewed critically, not point to a *prima facie* motive to find reason to expel the Executive Director by any means necessary?
6. Since when is expulsion the natural consequence of an employee failing to pay for rent or utilities? There is sufficient evidence of senior Government officials who owed and continue to owe huge municipal bills and are also behind on their house payments, especially where a house was bought directly from Government, and yet their jobs were never in jeopardy. Why did the Office of the Prime Minister or NIPAM fail to simply deduct what was owed to them directly from Prof Diescho's monthly salary before paying it over – if the failure to pay persisted over a prolonged period as is alleged?
7. Is it true that a certain Mr. Theo Michael was and is still believed to be a co-occupant of the said property? May the Prime Minister explain with reference to documentary proof, how the costs of utilities was

10 February 2016

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON VAN DEN HEEVER**

divided between the two occupants? Was it by estimates or meters and should it be the latter, when were such meters installed?

8. It is common cause that the Executive Director has not resigned and furthermore, did not sign the offer of termination – on what basis did NIPAM pay out a large sum of money into the personal account of Prof Diescho in the absence of a mutual settlement? Who authorized this payment without due process of the law and what should any person construe this payment to mean? Was it salary in advance or was it for some other reason?
9. Is it further true that former Chairperson of NIPAM and now Minister of Presidential Affairs, Honourable Kapofi and other NIPAM Council Members advised Prof Diescho to desist from writing his weekly column in the New Era newspaper known as “*Diescho’s Dictum*”? This would imply that Government is prejudicing an individual by reason only of him practicing his constitutional right to freedom of speech, which surely can never be the case in a democratic State. Is this the motive behind the irregular and non-procedural dismissal of Prof. Diescho due to the argument that “*there exists no SWAPO Government, but a SWAPO-led Government?*”

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Please submit your questions. I call upon Honourable Van Den Heever.

QUESTION 02:

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 18th of February 2016, I shall ask the Minister of Urban and Rural Development, Honourable Sophia Shaningwa the following:-

10 February 2016

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON !AUXAB**

During 2014 the Russian Federation, through the then Ministry of Foreign Affairs, invited “*young promising representatives of political, public, cultural, scientific and business circles*” to partake in a “*New Generation*” familiarisation visit to the Russian Federation in 2015 so that young Namibians who have professional and leadership potential can have the opportunity to learn from their Russian counterparts on an all-expenses paid trip. The task of nominating the participants was then assigned to the various Local Authorities.

My questions to the Minister are as follows:

1. I have it on good authority that some of the nominees submitted by certain Local Authorities were rejected. Given that the potential participants ranged from a wide variety of Sectors; what were the criteria set for identifying and evaluating the suitability of a given nominee to attend this course?
2. What is the specific role of the Ministry when it comes to liaising and monitoring Namibia's participation in this course?

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Please table the questions. I call upon Honourable !Auxab.

QUESTION 03:

HON !AUXAB: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I hereby give Notice that on Thursday, 18th of February 2016, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Honourable John Mutorwa, the following questions.

10 February 2016

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON !AUXAB**

To boost Agriculture production in the country, Namibia signed an agreement with China and Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO); an agreement that was developed within the context of FAO – China South-South Cooperation Strategic Partnership.

1. How far has the Ministry progressed with the projects under the Agricultural Cooperation Agreement that was signed in 2014 between Namibia, China and FAO?
2. Can the Minister share with this august House how many Namibian Agricultural Extension Officers benefitted from the fifteen (15) Chinese experts who came in the country as the result of the agreement, in the areas of:-
 - a. Capacity Development
 - b. Technology Transfer
 - c. Soil and Fertiliser Management Skills Transfer.
3. Where exactly and in which Regions have these experts been deployed and which clear goals and targets have been set for them to meet?
4. May the Minister appraise this august House how the Ministry has planned to ensure that technical supervision and timelines, commitments, tasks and obligations as outlined and signed in the agreement are met and have been practically implemented?

I so Move Honourable Speaker.

QUESTION 04:

HON !AUXAB: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 18th of February 2016, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Environment and Tourism, Honourable Pohamba Shifeta, the following questions.

The Constitutional mandate and provision, to ensuring sustainable

10 February 2016

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON VAN WYK**

environment for the benefit of all Namibians has been given to the Minister of Environment and Tourism and it has received priority from the Government over the years.

1. In view of the target set by the Millennium Development Goals ended 2015 to ensure sustainable environment; which goals did we as a Nation achieved which are in line with our Constitutional mandate and provision?
3. May the Minister further share with this august House, the Namibian target on environmental sustainability, and what plans does the Ministry has to reverse the loss of environmental resources?

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Member, please table the questions. I call upon Honourable Van Wyk.

QUESTION 05:

HON VAN WYK: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I hereby give Notice that on Thursday, the 18th of February 2016, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Urban and Rural Development the following.

1. Honourable Minister, it was announced during November 2015, that houses built under the Mass Housing Programme fall under the respective Town Councils, it seems however that Town Councils are not aware on what producers to follow to allocate these houses? Would the Minister inform the public on what Procedures to follow if they are interested in buying the mentioned houses?
2. Honourable Minister, investigations into the affairs of the Okahandja and Rehoboth Town Councils were carried out recently, when will the

10 February 2016

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON DIENDA**

findings be made known to the respective residents?

3. Some residents of numerous towns such as Okahandja, Keetmanshoop, Aranos, Rehoboth and Gobabis, just to mention a few, do not have access to affordable land, whilst the rich and developers are buying up all available land, what will the Ministry do to make land available to the poor people of this country?
4. How far is your Ministry with the process of transferring the 378 houses in Block E in Rehoboth into the names of the original owners as they now occupy these houses for more than 30 years?
5. Could the Minister give an indication on what progress was made in finalising the implementation of the "*Rukoro Report of 1992*" referring to answers given by you in this House on 08 October 2015?

I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Table the questions, Honourable Member. I now call upon Honourable Dienda.

QUESTION 06:

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, the 18th of February 2016, I shall ask the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture the following.

Article 20(2) of the Namibian Constitution entrenches and places a positive obligation on the State to provide free primary school education. The same, however, is not true for the provision of free secondary education. Accordingly as things stand, the provision of free secondary education is not a constitutional obligation, but merely a Cabinet decision.

10 February 2016

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON DIENDA**

The consequence here is that there is nothing that prevents the next or future Cabinets from going back on this decision.

Additionally, despite this Cabinet decision, some Government schools continue to demand school stationeries and other fees from parents as the framework pertaining to Government payments and how the schools should utilize this money is not clear and has resulted in a lot of confusion.

Notwithstanding the fact that the DTA welcomes the Cabinet decision on free secondary education and furthermore, fully supports it; I wish to ask the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture the following questions:

1. When can we expect the issue of the provision of free secondary education to be brought to Parliament in the format of a Bill or the amendment of existing instruments so that it can be properly enacted in law so that there is long term certainty pertaining this issue and it is not subject to the mood of the Cabinet of the day?
2. Has a clear framework been drawn up on how schools are to utilize the grant per student which the Government pays to schools? If yes, can this be shared with the House.
3. What actions will be taken against schools who continue to demand money from parents or are such demands allowed?

QUESTION 07:

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, I also give Notice that on Thursday, the 18th of February 2016, I shall ask the same Minister the following.

The *Education Act*, 2001 (Act 16 of 2001) makes provision for the registration of private schools with the Government.

10 February 2016

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MBAI**

In light of the free secondary education grant and also keeping in mind that Government partly subsidizes some, if not all, private (secondary) schools:

1. Is there a formula or framework that regulates how much Government subsidy is paid to each respective private school?
2. Given that on average private schools often have smaller number of scholars than Government schools, is the subsidy calculated per learner as with Government schools or is the subsidy calculated via a different formula?
3. Does partly funding private schools not, at least, indirectly jeopardize Government's ability to provide higher funding towards Government schools per learner, for example above the current 500/learner which many schools claim is not enough? Should Government schools funding not only be restricted to Government schools, seeing as private schools will continue charging parents enormous amounts towards the "*school development fund*?"

I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Please table the questions. I now call upon Honourable Mbai.

QUESTION 08:

HON MBAI: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 18th of February 2016, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Education, Arts and Culture the following questions.

In light of the just released poor results for Grade 10 and 12 learners in

10 February 2016

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MBAI**

December/January, I would like the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture to give us feedback on the following:

1. Is it really practical and possible that against the continuous poor results for Grade 10, is the Minister seriously considering lifting the requirement for passing Grade 10, which currently stands at 23 points?
2. In your opinion is the just obtained 29,8% pass rate for Grade 12 really sufficient enough or where exactly does the problem lies?
3. This 29,8% this time, represent a 10% drop compared to 2014 pass rate, what is your Ministry immediate plan of action to address this recurring problem year in and year out ?

I so Move.

QUESTION 09:

HON MBAI: Secondly, Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 18th of February 2016, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Poverty Eradication the following questions.

According to a report released in early January 2016 by the United Nations World Food Programmes (WFP) more than 42% of people in Namibia suffer from a lack of adequate nutrition.

Despite being classified by the World Bank as an Upper Middle Income country Namibia is currently ranked among four African countries with the highest number of undernourished people in the world. Zambia, the Central Republic (CAR) and Malawi were the only other countries in the same category with levels of malnutrition exceeding 35% of the population.

1. What mechanisms has the Ministry of Poverty Eradication put in place

10 February 2016

**ORAL QUESTION
HON NUJOMA**

to reverse this classification by the World Food Programme?

2. In light of the recent death of children of Ovaherero in Kaokoland, Epupa Constituency, and last year's death in Kavango also attributed to hunger; what is the Government's intervention strategy so that our people do not die of hunger anymore?
3. Minister, you publicly stated in June 2015 that the proposed establishment of the country first food bank is at an advanced stage. How far are you in realizing this dream?

I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Please table the questions. I now call upon Honourable Utoni Nujoma, please.

ORAL QUESTION

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I would just like to, in terms of Rule 82 of the Standing Rules and Orders, pose an Oral Question to Honourable !AUXAB. Is it allowed without notice? If it is allowed, yes.

HON SPEAKER: Let us hear the question.

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Honourable !AUXAB as the Leader of the UDF in Parliament, yesterday the President of Namibia

10 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO ORAL QUESTION
HON !AUXAB**

mentioned that, having made great strides in the empowerment of women, we recently received awards at the AU and SADC for making tremendous progress with regard to the empowerment of women.

I would, of course, like to welcome my brother, Dudu Murorua, today, however, the question I would like to pose is – I have seen that the Member who has been withdrawn was a dynamic lady, very active and of course beautiful, but she has suddenly been withdrawn.

I would like to have an explanation from the UDF as to why she has been withdrawn while we are trying to empower women. There was gender parity between men and women and now you are two men; so it is again a retrogression. It is a step backwards with regard to the UDF. We would like to help you as small parties, so that you make good progress. I would like to have an answer from the Honourable Member. Thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Before the Honourable Member rises to respond to the question, let me say that any institution, anywhere in the world must adapt to changes, but according to our Rules, questions are put to the Members of the Executive and never the other way around. However, the Honourable Member is very anxious to know.

Do you want to answer the question? Yes, but I just want to make sure that we do not make this a habit, since the Honourable Member is anxious to respond. I will give you the Floor.

HON !AUXAB: I do not want to answer, I wanted to remind my Senior Minister that questions do not come from that side. I will be frank with him and tell him that Torka has been redeployed to a Senior Office, and the fact that the Honourable Minister also welcomed his Brother means that he agrees with the changes.

10 February 2016

NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON VAN DEN HEEVER / HON !AUXAB

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. We are moving slowly. I have exhausted the Notice of Questions. We are now moving to Notice of Motions. Yes, Honourable Van Den Heever, you have the Floor.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that leave of absence due to ill-health, be granted to Honourable Nico Smit until further notice. I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Next I will call on the Honourable !Auxab again.

HON !AUXAB: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Wednesday, the 17th of February 2016, I shall Move that this Assembly:-

Debates and Considers the delimitation of the Kunene Region, the objective of which will be to better administer and manage the Region in terms of accessibility of Government service provision. And that, after the discussions, the matter be referred to the relevant Parliamentary Standing Committee for further investigation and report back to this august House with recommendations.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

10 February 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR HAUFIKU**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Message from the Head of State? Ministerial Statement? I call upon Honourable Dr Haufiku, please.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

PROCUREMENT OF ANTIRETROVIRAL DRUGS (ARVs)

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members of the House – welcome everybody. I would plead for your attention please, because this has no political connotations. It is more medical. Honourable Speaker, first of all, I have three short Ministerial Statements. Let me start with the first one.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services being the custodian of health in Namibia both in the Public and Private Sector, has the mandate in terms of Article 95 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia to promote and provide quality, and affordable health care services to all Namibians, irrespective of race, religious group, sex or age.

In terms of this mandate and in alignment with the Ministry's Strategic Plan 2013-2017, the Ministry initiated specific Programmes with assistance from technical and development partners to combat HIV/AIDS and other diseases.

In this regard, the Ministry is committed to the UNAIDS Strategy of the 90-90-90 by 2020, that is, ensuring that by 2020 90% of people in Namibia should know their HIV status; 90% of those who know their HIV status should be on treatment; 90% of those who are on treatment must be on effective treatment that suppresses the virus; and we committed to the

10 February 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR HAUFIKU**

elimination of HIV in children from others by the same way as well to ending the HIV Epidemic by 2030.

These are ambitious goals and targets, but we believe that they are achievable, however, with prudent Budget consideration. I want to repeat, bold and underline the words **prudent Budget consideration**. It is with the above in mind that the Ministry wishes to put the record straight with regard to the Front Page Headline News Article by Windhoek Observer on the **29th of January 2016**, entitled – *“Ministry of Health flouts tender procedures and buy ARV from Uganda.”*

It is insinuated and falsely alleged in the article that:

1. the Ministry bypassed Tender Board Procedures;
2. Procedures were not followed by the Ministry’s Tender Committee;
and
3. Ugandan suppliers were favoured over neighbouring South Africa.

Honourable Speaker, however, the facts are:

1. Tender Board granted exemption to the Ministry to buy ARVs and all the documents are available. In fact, when this article was published, I was at a WHO meeting in Geneva and I have requested the officials in my Ministry to wait for me because I actually suspected that somebody is involved in some dubious activities. I, therefore, came to obtain all the receipts and I am in possession of them.
2. Suppliers as well as manufactures were invited to submit quotations within a given period and among them was one South African based supplier, a company that was mentioned in the newspaper, but whose name I will not mention.
3. The price of ARV as quoted by these local suppliers was N\$127,441,000.00 and I repeat – *N\$127,441,000.00*.

10 February 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR HAUFIKU**

4. Cipla Quality Chemicals based in Kampala in Uganda gave the Ministry a quotation of N\$64 million or an equivalent of US\$3.9 million, inclusive of all costs – unit prices, transport and everything else.
5. Honourable Speaker, the difference between these two amounts is N\$63 million.

Lastly, the Ministry is determined and remains committed to meet its health care objectives, including Goal 3 of SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals and complete elimination of HIV by 2030; and half maternal and infant deaths by 2020, bringing it in line with the WHO recommendation by 2025; so that, by 2030, our maternal and infant mortality should be on par with the United Kingdom, United States or any other developed country.

Honourable Speaker, this requires sound budgeting and financial management. Once again, I want to repeat – *sound budgeting and prudent financial management*.

For this, the Ministry has taken a bold step to benchmark HIV/AIDS medication to manufacturers pricing plus not more than 5% net profit for suppliers. We actually think that 3% is reasonable. However, this is not a final decision, but just a recommendation.

Thank you, Honourable Speaker, on this one. I have two more statements to make, if you allow me.

MALARIA ALERT IN THE NORTHERN REGION OF NAMIBIA

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:

Honourable Speaker, this is the next Ministerial Statement. While I was

10 February 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR HAUFIKU**

still in Geneva at the WHO meeting, I had been flooded with phone calls and text messages about two things.

One being Malaria: Ironically, Namibia was just accorded an award in Addis Ababa for having met the Millennium Goal for Malaria. However, just five days or so, after that, we received bad news from the northern Region on Malaria. I was informed that the Ohangwena Region, particularly, reported a high number of Malaria cases. I was provided with a figure of 425 people who were treated, of 9 which succumbed to the disease. I wish to inform this House and the Nation that all measures have been taken to contain the outbreak. One is the immediate dispatch of technical staff from the Ministry's Headquarter here in Windhoek to the affected Regions to make the quickest assessment we can, while mobilising the other brigades to follow through to the affected Region. This is not a matter of going to the hospital and wait for patients to come there, but to go to the villages and destroy the sources.

On top of that, we have enlisted the service of the specialist in infectious diseases from Geneva. He is a Malaria specialist who worked in Zimbabwe for many years. He is originally from India, I met him in Geneva. He is on his way to the north to advise us because we cannot afford to achieve so much and to come so far, and lose again.

I thought it is important to inform the House. On the same point, there was a newspaper article stating that the dangerous type of Malaria is the one that is in the North. The truth is that we always have the *plasmodium falciparum* type of Malaria which is mostly found in the North. Basically, we have four types of the parasites – *Ovale*, *Vivax*, *Malariae* and the *Plasmodium*. (*Interjections*)

Let us take this serious, Colleague, I know that this House is often not so serious, but just give me a chance. As I said, I am not scoring any political points here, but just providing information.

The *falciparum* type has always been the dominant species in Northern Namibia. There is nothing new about it, but we have the medication for it.

10 February 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR HAUFIKU**

To the media people, there is nothing new about the prevalence of *falciparum* Malaria in Namibia, we knew about it and that is the most killer type. Even when we achieved our Millennium Goal, we achieved it having combated the *falciparum* Malaria type. Therefore, there is absolutely nothing new about it. However, it is important for the Nation to be informed correctly.

Regrettably, the Editor of the Windhoek Observer is a very good friend of mine from school days. We always communicate and carry a positive message all the time. I do not know how this slipped his mind. I also know the owners very well, I think we just have to chat a bit more over breakfast or something because it is very important that technical matters such as health issues are correctly disseminated to the communities. It is very, very important. (*Applause*)

The standard **Malaria Prevention and Treatment** still stands. If you are going to affected areas, we recommend that you stay indoors, wear long sleeved clothes etcetera, and attend to the clinic when you experience the symptoms. That still remains as standard.

Honourable Speaker, that is just some piece of information on Malaria.

UPDATE ON THE ZIKA VIRUS

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: With this one, I was also flooded with SMSes and other messages about the newly discovered found Zika Virus. I wish to make a statement here.

I recently attended the meeting of the Executive Boards of WHO in Geneva, Switzerland. At this occasion, we had an opportunity to receive an updated briefing from the WHO Regional Office for the Americas. Those are the Caribbean and the entire American Continent. Therefore, I

10 February 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR HAUFIKU**

wish to share with you the following on the ongoing outbreak of the Zika Virus in the Americas, as of 28 January 2016.

Zika Virus is transmitted to people through the bite of an infected mosquito from the *Aedes Genus*, mainly the *Aedes Aegyti* in tropical Regions. This is the same mosquito that transmits *dengue*, *chikungunya* and *yellow fever*, and other members of the same so-called *flavivirus* or *arbovirus*.

The incubation period of Zika Virus – from the time of exposure to symptoms – is something between two to seven days. The symptoms are similar to other *arbovirus* infections such as the dengue, which is common in Angola, by the way, and includes fever, skin rashes – you can Google all these things – conjunctivitis, which is the inflammation of the outer layer of your eye, muscle and joint pain, malaise, which is a general weakness of the whole body and headache. The symptoms are usually mild and last for 2-7 days.

There is no specific treatment or vaccine currently available for Zika Virus. The best form of prevention is protection against mosquito bites. Zika Virus disease is usually relatively mild and requires no specific treatment. People who are infected with the Zika Virus should get plenty of rest, drink enough fluids, in this regard water, not other fluids - and treat pain and fever with common medication such as simple paracetamol. If symptoms worsen, they should seek medical care and advice. There is no vaccine available at the moment.

The number of laboratory findings point to the relation between the Zika Virus and cases of neurological manifestation, including what we call microcephaly; that is, a small or underdeveloped brain. Those who tested positive for Zika Virus also manifest with microcephaly, since October 2015, and the cases continue to increase beyond Brazil and other Nations of the Americas. Cases of congenital malformation, that is, being born with malformation and miscarriages are also reported for those who tested positive for Zika Virus.

10 February 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR HAUFIKU**

The virus is known to circulate in Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific. There is no immunity and the population against the Zika Virus in the region of the Americas, including North East Brazil where it was introduced in 2014/2015 as suspected. The Americas region, including North East Brazil is endemic for other arboviridae such as dengue and because of the high concentration of mosquitoes that transmit these viruses.

The WHO recommends for Member States to be ready in terms of the following:

- Multisectoral coordinated approach for Integrated Vector Management – Vector is the mosquito that transmits the disease.
- Partnering and engaging relevant stakeholders and the community;
- Detection and monitoring of the dissemination of the virus;
- Laboratory platform implementation and event-based surveillance;
- Health service preparedness for the management of potential complications, including neurological syndromes and birth defects;
- Risk communication and public awareness, this is probably more important;
- Capacity building - clinical laboratory, vector control and risk communication; and
- Research and Development.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, in relation to the above, the Ministry is activating its National Health Emergency Response Committee to discuss and act on the intervention as advised by WHO.

I shall keep this House informed of any new development. I thank you Honourable Speaker.

10 February 2016

**COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ON
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON PROF KATJAVIVI / HON BEZUIDENHOUT**

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ON MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, indeed. Let me simply say we thank you for this important briefing you gave to the House. On the Malaria issue, having noted the fact that we were clear and we made some progress, it is extremely regrettable to hear that we have been affected to that extent. I am sure, I am speaking for Members of the House as a whole when I say; I think we would be extremely interested in further updating on the way and the manner we are tackling this particular issue of Malaria.

Of course, we are not trying to put pressure on the Ministry and yourself, but we would appreciate it if you could give us an update as you deem necessary depending on the progress you are making on the ground. Thank you very much.

I know that Honourable Steven Bezuidenhout would like to have a follow up question.

HON BEZUIDENHOUT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Minister, that was very a welcome information and it is much appreciated. On the similar question to that of the Speaker, when the expert for Malaria comes and your future regular voluntary update to the House – I want to ask the Honourable Minister whether there is a possibility of mutation of the virus and if there is a new variant of the virus? In the event of that, in your update, can you also brief us whether there is a possibility and what your future plans are? Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

10 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR HAUFIKU**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Minister, do you wish to respond to that question?

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: I see there are more questions, but can I quickly respond because I tend to forget?

HON SPEAKER: Yes, please.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Point taken – I should have perhaps mentioned that. Part of our problem in the North with Malaria is the border with Angola. As you know, like my Senior was telling me, diseases know no border. At one stage I went to the Rundu State Hospital and 40% of the patients were neighbouring Angola. That is one of the challenges. However, we are working on that. We have secured funds from Global Fund to fight Malaria, TB and HIV within the perimeter of 60 km in both countries.

I will be meeting Minister Van-Dunem next week in London to discuss these issues. On the issue of mutation (*interjections*) Africans always meet in capitals, but this is a big Conference of all the African Health Ministers. It is not me and Van-Dunem flying to London for a meeting. I can actually drive to Luanda or Ondjiva. (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Yes, you are only using the opportunity of being together.

10 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR HAUFIKU**

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: I am only using the opportunity, yes. And by the way, this is a fully-paid trip by the Global Fund (*interjection*) No, I must give them information, otherwise they will just accuse me of claiming S & T, which I do not need. This is a fully paid up international Conference sponsored by the Global Fund.

I wanted to say something on mutations. Honourable Bezuidenhout, you know, living things always mutate, it is part of the natural process. If I can give you an example before I answer directly – if say you have the HIV virus, for the time you have been sitting here, it will have mutated about fifteen times already. This just tells you that life is not a static thing. It is a highly dynamic thing. It is only our perception that makes it look as if it is stable and static, it is not so. I just wanted to explain that.

Yes, the virus is mutating all the time and it does that because it has to survive. Any living fights to survive for as long as it can and mutation is one of those strategies because it is a way of dodging the enemy. However, laboratory scientists are hot on its heels just like with other viruses. We will perhaps be a couple of steps ahead of it because this virus is a small piece of DNA, it is not like a complex living organism like the human being.

Honourable Speaker, without making long speeches, maybe I should also mention at this stage that, there was a case reported in Dallas, Texas, in the United States – an incident of sexually transmitted Zika Virus. I was flooded with lot of questions and I sort of dismissed it in a way because I have never heard about it. However, I took the necessary steps to contact my colleagues in Atlanta at the Centre for Disease Control. Luckily, I know Dr Tom Frieden who is the head of that centre. I also spoke to some representatives here as well. And they informed me that, even though this virus is indigenous in the United States, there was never a case of Zika picked up. By the way, Zika was first diagnosed in Uganda in 1946, for those who lived a bit longer, but they never had a case of Zika transmitting mosquito in America. In this case, this lady's husband went

10 February 2016

**COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ON
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON MUHARUKUA**

to Brazil and picked up Zika – he tested positive and went back to Dallas. Within a week or so, the wife developed the symptoms.

You know how Americans are; they scanned everything, perhaps the whole State of Texas and they could not link it to a source. They, therefore, made a presumptive diagnosis that it was passed on by the husband and the only conclusion they came to is that it must have been transmitted through sex, but it is very unusual. There was one more case reported, maybe hundred or I do not know how many years ago, but this is what has happened. We can, therefore, not use it as the truth and they are actually still investigating that.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. That is very, very useful. I know Honourable Muharukua wanted to make a follow up. Please be very brief.

HON MUHARUKUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I further want to thank the Minister for a very informative brief. I just want some clarity on the ARVs bought from Uganda. However, before that, I think it is worth noting and worth commending what the Minister has indicated that they are benchmarking in terms of mother to child infection against the best. I really hope that we are aiming for the clouds and we shall get to the clouds.

Honourable Minister, what I wanted to ask is; would I be correct to have heard you saying that the ARVs that were purchased are a different type, but of the same quality as those proffered by the Namibian suppliers? That is the brief question.

Lastly, in terms of Malaria and also maybe going further to TB, I think it is only noble to also recognise that amongst the State Hospitals that we have, the Opuwo State Hospital, specifically, in terms of those two

10 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR HAUFIKU**

diseases, the Government is to be commended on the treatment and efforts – specifically that hospital. It does a really good job in terms of that, amongst the many complaints that are there. However, at least, in terms of those aspects that hospital is very good.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Dr Haufiku.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you very much for the question. When I heard that we were buying medicine from Uganda, you know these bias of *Apartheid* in our minds stayed with us – I was also kind of shocked – I said; *what, Uganda?* Because my mind is in South Africa where we always procure medicine from and that actually made me reinforce my position to say - *wait until I come back from Geneva*. I was, therefore, already thinking that perhaps one African in the Ministry is conniving and making deals – you know, this thing of thinking that South Africa is the best.

The reality is that, we buy our ARVs from generic manufacturing companies and one of the biggest companies is Cipla, which is an Indian company. If you take your medication, you sometimes find the name Cipla, Pfizer, GSK or Aspen or whatever it may be written on the box. Cipla is an Indian company with a big plant in South Africa. I actually even know the Chief Executive Officer of Cipla, he was in my office because I hardly missed HIV meetings.

Little did I know that they actually built a plant in Kampala as well. Cipla India has 51% shares in the Kampala plant, exactly the same company, exactly the same product – *not similar*, but the same. One of the companies that was quoted – alleging that we flouted tender procedure and bypassed them, was Aspen Pharmacare. It is hundred percent generic company. It manufactures generic medicine for GSK, for Gilead in

10 February 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON MUTORWA**

California and Pfizer that makes Viagra. It is, therefore, a hundred percent generic company. *(Interjection)* Maybe Viagra sort of wakes us up, but that is just normal.

HON SPEAKER: Can we pretend we did not hear that one? *(Laughter)*

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: It always wakes you up that is the nature of it, but my Brother, it is exactly the same thing, the same company, but different prices. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I think I will move on. Well done. Honourable John Mutorwa.

WRONGLY REGISTERED LIVESTOCK

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. You have welcomed us, we equally welcome you as the Leader of the National Assembly to provide the guidance and the leadership as we execute our national responsibilities.

Today in the SMS column of the Namibian newspaper, the Minister and Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry received very important information – requests, that is on Page 12, which I deem very important that as the Line Minister, I should provide some information to the general public.

10 February 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON MUTORWA**

The information here is talking about a crush-pen in Kalala, in Zambezi Region where, allegedly, some livestock were wrongly registered on the NamLITS. The NamLITS is a livestock identification system – a very important system to identify our animals through ear tagging for many purposes. One of them, if somebody takes your cow or your ox to be sold with that identification linked to the computers it can help you trace the real owner. However, also when diseases come – my Colleague was talking about human diseases – in my case, when animal diseases come, it is also easy to identify where the animals come from while those that do not have the identification, you can also easily identify them as coming from other areas.

I want to thank the person who sent this information and asked whether people can still have some trust in the system – they surely should. It is a very credible system. I have done my preliminary investigation when I read this. I called in the Chief Veterinary Officer of the Directorate of Veterinary Services just to properly understand, because at least the name of the place was mentioned.

The preliminary information that came to my attention indicates that when that activity took place, to ear tag these animals, it would appear that those that were in charge, to ensure that the writing was probably done and that the ear tags are brought on the animals by the owners of those animals – it would appear that the labourers were not properly supervised by the senior technicians.

There is, therefore, some truth in what is being said here and I would like to undertake, on the Floor of this Parliament, that we are going to launch an investigation and if, as the information would like to suggest, that: those who were entrusted with this very important national responsibility, neglected their responsibility or gave wrong instructions to the labourers, which labourers are now being insulted here, because they are being referred to as illiterate labourers.

We will investigate, the truth will come out and if, as I said, that those senior people who were supposed to have supervised the labourers

10 February 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON MUTORWA**

correctly, were in the wrong, surely, we are a country ruled by Laws, and definitely some disciplinary steps would be taken. I will come back to this House once that information is obtained and I will give the correct information to the public.

However, it suffices to say that the system is a very credible, internationally recognised system. We must have trust in it, even though, we must also inform our people that any system is operated by human beings, including a vehicle, including an aeroplane. You can have high standard vehicles, but if you drive that vehicle recklessly, that vehicle can kill you and do not blame the vehicle. So do not blame the system here as well.

COMBATING THE SPREAD OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

I have another Statement about the labourers we employed and who were at the forefront of fighting the Foot and Mouth Disease which we have declared that, the restrictions were lifted.

Firstly, I want to commend those labourers – those men and women who left their homes, their families to be at the forefront of fighting this disease, day and night, in terms of spraying, vaccination and all that.

If we did not have that cooperation, we would not have been in a position to say the movement restrictions are lifted. I salute them. However, the ugly part of it, as the complaint is being stated here, is the delays in paying out the allowances that are due to them and I have taken a deliberate field visit to interact with some of those labourers. Last week, I received a well written and motivated letter from the Kamanjab area of the Kunene Region. Then I also received a letter from those labourers in Oshikango and I also spoke to the labourers – last weekend when I was in Rundu on

10 February 2016

**COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ON
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON VENAANI**

my way back I stopped at Mururani Gate and they are all telling the same story.

I checked at our offices. What happens is that they would submit their applications then the applications are checked and verified at the Directorate of Veterinary Services and Finance Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and are then processed to the Ministry of Finance for actual payment. I have checked and it would appear that there is a backlog somehow, more at the Ministry of Finance, but I have spoken to my Colleague, the Minister, and brought it under his attention.

I know it is administrative, but we as Ministers are accountable to the people in terms of Article 41 of the Constitution and would just like to urge those officials who are entrusted with this responsibility that it is not a question of money, it is essentially a question of pushing the papers and let the people get their payment. What I am seeing is that there is no empathy. Empathy is not the same like sympathy. Empathy means you must place yourself in the place of that other person who has left the family doing the work there, far away from their homes.

I, therefore, want to make use of this public platform, the Parliament, to send out this message. I have spoken to the labourers and I understand and agree with them, but I would like to urge these Government officials, here, to do their work so that the allowances that are due to labourers are paid to them without any further delays! Thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I saw a hand there. Honourable Venaani a quick one please.

HON VENAANI: Just a quick SMS to the Minister, since he is replying to SMSes. Honourable Minister of Agriculture, the Ministry has announced a drought subsidy to farmers, both commercial and communal,

10 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON MUTORWA**

who were selling cattle, leasing land and so forth, but without the due process of notifying farmers because you ran out of money, you closed the submissions. When some farmers came to the offices to submit their things, because the money was depleted, the scheme is now not applicable to them.

What is the Ministry going to do? Because the premise of the subsidy was based – for as long as the drought existed and all these farmers have proof that they were part of the drought problem but because of the money that ran dry, the Ministry just unilaterally decided on the 4th of December that – *no, you are not longer going to be able to qualify for the drought scheme*. Is the Minister going to ask for additional funds or what would happen to these farmers that are in this precarious situation?

HON SPEAKER: Thank you.

HON MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. It is a fair question. As we speak, after this Parliament debated the Review Budget and the Budget was approved; you remember the Review Budget that came here, some money was made available and, therefore, those farmers who have submitted their claim forms through us, again, to the Directorate of Disaster Risk Management of the Office of the Prime Minister, their claims, after verifications are being processed.

If there are farmers that you know of who qualify, but have not yet received their subsidies, I would like to get their names, but I must also say, like in the cases of the labourers, it is the same here. Some farmers submit their claims, the process of verification takes too long and once the claims are submitted for payment, it again takes too long. It is one of those unnecessary bureaucracies. I understand that the officials are maybe

10 February 2016

**NOTICE OF MOTION
HON //HOEBES**

working under strain, but we must again, be empathetic, and I am using that word – *empathy*, we should put ourselves in the place of those people who are waiting. That is the response. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I am sure that any additional discussions can be taken up over a cup of tea. I will move on.

I call upon Honourable //Hoebes. You have the Floor.

NOTICE OF A MOTION

HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE:
Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I, on behalf of the Right Honourable Prime Minister, give Notice that tomorrow, the 11th of February 2016, I shall Move that the National Assembly:-

Approves the nomination for the following persons to fill the vacancy and another to be the Chairperson of the Public Service Commission as per Chapter 13, Article 112(3) of the Namibian Constitution.

- (i) Mr. Markus Kampungu as Chairperson of the Public Service Commission; and
- (ii) Ms. Batseba Unomuino Katjiuongua as a Member of the Public Service Commission.

So I Move, Honourable Speaker.

10 February 2016

**ADJOURNMENT
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Do submit the Motion. There is a slight Amendment to your Motion and we will be able to take it up on Tuesday next week. Thank you.

I think I have exhausted my list and judging from the mood in the House, I think you are content so far with how far we have gone, today being the first day. May I then have the honour to adjourn the House until next week. The House stands adjourn until next week, at the usual time.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:00 UNTIL 2016.02.16 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
16 FEBRUARY 2016**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Yes, Honourable Minister of Finance?

TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

- (i) Education Development Fund for the Financial Years ended 31 March 2013 and 2014;
- (ii) War Veterans Trust Fund for the Financial Years ended 31 March 2012 and 2013;
- (iii) War Veterans Trust for the Financial Years ended 31 March 2010 and 2011; and
- (iv) Namibia Development Corporation for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2012.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

16 February 2016

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON NAUYOMA**

HON SPEAKER: Notice of Questions? Yes, I give the Floor to Honourable Nuyoma.

HON MEMBER: Nauyoma.

HON SPEAKER: Nauyoma. I think we are trying to make sure that it is distinct and different. You have the Floor.

QUESTION 10:

HON NAUYOMA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 25th of February 2016, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry the following question:

We have learnt with great concern that most of the Forestry Projects that were established in Constituencies are dying due to lack of implements and equipment. The people who work at this projects are sometimes not paid – months would go by without any allowances given to them. This, really, leaves a great concern that these are very important projects that give meaning to certain areas where trees are grown and are supposed to give some value to the Constituencies where these projects are established.

Honourable Minister, I would like to know why the Forestry Department does not take these projects, we value very much, seriously? Thank you very much.

16 February 2016

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON KAVEKOTORA**

HON MEMBER: These are all the projects, all over the country.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I will now give the Floor to Honourable Kavekatora.

QUESTION 11:

HON KAVEKOTORA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 25th of February 2016, I shall ask the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture, Honourable Katrina Hanse-Himarwa the following question relating to free secondary education.

The recent introduction of free secondary education in Namibia is a welcome move that has been delayed for over 20 years since the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia in 1990. The Constitution considers *Education For All* as a Right. Needless to say, education is the key to Namibia's development, and is commonly referred to as the greatest equalizer.

Allow me, Honourable Speaker, the privilege to briefly explain the logic of my questions to the Honourable Minister. The Honourable Minister of Basic Education, Arts and Culture was recently quoted in printed media making comments on the Grades 10 and 12 results, if one compares last year's results to the previous year. In this regard the Honourable Minister was also quoted as suggesting that private schools should be factored out from public schools when a comparative analysis is done.

As much as we all support free education at secondary level, one would not want free education to be equated to lowering of standard and quality. There are reasons to believe that free education, as recently implemented, has resulted in a significant decline in a fee per learner ratio.

16 February 2016

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON KAVEKOTORA**

Honourable Minister, I would like to ask you the following questions:

1. Was there a study done before the implementation of free secondary education to determine and maintain an optimal level of fees per learner? If so, could the Honourable Minister provide the Study Report to the Nation for scrutiny?
2. Can the Minister elaborate and explain to the Nation why she thinks it is prudent and logical for the public schools not to be benchmarked against private schools?

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you.

QUESTION 12:

HON KAVEKOTORA: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 25th of February 2016, I shall ask the Minister of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development (*sic*), Honourable Leon Jooste, the following question (*laughter*) I am sorry, there are too many Ministers around (*interjections*)

HON SPEAKER: Order!

HON KAVEKOTORA: But the question is related to Honourable Jooste and as far as his name is concerned, I am correct. I am sorry, I am going to correct the title.

16 February 2016

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON KAVEKOTORA**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Continue please.

HON KAVEKOTORA: Yes, thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

Honourable Minister, my questions are related to Star Protection Services (Pty) Limited.

Star Protection Services (PTY) Limited started its services as a subsidiary of the Development Brigade Corporation (DBC) Group of Companies. DBC was established in terms of an Act of Parliament. Star Protection Services (PTY) Limited is listed in Schedule 1 as a State-Owned Enterprise in terms of the *State-Owned Enterprise Governance Act, 2006* (Act 2 of 2006).

However, Star Protection Services (PTY) Limited was last audited by the Auditor-General in March 2003. Since then the Company's books had never been subjected to the Auditor-General's Audit.

1. Honourable Minister, could you inform this august House and the Nation at large about the status of Star Protection Services (PTY) Limited? Is it still a SOE or a private company? It was reported in March 2003 audit of the Auditor-General that shareholders' funds, as a Balance Sheet item, was written down to a value of zero. On what authority, Honourable Minister, was a decision taken by the Directors of Star Protection Services (PTY) Limited to wipe out shareholders' equity.
2. Similarly, the Audit Report informs us that the accumulated debts of both the Development Brigade Corporation and Star Protection Services (PTY) Limited were to be written off. There is no documentary evidence to show that there were discussions by neither the Directors of DBC Group of Companies nor the Board of Star Protection Services (PTY) Limited for the writing off of the debts.

16 February 2016

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON LIMBO**

Where was the decision taken to write off the accumulated debts?

3. The Report by the Auditor-General makes mention of default loan payments. How was the issue of default on loan repayment and the legal costs around the default brought to closure?
4. What will the Honourable Minister Jooste do to hold those accountable for the sake of in SOEs transparency and shareholders responsibility as far as governance is concerned?

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. We move on to Honourable Limbo. You have the Floor.

QUESTION 13:

HON LIMBO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I am sorry I have to ask my sister again.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE: As long as it is not the same question.

HON LIMBO: Do not worry it is not the same. Honourable Speaker, I rise to give Notice that on Thursday, the 25th February 2016, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Education, Arts and Culture, Honourable Katrina Hanse-Himarwa, the following:

16 February 2016

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON LIMBO**

It has indeed been a great surprise and shock to learn that the Zambezi Region again for the second consecutive time came out last in the ranking of the regional performances of Grades 10 and 12 (*interjections*) Can I please continue? Listen to this.

HON SPEAKER: Do not talk to each other, please.

HON LIMBO: Does that mean that the name change in alphabetic order contributed to the mindset of our learners as well as teachers, in being the worst performers nationally?

It would be important to know what measure(s) the Minister and the Ministry will or have put in place in order to improve the results of the Region in this Academic Year?

Is the Minister aware that since Independence, the Government has only constructed one hostel in the Zambezi region that is at Sangwali Senior Secondary School. Can the Honourable Minister tell this august House if there are concrete plans in place to construct new hostels and/or renovate existing hostels some of which are in a dilapidated state?

Furthermore, Honourable Minister, I would also like to bring to your attention that currently the learners at Simataa Secondary School deserted their hostel bathrooms and toilets because these facilities have been blocked for some time.

Hence, I would like to know when this dire situation will be rectified as a matter of urgency?

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

16 February 2016

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON LIMBO**

QUESTION 14:

HON LIMBO: The second one, Honourable Speaker, I rise to give Notice that on Thursday, 25th February 2016, I shall ask the Minister of Mines and Energy, Honourable Kandjoze, the following:

Before I do so, I would like the indulgence of this august House to suggest some outline of my questions.

The Ministerial policy on rural electrification states that communities within a 500 metre radius of a Government facility to be connected to the main power grid, should equally benefit from such a project. However, the situation on the ground is contrary to the policy because we have seen Government facilities connected to the grid isolating the surrounding communities within the stipulated radius. In order to have access to electricity, communities such as Mulundu, Kanono, Shaile and Mazungendaba have managed to raise funds through their Conservancy and successfully purchased (4) transformers; as we speak these transformers are installed in all the mentioned areas.

1. My question to the Minister is as follows: since these communities have contributed in the purchase of these transformers, is there a possibility for the Ministry to meet these communities halfway by providing electric cables and pay the contractor who will assist in connecting the homesteads within the mentioned areas?
2. Lastly, When will the remaining communities in areas which have Government facilities connected already, benefit from the Rural Electrification Programme?

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I now give the Floor to Honourable Van Den Heever. You have the Floor.

16 February 2016

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON VAN DEN HEEVER**

QUESTION 15:

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 25th of February 2016, I shall ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, the following:

Over the years there has been wide speculations about Namibia's apparent desire to withdraw its International Criminal Court (ICC) membership and finally speculations were brought to an end, when on or about 23 November last year, Honourable Tjekero Tweya confirmed in a press conference that Cabinet had approved Namibia's withdrawal from the ICC after a SWAPO Central Committee meeting had earlier confirmed this position. Hon. Tweya however said that no specific period had been given for when the withdrawal would be officially confirmed as there were "*certain technicalities*" to be attended to.

Given the importance and far-reaching consequences of the decision in the long term, I thus ask the following questions:

1. What were the initial reasons that led to Namibia subscribing to ICC membership, and further, does the need for Namibia to remain party to a similar body still exist?
2. May this august House kindly be appraised with the Report which details the specific reasons that justify the withdrawal of our membership from the ICC.
3. Has a definitive time scale been established that will determine the exact dates by when Namibia's ICC membership will officially be terminated?
4. In the absence of ICC membership, does Government foresee the formation or alternatively, becoming a member to a similar body? Be it on an African or global scale.

16 February 2016

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON NEKUNDI**

I thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. We are making progress. The only thing I can say from the Chair is that we can do with the minimum introduction to any of the subject matter that we would like to share, either in a form of a question or whatever. Let us move on.

Notice of Motions? Honourable Nekundi, please.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON NEKUNDI: Honourable Speaker and Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on Wednesday, the 24th February 2016, I shall Move that-

Judging from the high living cost, especially with regard to the basic commodities:-

This Assembly –

- (i) *Discusses* the poor wages across all sectors of our economy;
- (ii) Further *discusses* the possibility for Namibia to enact legislation on National Living Wage; and
- (iii) After *debate*, this Motion be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Gender Equality, Social Development and Family Affairs for further scrutiny and report back to this Assembly.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

16 February 2016

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON MAAMBERUA**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Next on my list is Honourable Maamberua.

HON MAAMBERUA: (*Interjection*) Minimum wage. Viva socialism! Yes, workers of the world unite.

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, 18th of February 2016, I shall Move that the National Assembly:-

Discusses and debates the need or otherwise of constructing a new Parliament Building (*Interjection*)

HON SHIXWAMENI: Why do you not want to debate it?

HON SPEAKER: Give him a chance, please.

HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Speaker, I agree with the President that the Debate and decision about the new Parliament is located squarely and constitutionally with the Legislature.

Similarly, to allow these raging, scattered Debate form, structure space and time, let the National Assembly take it up. There has not been a formal discussion by Parliament as an Institution on the subject matter. (*interjection*)

16 February 2016

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON MAAMBERUA**

HON MEMBER: Are you already motivating or what?

HON MAAMBERUA: No, I am introducing. Comrade Speaker, the problem does not seem to be the heat we experienced recently in the tent, but the underlying problem is the high number of Members from both Houses who cannot be accommodated within the current facilities available. Therefore, Comrade Speaker (*interjections*)

HON SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable John Mutorwa.

HON MAAMBERUA: I am introducing the Motion.

HON SPEAKER: Speaking on a Point of Order?

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Yes, speaking on a Point of Order. This is a very interesting Motion, but this is just to give Notice and then when you introduce, the Debate will start.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I alluded to that when I begged Members to keep the introduction to the minimum so that we can move faster. You have the Floor.

16 February 2016

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON MAAMBERUA**

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. My Motivation is probably going to be ten pages and this is only one and half page to say what this Motion is all about and I think I am in Order. Comrade Speaker (*interjections*)

HON SPEAKER: Yes, please you continue.

HON MAAMBERUA: The question to be answered through the Debate, therefore, should be – should a new Parliament be built amongst many other options to address the problem?

The Motion seeks to locate the implications and ramifications of the problem that led to the decision to construct a new building.

Secondly, the Motion encourages Members of Parliament to explore other alternative solutions to the problem. Therefore, the following are the imperatives that need to be elaborated on during the Debate.

HON SPEAKER: I think it is more than enough for us to pick up in the Debate. Those imperatives can be part of the Debate.

HON MAAMBERUA: Yes. Comrade Speaker, the first imperative is to abolish the bicameral system of Parliament. The second imperative that we are going to debate is to uphold the highest standard of the doctrine of separation of powers, and that is, that Ministers and Deputy Ministers – the Executive Component must serve as Members of Parliament.

Comrade Speaker, the second imperative that we are going to debate

16 February 2016

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON MAAMBERUA**

under this Motion, in order to address the problem, is to change the representation system from a Party list to a Constituency representation system (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: No, no, Order! I think please, with all due respect (*intervention*)

HON MAAMBERUA: I have got only two, then I am done.

HON SPEAKER: Please, because you are now forcing the Chair. Could you conclude please?

HON MAAMBERUA: Okay, I am concluding. Another imperative, Comrade Speaker, is to reduce the number of Members in both the National Council and Members of Parliament to the Regional numbers (*interjections*)

Finally, Comrade Speaker, by this Motion, the expectation is that all further costs being incurred on this Project, be held until the Debate is concluded. I am going to introduce the Motion on Thursday (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: With that in mind, I will subject your proposed Motion to a vote. Who seconds it? Any objection?

16 February 2016

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON MAAMBERUA**

HON MEMBER: No, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Yes, yes.

HON MAAMBERAU: No, that is un-procedural! That is un-procedural!

HON SPEAKER: This is where we are and this is what I am going to do.
Any objection?

HON MAAMBERUA: No, that is un-procedural. You cannot do that.
No ways!

HON SPEAKER: If you want to play fair then you also have to be sensitive. You are basically inviting the Chair to subject your Motion immediately to a vote. (*Interjections*) Yes, because the way it is loaded already, there is no Debate. You are proposing a Motion which clearly contains issues which are contentious and, therefore, I might as well put it to the House.

HON MAAMBERUA: What do you want to do with the Motion?

16 February 2016

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON MAAMBERUA**

HON SPEAKER: There is an objection. I register that and it is done.
(*Applause*)

HON MAAMBERUA: No, it cannot happen!

HON SPEAKER: Absolutely! I am firm on this one (*interjection*) No, please. This is not what I was expecting.

HON SHIXWAMENI: I have a Point of Order, just before we conclude.

HON SPEAKER: Yes.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Honourable Speaker, they say in English – *two wrongs cannot make a right*. (*Interjections*) Just listen to me. As an experienced Member of Parliament, I noted that Honourable Maamberua was supposed to Move a Notice of Motion and you allowed him to go the length that you allowed him to go. It was just supposed to be a Motion and I think it is fair that the Motion be put on the Table and it is passed so that it can be motivated because we are not doing any justice by shooting down the Motion.

HON SPEAKER: I think I pleaded with you to make it simple to the point that it is a Motion so that we could discuss it, but the Motion that is already containing views that are inviting immediate reaction – because

16 February 2016

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON MAAMBERUA**

under Rule 32, I am entitled to put it to the House and if there is an objection, it is carried.

HON MAAMBERUA: There is a Point of Order. (*Interjection*)

HON MEMBER: But there is a Ruling already.

HON MAAMBERUA: No, that is a wrong move.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Order. I want to refer the Speaker to Rule 30 (*interjection*)

HON MEMBER: The Speaker has ruled.

HON VENAANI: The Speaker has ruled un-procedurally. It is for the first time in the history of this House where a Notice of a Motion is subjected to a vote without discussion. (*Interjection*)

HON MEMBER: Then it must be a Notice!

16 February 2016

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON MAAMBERUA**

HON VENAANI: That is a Notice. I want to come to the aid (*interjection*) Listen!

HON VENAANI: Let us listen to one another. Do not make a mockery of democracy. That is a mockery of democracy.

Honourable Speaker, Rule 30 of the Standing Rules and Orders speaks very eloquently about the Notice of a Motion. I want to aid the Speaker, Honourable Maamberua is wrong not by giving a Notice of a Motion, but in his Motion he is subjecting the Motion to the Amendment of the Constitution (*interjection*) *Arikana puratenee!* Let us listen to one another.

HON SPEAKER: Let him conclude, please.

HON VENAANI: That does not negate the premise of a Notice of a Motion, where the Motion is to be subjected to a vote (*interjection*) No, it does not! However, Honourable Speaker, I want you to allow the Debate of the Motion (*interjection*) Yes! Because it is the first time – are we having democracy when we come to this House and our Motions are not subjected to a Debate.

HON SPEAKER: I have made a Ruling and I am very firm on this. I hinted that the Notice of the Motion of the Honourable Member was more than sufficient (*interjections*) Can I have order, please? I want you to hear me out, I will not return to the subject. I made a Ruling. We should all correct ourselves. We must all hear each other out.

16 February 2016

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON MAAMBERUA**

Honourable Maamberua went beyond the point of no return. I was quite interested to confine myself to the Motion, but the fact that the Motion is already discussing to amend things that are beyond the Motion, I just felt I must subject the Motion immediately to the House to agree or not to agree, and we have disagreed. So let us move on. Thank you.

HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Speaker, just a second please.

HON SPEAKER: Yes?

HON MAAMBERUA: Comrade Speaker, I would like to share with you that tomorrow, I shall Move a Motion to the National Assembly to discuss and debate the need or otherwise of constructing a new Parliament Building (*interjection*) Thank you very much. (*Laughter*)

HON SPEAKER: Actually I have sympathy, (*laughter*) Honourable Maamberua is a long standing Member of this House, a very experienced Member of this House.

If you tell me that you will come back tomorrow to revisit the subject that you ably presented, just as a Motivation, we will wait for you. We will wait for you, but let it be tomorrow. Honestly, please bear with me, I think we should move on. Thank you.

Any other Notice of Motion? Yes, Honourable Tweya was actually on my list. You have the Floor, please.

16 February 2016

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON TWEYA**

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that tomorrow, the 17th of February 2016, I shall Move that this Assembly:-

Ratifies the Constitution and Convention of the African Telecommunication Union. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Members, now that we have disposed of all those issues that have raised the temperature of the House, I would like to direct your attention to something that will cool our tempers. I know that all of you have your eyes open and you are seeing what I am seeing. To my left, at the other end, you are seeing some flowers covering one of the Honourable Members.

Today is Honourable Lina Namupala's Birthday and we wish to congratulate her. I think the party is immediately after the Session. *(Laughter)* Thank you very much. Thank you for sharing your day with the rest of us.

Ministerial Statements? Any Colleague who wish to take the Floor? Right Honourable Prime Minister, you have the Floor.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Members of the National Assembly, since it is my first time to take the Floor this year, kindly allow me to wish you a Blessed and Prosperous Year 2016. I trust that the year 2016 will be a fruitful year and that we shall fulfil our national responsibilities with high vigour and fortitude to render quality services to our citizens.

16 February 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
RT HON DR KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

Honourable Speaker, I rise before you today, to inform you and the public out there, through you Honourable Members, that in line with the Government's responsibility to promote an inclusive society, and in line with our motto that *No Namibian Should Be Left Out*, in particular, in terms of participating in socio-economic activities, the Government of Namibia through the Office of the Attorney-General, has among others, successfully translated the Namibian Constitution into the Braille reading system. (*Applause*) We believe that this translation will allow members of our society who are not able to see, to now be able to acquaint themselves with the content of the Namibian Constitution.

Copies of the translated Namibian Constitution into the Braille reading system will soon be available to the public at the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, but I have brought samples for the Honourable Members to take copies, if they so wish.

The Office of the Attorney-General is also in the process of translating the Namibian Constitution into other Namibian vernacular languages, and an announcement shall be made once this process is concluded.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, let us, therefore, support one another as compatriots to truly embrace the Namibian Constitution as our guiding document and make it part of our day-to-day lives. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Next on my list is the Honourable Attorney-General. You have the Floor.

**HOUSING MATTER RELATING
TO
THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE**

16 February 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON SHANGHALA**

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I would like to address the House on the matter that appeared in the media some time ago relating to the Minister of Defence's accommodation.

During the period 23 March 2015 to 31 October 2015, the Minister of Defence, Honourable Penda Ya Ndakolo, was accommodated in the Safari Hotel in Windhoek.

In terms of Article 1(5) of the Namibian Constitution, Windhoek as we know it is the seat of Central Government and thus the Minister is required to be physically present in Windhoek to perform his function.

We also know that prior to his appointment as Minister and his swearing in as the Member of this august House, the Honourable Penda Ya Ndakolo was the Governor of the Oshikoto Region. He owns a house under the Home Owners Scheme for Staff Members in the Region from which he was operating. I will return to this point later. However, he does not have housing in Windhoek to where he has been called to serve.

The Ministry of Defence's Management decided that the appropriate course would be to house the Minister at the Hotel until suitable accommodation could be acquired. This decision was based on the fact that the Hotel could provide ample security to ensure the Minister's safety considering the potentially sensitive position he holds and that this has been the accepted practice in the past.

It was the Ministry's intention to make use of the Hotel as a temporary, secure housing solution. Due to the fact that no sufficiently secure housing could be found, the Minister had no alternative but to continue residing at the Hotel.

The Ministry has since been able to locate a suitable home for the Minister.

The costs of residing at the Hotel have been recouped from the Minister in terms of the Public Service Staff Rules. Although it is correct that an

16 February 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON SHANGHALA**

amount must be recouped from the Minister, I am of the opinion that using the Public Service Staff Rules was incorrect due to the fact that a Minister does not fall under the definition of an employee of the Public Service.

However, there is little bit of a quagmire in that. Ministers are appointed as Political Office-Bearers by the President in terms of Article 32 of the Namibian Constitution. One of the defining characteristics of being a Public Servant is serving with political neutrality. This means that the employee will serve the country no matter what the Government Regime is. Therefore, in terms of the Article 32 appointment, a Minister cannot be considered as an employee under the *Public Service Act*, 1995 and I think we are going to agree on this.

Article 43 of the Namibian Constitution specifically makes the Secretary to Cabinet and the Secretary to the President subject to the Provisions of the *Public Service Act*, 1995 and there is the Public Service Handbooks that I wish to quote, which reads as follows:

“Staff member means any person employed in a post on or additional to the establishment as contemplated in Section 4 of the Public Service Act, 1995 and includes the Secretary to Cabinet and the Secretary to the President.”

The Public Service Staff Rules also defines who should be subject to the Rules, but merely refers to a person who occupies a post which has been classified for occupation by an employee. One must, therefore, consider the definition of an employee in the *Labour Act*, 2007 and in the *Labour Act* we will agree that the Minister is not an employee.

The *Labour Act*, 2007, in defining an employee, expressly excludes independent contractors. In terms of the definition of an independent contractor a Minister, who's profession it is to render services as a politician, can be defined as an independent contractor.

The notion is enhanced by Article 60 of the Namibian Constitution, which provides that all Ministers shall be accountable individually for the

16 February 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON SHANGHALA**

administration of their own Ministries and the work of their Ministries. This indicates independent, rather than the supervised work of an employee.

The primary object of the Ministry of Defence was to provide adequate, but most importantly secure interim housing for the newly appointed Minister until permanent housing could be located. This had to be done within the procurement framework and out of the options available in Windhoek.

It is common cause that the Minister did not own a home in Windhoek upon his appointment as Minister of Defence. He was a long-serving Governor of the Oshikoto Region where he owns a house.

The Minister has already reimbursed the State in accordance with the maximum housing allowance he received to the value of N\$136,515.00. In addition, the Minister has paid to the State, the amount of N\$50,281.00, which was spent on his food and refreshments. Proof of such is attached to this statement.

If there is any other outstanding amount, and we are not aware of any, such cannot be classified as a loss in terms of the Treasury Instructions for reasons that you can read in this Statement.

It is my conclusion that the Ministry of Defence acted correctly in the difficult circumstances of acquiring suitable housing for the Minister. The Minister's involvement in the situation was *bona fide*, without malice and inadvertent and he has paid the State back any and all amounts.

The Anti-Corruption Commission has been consulted, so has the Prosecutor-General and the Auditor-General. As constitutional office bearers, we deem this matter closed. In the meantime, I have corresponded with the Deputy-Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Damaseb, who is also the Chairperson of the Political Office-Bearers' Remuneration and Benefits Commission, to instruct his staff to prepare a dispensation for Political Office-Bearers who are transferred from position to position, and

16 February 2016

**COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ON
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON VENAANI**

from place to place. None currently exists.

Furthermore, even when it relates to the Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA), which relates to the Ministers, there is no dispensation separately crafted. We use Chapter D III approved by the Prime Minister in terms of Section 5(2)(j) of the *Public Service Act*, 1995, read together with Section 35 of that Act. Therefore, even with the Housing Scheme in which Governors are participating, those that are, it derives from the scheme available to staff members and this is an anomaly.

I trust that when the Political Office-Bearers Commission makes its determination, we will no longer have these unfortunate issues and trust that this matter is now closed. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. That was the Statement. Yes, Honourable Venaani, please.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ON MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON VENAANI: Just a short one, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, through you to the Honourable Attorney-General; when we talk to one another, we should not make as if we do not live in one country – that we all know. Through the Speaker, I am looking at you.

Honourable Attorney-General, Windhoek is not Juba in South Sudan – have you visited Juba? Knowing the security situation and the hotel accommodation problem in Juba your justification would have sufficed because it is a city with accommodation problems. If you read *Die Republikein* Newspaper, every day of our lives there are more than thirty

16 February 2016

**COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ON
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON PROF KASINGO**

houses, executive houses, that are advertised for the use of any Senior Official in this country.

This is a mini *Nkandla* - to tell us that because the Minister has repaid the money, therefore, there is no problem. Why incur the bill from the onset? We are not children, do not tell us that there are no houses in this country. When the media revealed the Minister's posh living, the next morning the Ministry of Defence found a guesthouse for the Minister. So Let us not tell each other things that are not good. There is ample property in Windhoek. Windhoek is not Juba, do not tell us kindergarten stories. It is wrong what the Minister has done, in fact, he owes this country an apology. That is the best instead of telling us those things that you are telling us.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. We move on. There is a list. Honourable Deputy Speaker please.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for the Floor, Honourable Speaker. I do not want to go into all that was said by the Attorney-General, but I just want to alert us and the public that this example of the Minister of Defence, is one of the examples which necessitated us as Parliament to have accommodation for our Members of Parliament. This is just one case, but if I can, for instance, particularly ask the new Members of Parliament who come from the Regions and who up to now are struggling with accommodation to stand up, the number will be huge. It is a pity (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: One of them actually stood up to show.

16 February 2016

**COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ON
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON MAAMBERUA**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: And I hope, if at all Honourable Maamberua is going to reintroduce his Motion of the Parliament Building and probably also the need for accommodating Members of Parliament, we will take the Floor because there is really a need. Whenever the South African Members of Parliament who live in Gauteng go to Cape Town, for example, they are accommodated in Government residence temporarily. Why can we not do that honestly, for the sake of our people who elected us?

We are not saying you are going to stay there free of charge and we are saying that we are going to build for each and every new Member of Parliament a mansion. At least you should consider the number of Colleagues who up to now are struggling and do not have proper accommodation.

This is a good example which should necessitate us as Parliament to have accommodation for our MPs. An MP is everybody who is a Member of Parliament, including the Members of the Executive also here. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Maamberua.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, I am delighted that I am taking the Floor after the Deputy Speaker because she is already motivating a Motion that was rejected. (*Laughter*) Telling me that it was actually just emotionally rejected, but it is coming back, procedurally.

Just a short question to my Friend, the Attorney-General. I did not hear you telling us what exactly did the Minister transgress? Is there any provision, either under the *State Finance Act* or any other Law that the 16

February 2016

**COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ON
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON MUHARUKUA**

Minister had transgressed in order to pay back the money? Why did the Minister pay back the money?

HON MEMBER: Arikana! (Please).

HON MAAMBERUA: The Minister is here why is the Minister not saying it himself?

Honourable Attorney-General, the last small question is; you just stated that *we* conducted the Prosecutor-General and I think the Anti-Corruption Commission and others, but who are *we*? Who are the '*we*,' who contacted the Anti-Corruption Commission on behalf of the Minister? Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Muharukua.

HON MUHARUKUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I just have a question to the Attorney-General. (*Interjection*) No, I have to. The question that I have is the following:-

The Attorney-General himself, in his own words indicated that a wrong has been made. He further went on to say that he consulted the Anti-Corruption Commission. At times the public out there thinks that the Anti-Corruption Commission is there to catch small fish while the big fish escape.

My question is - in your consultations, can you appraise us that Namibians are supposed to await a result of some sort emanating from an

16 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON SHANGHALA**

investigation that is currently happening based on the wrong that you have seen as an Attorney-General? Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honestly, sometimes I feel that we seem to try to – there is an English expression that I am looking for – make a mincemeat out of every Statement that is being made. I, therefore, find it very difficult to have to ask the Attorney-General to have to answer, but I suppose you have to reply to those questions.

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Thank you, Mr Speaker and thank you for the questions. I think the expression you were looking for is – *a storm in a teacup*. (*Laughter*)

Honourable Speaker, let me first start by saying that when this matter broke, as Office-Bearers, we have the responsibility to ensure the Rule of Law. It was discussed by this Government and felt the need that it should be investigated and if the Minister has committed any wrong-doing he should be taken to task. We have looked, and when I say ‘we,’ I speak of the Office of the Attorney-General and we speak this way because it is a collective effort. It is not an individual, but an Institution.

We, therefore, first had to look at the records with the Ministry and Minister can, obviously not report an investigation of himself here, that goes without saying. What I indicated is that there has been a practice from day one in this Republic where many of the Rules that apply to Office-Bearers, as you know the Political-Office-Bearers Commission only came into being later. Many of those Regulations are the ones that

16 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON SHANGHALA**

apply to staff members. So what naturally happened is that they apply the same book they to when they look for S & T and anything else and applied it to the Minister. I find that that is not correct because that should apply only to staff members.

However, did the Minister, therefore, transgress? The Minister did not do it himself, the system does it. The system is at fault and we are trying to correct the system; hence, I have consulted and engaged with *(interjections)* May I just respond, please? *(Intervention)*

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

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:
Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Order – without disrupting my Colleague, I am looking at Rule 89. It is a Rule that has two Paragraphs and it deals with Ministerial Statements. Firstly it says that – *the Minister who wishes to make a Statement on some public matter can do so*, which was done. Then Paragraph (b) then says; *after that Statement has been made, no Debate may arise on such Statement.* *(Interjections)* No, listen. *No Debate may arise, but the Speaker may in his/her discretion allow some short questions to be put to the Minister making the Statement for the purpose of elucidating*, which was also done. Questions were put and I know the Attorney-General went at length to PROVIDE the information. All that I am pleading for is for the Attorney-General, on the basis of the information given, maybe not to overstress the Debate. That is all I wanted to say.

HON SPEAKER: You are absolutely in order, because that is exactly what the Rules are saying and I also felt that the Attorney-General was

16 February 2016

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOMINATIONS
RT HON DR KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

actually being very liberal and actually expanding on issues that he covered in the earlier Statement. Therefore, if you could just conclude, I think everybody will be happy.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I was about to conclude - to say that given that there was no *mala fide* and it was a *bona fide* error these (*interjections*) May I just respond, please? You will, therefore, not be finding a Report coming from any of those Institutions that I mentioned, as I have indicated to you that in our discretion and if we are wrong, hold us to it – we find that this matter is closed. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I think we have exhausted the subject. May I request the Secretary to read the Order of the Day.

SECRETARY: It is a Notice of a Motion.

HON SPEAKER: The Notice of a Motion is the one of the Right Honourable Prime Minister does the Honourable Prime Minister Move the Motion?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Yes, I Move the Motion, Honourable Speaker.

16 February 2016

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOMINATIONS
RT HON DR KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

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

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION NOMINATIONS

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the House. I rise before you to motivate the nomination by His Excellency the President in terms of Chapter 13 Article 112(3) of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia of the following persons, for approval by the National Assembly to serve on the Public Service Commission of Namibia.

1. Mr Markus Kampungu.
2. Ms Batseba Unomuino Katjiuongua.

Mr Kampungu has been a member of the Public Service Commission since December of 2012. His current tenure of office runs up to December 2017. Given his experience as a Member of the Public Service Commission, he is nominated by the President to serve as Chairperson from the 17th of February 2016, to the 1st of December 2017, following the expiry of the tenure of Ambassador Eddie Amukongo as Chairperson of the Public Service Committee.

Ms Batseba Unomuino Katjiuongua is nominated to fill the vacancy left by Ambassador Amukongo as a member of the Commission. Ms Katjiuongua possesses appropriate academic qualifications and a wealth of experiences in the Public and Private Sectors, respectively, where she held senior managerial positions. I, therefore, request this august House to approve the appointments of Mr Markus Kampungu as Chairperson of the Public Service Commission with effect from the 17th of February 2016, to the 1st of December 2017, and Ms Batseba Unomuino Katjiuongua as a

16 February 2016

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOMINATIONS
HON DR MUSHELENGA**

Member of the Public Service Commission with effect from the 17th February 2016, to the 17th of February 2021, in line with the provisions of Article 112(4) of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia. I Move so, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. on my list, I have a number of speakers and I will start with the Honourable Mushelenga please.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
AND COOPERATION:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

Honourable Members, I rise to support the Motion introduced by the Right Honourable Prime Minister for the appointment of the Chairperson of the Public Service Commission and an additional member of the Commission, Ms Katjiuongua.

I have perused their CVs and not only that, I have known the two nominees over the years in their professional capacities and I have no doubt in my mind that they are equal to the task before them.

Mr Kampungu was once upon a time a Trade Unionist and I just hope that he continues in his new role to vie for a professional and impartial Public Service. Sometimes when you were on the side fighting for the Rights of the workers and now you have become an employer, it puts you on the spot to continue fighting for the same plight.

Honourable Speaker, for us who have known Mr Kampungu and Ms Katjiuongua, it is fine, but it will not be the same for those who do not know him – I see that the CV of Mr Kampungu that has been circulated is the same CV that was circulated when he was appointed for the first time as a member of the Commission, it has not been update, because when

16 February 2016

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOMINATIONS
HON DR MUSHELENGA**

you look at the last page of References, it still indicates Honourable Esau as a Member of the National Assembly and Honourable Mutorwa as a Minister of Basic Education. I just think that those who are responsible for preparing these documentations should be doing their job properly, so that when we speak of a professional Public Service, it is what we mean. Everything should be professional, because someone who does not know the members would ask if there are no other members with experience to take over as a Chairperson, but he is the most experienced and this document does not reflect that. It is important to take note of this.

While there, I also want to say something on the expeditious process of restructuring various Ministry establishments and the appointment of staff. At times, things take really too long. I for one, would want to speak on staff matters relating to our Diplomatic establishments.

But before I come to that, I once asked about the protracted replacement process when staff members retire from the Public Service, because when a staff member is retiring from the Private Sector and it is known when this he or she is leaving, the recruitment process for replacement starts immediately. By the time the person leaves, it takes barely a month to fill the position. Seeing what we are experiencing in our Ministry in the Public Service, I did ask and I was told that – *the position should become vacant first and then it will be advertised*. Advertising is not filling a position. If you really know that the person is retiring in a month or two months' time, why can you not start with recruitment process, so that we do not leave that gap, because by the time the person retires, you start advertising and the advertisement runs for so long a time, then you have a recruitment process and the position only becomes filled after six months. I really think that the Public Service Commission should look at that so that there is not really a long gap left to fill these positions.

This also happens when we post out Diplomats, especially when we establish new Diplomatic Missions. We send out staff members whom we notify that they are going on Diplomatic postings, sometimes even six

16 February 2016

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOMINATIONS
HON MUTORWA**

months on time – because we have opened new Missions and, thus created new vacancies.

Again, it waits until a person goes for Diplomatic posting then you run for about six to seven months without positions being filled. These are really some of the issues that I want the Public Service Commission to occupy themselves with.

With these few words, Honourable Speaker, I support the appointments of Mr Kampungu as the Chairperson and Ms Katjiuongua as a member of the Public Service Commission. For the first time, at least, we are having three women in the Commission. Previously we used to have two as if it was a norm of only retaining two. Now we are really talking about the 50/50 representation. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Mutorwa.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:
Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I am also adding my voice to the eloquent Motivation by the Right Honourable Prime Minister for the elevation of Mr Markus Kampungu as the Chairperson of the Public Service Commission and Ms Katjiuongua as a member of that Commission. The two are very excellent Public Servants. However, let me just say a few words on Kampungu, considering that I am also a Referee on his CV.

Mr Kampungu has more than fifteen years experience as a member of the Public Service Commission of Namibia. Of course, as a young student in the early 80s, him and the likes of Honourable Ignatius *Nkotongo* Shixwameni, Paul Kalenga, George Mayumbelo and many others – Tweya was a little bit older than them, but he was also there (*interjection*) Yes, Maureen Hinda and many others – Dr Mushelenga here. They were

16 February 2016

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOMINATIONS
HON MUTORWA**

activists who kept the torch burning when it came to student politics in NANSO. (*Interjection*) Oh, Nauyoma also.

Some of us only participated in the first consultative meeting of students at Döbra, in 1983 that led into the formation of NANSO, but by the time NANSO was established, in July 1984, we were graduating into becoming teachers. However, these were very visible people and many others, of course, but they were in the leadership positions.

At the formation of NANTU in March 1989, Kampungu as a 27 year old young teacher, got the trust of the teachers to be the first founding Secretary-General of NANTU. A task that he performed excellently – *par excellence* as founding Secretary-General of NANTU. There is perhaps a history to why the Reference is John Mutorwa, Minister of Basic Education, on Kampungu's CV. One of the Resolutions that NANTU took in 1989, was that NANTU wanted to see an independent Teaching Service Commission for the teachers only in the Public Service Commission of Namibia. By the time that debate became very hot, Yours Truly, speaking here, was the Minister of Basic Education. It became hot, because the Constitution of the country makes Provision for only one Public Service Commission. You could not have an independent Teaching Service Commission for teachers. It was so hot and at the end of the day, with the intervention and advice of the then Prime Minister, now our President, some kind of a consensus was reached; and the consensus was that: from NANTU, with this strong position of wanting an independent Teaching Service Commission, let us have some kind of a Sub-Committee on the Public Service Commission of Namibia, that may pay more attention to issues related to teachers. That is how Kampungu ended up there, at the Public Service Commission. So, here is a man who has experience and I do not think that when you look at the serving Public Service Commissioners, he will be at the bottom, in terms of experience. I think he will be at the top! So here is this man, for me he is a young brother – Ignatius Shixwameni is also a young brother to me, outside this House, obviously – who I think deserves to be there and we wish him well, strength, wisdom and hard work in carrying out this very important

16 February 2016

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOMINATIONS
HON KARUPU**

national responsibilities. The same applies to Batseba Katjiuongua. I know her, she is very active, a social worker in the Ministry of Health, I do not know whether she is still there. For the time I knew her, she was very active and very progressive.

Right Honourable Prime Minister, I think the Public Service Commission of Namibia, with the elevation of Mr Kampungu and the addition of Ms Katjiuongua has just gained. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. We move on and I give the Floor to Honourable Karupu.

HON KARUPU: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I also rise before this august House to make a brief contribution in support of the nomination of the person I know, Mr Markus Kampungu to the position of the Chairperson of Public Service Commission of the Republic of Namibia.

As you might know Honourable Members, the Public Service Commission is one of the National Institutions established by our Constitution. One of the main functions of the Public Service Commission in terms of Article 113 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia is and I quote – *“to advise the President and Government on the appointment of suitable persons to specified categories of employment in the Public Service with special regard to the balanced structuring thereof.”*

In fulfilling its functions, the Constitution directs the Public Service Commission to be independent and act impartially. By implication, Public Service Commissioners should be people of the highest integrity with the requisite skills, competencies, independent minds, experiences and

16 February 2016

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOMINATIONS
HON KARUPU**

attitude of humility to serve to the best of their abilities.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Kampungu possesses the expected competencies and experience to preside over the affairs of the Public Service Commission. He is a holder of a teacher training qualification and a Master of Policy Studies specialising in Social Policy, obtained from the Southern African Regional Institute for Policy Studies (SARIPS) accredited by the Universities of Fort Hare and Zimbabwe. Mr Kampungu is also the longest serving Public Service Commissioner amongst the current Public Service Commissioners.

He has also served on various Boards and Councils. Amongst them is the Council of the former Polytechnic of Namibia and the Labour Resource and Research Institute (LARRI).

Many teachers in Namibia will remember him as the first Secretary-General of the Namibia National Teachers' Union (NANTU) from its inception until 1995 when he declined nomination, as he was of the opinion that he has made his contributions, and others have to come in and continue building the Union.

Honourable Speaker, it is against the abovementioned values that I stand in this august House to support the nomination of Mr Kampungu as Chairperson of the Public Service Commission solely and on the principle of merit, qualifications and demonstrated competencies, experience and ability Mr Kampungu possesses to serve this Nation with commitment and humility.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Ambassador Eddie Amukongo for his dedicated public service and wish him a deserved rest during his retirement from Public Office.

I would equally like to express sincere thanks to the Right Honourable Prime Minister for nominating Mr Kampungu for the position of

16 February 2016

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOMINATIONS
HON VENAANI**

Chairperson of Public Service Commission. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I now give the Floor to Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, first and foremost, I just want to be on record that we are indeed supporting the nomination of the two colleagues. I support their nomination and appointment to this very auspicious body in the governance of our Republic.

Both colleagues are very well known to me in their labour to our citizenry through the Public Service and I think they would make a very good contribution to this very important body that they have served, especially Mr Kampungu. Ms Batseba Unomuino Katjiuongua is a well known Social Worker who has been working as a Director and later as an Under-Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

However, the premise of my contribution is based on two issues that I want to raise that we are reading in the Press about the Government doing something about downsizing the Civil Service. I want to be on record thanking you that you have heeded our call after so many years – that something is being done about reforming the Civil Service and attempting to downsize it.

I am, however, seeing a trend, perhaps from the Civil Society where people are saying as if this downsizing process is going to happen in the next one or two years and I have been warning against it that, countries that have successfully implemented the downsizing of Civil Service have done it in a number of years and because of the unemployment rate that we have in our country, we cannot implement a process where we start downsizing from year one. We have been speaking consistently on a ten-

16 February 2016

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOMINATIONS
HON VENAANI**

year programme that, for us as a country, knowing the economic dynamics that our country is facing, the slow turn of our economy and looking at how other comparative economies like our neighbours and so forth are doing. We cannot afford to go on a wholesale Civil Service downsizing with an immediate go. We must have a medium to long-term strategy on how we want to implement this. Yes, we have to face it.

If we look at countries such as England, for example, they started their reform since 1983 and it was last implemented in 1997, to downsize from 797,000 Public Servants to 483,000 and it is a big economy. Therefore, Namibia can also go that route, but we must be very cautious.

One issue that I want to bring on board is the question of incentivising those that are exiting, because we are having a developmental State that is growing, we should look at how we can partner those that are exiting to go into business. It is very important. They have been working, but one of the problems that we have in our country is that when people are retiring, people are taking their money to do things that are not productive. You know what our communities are doing. Teachers, for example, are taking what we call *okapaki* in my language, meaning people are taking their package. At 46, a person feels that he must retire and there is this culture in our country where you think that, because you are going to get N\$500,000.00, you are now going to start building a house, buying a car, buying your wife a new fridge, a, b, c and d.

HON MEMBER: A wife?

HON VENAANI: Yes, it is very important to buy your wives nice fridges (*interjection*) Yes, for the wife. Even if the Prime Minister buys a new fridge, she will tell her friend that – *I bought a new fridge*. I will never tell somebody that.

16 February 2016

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOMINATIONS
HON WITBOOI**

However, I am using this example – there is this culture that I am seeing in our country where young people are taking these packages too early and are using this money on unproductive stuff, only to come back tomorrow - we have a lot of teachers, I am sure the Minister of Education is aware of that, teachers that have taken their pension and are now begging for jobs again.

What I am trying to say is that we need to incentivise and create a business model for people that are exiting the Civil Service to be able to go and build more houses that we need in our country, create more SMEs in our country, so that we do not take people away from jobs to become unemployed, but we take them away from a huge wage bill, where they can contribute effectively and productively to the economy.

With these few remarks, I support the Government's initiative to downsize, but I am also urging cautiousness, for us to do it in phases. Let us create a very strong incentive package so that people are inclined to go from one area to the other – going into farming, going into business and so forth.

Honourable Speaker, our Party supports the nomination of the two colleagues.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The next on my list is Honourable Witbooi.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to support the Motion of the appointment of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson.

16 February 2016

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOMINATIONS
HON WITBOOI**

HON MEMBER: She is a Member.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Member, sorry. However, Honourable Speaker, in the spirit of our theme of the Parliament this year – *Striving Towards Gender Equality and Raise Awareness against Gender-Based Violence*, I want to make the following remarks.

Namibia as a country has improved on female representation in different Sectors, for example, Parliament, Board membership and Commissioners. However, I would like to raise my concern regarding the appointment of Chairpersons of Commissions, Boards and Councils. Normally, the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson is balanced, we have reached that that point, but most of the time the position of Chairperson goes to men. I want you to understand me very clearly – I do not want us to compromise on quality with quantity, by just appointing anybody, but after 26 years of Independence, are we saying that we do not have enough competent women in this country?

Honourable Speaker, we even had instances, and I have done my research, where the same male person is chairing on more than one Commission. According to the research that I conducted – on 22 SOE Boards, 64% of Board Chairpersons are men while 26% are women. In addition to that, information gathered from the same Boards indicated that 25% of Vice-Chairperson positions goes to men while 75% goes to women, which somehow reveals that women are only good for the second-best positions.

Honourable Speaker, we have to change this diminishing perception that only men are capable to lead and for men to have the top positions (*interjections*) can I be protected, Comrade Speaker?

16 February 2016

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOMINATIONS
HON DR ANKAMA**

HON SPEAKER: Yes, allow her to conclude.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Let us come back to the specific Commission. The first Chairperson was a man, the second Chairperson was a man, the third Chairperson of this particular Commission was a man and now the fourth one is a man again. There is nothing for us, without us, and we need to talk, sensitise and educate our Nation and our male counterparts to consider us.

Therefore, in conclusion, I wish to encourage my fellow Lawmakers to consider equal gender representation, especially when it comes to the appointment of Chairpersons. (*Applause*) We need to change this perception and if we cannot talk for ourselves, who will come and talk on our behalf? At least at the end of this year, we should be able to look back

proudly and say; *we have achieved the purpose of the theme of the year.* With these remarks, I support the nominations and I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. We still have a long way to go, there are various Commissions and Committees and there are going to be a number of candidates. Hopefully your wish will be fulfilled. The next one on my list is Honourable Dr Ankama.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, I also stood up to give weight to the appointment of Mr Kampungu and Ms Katjiuongua.

16 February 2016

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOMINATIONS
HON DR ANKAMA**

However, perhaps at the beginning, I would like to state that I would like to wish the outgoing Chairperson a healthy retirement. I know the gentleman retiring, Ambassador Amukongo, quite a long way back, dating back to 1986 while he was in Brussels at the time. He was a very good Chairperson also.

Coming back to Mr Kampungu, my colleague and my Comrade, whom I know very well, we worked together, first, at the formation of NANSO, then at NANTU, we came a long way. He is just the right candidate I tell you – very sharp minded, quite ethical and trustworthy. Mind you, once he tells you that he is going to come, he will definitely come.

Mr Markus Kampungu is a long serving member of the Public Service Commission and experience matters a lot. When you have a well experienced personality like him, he would definitely become a good Chairperson. I know of Chairpersons in various positions and with him, we are definitely expecting the Public Service Commission to work and to bring about changes.

I worked with Ms Batseba.

HON MEMBER: With her?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Yes, at CCN. We worked together at CCN. I was just a second secretary of the Secretary-General at CCN and she was dealing with the Social Work. I know her very well, she is a good person, very logical and she can make a good team.

Coming to the Public Services Commission that we have been talking about, of course, I am looking forward, because I understand that so many

16 February 2016

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOMINATIONS
HON SHIXWAMENI**

things that we have been talking about are going to change.

I believe that there will be a visible change amongst others, just to make sure that those Public Servants who are not giving their best at work they are employed to do, they should not just be chucked out and lay at home while they are receiving money as it used to be the case, while investigations are going on for years and years. I think something will be done to make sure that people work and they should receive the money for the work they have been employed for.

I would, therefore, like to say that Mr Kampungu who is going to be the Chairperson and his team, should be given every possible support they need from this House so that they are able to succeed with reviewing and refreshing the face of the Public Service Commission. I support the appointments.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I call upon Honourable Shixwameni.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Honourable Speaker, I rise to support the appointment of the two nominees. I know and have worked with both of them. I do not need to repeat what my elder Brother, Honourable John Mutorwa said and also what my Colleague from Seeis actually said. I think he is not really supporting Mr Kampungu, but he is supporting both of them and the Public Service Commission. My *Swara* is making a mistake, but remember that you will be going home and I will deal with you.

I, therefore, just support the appointment by saying these are competent people whom I have known for quite a long time and as many people have testified here, there is no doubt that the two of them will be able to move the Public Service Commission forward.

16 February 2016

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOMINATIONS
HON HINDA**

With those few remarks and without wasting time, I support the appointment. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I call upon Honourable Hinda.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
AND COOPERATION:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I rise to support the nominations, like the previous speakers.

I should say that the CVs of the colleagues speak volumes, particularly about qualifications, experience and other activities, but we would all agree that character cannot be adequately reflected in a Curriculum Vitae.

I wish to speak to the character of Comrade Kampungu whom I have known for almost three decades of my activism, as a dynamic, principled, disciplinarian who leads by example. I believe he is currently the longest serving Commissioner.

It is important to highlight that the character also fits the position. Public Service Commission requires a cool-headed, principled individual to chair its affairs. Like his predecessor, late Joseph Ithana, may his soul rest in peace, and the outgoing Ambassador Eddie Amukongo, Comrade Markus Kampungu is indeed equally a cool-headed and principled gentleman. Not only is he good, but of excellent public standing. His being incorruptible would be an all inclusive description – he is such a person. As a tested cadre could be, he would be the same. But it would not be enough, Mr Kampungu is also a Pan-Africanist, an educator of high standards, be it about ethical value, time consciousness, consistency, loyalty to the cost of nation-building with an uncompromising spirit to undue practices.

16 February 2016

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOMINATIONS
HON NEKUNDI**

The Public Service Commission is such an important Institution whose leadership and Commissioners need such uncompromising members to continue on the foundation established and built by the predecessors and to take the Public Service to new heights, together with his colleagues with whom he has worked and has a proven track record of leadership capabilities. I can with confidence state that the character meets the post. The same is, of course, applicable to Ms Katjuongua.

Honourable Prime Minister, I support these nominations of the President wholeheartedly and I am confident that this House unanimously supports him. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Nekundi you have the Floor.

HON NEKUNDI: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Comrade Right Honourable Prime Minister, I stand to support the nominations of the two colleagues to the Public Service Commission's Chairmanship and Membership.

Yes, I rise to support these nominations, but there are just a few things that I would like to bring to the attention of the colleagues as they assume their responsibility as of the 17th of February 2016.

All has already been said of their characters, professionalism and abilities to bring depth to our Public Service's effective administration, I feel that this has been eloquently addressed by the previous speakers who took the Floor..

One of the two or three aspects that I want to bring to your attention is my call as the Leader of the youth. As they enter the office, we would like to see that the colleagues ensure that the Government or the Public Service

16 February 2016

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOMINATIONS
HON NAMBAHU**

enacts an Internship Policy that will enhance the experience required from the youth when they leave Tertiary Institutions for the job market. It is imperative that, just as many other countries have Internship Policies, we are looking upon them to ensure that we have an Internship Policy in the Public Service.

The other aspect that I would like to see improve is the lengthy time that it takes for the recruitment process before a person gets appointed. We have observed over the period that sometimes it can take up to a year from the day a job has been advertised to when a person is appointed and sometimes even over a year. I believe that the Public Service Commission has the ability to shorten these process to the minimum possible time.

I would further like to see that the colleagues ensure that our Public Service is re-engineered in order to enhance administrative effectiveness. Last week we have learnt through Comrade Mutorwa our Minister of – which one again? (*Laughter*) – Agriculture, where some people are not paid on time, this boils down to administration and it is only when we have people like Comrade Markus that administrative effectiveness can be implemented in our Public Service.

Honourable Speaker, Comrade Prime Minister, I Move to support the nominations of the two colleagues. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The next Speaker is Honourable Nambahu. You have the Floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker and Happy New Year to all! It is the first time I am taking the Floor this year.

16 February 2016

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOMINATIONS
HON NAMBAHU**

I also want to support the nominations of these two colleagues. I have known them personally. I met one of them and I think Honourable Shixwameni would know whom I talking about. There are certain people he says he met through me and there are those ones that I can also say I met through him.

What I want to say is that I want to support, knowing the characters of these colleagues, the importance of the task at hand and the reform that the Public Service Commission needs to undergo. Time and again, you have issues like – oh, General Namoloh is out – when you are training people and you are recruiting people, it is almost the same thing. When you do not go and see how they work, sometimes you end up not perfecting your training. We are given people who sometimes come and work, but you hear that it is you who recruits, but someone else appoints – these people are not doing much and no one really comes to assess how they are performing. Therefore, I would want to see a situation where the Public Service also see it as their responsibility to audit how the people they help fit into positions are performing. I am sure the new Public Service Commissioners will be able to go out of their way and do something about this.

I equally want to congratulate and wish Ambassador Amukongo well – a fine person he is. I think he has been able to leave some finesse and elegance that he is able to carry himself in, as a legacy to the Public Service. He is a very nice person to talk to, he is a good listener and I am sure he will be able to leave some of these legacies with the people that he has been able to mentor. I only wish him well in his retirement.

Honourable Speaker, I am concluding, about Ms Katjiuongua, I am really happy that a Social Worker has been elevated to this category. It is time that the Social Workers in this country enjoy the recognition of the work they do and the profession they practice. When each and every one of us has problems, we just say – *go to the Social Worker* and society does not give much due recognition to the importance of the work that is done by

16 February 2016

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOMINATIONS
HON DIENDA**

these people. I, therefore, think with the appointment of Comrade Katjiuongua whom I have also worked with, we will be able to do much and that recognition is going to be due. I support the nominations, Honourable Speaker. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I call upon Honourable Dienda.

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker (*hoarse voice*) Honourable Speaker, I will be very brief.

HON MEMBER: Just sit down please!

HON DIENDA: I just rise to support the Honourable Deputy Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare because the two nominations were already supported by my President, so there is no need to support that.

What I want to say is that I hope that in future, before the nominations are brought to this august House, they will look into not only making sure of the gender representation, but also make sure that women will not remain backbenchers in all positions. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much for having the courage to convey your sentiments. We wish you well – a speedy recovery. Any

16 February 2016

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOMINATIONS
RT HON DR KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

further discussions? Does the Honourable Prime Minister, wish to reply?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I do Honourable Speaker and in doing so, I would like to firstly, thank the Honourable Members for their overwhelming support for the nomination of the two colleagues whose credentials speak for themselves and have thus generated the kind of positive response that we have heard from the Members.

I would like to respond to the specific issues raised by some of the Honourable Members, starting with the comment on the need to ensure that CVs are updated so that they give a correct reflection of the experience and qualifications of the persons for purposes of referencing, be it for employment consideration or for other purposes. I can only agree with that and I hope that all of us would practise that to make sure that our CVs are indeed up to date so that when they are requested, they would give accurate information on the status of qualifications and experiences of the person in question.

There was a concern expressed about the delays in filling vacancies in the Public Service. I would like to indicate that the recruitment process is one of the processes that has been identified for re-engineering in the Public Service to try and streamline it in order for us to expedite the process of filling vacancies.

On the comments made by *Honourable Venaani*, specifically concerning the concerns expressed out there about the modalities for downsizing the Public Service and the caution that he himself has advanced, I would like to say the following with regard to that matter. In fact, the approach of Government with regard to Public Service reform is broader than downsizing, we are actually not even using that terminology. What we are saying is that the expenses related to personnel in the Public Service is disproportionately high in the Budget, and we need to contain that and

16 February 2016

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOMINATIONS
RT HON DR KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

bring it down, so that we can release more funds for direct service delivery to the Namibian public, and we are looking at a number of issues to address in order to achieve that, and the number of people in the Public Service is only one of the many issues that we are looking at. That is the first point.

I also agree with the point made that we need to take a phased approach in dealing with this issue because, as I have indicated, it is a range of issues that we are looking at.

The third point that I want to make is that the recommendations in the study that has so far been completed are advocating in some instances for further investigations and there are also issues that would require extensive consultations with stakeholders. Therefore, there is no finality on a number of issues. I have had a lot of commentary about, for example, decreasing the age for early retirement. There is no decision taken on that. We only said that we are going to investigate it, look at all the aspects related to that issue and we may come back and say; *we should not reduce it to that age that is referred to in the document* or we should not do it at all.

I, therefore, want to appeal to the public to be a bit patient and allow us to carry out all the necessary investigations and also to consult stakeholders to arrive at a definite proposal that we would also share with Parliament.

The Honourable Member also called for incentives or rather for education of Civil Servants who leave the Civil Service, not to use their pension packages on consumptions. I can only agree with him in that regard. In fact, we are advocating for an Amendment to the *Pensions Fund Act* to provide for pension preservation for employees who leave employment prior to retirement age because there are people who actually leave the Public Service not because they want to go on early retirement, but just to get access to the accumulated pension benefits and they go and spend that on consumable goods like cars, which are sometimes not even insured. These cars that they spend their pension money on, either get stolen or

16 February 2016

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOMINATIONS
RT HON DR KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

involved in accidents, and as a result they come back again crying, trying to be reinstated into their old positions in the Public Service, and even when they do succeed, their new service would be so short that it will not allow them to accumulate enough pension to sustain them during their retirement period.

We actually would want to engage the Ministry of Finance and the public at large to see whether we cannot change the *Pension Fund Act* in order to make provision for that, however, that will also have to go hand in hand with public education. People need to understand that pension is not your ordinary savings. Ordinary savings you do with other financial institutions, such as banks. When you accumulate pension benefits, that is to be accessed only when you go on pension. It is not meant to be accessed midterm, to buy a car, build a house or even to conduct a business. I would advise you to go to the bank for funding for these – that is why we have Public Financial Institutions and we are also reforming the Private Financial Sector in order for them to provide credit to all proposals that are deserving of funding without any due discrimination of the kind that we are observing today, that has motivated us to come up with a Financial Sector Reform Strategy and also to embark on the formulation of NEEEF.

There was a comment on the need to practise gender equity in selecting persons for leadership positions, especially on SOE Boards. I want to indicate that that is a principle that the Government and the SWAPO Party embrace and that is why the SWAPO Party opted for a Zebra Style Party list for the National Assembly. Unfortunately, our Colleagues from the Opposition Parties are reluctant to embrace that principle. Some of them even went to the extent of withdrawing women who have earned their positions on their Party's ticket and replaced them with men. This is not to discredit the Honourable Members who came into the House that way; it is not about them, it is just the principle that I am speaking to. I know that Honourable Dudu Murorua is an experienced politician and he has proven himself in the various capacities that he has served, but as the Leader of Government Business in the House, I would like to call upon

16 February 2016

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOMINATIONS
RT HON DR KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

other Political Parties in this House to follow suit at what the SWAPO Party has done and make sure that their lists of Members to Parliament, in the National Assembly and in the National Council reflect gender balance.
(Applause)

I also want to indicate that with regard to gender balance at State-Owned Enterprises, Cabinet has resolved to task the Minister of Public Enterprises together with the Minister of Gender and Child Welfare to look at developing modalities to ensure that there is gender equity in the employment and deployment to the Boards of State-Owned Enterprises; so that issue is already on the radar of Government.

Now regarding the country as a whole, we already have the *Affirmative Action Act*, which requires balance in all forms and ways, including gender in terms of employment. Under NEEEF (New Equitable Economic Empowerment Framework), we are going to require that apart from balance in terms of gender in employment, there should also be that balance in terms of ownership of corporate, in terms of management – the people who are to be entrusted with management responsibilities and also with regard to Financial Institutions in terms of the allocation of credit because we have observed that when it comes to aspiring women entrepreneurs, they struggle to get access to funding. However, we do really have women that are very entrepreneurial and are very hardworking, but are struggling to get funds for their businesses.

We have already engaged the Public Financial Institutions and I have already noted, even when I was the Minister of Finance, that that is being addressed. The Development Bank, for example, is striving to ensure that the Public Funds that are entrusted to them for investment into the economy would not only help us to grow the economy, but would also help us to restructure the economy by creating an industrial base and assist us to bring those who were previously disadvantaged onboard the economy, be they people of African origin, women, people with disabilities or young people.

16 February 2016

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOMINATIONS
RT HON DR KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

The Public Funding Institutions have, therefore, been sensitised in this regard and, in fact, in its Impact Report, the Development Bank of Namibia does indicate how the deployment of resources are done in this regard and how the benefits have been shared amongst the different categories of beneficiaries. We will, thus, continue to keep that issue on the radar.

The youthful Member, my Brother *Honourable Nekundi*, there asked for an Internship Policy in order to equip the young graduates from tertiary institutions with practical skills so that they can be absorbed into the labour market. I would like to inform him that the Public Service already has an Internship Policy that is currently being reviewed in order to strengthen it. I am hoping that the Public Service Commission, in terms of its function as the advisor to Government on matters of Public Service Management, would continue to render its advice to the Office of the Prime Minister and Government in general, on this issue. I have already talked about the reforms that are ongoing to streamline the processes and that also includes the re-engineering of processes. This is one of the activities that are under consideration, not only under the Office of the Prime Minister, but under a number of Offices, Ministries and Agencies.

There was a call for the Public Service Commission to assist in ensuring that there is monitoring of the performance of Public Servants. I want to indicate that the Government has a Performance Management System in place that was initially focussed to the Civil Service. Of recent, specifically last year, the system was cascaded upwards to also include Political-Office-Bearers who then signed Performance Agreements with His Excellency, the President. This is, especially, to monitor the performance of Public Servants, be they Political-Office-Bearers or Civil Servants to make sure that they deliver on the commitments that are made. This system entails ensuring that all Public Offices would have would have Action Plans, and all Political-Office-Bearers would have commitments signed between the Political-Office-Bearers and the President through Performance Agreements, and that there are regular

16 February 2016

**MOTION OF CONDOLENCE
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

Progress Reports and Evaluation Reports to assess the progress made in executing agreed tasks and also the impact of the implementation of those activities on service delivery and development in the country.

We have, therefore, made a start in that regard. Yes, the process is still maturing and it can be improved further, but we have initiated the process.

I want to conclude by thanking the Honourable Members again, for their support of these nominations of the President to fill the vacancies on the Public Service Commission. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I now put the question that the Motion be adopted. Any objection? Agreed to.

MOTION OF CONDELENCE

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, at this juncture, before I ask the Prime Minister to adjourn the House, I would like to, on behalf of the National Assembly, express our sincere condolences and sadness indeed, about the tragic passing on of fifteen of our compatriots passengers who tragically lost their lives last on Friday, the 12th of February 2016, in a horrific accident.

Once more, on behalf of the National Assembly and indeed the people of this country, let their souls rest in peace and may the Grace of the Lord be with their families and friends. Perhaps we could observe a minute of silence.

HOUSE OBSERVES A MINUTE OF SILENCE

16 February 2016

ADJOURNMENT
RT HON DR KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Well, in view of the fact that we are almost done, may I ask the Right Honourable Doctor Prime Minister to adjourn the House?

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

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. The House stands adjourned until tomorrow, the usual time.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:55 UNTIL 2016.02.17 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
17 FEBRUARY 2016**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

BILLS CONFIRMED BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we had been informed by the Chairperson of the National Council that the Council, in terms of Article 75(2) of the Constitution, considered and confirmed the following Bills with Amendments.

- (i) *Civil Aviation Bill* [B.1 – 2015];
- (ii) *Regional Councils Amendment Bill* [B.11 – 2015]; and
- (iii) *Local Authorities Amendment Bill* [B.12 – 2015].

These Bills will be placed on the Order Paper for reconsideration by this Assembly as soon as the Ministers concerned indicate their readiness to continue. I will leave it at that.

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

TABLING: REPORTS OF AUDITOR-GENERAL

17 February 2016

**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

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

- (i) Municipality of Outjo for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2014;
- (ii) Town Council of Lüderitz for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2014;
- (iii) Town Council of Rundu for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2014;
- (iv) Village Council of Leonardville for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2013; and
- (v) Village Council of Stampriet for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2014.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Notice of Questions. I recognise Honourable Van Den Heever.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 16:

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 25th of February 2016, I shall ask the Minister of Mines and Energy, Honourable Obed Kandjoze the following:

17 February 2016

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON VAN DEN HEEVER**

Over the last few months, I have closely followed developments relating to the possible establishment of Marine Phosphate Mines in Namibia.

According to a Report in *The Namibian* of 11 February 2016, the Cabinet Committee on Trade and Economic Development was tasked with compiling a Report on whether Marine Phosphate Mining should be permitted in Namibia and such Report would then form the basis of Cabinet's decision.

I, therefore, ask:

1. Can the Honourable Minister please share the findings of that Report with this Assembly, highlighting the *pros* and *cons* relating to such potential ventures.
2. Additionally, has a Cabinet decision been reached on whether Marine Phosphate Mining will be permitted in Namibia. And if such a decision has indeed been reached, what was it and what was the rationale therefore? I thank you.

QUESTION 17:

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: Honourable Speaker, my second question - I give Notice that on Thursday, the 18th of February 2016, I shall ask the Minister of Health and Social Services, Honourable Dr Bernard Haufiku the following:

I refer to an article in *The Namibian* of Tuesday, 16 February 2016 titled - "***Nam Buys Unregistered ARVs.***" In this article it is alleged that the Ministry did not follow the correct tender procedures in purchasing ARVs – either from Uganda or elsewhere, where exactly is not clear – as the – "*emergency purchases' exemption does apparently not apply to ARVs.*"

More worryingly, it is further alleged that upon arrival, the ARVs were

17 February 2016

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON VAN DEN HEEVER**

immediately dispensed to medical facilities without being duly registered and/or certified, as required, by the *Namibia Medicines and Related Substances Control Act*.

I am hesitant to draw any definitive conclusions on this matter based solely on media reports and I, therefore, ask the Minister to clarify the following issues:

1. What was the procedure followed in acquiring the ARVs and what necessitated a departure from the normal procedure? Was such departure in line with existing Rules and Regulations?

HON MEMBER: Were you not in the House when the Honourable Minister explained?

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: I was in the House.

2. Is the allegation true that the medication was dispensed to hospitals without first being registered or a determination having been made on their suitability and effectiveness? Should medication have been duly registered, is there documentary proof to this effect in the form of a certificate or other document? (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: On a Point of Order, Honourable Member.

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

17 February 2016

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON KAVEKOTORA**

HON SPEAKER: Are you done?

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: I am done. (*Laughter*)

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Van Den Heever, you escaped that. May I now call upon Honourable Kavekatora?

QUESTION 18:

HON KAVEKOTORA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 25th of February 2016, I shall ask the Minister of Environment and Tourism, Honourable Pohamba Shifeta, the following questions relating to Conservancies in the Kunene Region:

A possible conflict situation is developing in the Conservancies of Omatendeka and Ehi Rovipuka in the Kunene Region. The potential conflict arises from farmers being evicted from an area apparently demarcated exclusively for wild life

1. Is the Minister aware of the potential conflict situation in Omatendeka and Ehi Rovipuka between Conservancies and farming?
2. Can the Honourable Minister explain to this august House and the Nation how co-habitation works in communal areas between wild life and farmers?
3. Lastly, can the Minister provide to this august House with a list of places in the communal areas that are exclusively demarcated for wild life, if such a list of exclusivity exists? I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

17 February 2016

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MUHARUKUA**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. We move on to Honourable Muharukua.

QUESTION 19:

HON MUHARUKUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I hereby give Notice that on Thursday, the 25th of February 2016, I shall ask the Minister of Presidential Affairs, Honourable Frans Kapofi, the following:

Over the past few years the Namibian Nation has been witness to demonstrations and demands of a group of youth that has become known as the “*Struggle Kids*.” Chief amongst the demands of Struggle Kids has been, first and foremost, formal recognition as Struggle Kid and secondly, that certain jobs be reserved and allocated only to Struggle Kids.

Further, as soon as the demands of one group of Struggle Kids are met and they are granted employment or some other form of assistance, a new and bigger group of Struggle Kids emerges and makes more demands.

With that in mind, these are my questions:

1. Aside from someone’s declarations, behaviour and willingness to go and live on a campsite with other unemployed youth, what defines a “Struggle Kid?” What are the formal requirements in order to be conferred this status and have exclusive access to certain reserved job opportunities?
2. Is the Government’s Policy to earmark and avail certain jobs to individuals based on the mere fact that they are or claim to be Struggle Kids not unduly discriminatory against other equally needy youth?

Why should it not be perceived that claiming to be a Struggle Kid has become a back-door way to gaining an undue advantage to secure Government employment? I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

17 February 2016

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON //GOWASES**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I now call upon Honourable //Gowases.

QUESTION 20:

HON //GOWASES: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 25th of February 2016, I shall ask the Minister of Works and Transport, Honourable Alfeus !Naruseb, the following questions.

I have mentioned before in one of my addresses the Namibian roads infrastructure that, travelling on some of our roads is like signing a death sentence. In case, however, I am referring to trucks, which pose a danger to other drivers. Precious lives are lost on our National Roads everyday because truck drivers are not taking enough breaks, not getting enough sleep, falling asleep on the wheel and thus cause serious accidents.

I recall that in the past, before our hard-won Independence, trucks were prohibited to use National Roads during certain hours in the evening and were compelled to park from sunset to sunrise. What I want to know from the Honourable Minister is:

1. Are there any Provisions in our Law protecting truck owners to operate unabated?
2. Why are no Provisions being made for more truck ports on our roads to allow drivers to take breaks, to rest and sleep before tackling the long roads they have to travel? This will certainly prevent most accidents from occurring.

My suggestion in this rather urgent national problem would be the following:

- The possibility of a Provision in the Law to make it obligatory for truck drivers to have co-drivers so that they can alternate driving, giving each other an opportunity to rest.

17 February 2016

NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON VAN DEN HEEVER / HON MUHARUKUA

- I respectfully submit that the Government should make it a priority to create more truck ports in our beloved Land of the Brave to accommodate truck drivers and this way also curb the high rate of accidents on our roads.

Honourable Speaker, I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. We move to Notice of Motions. Yes, Honourable Van Den Heever, please.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I hereby give Notice that on Tuesday, the 23rd of February 2016, I shall Move that this House:

Debates possible avenues to curtail the upsurge in domestic violence cases in the last few years.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. We must win the battle. I call upon Honourable Muharukua.

HON MUHARUKUA: Honourable Speaker, I hereby give Notice that on Tuesday, the 23rd February 2016, I shall Move that this House:-

17 February 2016

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON MAAMBERUA**

Discusses the possibility of the Government entering into Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) with commercial farm owners, groups of unemployed youth and other relevant stakeholders so that we can de-bush and harvest unwanted bush on commercial land, both privately and State owned.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I now call upon Honourable Usutuaije Maamberua to have a second bite of the cherry. You have the Floor, Honourable Maamberua, to reintroduce your Motion.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Comrade Speaker, allow me to improve on the standard that I set yesterday.

I give Notice that on Tuesday, the 23rd of February 2016, I shall Move that the National Assembly:-

Discusses and Debates the need or otherwise of constructing a new Parliament Building.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker. (*Applause*)

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I am actually smiling and Honourable Maamberua is responsible for that smile. Thank you.

We move on to Messages from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? I think we have exhausted our list.

We move on to the next important item on our agenda and that is – the

17 February 2016

**MOTION ON THE DELIMITATION OF
THE KUNENE REGION
HON !AUXAB**

First Notice of a Motion is the one of Honourable !Auxab. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion?

MOTION ON THE DELIMITATION OF THE KUNENE REGION

HON !AUXAB: I so Move, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, thank you very much. I rise to motivate my Motion, but in light of the advice I got from the most trusted Senior person, I have decided to re-direct my Motion to the relevant Ministry, which is the Ministry of Regional and Local Government.

HON SPEAKER: The name has changed, but we know which Ministry you are talking about.

HON !AUXAB: Yes, I am sure the Members actually know what I am talking about (*interjection*)

HON MEMBER: We do not know. Where is that.

HON !AUXAB: You know. Honourable Namoloh, this is not Defence – so that the Ministry concerned, can channel it to the Office of the President. I so Submit, Honourable Speaker.

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON TWEYA**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I think the Motion stands redirected to the appropriate authorities. With that, we move on. Thank you very much. We actually need to thank you for your spirit of cooperation in facilitating the work of the House. Thank you very much.

The Second Notice of a Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Information and Communication Technology. Does the Honourable Minister Move the Motion?

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds the Motion? Any objection? The Honourable Minister has the Floor.

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION AND CONVENTION
OF THE AFRICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS**

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Sorry, the technology is failing me. (*Interjection*) We do not have network in Divundu. Just one second please, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: That is why I always prefer to have my notes.

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON TWEYA**

HON MEMBER: Just postpone it to tomorrow.

**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGY:** No, we do not need to postpone it, it is ready. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to first wish you all the best and the strength you all deserve for 2016 and beyond.

Honourable Speaker, I will have to attend to the system in the House. There is a problem.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Telecommunications Industry plays a crucial role in socio-economic development, and its capability to enable all Sectors of the economy to perform can never be underestimated. To leverage this, Namibia needs to align herself with organisation, aiming at developing the telecommunications services, one of which is the African Telecommunications Union (ATU).

The foundation of ATU dates back to 1977 when its mission was a part of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), which has since been replaced by the African union (AU). ATU was formerly formed in 1999 as the successor to the PAN-African Telecommunications Union.

As a specialized Agency of the then Organisation of African Unity, ATU was established to spearhead the development of telecommunication services in Africa by way of providing fora for stakeholders involved in ICT to formulate effective policies and strategies aimed at improving access to information infrastructure and services.

ATU is further charged with the responsibility of promoting rapid development of info-communication to achieve universal access and service as well as full interconnectivity among countries, and also facilitate the participation in the global information society, thereby

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON TWEYA**

fostering development in Africa.

The supreme policy making body of the Union is the Plenipotentiary Conference composed of Ministers responsible for Information Communications Technology of Member Countries, which meets every four years in Ordinary Sessions to consider and approve broad four-year programme of activities, budget ceilings for the four-year cycle; elect the Secretary-General and Members of the Administrative Council among others for four years.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, Article 14(1) of the ATU Constitution stipulates that, the Instruments of the Union shall be: the Constitution; the Convention and the Administrative Regulations.

Article 14(2) of the ATU Constitution stipulates that this Constitution shall be the fundamental instrument of the Union. The Provisions of this Constitution shall be complemented by those of the Convention.

Article 17(1) of the ATU Constitution stipulates that this Constitution and Convention shall be ratified by each of the signatory Government. There shall only be one single instrument of ratification.

Article 4 of the ATU Constitution stipulates that the Union shall be composed of Member States and Associate Members (1) a Member shall be:

- a) Any Member State of the AU which signs and ratifies this Constitution and Convention or acceded to them;
- b) Any Member State which becomes a member of AU and accedes to this Constitution and Convention.

Namibia is not a member of ATU and has been participating in the ATU meetings and benefited from the co-ordination and consultation efforts in

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON TWEYA**

aligning itself with the common ATU position before attending International Telecommunications Conferences. Namibia participates as an observer and cannot actively participate in or influence the discussions and decisions at the ATU meetings.

Namibia's intention of becoming a member of ATU is to benefit from the ATU Telecommunications development Programmes, and actively participate in contributions to ATU activities shaping the future of the Telecommunication Sector in Africa.

Namibia is a member of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), but not ATU. Namibia's ICT stakeholders are also members of the telecommunication regional bodies that Report to the SADC Secretariat and its ICT experts such the Communications Regulatory Authority of Southern Africa (CRASA), Southern African Telecommunications Association (SATA), Pan-African Postal Union (PAPU) and Southern African Broadcasting Association (SABA).

It is, therefore, rationale for Namibia to be a Member of ATU so that the SADC Secretariat will then drive a common position for its member States, including Namibia's on ICT matters at ATU and ITU levels.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, in light of the aforementioned, I humbly wish to submit the ATU Instruments for ratification for Namibia to become a member of ATU and join the other 44 AU Member States. The ratification of the ATU Instruments will accord Namibia an opportunity to continue working together and build in solidarity with the African Telecommunications family to realise the goal of moving the African continent a step further by offering a wider range of quality telecommunication services. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Minister. I was

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON BEZUIDENHOUT**

actually looking at you; as you were making your Motivation, all along, I had assumed that we were actually a formal member because we have, through the NBC and other Institutions, including your Ministry, been connected to this particular Organisation. Thank you for bringing this issue to the House. I call upon Honourable Steve Bezuidenhout.

HON BEZUIDENHOUT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. ICT related matters are like drugs to me, I cannot help, but have an opinion. I want to really implore this Assembly to support and ratify this so that we become a full Member.

Besides benefiting, we can also be contributing and exert our influence. I cannot change the Constitution, I do not want to deal with the instrument, but something that I have observed over a number of years is that the Communication Sector appears more and more to be the next growth frontier in Africa.

We have a lot of friends and receive advice from other parts of the world to take control of this Sector to the detriment of our own African services, especially our youth. We must, therefore, take this Sector very seriously. It is growing very fast, it is very lucrative and everybody in the ICT or IT Sector becomes a billionaire over a short time. We have a lot of potential in this country and we can play a significant role in assisting, supporting and making propositions, etcetera.

Thanks to the policy decision to go the E-Governance route, Namibia as a country is on its way there and I am afraid that we may become a digital island in SADC, which will not be good. One of the objectives is to prepare special programmes for Africa's least developed countries and rural telecommunication development. I do not pay attention to the least developed countries, I do not have a definition for them. However, one of

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON BEZUIDENHOUT**

the objectives is that we can assist each other to grow telecommunication, especially in the rural areas.

I want to share a story, just to show the potential of Namibia. I have been hunting down a young man for a number of years. I have heard about him, but could not trace him. However, I traced him last year. This young man developed a hardware device to spread the internet to rural areas via radio frequencies something that has not been developed anywhere in the world.

I introduced him to Honourable Tweya, last time, at the ICT Summit. Our research Council took the young man under their wing to make sure he progresses with this device. Otherwise, as this happened – I know of three instances in Africa where young people have develop things to the point where they become frustrated due to a lack of support. Then somebody comes from America, China or wherever comes and buys this patent at the cheapest possible price that they can afford. Although it is a lot of money for that individual, they make millions and billions afterwards. We, therefore, do have the potential in this country to do funny things.

Having said that, I want to share with you that the last four or five years, I have been involved with a group of young people doing application development through software engineering on a weekly basis and I saw a lot of potential in them. The only problem is that we have not been able to create an opportunity for young people or any person to progress to established Telecommunication Industries and I think we should consider that.

Another story, just to show the potential again – last year, we spent a whole weekend coding to solve problems. We received a challenge from a bank, where the bank wanted to get a mobile payment system for its own commercial purposes. Namibia does not have that.

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON BEZUIDENHOUT**

HON MEMBER: What about the e-Wallet?

HON BEZUIDENHOUT: I am talking about a mobile payment system, you can do your e-Wallet and those things, but there is no mobile payment system.

We took the challenge and they indicated in the agreement that they will take the best one and develop it further. To their own surprise they found that the quality was very good and they actually incubated the top three in Bank Windhoek to develop this application further. They were so shocked and surprised about what these young people were capable of doing and they decided to grab the opportunity to develop it further. What I can say is that I will keep my eye open so that we do not exploit these young people. We can gain the benefit, but not at the expense of the young people.

Also last year, a man from Boston in the United States came here. He visits Namibia regularly. He is a tourist and likes coming here. Whilst here, he offered to do a course on a very specific way of developing the code for iPhones. After we had a discussion I asked him why he was interested to do that here and he said that the American developers have out priced themselves. American companies are thus not interested to deal with these people, because it involves way too much money and they went to the Indians for a number of years, and they are still there, but the Indians have also become arrogant. They just put any piece of code together, whether it is good, bad or ugly and the recipient corporations suffer on the other side. He, therefore came to Namibia to look around and see if he can find potential. His conclusion was that there was potential. It is not a matter of cheap labour, they will pay a fair price in US Dollars, which would be a lot of money in Namibia.

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON BEZUIDENHOUT**

Honourable Tweya, what I want to say is that the ATU is developed so that we do not get caught up in the industrial revolution, where they were previously developing cars, trains, etcetera. We missed out as a continent on that revolution and now we are only buying things that are already developed. Africa is experiencing growth in this Sector. The world has concluded that the Communication Sector in Africa has a lot of potential and it necessitates them to come and invest. I do not say that they should not invest, but we should keep control of that Sector as a continent. I really urge us here in Namibia to strictly look into this and broaden it so that we do not send out jobs to India.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank a very specific Ministry in this country that invited an Expression of Interest last year. I encouraged young people to assess their skills and make their submission, which they did, and something happened that enabled them to submit an Animal Health Information System for this country and they are still continuing.

Therefore, the potential is there, it is just a matter of opportunity and that is the only difference between us. If one is not aware of that, you would invite Mauritius, China and even countries in Europe, which come and take hundred percent of these opportunities.

We must think of giving Namibians an opportunity, if they meet the standard and requirements. Let us use them, especially now that the country is moving towards e-Governance within the next couple of years and implementation policy is in the Mobile Sector. We have a lot of opportunities in the Mobile Sector. I, therefore, implore the Leaders here to do the right thing and not forget Namibian citizens. Africa should also not miss this opportunity and regret like when they missed out on the Industrial Revolution. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON DR KAWANA**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. We move on Honourable Dr Kawana.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I rise to support my Dear Colleague, Comrade and Friend for this very noble objective.

Comrade Speaker, Africa has been divided for a long time. Even travelling to the next-door neighbour, there was no link either by road or by rail, one had to go via Europe to visit your neighbour – it was as bad as that. Up until recently, if one wanted to make a call to a neighbour, one had to go via Europe to speak to the next-door neighbour. That is why I feel this Convention is part of Africa's integration. It will provide an opportunity, especially to our young people to innovate, and I agree with my Senior Colleague who has just spoken that we have a lot of talent in Africa when it comes to ICT.

I came across a number of programmes showing young people who are very dedicated to innovation in countries such as Ghana and I have also watched a lot of those programmes on International TV Channels in Kenya and Uganda among others. I have also watched a programme regarding Rwanda. In Rwanda 40% of their financial transactions are done through what they call e-Wallet and these are some of the experiences that we can tap into, instead of every time depending on Europe and America. As the Honourable Member has said, we can encourage innovation.

The first multinational mobile phone giant was Nokia. It was killed by the lack of innovation. That is why I am very happy and supportive of this Motion so that we encourage our young people to benefit from this Industry, as the Honourable Member has said. It is one of the fastest growing Industries in the world. It is worth billions and billions, if not

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON SHANGHALA**

trillions of US Dollars. It is one tool that we can use to combat poverty in Africa. We need to innovate in order to catch up with other Continents, especially in the 21st Century. That is why I am thanking my Brother for bringing this particular aspect to this august House.

I hope that charges, especially roaming charges, for example, would be addressed, because that is where we kill ourselves as Africans. It is much cheaper when you roam in America, perhaps twice cheaper than when you roam in our neighbouring countries.

These are some of the areas that we need to revisit so that we can improve and spread the benefit across our countries and to our nationals. Otherwise, with these few remarks, Honourable Speaker, I wholeheartedly support the Motion. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much indeed. I now call upon Honourable Shanghala.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also rise to support the accession by Namibia, but before I do so, Mr Speaker, permit me to just, on a technical issue refer to the Order Paper. The Order reads – *That this Assembly rectifies the Constitution the Convention of the African Telecommunications Union*. The difficulty is that, if you read the Constitution – Article 63(2)(e) says; *to agree to the ratification of or accession to International Agreements*.

Maybe the Order Paper ought to read – *that this Assembly agrees to ratify the accession to the document*. The difference is that the institution already exists. At the end of the submitted document on Page 20, we have a list of the countries that have actually signed up to it. Once it is signed

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON SHANGHALA**

and exist, you can only accede to it by depositing your instrument of accession. This Parliament would agree to the accession or agree to ratify the accession.

It is just something technical that I hope is picked up. Having said that, Mr Speaker, as I indicated, I support this Act and the reason I do so, Mr Speaker, is that we live in the Information Age. The digital revolution has taken over our lives and Africa as a Continent, does not have a position on many matters *per se*. We are always part of the discussion as an afterthought and never in the main discussion.

Information Technology is very much linked to the communication technologies that are present today and tomorrow. In fact, we have very sophisticated digital systems, but they need to communicate and the platform for communicating is to be established through those technologies that will be created in the future. It is a great opportunity for Africa to probably lead in many respects and working in unison will only be to our advantage.

There are also aspects that we need to guard against, which are a consequence of the world we are living in; such as crime – which would be transported over these networks. It would be a great opportunity for us to communicate a common position for Africa as a continent so that we may be able to deal with some of these crimes. Alone, a country may not be able to muster enough relevance for many of these entities which are so big.

We can put many of our GDPs together so that when we try to impose upon them, the need for our concern to be taken care of – they may not necessarily listen to you, but as a Continent and through organisations such as this one, we may do so on our way to the International Telecommunications Union. Therefore, with these remarks, Mr Speaker, I support the ratification. Thank you.

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON DR ANKAMA**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I appreciate the technical aspect you highlighted, but I can only inform the House that the Motion was tabled by the Honourable Minister as read on the Order Paper. We are, however, not rigid; if there is a need for any adjustment to make sure that it is correctly reflected, I would encourage the Minister to liaise with the Senior Officials here, if there is a need. However, I just want to say that we took it as it was presented by the Honourable Minister.

Next on my list is Honourable Dr Ankama.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. While the issue of technicalities is being brushed out, I think it is just worthy for us to continue supporting the move to ratify the ATU. In actual fact, ICT is the backbone of socioeconomic development and it should be accelerated to the speed that it should be.

Of recent, ICT development in many countries has shifted the socioeconomic nature of the countries and of the people out there. We should, therefore, imagine what can happen should we accede to the ATU and then come in with activities that would help us to create conducive opportunities for our youth to take part in such activities.

I would refer to things like the Institutions of Higher Learning, Schools, Colleges, Universities and so on and then we perhaps create things like ICT Villages in communities where individuals who would want to venture into ICT would have the chance to discuss or create fora where they would learn and invite experts to come in and help them acquire the necessary skills and tools.

In actual fact, I have met a lot of youth as well, who are ICT literate and who are at the level of furthering their ambitions. Currently, if you look at

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON DR ANKAMA**

our communication system that some of the Colleagues have spoken about, you will realise that, if you just go to Angola, you would not be able to communicate normally with your colleagues at home. Even if you go to Zambia the situation is the same.

Let us imagine if we ratify and create this conducive environment, hopefully within three to five years we would be able to reach out or to reach into agreements where we would be in a communication lines with our colleagues somewhere, whether in Uganda, Tanzania or beyond without necessarily having to go via Europe. ICT will in actual fact simply things for us.

Currently, we have e-Governance. How many of you have these gadgets? How effectively are they being used just to make sure that we do not use much of the cash that we are currently using in our Budgets? A truck carrying some documents, goes from here to Keetmanshoop or from here to Walvis Bay, whereas this could have been communicated via the internet or through the use of ICT.

The others would be challenges – we have transport communications, for example, a driver is driving from here – and I remember telling you some time back in this Chamber – where a car could be tanked three times a week. A car is not something that can pee (*laughter*). Yes, I have not seen pee in a car so it cannot be filled up three times a week while it has not moved.

HON SPEAKER: I am not sure of what the Honourable Member is trying to say (*intervention*)

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON DR ANKAMA**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER FISHERIES AND MARINE
RESOURCES:**

What I am trying to say is, if there was a proper control mechanism in place by using ICT tools, you would not be deceived by drivers who steal petrol or fuel out of the car. That is what it means in practical terms.

ICT could in actual fact be our enabler in responding to some of these challenges that we are talking about. I am speaking about e-Governance *versus* the use of ICT.

If we ratify the ATU or if we accede to the ATU Convention, we would probably be in a better position to solve some of these issues. We are in need of technical skills in ICT. I am talking about things like three or probably four years back, when we were perhaps not too many, if you look at the communication towers, they could provide for a larger radius in terms of kilometres, but just after we have added additional towers, one can never tell whether it is the footage calibration or something else, because currently, you cannot even communicate. Either the communication tools are overloaded and there is nobody who is able to unlock or to create a conducive communication line. We currently have a problem.

The ICT Minister was unable to access the internet just a few minutes ago here, while he is here – it is really a problem. One wants to touch a button and within a matters of seconds you have an answer. I, therefore, think that we should accede to the ATU Convention. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Minister. I think my particular challenge, sometime with my SMS is that the screen is very sensitive. Before I complete a line, the message is gone.

Anyway, next on my list is Honourable Charles Namoloh.

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON NAMOLOH**

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Maybe they think the Military does not know ICT, that is why they are saying *oh, oh, oh* when I rise. I want to tell you that ICT emanates from the Military since time immemorial, if you do not know.

I rise to support the Motion seeking to ratify the Constitution and the Convention of the African Telecommunication Union. I think it is very important that we ratify and become a Member of the ATU.

I think Africa from the colonial time – I do not know about the pre-colonial time, but during the colonial time, the entire structure of our telecommunications systems – the old telegram or now the telephones, were all centralised at the capitals of our colonial masters. If you go to Luanda and you want to call Namibia, your call must go through Lisbon before it comes to Windhoek. It could as well be a situation where one calls from Luanda or even from Ondjiva, which is at the border of Namibia and you want to talk to someone in Oshikango this side. You may be in Santa Clara, which is even closer to Oshikango, but the call would go through Lisbon before it comes to Oshikango. You were at a distance where you could shout to each other, but you could not communicate directly to each other using the telecommunication system then.

If you are in Namibia, your call would have to go via Cape Town to London before it reached Angola and many other countries. Calls from French speaking countries would have to go via Paris before they got to you. It is mainly because we have not created structures that can serve us as a Continent.

Even today, when you look at the mobile communication providers that we have in each country, it is only the names that have changed, but they are virtually the same providers. They are either from Portugal, if you go to Angola and here, either from South Africa or elsewhere. The

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON NAMOLOH**

domination in the telecommunication arena still exists. And also, Africa is a consumer of what others are making, while those who are providing these products or services are consumers of the African brains.

Why am I saying this? It is because we do not create the necessary infrastructures to encourage our people to serve us. I think we need to understand that the ratification of this Convention could help us as Africans, work together and create infrastructures that could in turn help maintain and retain our own brains in our own countries to serve us, because wherever you go, some of the products manufactured in other countries are produced by Africans who ran to those countries.

There are no innovations here, but if you compare Africa to Asia and some other Latin American countries, they have made so many innovations in terms of the Mobile Industry, for instance. We are only consumers – we have Toyotas, Mercedes Benzes and we have everything, all made by other people.

When it comes to cell phones, you will find people here with Samsungs, iPhones or Nokias, but we do not have something we call our own, either as Africans in general or Namibians in particular. You can have, for example, our own mobile phones called *Etosha*.

In most cases, our mentality as Africans is to condemn what others produce – while other people come up with new innovations, all we do is to condemn them, saying; *this Chinese cell phones and Chinese cars are not of good quality*, so we opt for Nokia, Apple and other products. But what are we doing now as Africans?

Honourable Minister, I think when we join this Union, we should not only go there, but fight for infrastructures in Africa and we must work for ourselves.

Some countries just came out of wars most recently. If you go to

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON NUJOMA**

Vietnam, for instance, the Vietnam war only ended in 1975, that is when they got their unification. I first saw that on TV in the former Soviet Union – when the Americans were jumping from their ships, pushing off their helicopters because they were overloaded. However, if you go there today, you will find cell phones made in Vietnam and when some Africans were watching the Vietnamese fighting, they were already free Nations, but where are we now?

Therefore, we must as countries, not only join for the purpose of belonging to a Telecommunication Union of Africa without trying to find solutions to our own problems. It is very important to look at our own challenges and find ways of overcoming them. Otherwise, it will be of no use for us to join other countries at this Union without bringing about changes that will benefit us. I know most of us have travelled around Africa and know how expensive it is for one to communicate back home using our mobile phone. One would always call home and ask – *can you please recharge? I have run out of airtime (laughter)*

Since it is an African Telecommunication Union, we can now revisit all these calling rates and charges between African countries. In Europe it is very cheap, one can just buy a phone card and make a call, even to Africa – and you can talk for as much as you like, but just try to call anywhere from here, you will suffer. With these few words, I support the Motion. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Next on my list is Honourable Utoni Nujoma.

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I simply rise to support the Honourable Minister and to urge this

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON NUJOMA**

Assembly to ratify the Constitution and the Convention of the African Telecommunications Union.

A lot has already been said, Comrade Speaker. I think this is a good opportunity that will allow Africans to come together, as the General just mentioned, because if you look at ICT – I remember that during the Arab Spring, some people were saying ICT has brought a new dimension.

Some of those countries that think of controlling the others were saying – *this is a good opportunity now to use ICT to foster revolutions in those countries*. What happened after the Arab spring is that some other forces made use of high technology to create complicated groups like ISIS, for example. ISIS is using high technology to recruit and teach people how to make bombs.

There are lot of advantages and a lot of disadvantages, and I think we as Africans are very, very vulnerable. Looking at us nowadays, when it comes to the proliferation of pornography, (*interjection*) Yes, they are there, you just need to press the button – it is terrible.

I just want to urge the Minister that as we are uniting, we must also protect ourselves because we are becoming more and more vulnerable. I am, therefore, just urging, while I am supporting this as a good opportunity for Africans.

The others have talked of innovation and there are a lot of examples like e-Wallet, for example, and the mobile banking system as my Friend here, Honourable Bezuidenhout has mentioned – Kenya is leading with mobile banking devices, where almost nobody goes to the bank, and it is a good thing. You can perform banking transactions with your cell phone, even in Uganda and Rwanda there are promising developments in this Sector.

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON NUJOMA**

The Minister of Home Affairs is here, maybe one will be able to apply for a visa using ICT and by the time you get to the Airport you already have your visa – you just show your cell phone.

HON SPEAKER: The list is inexhaustible.

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Yes, the list long and there are tremendous opportunities. However, my concern is the danger that this comes with. As much as it is a good product, it can also be very dangerous. Some Political Parties can even abuse it (*laughter*) I did not say Honourable Venaani – why are you laughing?

Comrade Speaker, I just rose to support the ratification and say that must unite us and look at the positive side and make sure that we address the negative aspects.

HON SPEAKER: Absolutely.

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Muharukua.

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON MUHARUKUA**

HON MUHARUKUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, I rise to support the fact that we must join our fellow Africans in unison to better ourselves through technology. Therefore, to accede is the correct thing to do.

However, as we speak, we talk of an opportunity to gain through technology, but many a times we leave our bags open and create structures which benefit others who are coming in. At times we leave our bags open for those who we tell that we only buy certain products like Nokia, for instance, to come and produce that in our countries without our people doing that themselves. What am I saying? What I am saying is that if our young people are not exposed to technology at a young age, they do not develop the culture of using technology and, therefore, producing it. Their minds are not ignited at young enough age to allow technology to become part of their lives and, therefore, we allow the Nations that are doing that to continue being a step ahead of us, with us being the consumers.

What am I saying? I hope and plead that what we are doing now becomes an incentive, an opportunity and a way for us as Namibians to introduce ICT in our school curriculums. We must digitalise our Education System, so that technology becomes part of the lives of those studying at schools in our country.

I am not talking about the Members of Parliament, but the older folks at times have technology phobia.

HON MEMBER: Even MPs!

HON MUHARUKUA: Yes, even MPs and even lawyers for that matter

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON DR MUSHELENGA**

and this is because they have not been exposed to technology at a younger age.

There is a phrase that they use in the Zimbabwean Education System, which says; *catch them young*, and I think our Government or we as Namibians must catch our young people at a young age to ignite their minds and in that way encourage them to be producers of technological devices.

I hope that the ratification of the Constitution and Convention of the African Telecommunications Union will create the opportunity for us to do that. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Next on my list is Honourable Dr Mushelenga please.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
AND COOPERATION:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I also rise to support that this House advance the accession to the Constitution and Convention of the African Telecommunications Union.

However, Honourable Speaker, before I say something further, I first want to talk about the importance of the timely ratification of Conventions. We accede to this Convention, first by affixing our signatures to accede to this Conventions, which is an indication that we concur with the values, norms and principles. We accede, and come and sit back here. Some of these Conventions only become operational after a given number of Member States that have acceded to them or have ratified such Conventions. It is, therefore, of no use to accede and sit back without ratifying because without ratifying and without the instruments of ratification being

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON DR MUSHELENGA**

deposited with the authorities, the Convention will not be operational. Thus, if we decide to accede, let us accede and come and ratify and if we are not sure, let us not accede at all because in the end, we appear to be doing something half-heartedly, as if we have not applied our minds fully in the beginning. This is something that we need to look into.

This Convention is very important and a lot of other speakers have spoken about the importance of ICT. Nowadays, everything revolves around ICT. It was only at the University that I was able to lay my hands on a computer, I previously just saw it from a distance. However, when I went to the primary school that I attended at my village, I found a computer laboratory, therefore, time changes things.

Today, everything revolves around ICT, technology is everywhere. That is why it is important to ratify Conventions like this because they come with a lot of benefits. Firstly, it encourages Member States to cooperate and also involves Private and Public Sector cooperation. As you know there are Associate Members of the ATU that can include private entities who can then collaborate with the Public Sector in various ICT activities by working together to detect some of the unwanted activities that goes through ICT, as the Honourable Minister of Land Reform just mentioned here.

There are also challenges in ICT because most of the these networks, be it telecommunications or the Internet and so forth, the ownership is not in the hands of Africans. People from other continents own these networks that we are using and while we are not too sure of the security of the information that flows through these networks and where this information ends up, we continue using these gadgets.

When you are connected to the Internet, any information that you are using on a particular gadget can go anywhere, even if you think it is just on your laptops, desktops and iPads. Information that you are keeping in there while connected to the Internet may end up anywhere, people will

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON DR MUSHELENGA**

have a way of accessing that. As long as we leave the ownership of ICT in the hands of non-Africans, our continent will lag behind as far as the ICT field is concerned.

Secondly, even with researchers, there is a brain drain on the continent. They live and contribute to the intellectual development of ICT in other countries outside the continent. I think that African Governments, through Institutions like the ATU are going to address some of these problems.

We should look at the ownership aspect and how we can buy into these networks, as well as how we can support our private entrepreneurs who want to buy into these networks, so that they become owned by our own indigenous persons. We should also see how we can promote Research and Development in this area on the continent so that our scholars do not have to emigrate to other continents where they are going to contribute intellectually to the development of ICT.

I agree with Honourable Muharukua that it is important to look at our curriculum, so that ICT becomes an integral part of our curriculum. There are subjects that should just be made compulsory. The Education System that we went through – we were told that - *at this level you can choose this and that subject*. At High School, we were told that – you can choose between Science, Biblical Studies and other things, so we opted for other things. We, therefore, did not have Science and Mathematics, not knowing how important they are and the same goes for ICT today. ICT should not be optional, but be made an integral part of the curriculum, at least, maybe until Grade 10 so that as our kids grow up, their IT knowledge would be at an acceptable level of understanding the basic operations of ICT in various Sectors. With these few words, Honourable Speaker, I support the ratification.

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON KAVEKOTORA**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Next on my long list is Honourable Kavekatora.

HON KAVEKOTORA: Honourable Speaker, I rise to support the ratification of the Constitution and Convention of the ATU.

I am actually surprised that with the Honourable Minister being a former Telecom employee, this Convention is only coming to Parliament in 2016, while some other countries have already ratified it in 1999. However, it is better late than never.

Honourable Speaker, if one looks at the objectives of the Union, it is something that could benefit a country like ours because some of the objectives are very relevant to a country like ours, for instance, it says some of the objectives of the Union is to promote the development and adaption of appropriate African Telecommunication Policies and Regulatory Frameworks. I think it is very, very important for us to look at the objectives and also to acknowledge the fact that we could benefit from it. I know for a fact that Namibia as a country is very far advanced as far as telecommunication is concerned, comparatively speaking.

However, Honourable Speaker, in short, the point that I want to raise is the fact that the ratification comes with responsibility and obligation to a Member State. I think we have to take note of that and take a coherent decision with regard to that because many a times, you find a situation where you ratify something, but you do not live up to the obligation of that ratification. That will not be a good thing to do, because if you want to go into something, you have to commit yourself fully, both financially and in whichever way it is expected of you to be part and parcel of that particular grouping.

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON MAKGONE**

If one looks at Article 23 of the Constitution on Page 14, it spells out the financial obligations – where does the Union get its money from? It is very clear that there are contributions from Member States, and I put that as number one, that highlight the importance of Member States to make financial contributions to the Union.

If we can live up to that, I will be very happy in ratifying or pulling my support in the ratification of this Union, because it is very important, and make no mistake, telecommunication is part and parcel of our development agenda moving forward. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Makgone.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. After listening to the Motivation of the Minister, I thought I also have to add my voice in support of the ratification of this Convention.

I will not repeat what was said already, but will just mention two or three things. The last speaker was talking about the responsibilities and obligations that we should adhere to. I also have something in Article 26 that is talking about the financial difficulties of this Organisation, saying that in case this Organisation experiences financial difficulties, the Government of the Member State in whose territory the General Secretariat of the Union is located shall advance funds to implement the Budget until these are reimbursed by the Union. These are things we should be aware of, exists in this Constitution, when the General Secretariat change from one host country to another.

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON MAKGONE**

Honourable Speaker, the other thing is that, when we talk of ICT, we all refer to the youth, but the youth is struggling to make ends meet financially. They struggle to garner support in whatever they want to do.

I tend to say that, when we want things to continue, we just show the glowing side of whatever we want. When WACS was coming to Namibia, the glowing side was that telecommunications will become cheaper. However, it is here now, I do not how many years ago, perhaps I may be wrong, but I do not know whether we felt the impact of WACS.

We have the Innovation Centre just here at the Namibian University of Science and Technology – I want to know how many of us know of the existence of this centre. I want to urge the Members of Parliament to please go there and see what is happening – it is just here. Let us go and see what is happening. Those young people are doing wonders, but they do not have the necessary support. Even with the problems that our Ministries are facing, we can go to those young boys and girls and tell them; *I am struggling with this kind of problem within my Ministry, how can you help me?* Those young people there are developing systems and we should go and give them support by letting them provide solutions to the problems we are facing and currently now (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: I think there is a Point of Order here.

HON BEZUIDENHOUT: Before you continue, I am deeply involved in the topic of the innovation, the Honourable Members can just talk to me so that we can coordinate this. You are more than welcome. We even have a third lab, a Fabrication Laboratory there. If you have an idea or want to create something like this, can convert that to 3 Dimensional pictures and print it out using 3D printers – we have all that there. If any

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

person is interested, just contact me at any time and I will guide where it is necessary.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. That was short and sweet. Honourable Member you may continue.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. From today until the 19th, there is a Design Indaba taking place in Johannesburg, however, Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) will make sure that people who are here can go and see what is happening. It is going to be live, just go and see. It is events such as this one that we should attend in order to understand what is going on. Perhaps we are too old and do not understand what these young people talk about when they solicit our support and we thus do not give them the support they need. That is the case.

I support this and want to see progress in this field. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. May I now give the Floor to Honourable Pendukeni Ithana?

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:
Iivula-Ithana.

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

HON SPEAKER: Iivula-Ithana, yes. I thought about it, but I already jumped the gun.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I am taking the podium after a long time, since we were here a year ago. The last time you heard my voice was last year, so I would like to wish all of us a very happy New Year – 2016. Let the Almighty guide us through our journey from here forward.

Comrade Speaker, I am standing up to support the ratification of the ATU and the associated documents. I am one of the beneficiaries of technology despite what they say about us who were born before computers. We try to catch up with them and what is attracting us to the technology is the efficiency and the speed that comes with it.

Information technology is an enabler. Were it not for it, we would probably not be talking about the Turnaround at the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration and everybody nowadays recognises that indeed the processes and procedures that used to be tedious at our offices have been made faster, simpler and efficient.

The objective and the vision enshrined in these documents is something to appreciate, however, I also feel that it is not enough that we only appreciate the vision, but this vision must be driven with some associated programmes to make our come together as Africa beneficial to African countries.

Comrade Speaker, we like to use examples of the Asian Tigers, but we do not go deep into the ways the Asians have strategized in order to be where they are today. I think, Asia has found that if they cannot copy from the best, they will never be the best. I have lived in a time where I have seen

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

both – Asia as it were and Asia as it is today. I visited China at an era when almost everybody was riding a bicycle, for those who could afford the bicycle and I have seen the China of today where cars can no longer fit on their streets. There are just too many cars and you hardly find somebody cycling.

How they leapfrogged to be where they are was not just by miracle. They planned for it. Every Chinese person – if you just watch them, carries a camera. Everywhere they go they take photographs including the Japanese. I have seen them copying and copying, but it did not just end with copying. When they realised that there was a source of knowledge somewhere, they sent their best students there so that they could come back and analyse the fake photographs they have put together and say; *for this glass to become authentic – you need to use these ingredients*. They sent their best students to the best Institutions around the world. When those graduates came back, they were earmarked to work in certain Industries. Our countries send our students all over the world – the dull and the clever ones and when they come back, they are all on the streets, cleaning the streets, walking up and down looking for jobs.

Why can we not have centres where these young graduates can go and experiment whatever they have learned from somewhere? I know it requires money, but it is worthwhile. Those who have studied technology could be in one corner while those who have pursued industrial studies have their corner as well, and Government could be giving them an allowance until we see how they are progressing as our graduates.

However, we do not do that. Even when we know that some other countries are doing better than ourselves, we are not copying what those countries are doing, we rather prefer to be on our own and suffer together as Africans, just because we do not collaborate enough.

Comrade Minister, the Line Minister who has tabled the Convention that we are ratifying should convey the message that our togetherness must not

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

just be for brotherhood and sisterhood, but to synergise in such a way that something concrete is realised out of this endeavour.

Somebody was telling me that up to this moment, when we travel around, we roam and complain that it is so expensive to roam – the centre where this information is routed, is somewhere in Europe, but then I asked myself questions about the undersea cables that were celebrated here. Comrade Minister of Information and Communication Technology (*intervention*)

**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGY: WACS.**

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Yes, that one. Apart from probably enhancing faster transportation of information, how else do we benefit? Our information is being analysed somewhere, decoded somewhere in Europe before it comes back to us here and we think we have secrets while using our cell phones. There are no secrets my Brother. The system is not ours – the technology is not ours.

Let us, therefore, work through our children who understand these systems better so that we can make this enabler truly ours. It must be ours so that what we do in Africa is here. Unlike building aircrafts and other things that may use sophisticated technology and thus be too expensive, Information Technology is within our reach. We will, therefore, support you in your endeavour to make this togetherness truly beneficial for all of us, Comrade Minister. I thank you.

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON PROF KATJAVIVI / HON TWEYA**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I think when the House is united on a particular subject it is a joy to watch, however, that also comes with a very heavy responsibility in terms of the Minister responsible.

I think what everybody is saying is that the ATU is an important vehicle. It is a vehicle that serves us in terms of regional integration, it facilitates communication within the continent in terms of ICT. I like the emphasis on regional integration and the challenge of the African continent harnessing resources, capacities, sharing experiences and expertise, as well as the need to include ICT in our school curriculum at an appropriate that level, but equally important, what was highlighted is the whole issue of our Leaders within the ATU taking up the question of roaming rates and charges. In Europe, this became an important issue and tremendous pressure was exerted to make sure that some reforms were undertaken. A number of Colleagues have spoken about that important issue.

Honourable Minister, I think all of us are collectively looking forward to a successful outcome of this important ratification exercise and hopefully you will be returning to the House when you deem necessary to give us an update in terms of the progress our country is making individually, and Africa collectively, in that important body.

That said and done, does the Honourable Minister wish to reply?

HON MEMBER: Are you going to reply tomorrow?

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: No, I will reply now, there are no questions to go and research.

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON TWEYA**

Honourable Speaker, would you allow me to share with the Honourable Members and also the Nation at large what we as a country are doing and why we finally decided to accede.

Starting with ***Honourable Bezuidenhout*** – you are right. It is very true as it was said by others as well, we do not create opportunities for our young people and we blame them. I will, in a nutshell answer that. If we are as Leaders aware that we do not give them opportunities, what are we doing about it? I have an answer that I can share with you and that also include finances, etcetera.

The issue of mobile payment is true, there are some of them like Mobi-pay, which is one of those that are getting there, slowly but surely and it is as if they have to beg to do that. This is why some reforms will have to come on non-negotiable terms. These will have to come in terms of infrastructure sharing because the current Service Providers who are also the owners of these infrastructures, do everything they can to deny new players to determine the rates. In a way, it is destabilising the Regulator who cannot regulate on the infrastructure owned by MTC, Telecom or NBC, they would say – *no, you do not regulate, we determine rates because it is our infrastructure and we want to recoup our investment.* That is the situation. This is why those reforms will come, not after 20 years, but they will come soon.

Honourable Dr Kawana, thank you very much, my Brother. On the innovation of our young people, it is true and I will also address that now. We must be bold enough to recognise and allow these young people to experiment their innovation.

Honourable Makgone, I agree with you – I know the centre that you talked about. I have met some of those young people with very good ideas. I see she is not here, but never mind, it is not so much about her, but it is for us, the Nation out there and specifically the youth under the leadership of Honourable Nekundi. We are listening to them although we

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON TWEYA**

are *BBCs* (Born Before Computers) we must create a room for them. Although I am a BBC, I am using a Computer, however, the young people must be given that opportunity to exercise what they are good at.

Comrade Kawana, it is true, the roaming charges are very expensive. As SADC, we have already addressed this last year, where we had Ministers of ICT in SADC. It is cheaper to make a call here in Namibia than a neighbouring country. Why? Because we have one main player who is almost dictating in the Region. They determine the rates. As SADC Ministers of ICT, we have already realised that and we are experimenting on how best we can address the issue of roaming charges with an aim to reduce them because these charges are killing the initiative of Governments in terms of regional integration.

Most SMEs do not have offices. Their offices are cell phones. They are conducting their business on the phone and most of what they are earning through the cross-border trade goes into telephone bills. Therefore, as ICT Ministers in SADC, we are busy addressing roaming charges, but we will not have a solution if the traditional main Service Providers are the only ones. There have to be new players to introduce new services. In the SADC Region, we at least started working on that and from Namibia, with a hundred percent coverage, we will start addressing that as an individual Member Country to SADC and to the AU. This is why we want to be a Member, not only as an observer, but also to influence what is happening there as a legitimate Member. That is one main thing. We have made our decision on that basis.

Comrade Attorney-General, the technicalities that you have mentioned are true and we will sort that out, however, I want to link that with what Honourable Mushelenga has said, I am calling it *ratification* because in terms of Article 17 of this Constitution and the Convention – let me just read it for clarity, so that we are clear in terms of that technicality –
RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION AND THE

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON TWEYA**

CONVENTION, which is what we are doing now, says that – “*This Constitution and the Convention shall be ratified by each of the signatory Government.*” In my Motivation I referred to the single instrument of ratification. We first sign – other people have moved on to ratify and then the accession follows.

Article 18 talks about the **ACCESSION TO THE CONSTITUTION AND THE CONVENTION**. We first sign there and now we ratify and then we accede. That is the procedure in terms of this particular document under discussion. We are dealing with Article 17. Article 18 further says; “*Any Member State of the AU, which has not signed this Constitution and the Convention may accede to them at any time.*” We sign, ratify and we accede then we deposit it with the Secretary-General. However, we will sort out the technicalities with the Colleagues from the National Assembly here in collaboration with the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation. Thank you very much for reminding us about that.

However, the Attorney-General has also mentioned a very important issue and that is that we can use this to fight cross-border crimes. It is very true and I do not want to go far – you remember the latest crime that was committed in this country, which was a horrible incident of two Namibians whose bodies were burned and dumped at the dumping site. Technology had made the task of the Police easier to trace the suspect. Those are some of the positive aspects that we can rely on. Had it not been for this equipment, it would have remained one of those unsolved mysteries. Those are thus some the benefits that one can derive from the use of Technology.

Honourable Ankama, you are right – ICT is the backbone of the socioeconomic development of any country. It refers to socioeconomic and I must say, unfortunately, most Financial Institutions in our Region and in this country in particular, do not have the term *socioeconomic benefits* in their vocabulary. What they have is *economically viability* –

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON TWEYA**

they only think of profits. I will explain that in a minute with what I have embarked upon. The term socioeconomic does not exist in the vocabulary of most of our Financial Institutions, including Namibia's Financial Institutions. It is a mind shift, but it is our responsibility to start engaging those heading those institutions just to address how this can serve as a tool to even increase their profits. If the social structure is positive, the economy can flourish, there will be peace and they can even make more money, however, the mind shift is something that we have to work on.

It is also true that at this point in time it is difficult to have libraries in all institutions like universities, rural communities and other various institutions, especially rural schools. This particular gadget can serve as a substitute for building a library, because you can do your research here without having to go to that particular building. That is why I am saying it is a mind shift, but we only think of having that physical book there, but the book is here on the gadget. That is the positive role ICT can play and you are very right, Comrade Ankama.

Honourable Namoloh, retired General, but not tired

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Huh uh, I am not retired.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Unfortunately, that is what is happening in Africa. When these things happen, you first think of who the colonisers were and you run there, this is also true for when you are sick – we leave our own hospitals here and run there.

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON TWEYA**

Even with schools, we do not get our own children in our schools that we are creating, we send them elsewhere and more so, to our former colonies.

We do not believe in ourselves and in our own Institutions. That is the reality which we must face.

I am mindful of the fact that it is not a matter of just joining for the sake of joining. These documents came on my table last year and I had to first attend that one Conference of the Convention as an observer to see whether it is worth joining so as not only to join for the sake of joining and this time around I believe we are joining for a purpose. When you just sit there as an observer and have an opportunity to influence, why not take your rightful place and contribute positively? That is why we are joining, and not just for the sake of joining. We want to contribute and not only to judge from a distance.

Honourable Nujoma, you are very right – the only consolation I can share with you is that we cannot always think about positive things only. ICT can also come with very damaging and harmful content. Pornography is one of them and there are many others like insults and promotion of crimes. To that effect, I am preparing the *Cyber Crime Bill* that is coming to this House.

We will address the pros and cons of this particular content in that Bill. Not next year, it is going to be within the next Financial Year, but during this particular Session. I am almost done with what the Cabinet Committee on Legislation has requested me to do. Once that is done, the normal process will take its course. Honourable Speaker, the Bill is on its way during this particular Session and we will address the pros and cons of ICT.

Honourable Muharukua, you are right in terms of digitalising our curriculum. I just alluded to one example of libraries that we do not have

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON TWEYA**

money, but we can at least afford a gadget and we can enable the learners to use this for doing their research. We hope that that may contribute towards improving our students' learning experience. Doctors can also use that, even farmers and building contractors for design purposes.

People responsible for transporters can also make use of gadgets in a positive way.

You are also right when you say; *catch them while they are young*. I listened to one advert of an old lady having a discussion with a young child. I do not know, but it could have been a grandchild who was trying to impress this old lady, saying; *you old people should get new gadgets*, and then the old lady said; *no, no, just wait, I do not need any new thing, I can still use my old phone*. And when the phone rang, the grandmother was bragging and she said; *you see I told you, I can do my electronic banking without going to the bank. I do not need to go and queue in the bank as an old lady. I get my money through the phone*.

We should, therefore, not always believe that it is only the young people who are familiar with ICT and old people are anti-ICT – no, ICT is everybody's friend. To that effect, there are a lot of pensioners who have fallen prey to scrupulous business people or criminals and during their payouts, they always go and stand in queues. If we take advantage of the benefits that can be derived from the use of ICT and use this correctly, where all the money goes through the banks or NAMPOST, for instance, do you know what we will achieve? We will reduce the crime committed against the elderly people, because currently, business people go to the pay-points with their whole bottle stores and after the pensioners have received their money, they buy alcoholic drinks, forget where they put their money, and they lose their money in that way.

They are at times shown nice jackpots machines and told – *Meme Kulu or Tate Kulu just play here*, and before they know it their money is gone.

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON TWEYA**

However, if the money is paid directly into an account, whether the bank or NAMPOST, they can only go and withdraw what they need. By making use of technology correctly, we can achieve great savings and that money can contribute towards building our country's economy. To the advantage of the elderly, they will hold on to their money much longer than otherwise squandering it in one day, should they receive cash in their hands.

Honourable Mushelenga, I have alluded to your concern, this will only come into effect after we have deposited the instruments of ratification of this Constitution and Convention with the Secretary-General of the Union.

You are right – I remember that in our days, we had a laboratory but there was nothing in that laboratory, it was just an empty classroom and the same still hold true today. Rural schools can only benefit if we have the infrastructure that I am talking about in place. The remote area where my Brother Muharukua comes from and where I come from – that side of Tsumkwe, there is no network.

HON MEMBER: Muharukua comes from Oshakati.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Yes, in that particular village of Oshakati, you can have a laptop – even this gadget does not work there. It is true that we need to involve the Private Sector, if we join hands, we can address these challenges head on and I am very positive that we will succeed.

Honourable Kavekatora, I know you are missing your position as a

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON TWEYA**

General Manager at Telecom Namibia, but you are now a Member of Parliament, so please allow them to manage. You asked me why I am bringing this now, but I could not have brought it here at the time, even Honourable Venaani was an employee so he could not have brought this here. We are bringing it here because we are tasked with the responsibility.

Allow me to consolidate *Honourable Makgone*'s concern where the youth are struggling financially.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I am pleased to share with you that I have started with the consultation by engaging all relevant stakeholders, including Financial Institutions. I had a four-hour meeting today with all the Financial Institutions' Managing Directors and ICT Managers, starting from Bank Windhoek up to SME Bank and the Development Bank. I shared with them what ICT can do or how ICT can contribute towards poverty eradication and how they can help by changing their own attitude towards the youth who have brilliant ideas without being assisted by these Institutions.

I must say that they were all very positive and assured me to give their support to the Government with this initiative, especially to young people with good business ideas. I have no reason to doubt their integrity. Let us give them a chance now that we have engaged them. I have personally invited them and we had a very, very positive discussion as far as financial assistance for innovative young people is concerned, who are ready to create jobs for themselves and also contribute towards employment creation by employing others.

I will conclude by sharing with my Senior, Honourable Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana – you are right, that is what ICT can do. However, with your last one of the nakedness of our information and I say naked, meaning that it is

17 February 2016

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS
HON TWEYA**

not safe. In my performance agreement with the President, (*interjection*) it is already public. It may not be in this Financial Year, but in the declaration – I will address what is being referred to as an International Gateway. There must be a single entry, for information coming in or going out, because there is also a security issue where you have everybody having access to our information and us not being in control. That will be addressed, it will not require any Law. I will simply deal with some other Act so that our information will not be re-routed via Luxemburg – the money goes there and nothing gets to the country. That will be addressed through that single International Gateway. I am already addressing that Honourable Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana.

With this in mind, I must thank you all for your support. May God bless you and let us join hands to do the right thing. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Members, I now put the question that the Motion be adopted. Any objection? Agreed to.

Since you agreed, I just have to add one line. This instrument is, therefore, ratified. (*Applause*)

Now two more items: One is a very pleasant one – today the 17th of February, the year 2016, happen to be the day when our Deputy Speaker was born. May we wish her a Happy Birthday and all the best. I am keeping a diary of everyone of you so that we can dutifully acknowledge and wish you well.

My second point is that we have overlooked something very important and that is the Tea-Time Break. From tomorrow onwards, this aspect of our life will be rectified.

17 February 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Having said that, may I now adjourned the House until tomorrow at the usual time. Thank you.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:08 UNTIL 2016.02.18 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
18 FEBRUARY 2016**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, it is pleasing to see the Deputy Speaker here today, fully recovered and, of course, she does not know that the House did pay a special tribute to her on her birthday. That is wonderful continue to keep well. (*Applause*)

Honourable Members, I have been informed that the UDF has nominated Honourable Themistokles Murorua to serve on the following Parliamentary Standing Committees and Grouping:

- Standing Committee on Public Accounts;
- Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security, of course, that Committee has been renamed, is it not?
- Standing Committee on Information, Communication and Technology; and lastly
- The Honourable Member is also a Member of the National Delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

I now declare Honourable Murorua as duly appointed to the said Committees and Parliamentary Grouping. You are welcome. (*Applause*)

Today, I should also forewarn the Members, I made a promise that I

18 February 2016

**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

cannot fulfil due to circumstances beyond my control and that is to revert back to our Tea Time – to allow Members to have a break that is often known, in some quarters, as a health break. We are skipping today for reasons that we all know – quite a number of Honourable Members are invited and have an important appointment this afternoon at the State House, so we are trying to speed up the process because many of you will sooner or later leave the Chamber for the event at the State House. I think we can manage, we have enough time, however, I just want us to be on the safe side by skipping the tea, but of course, you are allowed to leave the Chamber to grab a cup of tea.

At the same time, I am also being reminded that there is an important commitment that is supposed to be undertaken during tea time. My advice to the Chief Whip and other Colleagues, the Whips from the various Parties, is to please find time and find a corner to consult as we intend to do so without necessarily disrupting the proceedings of the House. I am sure we can manage.

HON SPEAKER: With that said and done, I now call for, any Petitions? Report of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Yes, Honourable Minister of Finance?

TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I lay upon the Table, Reports of the Auditor-General on the Accounts of the:-

- (i) Government of Namibia for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2014;

18 February 2016

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON HAMBYUKA**

- (ii) Marine Resources Fund for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2010;
- (iii) Karakul Board of Namibia for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2013; and
- (iv) Development Brigade Corporation for the Financial Years ended 31 March 2005 to 2013.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I call on Honourable Hambyuka, please. You have the Floor.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

HON HAMBYUKA: Honourable Speaker, I Move without Notice that Leave of Absence, due to medical reasons, be granted to Honourable Alfeus Muheua until further notice. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. In that sense we have covered the Notice of Questions. We covered Notice of Motions. Any Messages from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements?

Fine, we have exhausted our list. I am now taking up the Questions. Question 1 is from Honourable Venaani, directed to the Prime Minister. Prime Minister, Question 1.

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON VENAANI
RT HON DR KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

QUESTION 01:

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members of the House, I rise to respond to the set of questions posed to me pertaining to the alleged “*irregular suspension and dismissal of the Chief Executive Officers of Public Enterprises without due process and that same has become a common practice,*”

From the onset, I was surprised by the title of the question posed to me by the Honourable Member in that Honourable McHenry Venaani assumed without any basis that; it is a fact that there are irregular suspensions and dismissals of Chief Executive Officers of Public Enterprises without due process. I find this assumption unfortunate. I also find it unfortunate that the Honourable Member introduced his question by cautioning the other Members of the House and me about the obligation that we all have to be truthful among others. I can only conclude from that the Honourable Member is trying to insinuate that I am a person of no integrity and can actually be untruthful in answering questions that are put to me, and I take very strong exception at that.

Be that as it may. I would want to answer the question as follows:

This august House will agree with me that the employers and employees relationships in Namibia are governed by the *Labour Act, 2007* (Act 11 of 2007). The *Labour Act* lays down the minimum Conditions of Service and allows an employer and employee to enter into a Contract of Employment. Once signed and entered into, the Contract of Employment becomes the primary legal tool that governs the employer and employee relationship. I was informed that:

- a) the former Executive Director of NIPAM had entered into and signed a valid Contract of Employment with the Governing Council of NIPAM;
- b) by collective resolution of the Governing Council passed on 03 December 2015, the former Executive Director of NIPAM was in

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON VENAANI
RT HON DR KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

terms of the Termination Clause of the Contract of Employment that existed between NIPAM and himself offered and accepted cordial and mutual termination of the employment relationship;

- c) in accordance with the Termination Clause of the Contract of Employment, all terminal benefits were paid into the personal bank account of Professor Diescho on 08 December 2015. As former Minister responsible for Finance, I know for sure that every employee is obliged to pay what is due and payable to the Receiver of Revenue and that was appropriately deducted from whatever was paid out to the Professor.

The *Labour Act* also provides for conciliation and arbitration, and for any person who is aggrieved by a decision of his or her employer to lodge a complaint with the Office of the Labour Commissioner.

In addition to the structure provided for under the *Labour Act, 2007* (Act 11 of 2007), the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia creates the Judiciary and aggrieved employees have access to the Courts.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in terms of Section 3 of the *NIPAM Act*, NIPAM is a juristic person and a State-owned Enterprise governed by the *NIPAM Act* and the *State-Owned-Enterprises Governance Act*.

Given the legal status of NIPAM, Section 7 of the *NIPAM Act, 2010*, provides for the Constitution of the Governing Council of NIPAM, and its provisions reads:

(1) Subject to this Act, the governance and general control of NIPAM and of all its affairs and functions, and the management of its property, are vested in the Governing Council of NIPAM.

On the other hand, the position of Executive Director of NIPAM is provided for by Section 26 of the *NIPAM Act, 2010*. In terms of the

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON VENAANI
RT HON DR KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

Provisions of this section the former Executive Director of NIPAM was recruited with the concurrence of the Prime Minister, by the Council, for a period of five years.

You will agree with me that reading from the questions posed by Honourable Venaani, it is clear that he already has answers, whether they are right or wrong to the questions that he posed. Be that as it may, I would like to respond to the main issues raised as follows:

- a) The Council entered into Performance Agreements, that I think are very important for this House to take note of - with its staff, including the Executive Director. I am informed of the following:
- b) NIPAM employees last received performance bonuses during the year ended 31 March 2013;
- c) Under the leadership of the former Executive Director, management failed to produce the Institutional Performance Report for the year ended 31 March 2014;
- d) On 31 March 2015, the Training and Development Board of NIPAM referred back to management the Institutional Performance Report for the year ended 31 March 2015 and the Mid-Term Review Report. To date these crucial reports remain pending;
- e) The Council on various occasions required the former Executive Director to furnish it with his Performance Report for appraisal. On various occasions, the Committees of the Council and the Council rejected and referred back the purported Performance Reports submitted by the former Executive Director. After a long wait without a Performance Report that corresponds to the targets and key performance areas spelled out in the Annual Business and Financial Plans. I am also informed that the Council authorised the former Executive Director to obtain services of an external Human Resource expert to produce a performance report. Even in this instance, I

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON VENAANI
RT HON DR KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

understand that the Performance Report produced was of no consequence to the institutional targets of NIPAM. In other words, it was not indicating how the officer has met the performance targets.

While dealing with the issue of performance, it is important for the House to note that the Financial Year of NIPAM ends on 31 March, as is the case with the rest of the Public Sector. In terms of Section 18 of the *SOE Governance Act* of 2006, NIPAM must submit its Business and Financial Plan for the next Financial Year, at least, three months before the beginning of the next Financial Year. This means that NIPAM ought to have submitted its 2016/2017 Business and Financial Plan by 31 December 2015. However, the management of NIPAM, under the leadership of the former Executive Director, failed to produce for approval and submission by the Council to the Prime Minister the 2016/2017 Business and Financial Plan.

I am further informed that on the 3rd of December 2015, the Council, collectively, resolved that the former Executive Director should desist from engaging the media on his continued stay in the Government House in Eros Park, Windhoek. Contrary to this resolution, the former Executive Director of NIPAM, I understand, insisted that despite the resolution of the Council, he was entitled to clear his good name and reputation, and that same was a Human Rights issue and he, therefore, proceeded to discuss this issue through the media.

Pursuant to the former Executive Director's acceptance of the offer for cordial and mutual termination, in the special Governing Council meeting held on the 8th of December 2015, the former Executive Director of NIPAM was telephonically invited to give a mutual and joint statement to staff and media with the Chairperson of the Governing Council. In the evening of 8th of December 2015, I am informed, the former Executive Director of NIPAM related that, there was a mob of over 30 angry people who would come and disrupt the joint statement. Despite open invitation, the former Executive Director of NIPAM failed to show up to both the staff media press release, but was on Campus at the same time, addressing

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON VENAANI
RT HON DR KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

the Anti-Corruption Seminar in his personal capacity.

On 21 October 2013, the former Executive Director of NIPAM, as he then was in his official capacity as Executive Director of NIPAM, requested for allocation of a Government House situated in Eros Park for a period of six months. As a Portfolio Office responsible for NIPAM and in furtherance of NIPAM's obligations to accommodate Professor Diescho, the Office of the Prime Minister on the 31st of October 2013, allocated the Government House in Eros Park to Professor Diescho for a period of four months, from the 1st of November 2013 to the 29th of February 2014. The granting of the house was explicitly conditioned on the following:

- a) Market related rent would be payable; and
- b) That the municipal accounts were for the personal account of Professor Diescho.

On 19 August 2014, that is six months after Professor Diescho ought to have vacated the house, further notice of expiry of temporary allocation of the house was issued to him, and he was requested to vacate the house on 30 September 2014 given as the new vacation date. Despite the notice to vacate, the Professor remained in the house and for the duration - 01 November 2013 until today – of the continued stay of Professor Diescho in the Government-owned house, both rental and municipal accounts remained unpaid.

From the time of temporary allocation of the Government-owned house, Professor Diescho was at all material times aware of the terms of his occupation. He, continuously, breached the terms and conditions of this agreement. As the remuneration of the former Executive Director included commensurate market related housing allowance, the Governing Council of NIPAM on 10 August 2015, resolved that the former Executive Director should vacate the Government-owned house immediately. Owing to the fact that the former Executive Director continued to remain in the house, a resolution of the Governing Council was communicated to

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON VENAANI
RT HON DR KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

the Office of the Prime Minister after the Committee of the Governing Council was informed that the former Executive Director was still in occupancy of the house until today.

However, it is unfounded and highly assumptious to conclude that the continued stay of Professor Diescho in a Government-owned house was a reason that triggered mutual and cordial termination of his employment relationship with NIPAM. The Office of the Prime Minister is not aware of senior Government officials who have failed to pay municipal bills. In any case, I have indicated that that is not the consideration for the termination of the working relationship which was mutually agreed upon.

To this end, it important to point out that in terms of Section 2 of the *NIPAM Act*, NIPAM was established as a Public Institute for:

- a) Training;
- b) operational research;
- c) capacity evaluation; and
- d) Consultancy.

It is not correct that the mutual separation was as a result of Professor Diescho's dictum column that he writes periodically. I want to emphatically state that it is not the case. It also not because of any expression of negative or critical views concerning the Government, individual Government or SWAPO Party Leaders, NIPAM or any employees or members of the Council of NIPAM. These were never the reasons why the agreement was terminated. I would also like to indicate that the Honourable Minister who was cited as one of the people who supposedly asked the Professor to discontinue his dictum which is now being insinuated that it is because the Professor did not heed to that, that the contract was cancelled – he is here in the House and he can speak for himself on this issue.

Honourable Speaker, the two last points that I would like to make are; I do

18 February 2016

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

not contest the fact that Parliament has an oversight responsibility over the Executive. I do not dispute that and I do not have any problem to answer questions, which are put to me in my capacity as a Member of the Executive in this House, but I expect that the questions that are put here would be in furthering the role of Parliament in the governance of our country. Individual Members of Parliament should not use their membership of this House to try and act in a manner that is subjective by taking issues at micro levels relating to individuals as opposed to other similar issues that may have taken place, which they have not raised. Specifically, here I would like to say; since the introductory remarks of the Honourable Member was that there is a rampant termination of CEOs contracts without due process, I would have expected the Honourable Member to deal with that matter in a comprehensible way. Instead he singles out one of the CEOs. The impression that that gives is that the Honourable Member is hiding behind his membership of the House to advance an interest of himself and that of the concerned person, maybe because they have a personal relationship. I think that is highly unethical – I must state that – that is highly unethical!

I would also like to say that, inasmuch as Parliament has an oversight responsibility over the Executive, the Executive and the Legislative Organs of the State are two separate Organs of the State. Therefore, this separation of powers must be respected on both sides. It cannot just be a matter of Cabinet cannot interfere in the affairs of the Legislature. It should also be the other way around. The oversight role of Parliament over the Executive has to be carried out in a manner that does not violate that. I just wanted to say that. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Yes, Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, thank you very much. I have

18 February 2016

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

two issues that I want to take up with the Right Honourable Prime Minister.

Right Honourable Prime Minister (*interjections*). Just listen to the reason and it is my Right, there is nothing undemocratic by doing this. This is a Parliament where we talk and I can talk the way I want in Parliament.

HON SPEAKER: Let him continue.

HON VENAANI: Right Honourable Prime Minister, yes, this is Parliamentary Business – look this is how we talk. This is how we talk in this House. Right Honourable Prime Minister, the reason why I am reminding you that you are under oath is because in your reply you are consistently talking about; “*I am being informed*”. I am pre-alerting you that your informants must make sure that the information that they are supplying to you is truthful. (*Interjections*) Listen, listen, we are witnessing the case in the South African Parliament (*interjection*) Listen, I just listened to you. I just listened to you, listen to me. I will take issue. The reason why I am alerting you is because this information you are supplying to this House might be used as evidence in a Court of Law that is why I am pre-alerting you. I am pre-alerting those that are informing your office (*interjection*) Listen, I listened to you. Just give me the right of reply.

HON MEMBER: Is it part of the Law?

18 February 2016

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

HON VENAANI: Yes, it is part of our Laws. I am right to inform any Member of this House that a question that I am asking could be contested in a Court of Law. That is one.

Secondly, Right Honourable Prime Minister, through you Honourable Speaker, you are saying that the Executive Director has failed to give reports to the NIPAM Council, but you are not telling the story that you ought to tell us that there were disciplinary procedures taken against this Member of the Executive Council, because he has not supplied or furnished you with certain Reports a due process of Law and Rules of natural justice have not taken place. You were supposed to inform us – when this man has failed to supply Reports, what did the Council do? Did they warn him? What is the result of the due process? You are not telling us about that process.

What the Chairperson of the Council did – he went to the newspaper talking about the reason why this man was fired (*intervention*)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: That is another accusation?

HON VENAANI: It is not an accusation. If you read in the papers, the main issue that you took with the man was that he was not paying his municipal bill. You are not telling us the story. Why was he not deducted? (*Interjection*) Why was he not deducted? Why was he not (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: No, can I just (*intervention*)

18 February 2016

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

HON VENAANI: Why was he not deducted by the employer.
(*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Venaani, you put questions to the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister responded. What is happening now is that we are engaging in further elaboration of the whole issue. I think I will stop there (*intervention*)

HON VENAANI: I will (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: No, we will stop there – I think we should stop there. There are lessons to be drawn from your questions and the Prime Minister's responses and I think we should leave it at that. I want to call on the Deputy Speaker. (*interjection*) No, I am not going back there.

The next question? (*Interjection*) No, this question has been dealt with. Thank you. I might have jumped the gun. Can I have your attention, please? (*Interjection*) No, you can have a cup of tea outside and continue your conversation.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I might have jumped the gun, I thought you wanted to come in before we got to questions. Is there something you want to raise? Just do it as quickly as possible.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not going to ask a question. What I want to know – I have already alerted the Ministry of International Relations. We are going to talk one-on-one.

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON VAN DEN HEEVER
HON SHANINGWA**

HON SPEAKER: So you are done? Thank you. The next question is that of Honourable Van Den Heever, directed to the Minister of Urban and Rural Development. Honourable Minister, you have the Floor.

QUESTION 02:

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:
Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker and the Honourable House. I rise to (*interjection*)

HON SPEAKER: Yes, let her continue please. Please, let us continue. Yes, please?

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:
Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to respond to the questions asked by the Honourable Members in the House previously.

The first question came from Honourable Jennifer Van Den Heever. I do not want to repeat the Honourable Member's question, I will just go straight to the answer.

HON SPEAKER: Yes.

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:
Honourable Member, Yes, I can confirm that in August 2014, an

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON VAN DEN HEEVER
HON SHANINGWA**

invitation by the Russian Federation for Namibia to participate in the 2015 **“New Generation”** Programme and the Proposal for the Programme’s Feasible Subject Content, was received from the then Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Invitation was for young promising representatives of Political, Public, Cultural, Scientific and Business Sectors to participate in a familiarization visit to the Russian Federation.

As a Ministry responsible for Local Authorities, we were requested to disseminate this invitation to the Local Authorities for them to provide proposals of the preferred theme/content of the Business Programmes as well as the possible number of participants for consideration by the Russian Federation.

Twelve (12) Local Authorities namely; Omuthiya, Luderitz, Walvis Bay, Katima Mulilo, Ondangwa, Otavi, Oshakati, Arandis, Keetmanshoop, Kalkrand, Helao Nafidi and Ruacana responded, positively, to the invitation and provided the requested information as outlined above to the Ministry. No names were provided, but only the number of possible participants and the preferred theme of the event/content of the Business Programme. This information was then forwarded to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for transmission to the Russian Federation as requested. I think this is clear so far.

The other question was – **what is the specific role of the Ministry when it comes to liaising and monitoring Namibia’s participation in this course?**

The role of the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development was to disseminate the invitation from the Russian Federation to all Local Authorities for their consideration and to forward the proposals from the interested Local Authorities to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This we did.

Any other further questions as to what has happened, I think we have to

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON !AUXAB
HON MUTORWA**

dig further from the Ministry that was dealing with the real contacts between the Russian Federation and ourselves.

The other question came from the Honourable Jan Van Wyk of the UPM (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: No, we will get to that.

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Oh, thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The next question is Question 03 raised by Honourable !Auxab, directed to the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. Honourable John Mutorwa.

QUESTION 03:

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I would like to thank Honourable !Auxab, the President of the UDF for putting a series of questions that are seeking factual information and I will try to the best of my ability to provide the factual information as requested.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MAWF) on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Namibia, signed a Tripartite Agreement with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations and the Peoples Republic of China on the implementation

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON !AUXAB
HON MUTORWA**

of the China South-South Cooperation (SSC) Programme in Namibia on 16 June, 2014.

This agreement was signed under the FAO/China South-South Cooperation Framework with the following expected outcomes:

- a. Development of Rice Production in Namibia.
- b. Horticultural Crops Yields Increased.
- c. Improved Understanding and Mutual Exchange on Veterinary Policies, Regulations and Standards.

In order to achieve these outcomes, China with the facilitation of FAO dispatched Fifteen (15) Chinese experts to our country namely:

- One (1) Rice Mechanical Engineer
- Two (2) Rice Production Experts
- One (1) Seed Production Expert
- Five (5) Horticulture Production Experts
- One (1) Soil and Fertilizer Expert
- Two (2) Crop Protection Experts
- One (1) Citrus Production Expert
- Two (2) Lab Experts in the Fields of Diagnostics and Virology

Question 1:

How far has the Ministry progressed with the project under the Agriculture cooperation agreement that was signed in 2014, between Namibia, China and FAD?

Answer: The agreement was signed on the 16th of June 2014, the Chinese experts only arrived on the 19th of April, 2015. This delay was caused by the outbreak of Ebola in West Africa, which resulted in a lot of uncertainties of the disease status in Africa. In this regard, the Ministry of

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON !AUXAB
HON MUTORWA**

Agriculture, Water and Forestry, with the support of the Ministry of Health and Social Services had to show measures taken by Namibia to mitigate the possible disease outbreak of Ebola in our country – I recall that is what happened. Another delay was also caused by the English training that some of the Chinese experts had to undergo in China prior to their arrival in our country.

Upon the arrival of the Chinese experts, an inception workshop was held to mutually agree on the implementation modalities of the Tripartite Agreement. This led to the drafting of a work plan which was approved in September 2015 by all three (3) parties. People worked very fast.

Outcome 1: What did we achieve so far with regard to the Development of Rice Production in Namibia? We have achieved the following:

- The expert together with the Ministries Officials at Kalimbeza Rice Project in Zambezi Region had to select suitable Rice cultivars, which could be adapted to Namibia's conditions.
- An assessment of the problems related to Rice production at Kalimbeza was successfully conducted. Acquisition of suitable five rice cultivars from established Research Institutions in China was done, which will be validated to suitability to local condition.
- Furthermore, new rice cultivation practices were demonstrated and adapted, of which the rice seedling mechanical transplanting method is yielding very good results. Kalimbeza is on this Planet, those who would like to go and see are welcome to do so.

Outcome 2: Horticultural Crops Yields Increased.

- Various Cultivation methods for horticultural crops, including citrus are currently being assessed in both the Government Green Schemes Projects and selected individual farmers' fields.

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON !AUXAB
HON MUTORWA**

- Several assessments of our horticultural production methods have been undertaken, including water melon and onion production, fertiliser application in citrus orchards, as well as water runoff management practices.
- In addition to the assessments, a number of demonstrations have been undertaken such as grafting, transplanting of seedlings, pest control as well as compost making at Etunda, Rundu and Katima Mulilo selected demonstration sites.

Outcome 3: Improved Understanding and Mutual Exchange on Veterinary Policies, Regulations and Standards.

So far I am able to respond to the Nation, through this Honourable House, that through this particular Programme, we have achieved the following – and we must also paraphrase the response by pointing out that this outcome is of great importance to the Namibian Livestock Sector as it aims to address the Chinese importing requirements of meat and meat products from other countries, including our own. Under this outcome:

- A total of five Chinese Laboratory Analytical Methods have been obtained and translated into English. These include two methods used to test for Anthelmintics Drugs – Avermectins and Benzimidazoles, two for Growth Hormones and one method used test for Thyrostats Drugs.
- The various analytical standards, reagents and other laboratory materials have also been ordered from local suppliers here in Namibia.
- What is left is, once these materials have been received, these Chinese Analytical Methods would then be tested at the Ministry's Central Veterinary Laboratory in Windhoek for full adaptation and adoption.

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON !AUXAB
HON MUTORWA**

- A total of at least Six (6) Namibian Laboratory Technicians and Scientists are being capacitated to be able to carry out the analyses for the purposes of meat exportation to China.
- The Chinese food safety standard requirements for chemical residue control in meat have also been obtained and translated into English for local implantation in order to fulfil the Chinese import requirements.
- Due to the complexity of virology and histopathology diagnostics, the expert who was assigned to the Central Veterinary Laboratory (CVL) could not perform as per the Central Veterinary Laboratory's expectation. Unfortunately, this led to the return of the Virology Expert back to China and a replacement will soon be in place. Hence, the limited progress in that area – virology and histopathology diagnostics.

Question 02:

Can the Minister share with this august House how many Namibian Agricultural Extension Officers benefited from the 15 Chinese Experts who came in the country as a result of the agreement in the areas of:

1. Capacity Development
2. Technology Transfer
3. Soil and Fertiliser Management Skills Transfer.

Yes, I am able to share that information with the Honourable Members, and through this House, with the general public.

- As per the Agreement all the experts were assigned national counterparts with whom they would work on a daily basis. As a result, a total of 28 officials – and we have provided a table with the names of the Namibians, I do not need to read everything, but it is attached –

from both the Ministry and from our Agency, the Agricultural Business Development Agency (AgriBusDev), which is responsible for the production at the Green Scheme Project, are being capacitated in rice and horticulture production techniques, as well as in the laboratory procedures applied in the detection of residues of Anthelmintics, steroids and Thyrostats in meat.

- As for technology transfer, Honourable Speaker, Five (5) new rice cultivars that underwent vast research in China were brought to Namibia for adaptability trials, if you go Kalimbeza, our people are busy transplanting these seedlings.
- Under rice production, rice seedling mechanical transplanting technology was introduced at Kalimbeza, which resulted in increased productivity.
- In addition, new and affordable rice seed treatment technology was introduced by the experts at Kalimbeza. This method involves the soaking of rice seed in chlorine in order to minimise seedling diseases.
- Recommendations on water management system in rice fields was made to improve drainage, thus reducing losses due to water logging and flooding. Therefore, a lot of technology transfer was taking place.
- Grafting and pruning technologies was also introduced in the Ogongo orchard by the experts to improve productivity and plant resilience to pests and harsh climatic conditions.
- The soil samples were collected from the following areas: Bunya, Kapako, Mupini, Salem, Mashare at MADI College and Shighuru Rice Project and were send to the laboratory for testing. While the soil analysis is ongoing, improved compost making techniques have been undertaken at Etunda, Rundu, Katima Mulilo and Kalimbeza.

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON !AUXAB
HON MUTORWA**

The table shows the list of the Names, I do not need to read it.

List of Namibian counterparts and their assigned Chinese Experts.

NAMIBIAN COUNTER PARTS		CHINESE EXPERTS	
Names	Functions	Names	Functions
Mildred Kambinda	SSC Focal Point Person	Yu Zongyao	Team Leader
Moses Munenge	Chief Agricultural Science Officer	Yin Zaizhong	Rice Technician
Berfine Antindi	Deputy Director	Liao Zuoquan	Crop Protection Technician
Linus Kwenani	Agricultural Technician	Zhou Qingyou	Mechanical Technician
Petrus Kompeli	Farm Manager	Xiao Weibing	Vegetable Technician
O. Yambwa	Agricultural Technician	Zhengrui Deng	Vegetable Expert
J. Valombola	Agricultural Scientific Officer	Fan Jierong	Vegetable Technician
S. Simata	Foreman	Weibo Liu	Crop Protection Technician
Mathew Mushabati	Chief Agric Scientific Officer	Weiba Jiang	Soil and Fertiliser Tehcn

Klemens Hatutale	Chief Agricultural Technician	Jianhai Gao	Foxtail Millet Technician
Salomon Aisindi	Agricultural Scientific Officer	Daiming Jiang	Horticulture Expert
L. Hamutenya	Agricultural Technician	Yan Ming	Residue Expert
S. Buchane	Agricultural Technician	Rui Peng	Virology Expert
Regina Nyambe	Agric Scientific Officer	Xiong Yanbing	Vegetable Technician
M. Amutenya	Agric Scientific Officer	Huafeng Chen	Citrus Technician
Irene Mundjele	Senior Agric Scientific Officer		
Lucia Naunyango	Agricultural Technician		
Toivo Shivute Senior	Agric Scientific Officer		
Martin Embundile	Chief Agric Scientific Officer		
Lukas lipumbu	Head of Residue Analysis		
Khaiseb Siegfried	Head of Virology Analysis		
Maria Itepu	Agricultural Technician		
Ashela Eddy	Agricultural Scientific Officer		
Weyulu Ndinelo	Chief Agricultural Technician		
Munika Heinrich	Farm Manager		
Shipepe Basilia	Senior Agric Technician		
Albertus Viljoen	Farm Manager		
Felix Ndinamwene	Mechanical Engineer		

Question 03:

Where exactly and in which Regions have these experts been deployed and which clear goal and target have been set for them to meet?

The 15 Chinese experts were deployed in Omusati, Kavango East, Kavango West, Zambezi and the Khomas Regions. The attached Table shows the Regions and Duty Station where of each Chinese expert has been placed.

Table 2: List of Chinese Experts and their Duty Stations in Namibia.

Name	Specialization	Duty Station	Region
Zhou Quigvyou	Rice Mechanical Engineering	Kalimbeza	Zambezi
*Peng Rui	Vet. Lab Expert (Virology)	Windhoek	Khomas
Yan Ming	Vet. Lab Expert(Chemist)	Windhoek	Khomas
Yu Zongyao	Rice Production	Kalimbeza	Zambezi
Deng Zhengrui	Vegetable Production	Rundu	Kavango East
Jiang Daiming	Horticulture Production	Etunda	Omusati
Yin Zaizhong	Rice Production	Kalimbeza	Zambezi

Liao Zuoquan	Crop Production	Kalimbeza	
Xiao Weibing	Horticulture Production	Rundu	Kavango East
Fan Jierong	Vegetable Production	Rundu	Kavango East
Jiang Weiba	Soil and Fertilizer Expert	Rundu	Kavango East
Lui Weibo	Crop Protection	Rundu	Kavango East
Xiong Yanbing	Vegetable Production	Etunda	Omusati
Chen Haufeng	Citrus	Etunda	Omusati
Gao Jianhai	Millet Production	Etunda	Omusati

***The expert has been returned back to China and a replacement will be in place soon**

- Expected outcomes:
 - a. Development of Rice Production in Namibia.
 - b. Horticultural Crops Yields Increased.
 - c. Improved Understanding and Mutual Exchange on Veterinary Policies, Regulations and Standards.

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON !AUXAB
HON MUTORWA**

- The SSC Tripartite Agreement outlines the roles of the implementing parties.
- The FAO has the facilitation role and has thus recruited a National Project Coordinator, who is a Namibian - who oversees the day-to-day coordination and administrative tasks of the project.
- The FAO, as we all know, which has access to a vast network of technical expertise, has a role of technical back-stopping, supervision and monitoring, to ensure quality control within the project. Through the FAO Representative, who is also an expert – he is a veterinarian by profession – this projecting is faring very well. On the 28th of June to 3rd July 2014, Baseline and Monitoring and Evaluation Experts were dispatched from FAO Rome to assist with the formulation of the built in monitoring system.
- The Chinese Government is responsible for availing experts, as I said earlier, and the funding of the project to a tune of US\$1.5 million.
- The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry is responsible for availing counterparts for joint implementation.

Question 04 - Deals with the issues of technical supervision timelines.

May the Honourable Minister appraise this august House, how the Ministry has planned to ensure that technical supervision and timeliness, commitments, tasks and obligations as outlined and signed in the agreement are met and has been practically implemented?

- Yes, there are Institutional arrangements that have been put in place to ensure mainstreaming of the China-Namibia South-South Cooperation Projects into the Ministry. It is very important. Whatever is taking place, there are provisions made that at the end of the day, all these activities are mainstreamed within the activities of the Ministry, so that

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON !AUXAB
HON SHIFETA**

when the Project comes to an end, all these activities must be part and parcel of the activities of the Ministry.

- In this regard a Steering Committee comprising of representatives of the AgriBusDev, FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, implementing Directorates has been set up, to oversee the implementation of the Project.
- Biannual meetings are also held by this Committee in order to monitor the implementation of the Project and to mitigate the implementation challenges as they arise.

All in all, Honourable Speaker, Honourable !Auxab thank you very much for putting these questions and these are the facts emanating from this question, and I would also like to invite the Honourable Members in your interaction with your Constituencies, to also make sure when you visit a particular Project to see whether things are happening as we are saying, because by so doing we improve for the best interest of our country and all its people. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. We move on to Question 04 from Honourable !Auxab directed to the Minister of Environment and Tourism. Honourable Minister.

QUESTION 04:

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I want to thank the Honourable Member for posing these questions and there are, in fact, two questions.

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON !AUXAB
HON SHIFETA**

- 1. In view of the target set by the Millennium Development Goal, ended 2015, to ensuring sustainable environment; which goals did we as a Nation achieve, which are in line with our Constitutional Mandate and Provision?**

ANSWER:

The Millennium Development Goals, which were adopted by the Member States of the United Nations in 2000, contained 8 goals, which were mainly considered applicable only to developing countries. Goal number 7 calls for us to “*ensure environmental sustainability.*”

In the Namibian context, a lengthy consultative process was undertaken to identify a number of critical indicators and targets that would help us to track our progress in achieving Millennium Development Goal 7 at the national level.

These indicators included:

1. The areas protected to maintain biological diversity as a percentage of all land - split according to State Protected Areas, Communal Conservancies, Freehold Land Conservancies and Community Forests, which fall under the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.
2. Proportion of households with access to safe drinking water - split into urban and rural households.
3. Proportion of households with access to basic sanitation - also split into urban and rural households.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I am pleased to report to Honourable !Auxab and to this august House that we have performed very well against these indicators and targets. We now have almost 45% of our land area under some form of conservation management, and we have achieved or surpassed our targets in terms of the percentage of all land

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON !AUXAB
HON SHIFETA**

under State Protected Areas, communal conservancies and community forests.

Access to safe drinking water and sanitation does not fall directly under the remit of my Ministry - it falls under the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development - but I am pleased to note that in line with our targets, 99% of urban households and 90% of rural households now have access to safe drinking water.

However, a major area of concern for both human and environmental health is the situation with regard to access to basic sanitation. We are behind the targets in both rural and urban areas and this is something that is well-known to us. The huge influx of people to urban areas and informal settlements, particularly poses a major challenge with regard to the provision of basic sanitation.

This is why the Government have now put a National Sanitation Strategy in place and prioritised the issue of sanitation in our NDP 4 and a number of other strategic documents. I am informed that this situation has improved in recent years and I am sure that we will be able to overcome this challenge in the coming years.

2. May the Minister further share with this August House, the Namibian target on environmental sustainability, and what plans does the Ministry have to reverse the loss of environmental resources?

ANSWER:

Environmental sustainability is a complex concept that is difficult to set only one target for. The fact that the environment is impacted on by a range of other Sectors also makes this even more difficult.

In reality for us as a country to be environmentally sustainable requires us to develop a suite of Complementary Plans and Programmes, which are

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON !AUXAB
HON SHIFETA**

implemented in partnership with other line Ministries and stakeholders. I am now confident that we have good plans and programmes in place and that we are moving in the right direction to reverse the loss of environmental resources.

We are monitoring our progress in this regard through the use of Integrated State of the Environment Reporting (ISOER). We expect our second Integrated State of the Environment Reporting to be published later this year and this will give us critical information on recent trends in the health of our environment as well as targets on where we want to go on a range of environmental issues - from biodiversity management to waste management and pollution control to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Honourable Members, allow me to touch briefly on some of the recent and ongoing Plans and Programmes we have under development in cooperation with a number of our partner Ministries and other stakeholders.

Environmental sustainability is at the core of our supreme planning framework of Vision 2030 and our National Development Plans. Vision 2030 contains a chapter on natural resources and the environment, while National Development Plan 3 contained a key result area on the sustainable utilisation of natural resources and environmental sustainability. In NDP4, there are a number of environmental related strategic initiatives including the promotion of conservation agriculture, de-bushing, maintenance and development of national parks, and increased investment through tourism in communal areas.

In 2014, we finalised and received approval from Cabinet for Medium-Term National Strategies on Biological Diversity; Climate Change; and Desertification. These are currently under implementation through multi-stakeholder committees, which take responsibility for the coordination of activities as well as their monitoring and evaluation.

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON !AUXAB
HON SHIFETA**

Of course, our *Environmental Management Act* of 2007 is a landmark piece of legislation for environmental sustainability as it provides the legal basis for the regulation of development through the system of Environmental Impact Assessments and Strategic Environmental Assessments. We now process over 300 applications for Environmental Clearance Certificates annually and we have this year put in place a Nationwide Inspection Programme to ensure that those granted clearance are adhering to their Environmental Management Plans. As a Nation, we are making use of Strategic Environmental Assessments as a tool to guide environmentally sustainable decision making on critical issues for development such as the mining of Uranium in the Erongo Region, bio fuel plantations in the North-Eastern Regions and Phosphate Mining off Namibia's coast.

In addition, we are spearheading the introduction of levies on materials, practices and methods of production that have a negative impact on the environment. This is being lead by the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia as part of a broader process of environmental fiscal reform. That Namibia is one of the few countries in the world with a dedicated institution for funding the protection of the environment is in itself something of which we should be immensely proud. As I had said last year, the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia is one of the only two institutions that are credited by the Green Planet Fund in Africa - the other Institution is in Rwanda - this means that we can be recipients of funds from the Green Planet Fund of Africa.

Honourable Members, I am confident that our various Plans, Policies and Programmes are yielding good results. We have Species Management Plans in place for our high value and threatened species and our protected areas are managed according to management plans, which promote these parks as drivers of socio-economic development. Our wildlife and plant resources are utilised sustainably based on a system of permits and quotas, which is reliably informed by scientific data and monitoring. This is the essence of the sustainable management of our resources.

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON !AUXAB
HON SHANINGWA**

Lastly, Honourable Members, our economy and people are heavily dependent on a healthy environment and functioning ecosystems. Key Economic Sectors such as Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Tourism will not be able to thrive if we mismanage and damage our environment. Therefore, it is important that we are able to put an economic value to our environment and invest in it accordingly. My Colleagues and I in the Ministry are undertaking this exercise and we are also completing regular natural resource accounts to determine the value of our water resources, wildlife and fisheries to our economy and people. It has been proven that conservation of our natural resources will improve if the economic value and benefits from these resources reaches down to our people and communities and this is what we need to do for Namibia to develop on a pathway that is environmentally sustainable. I thank you for your humble attention.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. The next question is Question 5 from the Honourable Van Wyk directed to the Minister of Urban and Rural Development. Honourable Minister, you have the Floor.

QUESTION 05:

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:
Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker and Honourable Members.

The first questions from Honourable !Auxab is as follows:

- 1. It was announced during November 2015, that houses build under the Mass Housing Programme fall under the respective Town Councils, it seems, however, that the Town Councils are not aware on what procedures to follow to allocate these houses?**

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON !AUXAB
HON SHANINGWA**

Would the Honourable Minister inform the public on what procedures to follow if they are interested in buying the mentioned houses?

ANSWER:

All the Local Authorities which are part of the Mass housing Development Programme have been conducted on the regular basis with regard to the implementation of this programme including the procedures in the allocation of the houses. It is correct to say that in November 2015, the Local Authorities which are having completed houses, were consulted by the Ministry about the allocation of houses, which would have been co-facilitated by both the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development and the respective Local Authorities.

HON MEMBER: It is your Ministry as well!

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

During these consultations the Local Authorities were informed of the following:

- That the houses will be sold at cost recovery;
- That those on the beneficiary lists of Local Authorities and the National Housing Enterprise should be given priority provided they can afford the houses;
- That the Ministry in conjunction with the Local Authorities will issue referral letters to perspective beneficiaries to present to the Financial

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON !AUXAB
HON SHANINGWA**

Institutions for housing loan preapproval; and

- That the Ministry will open a bank account into which the loans repayments will be deposited to create a revolving fund which will be managed by the Ministry.

In order to fast-track the preapproval process the Ministry held a consultative meeting with Financial Institutions in which the Ministry explained what it expected from them and in which the Financial Institutions also advised the Ministry. However, due to the ever increasing demand for housing and the request from the Regional and Local Authorities Political Leadership, and the public for the completed houses to be handed over as a matter of urgency, the Ministry approached Cabinet to deliberate on the involvement of the National Housing Enterprise since it has expertise and experience in financing and selling houses. (CCOPP) resolved the following:

- That the Cabinet Committee on Overall Policy and Priorities, directs the Ministries of Finance, Urban and Rural Development, the Office of the Attorney-General, and the National Housing Enterprises (NHE) to develop a financing, selling and pricing formula for the houses built under the Mass Housing Development Programme for Cabinet's approval;
- That the Cabinet Committee on Overall Policy and Priorities, directs NHE to create a Revolving Fund for the repayment of loans on the houses built under the Mass Housing Development Programme; and
- That the Cabinet Committee on Overall Policy and Priorities further directs NHE to serve as agent of the Government in the financing and selling of the houses.

Based on the above my Ministry has contacted NHE and NHE is in the process of developing a formula which will be deliberated on by the

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON !AUXAB
HON SHANINGWA**

Ministries of Finance, Urban and Rural Development, the Office of the Attorney-General, and the National Housing Enterprises before submission to Cabinet for approval. Further information will be shared with the Local Authorities and Regional Councils and the public at large once the formula has been approved by Cabinet.

Although we are talking about cost recovery, we should not lose focus of the importance of the target market under this Programme as well as the issue of affordability. It is of utmost importance that affordability is not compromised since this Programme was developed in order to address the housing shortages largely faced by the low-income earners.

Honourable Members, I now continue with the next question.

2. Honourable Minister, investigation into the affairs of the Okahandja and Rehoboth Town Councils were carried out recently, when will the findings be made known to the respective residents?

ANSWER

Let me start with **Okahandja Town Council**:

The investigation conducted at Okahandja has revealed serious irregularities in the manner the municipality has been dealing with land delivery. These irregularities involve, among other things, the following; and I wish to state that these irregularities – sorry for mentioning people's names here – did not only begin with Valerie Aron, because when people are talking about irregularities at Okahandja Town Council, one hears the name of Valerie Aron, as she was the Mayor – but according to our follow up, these irregularities has been a culture within that Council, even before Valerie. Since the Honourable Member wants this information to reach the public, particularly the residents of Okahandja, I just wanted to make that point clear. This is our finding:

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON !AUXAB
HON SHANINGWA**

- Selling properties without the Council Resolutions or the Minister's approval or both;
- Reregistering these properties without the Council Resolutions or Minister's approval or both;
- Registering these properties while the purchase prices are not paid in full;
- Allocation of plots to more than one owner – double allocations, etcetera.

Honourable Members, I would like to place more emphasis on double allocations, because these practices are causing a problem that should be resolved. I have found out that this does not only take place at Okahandja Town Council, but at many Local Authorities. This raises a lot of questions on the system that we are governing as Government and as Local Authorities – where one finds two owners fighting over a property and at the end of the there are court cases. I, therefore, think that we have to assist the Town Councils to desist from these practices.

These deals are illegal and there must be a way to legalise these practices and where it is found to be impossible or not appropriate, these deals would be nullified and it is not only in Okahandja, it takes place elsewhere – at many other Councils. Where the situation seems impossible to resolve, we just have to nullify these deals.

It was further discovered that there is no filing system of properties, hence this makes, and shall continue to be difficult to get information on properties. This makes it difficult to sort out the problems for individual properties.

The Ministry is now putting the following possible measures in place to be able to identify individual properties problems and how they will be dealt with:

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON !AUXAB
HON SHANINGWA**

1. A Property Register must be compiled – because there is no Property Register – containing the following:
 - a. Property from Number one to the last number of property in town.
 - b. It must indicate the Number, the name of the owner/applicant or vacant, suburb, size, price.

With Windhoek, the Property Register is available to the public to ensure that the property is still under your name. However, in Okahandja, we were looking for the register, but could not find it, we therefore, have to see, how we can assist in this regard.

2. Open Property Files for each property in town.
 - a. The number of the file must correspond with its number in the registry.
 - b. Cabinets must be purchased for filing these files.
3. Same information as in the registry, the history of the property must be in this file;

None of these are in existence, everything is in shambles, I will not say that they do not know how to go about it, but after our findings, we should be able to assist the colleagues so that the system can at least get back to order.

He have to help our colleagues to put all these in place – Application Letter, Business Plans, if any, Council Resolution, Ministerial approval, allocation letter, Deed of sale, purchasing Receipt, Title Deed, etcetera.

4. The following properties must be identified and lists must be compiled:
 - a. Properties without Ministerial approval.

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON !AUXAB
HON SHANINGWA**

- b. Properties without council resolution.
 - c. Properties without Council resolution and Minister approval.
 - d. Those whose terms have lapsed – not paid within deadlines- terms not complied with.
 - e. Those already registered but meet one of the above.
5. These lists will be submitted to the Attorney-General's Office for legal advice as to how the illegal sales can be legalised.

Let me now move on to the **Rehoboth Town Council**:

In Rehoboth, we investigated allegations related to the Resignation of Mr. Willie Swartz – Head of Human Resources (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: I am sorry to interrupt the Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Is it about the name that I have mentioned?

HON SPEAKER: No. I think you are doing a good job, but let us try to keep the responses as short as possible. Can we keep it short and to the point, because the Honourable Member will also have access to the actual document that you are using. I am just putting in this special request in view of the time.

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON !AUXAB
HON SHANINGWA**

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

People appointed to act and promoted into vacant Senior positions:

The Filling of the Chief Executive Officer Position

This particular investigation only looked into governance issues and not into properties.

The Report is submitted to me and I still have to make time to study its recommendations. With regard to properties in Rehoboth we still have to do a serious property audit in this town. Our last instructions to the Council with regard to the Rukoro Report was that a comprehensive submission be made to the Minister seeking the Minister's approval to transfer properties to all beneficiaries of that Report thereby closing Rukoro Report issues once and for all.

This instruction was to put an end to the piecemeal requests that the council was doing seeking transfer of properties to one or two people alleged to be beneficiaries of the Rukoro Report over years.

I must indicate to this House that land in Rehoboth is a sensitive issue which must be handled with absolute care. The investigation will therefore have to look into all the land issues raised by stakeholders such as the Baster community under the Captain, political parties, community groups and the council.

- 3. Some residents of numerous towns such as Okahandja, Keetmanshoop, Aranos, Rehoboth and Gobabis just to mention a few do not have access to affordable land, whilst the rich and developers are buying up all available land, how long will it take**

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON !AUXAB
HON SHANINGWA**

before land is made available to the poor of this country?

ANSWER

Honourable Members, it should be understood that even if the poor need land, land must be prepared and this needs resources. The Government of the Republic of Namibia has been and shall continue to perfect the issue of land delivery and land acquisition both for the poor and the rich. However, we need to work on the issue of equity.

I should just remind the Honourable Member that in all questions, when we talk about the poor to benefit from land, the Ministry that is assigned to me deals with urban land and not just land in general. Therefore, the need to support programmes of Build Together and the Shack Dwellers Federation. These are no longer straight forward issues. Firstly, does the Council have un-serviced plots? Secondly how do we deal with the original diseased beneficiaries' offspring? What documentary proof is required to 5 authenticate both the offspring and original beneficiaries? Thirdly, who of these category of beneficiary have benefitted already and so how many remained.

- 4. How far is your Ministry with the process of transferring the 378 houses in Block E, Rehoboth into the names of the original owners as they now occupy these houses for more than 30 years?**

ANSWER

The "*Nie Burgers*" in Block E are to have their houses alienated to them while "*Die Burgers*" are to get each an un-serviced plot.

- 5. Could the Hon Minister give an indication on what progress was made in finalizing the implementation of the "*Rukoro Report of 1992*," referring to answers given by you in this house on 08 October 2015.**

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON DIENDA
HON HANSE-HIMARWA**

ANSWER

The investigation we intent to commission will help the council and the ministry to identify the beneficiaries of the Rukoro Report both “*Nie Burgers*” in Block E and “*Die Burgers*”. However, due to the Local Authorities elections which took place at the end of last year and the subsequent induction of the newly elected Councillors, the process has been delayed. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Question 06 is a question from the Honourable Dienda directed to the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture. Minister you have the Floor.

QUESTION 06:

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to respond to the questions posed by Honourable Elma Dienda, but before I provide responses to the questions, allow me to make reference to Statements I made in 2015.

On the 9th of November 2015, I made a pronouncement on the State of Education, Arts and Culture in the country and I know some Honourable Members had access to my Statement. This was a deliberate effort to inform the Namibian Nation about, in particular, the state of our education. I made specific mention of successes as well as challenges that the system of education faces. I mentioned that the system has systemic lack of qualified teachers, that our school and hostel infrastructure were in the bad state, that we have an acute shortage of classrooms, and that we have a serious shortage of classrooms at pre-primary level, that many

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON DIENDA
HON HANSE-HIMARWA**

children are taught in make-shift and traditional structures, these prevalent structures are not conducive to learning. As a Ministry, we vowed to redress a great deal of these shortcomings during the next MTEF period.

We have initiated what we call the “*Friends of Education in Namibia-Special Initiative, abbreviated as (FENSI)*,” where we call upon various Sectors in our country to come forth and support our efforts towards the improvement of education and educational infrastructure. This is an initiative that will assist us to accelerate service delivery in the Education Sector. We are committed as a Ministry to address in a coordinated and sustainable manner, the challenges that we face.

Honourable Speaker, we realised very well that many of these drawbacks and backlogs will require renewed vigour, strong and ethical leadership as well as determination for the task at hand. We have a mammoth task ahead of us, yet our determination and resolve to address the challenges in our Education System is stronger than ever before. With the implementation of our Annual Work Plan for 2016/2017, we are geared towards improvement and acceleration of service delivery.

Towards the end of 2015, as Minister of Education, Arts and Culture, I announced the National examinations results for JSC, NSSCO and NSSCH, where I made several pronouncements. We are most certainly taking note of the general expression of concerns by the public and while we are working hard to find amicable and drastic solutions within our means, we are equally appreciative of the steady support we receive from key stakeholders. Thus, I once again call upon all stakeholders to join us to make a difference, because together we can make a difference. I, therefore, now will respond to the questions at hand, Honourable Speaker.

On the questions posed by Honourable Elma Dienda, I have the following to respond:

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON DIENDA
HON HANSE-HIMARWA**

1. **When can we expect the issues of the provision of Free Secondary Education to be brought to Parliament in the format of a Bill or the amendment of existing instruments so that it can be properly enacted in law so that there is no long term certainty pertaining this issue and it is not subject to the mood of the cabinet of the day?**

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, I am very sorry, because of the time constraint can we do without repeating the question?

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE: Can I just go straight to the response?

HON SPEAKER: Yes.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE: That is fine, but the last time when I went straight to the answers, I was told I must read the question.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Ministry has since the beginning of 2015, assigned considerable resources to vigorously engage in vital regional and stakeholder consultation in all Regions on the Review of the *Education Act*. This consultation process has since been completed. The inputs that were received from the Regions are now being validated. The validation stage means that we are at 70% of the process, which will ultimately lead into a final draft and Bill. The Ministry in collaboration with UNICEF is working very hard to ensure that the Bill is finally in

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON DIENDA
HON HANSE-HIMARWA**

Parliament by July of 2016 to amend the current *Education Act*. We envisage that come 2017, the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture will have a new *Education Act* in place.

Having said that, Comrade Speaker, I must mention that Article 20 of the Namibian Constitution place a duty on the said Act, to make Primary Education free of charge. I must further mention that the same obligation is not extended to the Tertiary – Higher Education, but also rest assured that the Universal State School Education is in order and is on track.

2. Has a clear framework been drawn up on how schools are to utilised the grant per student, which the Government pays to schools? If yes, can this be shared with the House?

Honourable Speaker, once again. Furthermore, the Ministry of education, Arts and Culture wishes to put it on record that it has never introduced policy changes without a proper implementation framework.

Equally, in the case of the introduction of Free Secondary Education, the Ministry has provided appropriate guidelines to all Regional Offices, Regional Councils and schools to smoothen the implementation process.

The Honourable Members will remember that we had three years ago introduced Universal Primary Education using the same frameworks, which has been reviewed after consultations with the Regions. Of course, we do not take it for granted that our staff know what to do, so guidelines are consistently being provided. In order to guide schools, Formal Education Circular No 07 of 2015, with the implementation guidelines were sent towards the end of 2015. These are in the possession of all schools at the moment. Regional Offices have also been tasked to train all our principals both primary and secondary on the handling and administration of the Free Education grants for both primary and secondary learners. Regional Councils are also on alert to use their available accountants and finance officials to aid and provide support to our schools during the implementation process.

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON DIENDA
HON HANSE-HIMARWA**

The Honourable Members, should, therefore, be rest assured that we are on course. We have in 2015, already provided N\$30 million to schools to cover for the months of January to March 2016 and since we recognise that schools require critical resources at this time of the year we have processed an additional N\$40 million to schools to ensure that the academic process commences smoothly.

3. What actions will be taken against schools that continue to demand money from parents or are such demands allowed?

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, You will agree with me that in any system when you introduce new rules or processes, you are likely to encounter resistance to change. That is a fact. There are those who do not want to follow the rules, those who do not want to change. We have campaigned heavily through all forms of media to caution our staff not to do the contrary.

Cabinet of the Republic of Namibia, through 9th Cabinet Resolution of 17.06.2014/1001 abolished compulsory School Development Fund contributions. Against that background any staff member or school that enforces the payment of money against the laid down rules and regulations shall face the appropriate disciplinary measures. If there is a realization that the funds are insufficient, schools are allowed to carry out fund raising activities without these schools forcing parents to pay. Any form of direct or indirect pressure or coercion of parents or guardians to pay money, is improper and will not be tolerated. No learner in any school should be barred from taking part in any activity if parents have not voluntarily contributed to such an event.

I am on record, Honourable Members, for calling on parents to embrace the notion of voluntary contributions, in any form, be it monetary or in kind.

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON DIENDA
HON DIENDA**

We should never underestimate the desire and strong will of parents, who feel duty bound and who wish to unconditionally invest in a meaningful way in the education of their children. I have no doubt whatsoever, that many parents, by exercising sound judgments, have proudly contributed to making valuable contributions towards creating a more conducive environment at schools. We have seen over the years that when parents are actively involved and rising to the challenge, it foster a sense of ownership and pride in them as a school community and a deep sense of appreciation from school management and teachers.

We are adamant, as a Ministry, in our efforts to supporting a process of dialogue and purposeful engagement between parents and the school management. I am saying this, because we surely want to foster a better understanding and indeed a monumental and definite shift in outlook towards free education and the role of the parent.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Dienda, do you have a follow up question?

HON DIENDA: (*Whispering*) My voice is gone at the moment, I will come back some time later.

HON SPEAKER: Okay, I got it. We move on to Question 7. There were two questions – Question 06 and Question 07, and both of them were directed to the Honourable Minister of Education, Arts and Culture by Honourable Dienda.

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON DIENDA
HON HANSE-HIMARWA**

QUESTION 07:

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, once again.

1. Is there a formula or framework that regulates how Government subsidy is paid to each respective Private School?

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, formulas do exist by which subsidies are calculated and paid to schools. The current *Education Act*, Act 16 of 2001 for the sake of smooth payment of subsidy makes provision for the categorization of schools as follows and here I will urge the Honourable Members to read, because sometimes we come here and ask questions without reading while the information is out there and available. Therefore, let us please inculcate the culture of reading and save time, and not ask questions on information that is readily available for us. We have different categories:-

Category A: In this category schools get subsidy to pay salaries only for teachers as per the learner teacher ratio and enrolment of the school indicating whether it is a primary or secondary namely 1:35 in primary and 1:30 in secondary Education.

Category B: In this category subsidy is paid for both salaries and buildings that are rented for teaching purposes from either a Church, an Organisation or an individual.

Category C: Are State Aided Schools. Meaning schools that are private, normally belong to Churches but run exactly like Government Schools, where all services provided for by state namely salaries of staff, chairs, desks, textbooks etc.

So yes, Honourable Members, there are formulas by which payment to private schools are made. I also wish to inform you that plans are

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON DIENDA
HON HANSE-HIMARWA**

underway to revisit, assess and eventually adjust the future funding formula to private schools.

The next question, Honourable Speaker.

- 2. Given that on average Private Schools often have smaller number of scholars than Government Schools, is the subsidy calculated per learner as with Government Schools or is the subsidy calculated via a different formula?**

Honourable Speakers, Honourable Members, the basis for calculating subsidy is learner enrolment numbers, the smaller the enrolment the lesser the amount to be paid. We are working on a per capita funding formula, considering poverty levels, distance, number of learners enrolled and remoteness. There are some inequities and we are working on a future funding formula.

- 3. Does partly funding private schools not, at least, indirectly jeopardize Government's ability to provide higher funding towards Government schools per learner i.e. above the current 500/learner which many schools claim is not enough? Should Government schools funding not only be restricted to Government schools, seeing as private schools will continue charging parents enormous amounts towards the "*school development fund*?"**

Honourable speaker, Honourable Members, the current payment of subsidy is governed and regulated by the current *Education Act*, Act 16 of 2001. The new revised Education Act has room for improvement on the current practices. As I stated earlier, the future funding formula for private schools is a key issue that requires a fair, even-handed and also more determined efforts. I can assure you though, that we are taking a principle stance in addressing the current inequities that exist, being well

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON MBAI
HON HANSE-HIMARWA**

aware that we need to tackle these matters in a comprehensive and forward looking manner. The revised or amended *Education Act* will

make provision for improved equity and accountability with these options in place.

In the event that Government does not relinquish the payment of subsidy to Private Schools then some measures for equity will result in the reduction of the current subsidies, meaning these will come in at a lower rate than the current practice. I must also mention that in Article 20 of our Constitution, it says that people have the Right to establish Private Schools, but on their own expense.

I, however, need to caution that we avoid talking about the amended content of the Act now, since the proposed new Bill will come to Parliament and then we can debate that.

Honourable Speaker can I proceed?

HON SPEAKER: Yes, you may continue with Question 8 by Honourable Mbai.

QUESTION 08:

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE:
Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members - Honourable Mbai also asked me some questions and I will try to respond to them.

- 1. Is it really practical possible that against the continuous poor results for Grade 10, is the Minister seriously considering lifting**

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON MBAI
HON HANSE-HIMARWA**

the requirement for passing Grade 10, which currently stands at 23 points?

In 1994, when the JSC was introduced, the framework allowed that learners can only progress to Grade 11 with a minimum of 27 points. After realising that the system was new, the progression to Grade 11 was pitched at 19 points. The system empirically established that a learner who gets 27 points in Grade 10 will likely have a high degree of possibly succeeding to grade 12 with ease. So for me as current Minister lifting points from 23 points should not scare anybody as it is not new it was there before. In fact, the point is we are progressing towards 27 points and we should at all times work towards that goal. I am not saying that we will jump towards 27 points all of a sudden or by tomorrow, but it is a steady progression that I am talking about.

As Minister I am aware of the unsatisfactory performance in our schools. My proposal to lift the bar above 23 points is to encourage schools to work even harder and also never be complacent or comfortable with the 23 points as a requirement for learners to be admitted to Grade 11. We understand what 23 points really constitute on over Six (6) subjects. 23 Points basically constitute 5 Ds and an E – D is an average symbol while E is an under-average symbol – as a Nation, do we really want to remain at the average and regard that as the highest capacity of our children? That is a question we should ask ourselves?

Schools must aim high and work towards higher target. We have schools that have done so, so I encourage schools to learn from each other to attain the best. Please note that indeed, we are busy with the curriculum reform and our emphasis is most definitely on improving the quality of learning and teaching that takes place in the classroom. As a Nation, we fairly achieved the Sustainable Development Goals in terms of access, but we now need to look into the same Sustainable Development Goals to also attain quality in education. That is why I am talking about the need to raise the bar.

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON MBAI
HON HANSE-HIMARWA**

Comrade Speaker the next question is:

2. In your opinion, is the just obtained 29,8% pass rate for Grade 12 really sufficient enough or where exactly does the problem lies?

Honourable Members, allow me first of all to clarify a misconception that exists in our society. When I announced the Grade 12 Ordinary level results in December 2015, I said that, and I quote myself – “*A total number of 6,056, which amounts to 29.8% of full time candidates qualified for University Admission [not failure or pass] compared to 7,536, amounting to 38.9% in 2014.*” Nowhere did I mention that the pass rate was 29.8 %. It must be understood that we use the admission requirements of the University of Namibia and our new University – the National University of Science Technology (NUST), which require 25 or more points in five subjects for admission. There are still other Institutions of Higher learning who have different admission requirements, therefore it is not fair, Honourable Mbai, to refer to the other candidates as having failed. I know we are coming from the old school of failing.

I do understand that those of us from the old school, namely the Cape Education Department only know pass and fail. During the Cape Education Department, we wrote Grade Exams, which required an average of 720 point in order to get a Matriculation Certificate.

At the implementation of the Cambridge Examination, we introduced Subject Examinations, whereby the candidate is acknowledged for performance in each subject and is certified for being graded in a subject. I hear so many people complaining about – *nowadays, we do not know who has pass or failed, because everyone is carrying a certificate.* We have introduced a Learner Centred Education System and we are moving towards more positivity than negativity. We are therefore accrediting the learners for the subjects that they have passed, however, when the learner has an ungraded symbol, that subject is not indicated on the certificate, because they are regarded as graded, even if they have attained a G Grade,

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON MBAI
HON HANSE-HIMARWA**

which amounts to two (2) points – meaning that over Six (6) subjects that learner has failed, but he or she is carrying a certificate. That is what Learner Centred Education means.

Having said the above, I acknowledge that there are multiple obstacles that the education system face.

Some of these have to do with teacher quality, internal efficiency in our system in terms of learner drop outs and repetition rates, allocation to capital projects, while others have to do with the socioeconomic environments and level of commitment of parents to the education of their children. Equally, there are many behavioural issues and poor conduct of learners, absenteeism and lack of sustained, intrinsic motivation. Only if we all get actively involved and we no longer talk about the lack of parental involvement, we will see a change.

Education is multifaceted and requires continuous, collaborative efforts and investments. Remember, one effort builds on another and hence the basics have to be accomplished first, and that is why it is so essential that we have loving homes, caring communities and an environment of conducive Primary and Secondary Education to have the pass rate improved. We are becoming jittery, that is why we stand up in unison and say that the Education System has failed. We must exercise patience.

The onus and weight of expectations rests on us to start instilling a culture of change, to inculcate a culture of care and to allow the youth to find their voices in how best they want to become critically involved in shaping their future.

Honourable Speaker (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Yes. Can you draw closer to concluding?

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON MBAI
HON HANSE-HIMARWA**

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE: I am answering questions, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Is this number 3 now?

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE: Yes, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE: 3. This 29,8% this time, represent a 10% drop compared to 2014 pass rate, what is your Ministry immediate plan of action to address this recurring problem year in and year out ?

Honourable Members, we are aware of the outcry regarding the 10% drop in the number of Grade 12 learners who qualified for University Admission in 2015. In fact, my Ministry, under my leadership, does not adopt a wait and see attitude, neither do we turn a blind eye to the realities.

We still maintain that there are many factors that we need to address to obtain the results that we need. With continued commitment and using appropriate strategies we shall indeed see many learners going into University. However, Honourable Members should know that despite how much we try there are learners in the system who will not make it to

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON MBAI
HON HANSE-HIMARWA**

University, and that is where other forms of education such as vocational education comes in. Even if we would make a 100% pass rate, are we ready to take them all up on the other side, in our Universities?

Our new curriculum that we are implementing may be the answer as it will allow learners that are vocationally inclined to follow the vocational stream. We shall, therefore, work closely with our counterparts in the Ministry of Higher education, Training and Innovation to increase the capacity Vocational Institutions in order to provide options for most learners in the system. As for strategies for improvement, we have as a Ministry embarked on measures to improve results for the better.

Regional Councils and Directorates of Education, Arts and Culture have revisited and strengthened their regional improvement strategy plans. The majority of the Regions held Stakeholder Meetings on exactly this how to improve the learning outcomes. All forces are joined to aim higher and work towards meeting that target.

At these events all stakeholders were engaged:

Regional Councils, Town Councils, Education Forum Members, School Principals, Parents, Teachers and Learners in Regions and schools across the country to establish reasons why learners are not performing satisfactorily. They analysed the regional problems and action plans were developed and these will be used in 2016 to mitigate the situation.

Lastly, Comrade Speaker, our national and regional annual work plans are geared towards improving quality outcomes. Our strategies focus on improving learner's access, participation and performance in schools. Our quarterly reviews strive to timeously step in with purposeful interventions and corrective measures.

Thank you and I am available for any follow up questions.

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON MBAI
HON BISHOP EMERITUS DR KAMEETA**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I just want to refer to the two Honourable Members who raised these questions. I want to start with Honourable Dienda. Are you done?

HON DIENDA: I will come back later.

HON SPEAKER: You will come back later. Honourable Mbai, are you done? Thank you. If there are any outstanding issues, of course, there is always room for inviting the Honourable Minister for a cup of tea and continue with the dialogue.

The last question, Question 9, is the one from Honourable Mbai addressed to the Minister of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare. Honourable Minister, you have the Floor.

QUESTION 09:

HON MINISTER OF POVERTY ERADICATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker, Sir. I thank Honourable Mbai for asking the questions so that we know what is going on. I do not know whether I should repeat the questions or not, because some of them are very short and some of the Members do not have the questions in front of them.

HON SPEAKER: No, they do.

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON MBAI
HON BISHOP EMERITUS DR KAMEETA**

HON MINISTER OF POVERTY ERADICATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Does everyone have the questions?

HON SPEAKER: Yes, they have and it is going to save you a lot of time not repeating them. I would, therefore, recommend you go straight to your answers without repeating the questions.

HON MINISTER OF POVERTY ERADICATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you.

Response to Question 1:

One of the key priority areas of the Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare is to address hunger and poverty through the establishment of Food Banks. The major goal of these Food Banks is to abolish and to reduce malnutrition levels. We are however, cognisant of the rampant malnourishment among most Namibians.

The Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare is also tasked with the coordination and implementation of all poverty eradication initiatives and Programmes under the different Ministries, Offices, Agencies and State Owned Enterprises. To this end, the Ministry encourages and assists farmers in close collaboration with the relevant Line Ministries to grow food to improve their diets and livelihoods.

The Ministry has started engaging various Institutions, including Embassies to assist farmers with the necessary equipment and materials for growing food. The Ministry will also work closely with Local Authorities to address urban hunger and malnutrition. The Ministry recently participated in a workshop organised by the City of Windhoek to fairly look into urban agricultural strategies.

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON MBAI
HON BISHOP EMERITUS DR KAMEETA**

Response to Question 2:

The unfortunate deaths, being referred to here, were mainly caused by food poisoning, but the Ministry recognises the fact that our rural and urban poor do not have many dietary choices as alluded to. The Ministry's main responsibility is to end hunger and to reduce malnutrition as these are the lowest levels of poverty. It is my sincere hope and belief that through the establishment of Food Banks, these disastrous incidences will be prevented.

The Ministry also administers the Social Grants for Pensioners and people living with disabilities. The National Blue Print on Wealth Redistribution and Poverty Eradication, which will come into effect after many consultations in the new Financial Year, will look at the improvement of the current Social Grants, including introduction of Grants that will ensure that those falling, especially those falling through the cracks of our Social Grants are catered for. The Blue Print will also address the fragmentation of the differing Social Grants.

I would like to underscore the multi-dimensional nature of the declared war against poverty. This war needs to be fought from all grounds utilising all the arsenal at our disposal. Therefore, we should all join hands and embrace the culture of sharing. We should rather ask ourselves as individuals, Private Entities, Non-Governmental Organisations, Community-Based Organisations, Government and its Agencies, Churches, and we Parliamentarians – what have we done since this day, what are we doing or what are we going to do to avoid the occurrence of such deaths? We appreciate those who came to the rescue of the families during the burial of their loved ones, but we need to be more proactive rather than reactive in our approaches to assist our fellow Namibians.

Response to Question 3:

The construction of the Namibia's first Food Bank in Windhoek by the Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare, in close collaboration

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON MBAI
HON BISHOP EMERITUS DR KAMEETA**

with the City of Windhoek, is envisaged to commence before the end of the current Financial Year. Given that all the designs – and that is important, given that all the designs and documentations are approved by the relevant authorities on time. The Ministry will, however, start distributing mainly dry foods by utilising available warehouses and storage places across the country.

I, therefore, urge all who are ready to donate food and other items to approach the Ministry. The Ministry also welcomes the support of our farmers who pledged to provide meat to the Food Banks. The Ministry plans to make use of existing abattoirs to cater for the donated meat.

Comrade Speaker, very briefly, I also want to raise another issue of concern, and it is that – in a democracy, the deification of certain things, it can be people, it can be instruments or anything – by deification – I mean if you turn certain things in a democracy to be gods, then it is disastrous.

One of the things that I want to raise is the question of reporting by the media. When people are misquoted and they raise that, it is being seen as if one is working against the freedom of the media while incorrect reporting affects the relationship between those who are approached for comments and the media itself.

I want to give an example: With the opening of Parliament, I was approached by one media practitioner who asked me about the progress of the Food Bank and I told her – *well, we are progressing very well, the design and necessary documents are now going through the processes, they should go at the relevant Authorities and this takes time. Please do not quote me as saying that I am accusing the relevant Authorities, I am just saying that these things are taking time. I could feel that we should be a bit faster, but these processes are important.*

The other day, it was the Headline – ***“The Minister of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare is accusing the Ministry of Works,”*** and this was exactly what I said I am not doing. Now this kind of reporting

18 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
BY HON MBAI
HON MBAI**

makes it difficult for me, in the future, to be approached – I will say – *well, no comment*, because the only thing to do is then to say – *please write down what you want to know from me and I will respond to it in writing*. Therefore, I want to say that there are media practitioners who are very good and who would report exactly what has been said, but there are those who are just reporting completely the opposite of what you have said and this is damaging the relationship between, let us say, the Parliamentarians and the media. There can be a good relationship, I believe, and it is necessary. The good relationship can be there, but you would hear – *Honourable So and So is not answering his phone or he is saying there is no comment*. These are the causes that give rise to things like this. Therefore, I would respectfully ask our media practitioners to be very sensitive on issues of this nature and to improve on their reporting, so that we can cordially work together towards building our Nation. Thank you for allowing me to make those comments.

HON SPEAKER: Absolutely. Thank you very much indeed. Honourable Mbai, are you comfortable?

HON MBAI: Yes. Thank you very much, Honourable Minister.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. That last comment by the Honourable Minister says a lot. It is something that all of us share and, obviously, we would be more than happy to work towards building a proper relationship. Those of us who have lived in different parts of the world, where we have seen the media in some countries – there are people described as Parliamentary Correspondents – you do not abuse your status. You have acquired that particular status, because you are knowledgeable about the Procedures, the Rules and the way how things

18 February 2016

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

are done. I think in Namibia, if our democracy is going to be sustained, we need to move towards creating a proper rapport, where we can communicate with a full understanding of the question of trust and the question of competence in capturing what the person has said is very important.

The Honourable Minister is saying; we are now resorting to asking Journalists to put their questions in writing because we do not wish to be misquoted, so we respond in writing, and that is the reason why – because of the way how what we say is sometimes being portrayed.

Anyway, I think the good news I want to bring to the House is that all questions put to Ministers have been responded to.

HON MEMBER: Not all were completely responded to.

HON SPEAKER: Which ones were left out? Question number?

HON MEMBER: We still need to obtain additional information from the Honourable Minister.

HON SPEAKER: Okay. Honourable Minister, I think you have been extremely liberal and detailed, but the question that you have responded to will be recorded as having been responded to and if you have any documents that you have actually prepared, feel free to share with the Honourable Members who have raised those questions, because we record them as having been responded to.

18 February 2016

ADJOURNMENT
RT HON DR KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA

Are there anything missing from the questions? Yes, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the questions as posed by the Honourable Member do not necessarily mean that it is for the benefit of the Honourable Member, it is for the public out there. Therefore, those ones that are left unanswered should be responded to next time.

HON SPEAKER: Let them stand over so that you can do justice to them. Well done. Thank you very much.

With that understanding, I just have a very brief comment to make. When I acknowledged the Deputy Speaker's Birthday, I omitted her Colleague who share that date with her and that is Honourable Priscilla Beukes. I just wish to say that she was omitted yesterday through oversight by the Chair. Congratulations and all the best!

For the Honourable Members who were born on this day, many years ago, I have Honourable Leon Jooste and I have Honourable Sebastiaan Karupu – both of them were born on this day, the 18th of February – Happy Birthday and best wishes to both of you.

With that said and done, may I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Members, I Move that the House adjourns until next week Tuesday, same time, 14:30.

18 February 2016

**ADJOURNMENT
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The House stands adjourned until Tuesday, the usual time.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:05 UNTIL 2016.02.23 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
23 FEBRUARY 2016**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Reports of Standing and Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Honourable Ithete, you have the Floor.

TABLING: REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Report of the Auditor-General on the Account of the Social Security Commission, Employees' Compensation Fund, Maternity, Sick Leave and Death Benefit Fund for the Financial Year ended 28 February 2015. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Notice of Questions? Honourable //Gowases, you have the Floor.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

23 February 2016

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON //GOWASES**

QUESTION 21:

HON //GOWASES: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 3rd of March 2016, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following questions:

Our country is faced with a situation of drought, which is aggravating day-by-day. A situation that affects thousands of Namibians and will have socioeconomic consequences, if the rains do not fall soon. We pray to God for rain.

We applaud those esteemed foreign missions based in Namibia, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, State-Owned Enterprises such as, AgriBank, the Private Sector and other stakeholders that generously donated various kinds of drought relief food to the Office of the Prime Minister.

We also applaud the Office of the Prime Minister for their commitment, dedication, loyalty and hard-work in ensuring that the situation is monitored and assessed regularly; and that drought relieve is distributed efficiently to the affected and vulnerable communities without delay.

Having said that, Honourable Speaker, I put the following questions to the Right Honourable Prime Minister:-

1. Can the Office of the Prime Minister and the Government please investigate the impact of the drought on destitute communities in urban areas? Based on such investigation and assessment, could the Office of the Prime Minister consider the distribution of drought relief food to communities in urban areas as well – small towns like Witvlei, Grunau, Arandis, etcetera?
2. Is there any possibility on the side of the Government, in particular the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, to consider other forms of drought, for example, subsidising nutrients and/or fodder; and medication to farmers to reduce livestock losses as a result of their weakening conditions?

23 February 2016

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON KAAPALA**

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Honourable Kaapala, you have the Floor.

QUESTION 22:

HON KAAPALA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, through you, I want to give Notice that on Thursday, the 25th of February 2016, I shall ask the Minister of Urban and Rural Development, Honourable Sophia Shaningwa the following:

The Katima Civic Housing Close Cooperation was approved by the then Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development in 1998, to build homes in the following suburbs: Nabweza, Bebi and Greenwell in partnership with the Katima Mulilo Local Government, under a false pretence of development. This came with an understanding that the project will create employment as an Estate Agents for young people in line with the *Estate Agent Act* 112 of 1976, as amended. The Estate Agents were trained and employed but they never got their Commissions. This question will also deal with the alleged corrupt practices in the Katima Mulilo Local Government, for the benefit of this august House and Katima Mulilo residents.

My questions are as follows:

1. Can the Minister find the project proposal for this Company to the Ministry and an agreement that was signed by both the Local Government and the Company on behalf of Katima Mulilo residents?
2. If the Minister fails to find an agreement or a project proposal, does this mean that the houses were constructed under dubious means, if

23 February 2016

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON KAAPALA**

yes, what does the Ministry intend to do to reverse the situation as a matter of urgency?

3. Is the Minister aware that in line with the *Estate Agent Act*, 112 of 1976, those agents who were employed by that Company have the right of retention of all the properties which were constructed by that Company as compensation for their stolen labour?
4. The Local Government of Katima Mulilo was under investigation during the whole of last year, 2015, for alleged corrupt practices. Can the Minister avail the findings, if such investigations concluded to this august House for the benefit of the Katima Mulilo residents?

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you.

QUESTION 23:

HON KAAPALA: I have another question. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 25th of February 2016, I shall ask the Attorney-General, Honourable Sacky Shanghala the following.

Regarding the constitutionality of the discrimination of the former soldiers (SWAFT/Koevoet) and families: Can the Attorney-General read the following Articles in the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia as reference in this matter, Articles 140, 141, 142 and 144.

This group is continuously duped by their friends who are calling themselves activists on their behalf, by telling them that the Republic of South Africa will give them their pension. This information comes with

23 February 2016

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON JAHANIKA**

the exchange of money as donations. This includes some Political Parties who are looking for votes during the general elections.

My questions to Honourable Sacky Shanghala are as follows:

1. Does the Attorney-General know that this group played an active part in the successful demobilisation thereof, with the implementation of the negotiated settlement plan, which brought the Independence of our country?
2. Does the Attorney-General know that the very same group was part of the UN Resolution 435?
3. What is the reason for a country to have a Constitution, if not to protect the interests of all Namibians?
4. Which of the Laws allows the Government of the day to discriminate against this group in the country?
5. Do not you think we need to take a public opinion – a Referendum on this matter, instead of compromising the Constitution of this country?

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. We move on. Next on my list is Honourable Jahanika. You have the Floor.

QUESTION 24:

HON JAHANIKA: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 3rd of March 2016, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Urban and Rural Development a question based on the implementation of the

23 February 2016

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON JAHANIKA**

Tradition Authority Act of 2005, and the Functions of the Regional Governors.

The Honourable Minister has refused to recognise the Hoveka Traditional Authority in Epukiro, because there is already a recognised and gazetted Traditional Authority in the name of Ovambanderu Traditional Authority.

The same Honourable Minister also refused to gazette the OvaHerero Traditional Authority's Chief and his Councillors to operate in the whole Omaheke Region, Otjozondjupa, Erongo, Kunene by that limiting them to Aminuis Constituency, which is their Head Office, but the same Minister gazetted a number of other Traditional Authorities in the same Constituency.

In Otjinene Constituency, the Minister has recognised and gazetted Chief Gariseb and his Traditional Authority to operate in Otjinene Constituency, which is according to the Minister under the jurisdiction of Maharero Royal House.

Another scenario is that the Ovambanderu Traditional Authority has recognised and gazetted Councillors in Opuwo, Gam, Eiseb, Otjinene, Otjombinde and Aminuis, and the Maharero Royal House has recognised and gazetted Councillors in Okakarara, Gam, Otjinene, Aminuis and many more areas.

In the Kunene Region, all the recognised and gazetted Traditional Authorities are in the Epupa Constituency.

Chief Kapika who used to be a DTA member, has applied to be recognised many years ago, but his application was turned down many times, I am now reliably informed that he is recognised and gazetted after he joined the Ruling Party and soon he will be inaugurated as Chief in the Epupa Constituency in March 2016.

23 February 2016

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON JAHANIKA**

Recently, the Otjozondjupa Regional Governor refused to address a meeting in Okandjira, in Omatako Constituency, because of the presence of un-gazetted Traditional Leaders, which included Chief Kapuuu.

1. Minister, why do I see political bias differences in the implementation of the *Traditional Authority Act* of 2005, when it comes to some Traditional Authorities, especially those who do not seem to support the Ruling Party?
2. Has the Ruling Party membership card become a new requirement for a Traditional Authority to be recognised and gazetted?
3. Can the Minister tell this august House and the public, where in the Act is the Minister allowed to recognise and gazette more than one Traditional Authority in one Constituency area and refused others in another Constituency area?
4. Considering His Excellency Comrade Hage Geingob's motto of "*No Namibian must feel left out*," and the way the Minister is handling the issue at hand, does the Minister think that you are supporting His Excellency to get everybody included in the running of State affairs or are you working against his effort of uniting Namibians in the Namibian House?
5. Who is the Regional Governor of the unrecognised Traditional Leaders in the Otjozondjupa Region and, especially in the Omatako Constituency?
6. Since the un-gazetted Traditional Leaders and their members are also Namibians and residents of the Region concerned, and the Regional Governor refused to attend to them, do not you think it is better to advise the President to appoint a Regional Governor in the same Region who will attend to the un-gazetted Traditional Leaders and their members?

I so Move Honourable Speaker?

23 February 2016

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. We move on to the next item. Notice of Motions? I call upon the Minister of Finance.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 25th February 2016, I shall Move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill to appropriate amounts of money to meet the financial requirements of the State during the Financial Year ending 31 March 2017.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Any Message from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? In this regard, I call upon the Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration..

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, on the 30th June 2015, I reported to this august House the outcome of an Extra Ordinary Tripartite Meeting, which took place in Gaborone, Botswana, on the Namibian Refugees living at Dukwe in the Republic Botwana since 1998 and 1999. At the said Tripartite Meeting, the Minister responsible for

23 February 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

Refugee Affairs in Botswana, Honourable Shaw Khathi, informed both the UNHCR representatives and my delegation that the Government of the Republic of Botswana, had invoked the Cessation Clause as of the 31st of December 2015, in respect of Namibian refugees living at Dukwe Refugee Camp. The calling into motion of the Cessation Clause means that the status of refugees accorded to the Namibian Refugees in that country would fall away on the 31st December, 2015.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, Namibia is a democratic country, governed in accordance with the Rule of Law as enshrined in the Constitution and other Laws. Namibia is an open society where nationals and visitors alike have the freedom to move freely, a situation, which has earned a good name the world over.

Honourable Speaker, the Republic of Botswana, a next door Neighbour to us, came to the realisation that whatever might had forced those Refugees to take refuge in their country has definitely ceased to exist. As our neighbours, they had convinced themselves that Namibia is a peaceful country with itself and also with its neighbours. Out of more than 3,000 Refugees who fled to Botswana, from the Zambezi Region, since 1998, over 2,100 to date had returned to the motherland. They live a normal life, just like all other Namibians. This, in the eyes of the international community, is proof enough that whatever had made those who fled, had now fallen away, if at all it existed.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, from the Tripartite Meeting mentioned above, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration and other stakeholder Ministries put arrangements in place, in readiness to receive those Refugees who would voluntarily return home before the due date of the 31st of December 2015. The Government committed funds and materials for the resettlement of the returning citizens.

The UNHCR, on the other, hand undertook the responsibility to sensitise the Refugees to accept voluntary repatriation back home, as they also see

23 February 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

no reasons why the Namibians in Botswana should not return home. They equally committed resources.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, this afternoon, I rise to inform this august House that, indeed the Government of the Republic of Botswana invoked the Cessation Clause on the 31st of December 2015. However, on the eve of the invocation of the Cessation Clause, about 732 Refugees lead by Mr Felix Ngakula, filed an Urgent Application seeking a Restraining Order to stop the Botswana Government from implementing the Cessation Clause. The Application was supported with an Affidavit by the Botswana Centre for Human Right known as Ditshwanelo and, which also provided assistance by obtaining legal representation for the group.

In that supportive Affidavit, Ditshwanelo alleges as follows: *"There is a concern that, once returned they will face prosecution for alleged political offences committed in Namibia prior to their fleeing to seek refuge in 1999.*

The Centre further alleges that – *"there are instances of persecution."* On the 9th of December 2015, some of the Botswana Returnees were found guilty of treason, sedition and attempted murder, and sentenced to imprisonment.

It is, therefore, believed that it would be unsafe for the refugee status to be removed before the applicants are fully informed of the outcome of the "GO AND SEE AND COME AND TELL" Mission of 2015.

Honourable Members, you may recall that Mr Felix Ngakula, the Refugee who filed for the Restraining Order, is the same Ngakula who joined the delegation of some Refugees who came on the "GO AND SEE AND COME AND TELL" Mission that took place from the 28th of June to the 04th of July 2015, in the Zambezi Region. Mr Ngakula, in particular, behaved in such a disruptive way, advocating for secessionism everywhere the delegation went in that Region. The Governor of the

23 February 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

Zambezi Region had no any other alternative, but to terminate that Mission. Mr Ngakula ostensibly joined the Mission to Namibia for the purpose of obstructing the Botswana Government's plan to invoke the Cessation Clause.

The Urgent Application, so filed, was heard by Justice Jennifer of the Lobatse High Court on the 4th of January 2016, and the Judge ordered as follows:

1. that the Botswana Government shall not deport the Refugees;
2. that the Government of Botswana should provide the Namibian Refugees with a copy of the Tripartite Commission Report for the "GO AND SEE AND COME AND TELL" Mission of July; and
3. that written reasons as to the Government's decision to revoke their Refugee status in the country should be made available to the country by the 26th of February, 2016.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Supportive Affidavit filed by Ditshwanelo, and their Press Release published in the Botswana Local Newspapers dated 21 January 2016, cannot go unchallenged as it lacked honesty and is devoid of any truth whatsoever.

They alleged among others that – *"there has been no evidence that the environment in Namibia, politically and otherwise, in relation to the applicants, has been adjusted."*

Namibia is a democratic country governed in terms of its Constitution and the Law. Cessanism is a crime in almost every country. Those who participated in this act of violence, would obviously stand to be prosecuted. However, the majority of the 700 plus Refugees in Botswana comprises of young persons – I was there myself – who left Namibia either very young or were even born in Botswana. What crime have such innocent persons committed in order to stand trial? That is only a figment

23 February 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON SHIFETA**

of imagination in the minds of Ditshwanelo and cohorts. Mr Ngakula may know the crime he himself had committed before fleeing to Botswana and, therefore, holding everybody else hostage for his own sake.

Therefore, the utterances of Ditshwanelo is a fabrication and deserve to be thrown in the dustbin where it belongs.

Honourable Speaker, On the 26th of February 216, this coming Friday, this matter will be argued in the Lobatse High Court of the Republic of Botswana. However, I am once again reiterating the willingness and readiness of the Namibian Government to receive the Namibian Refugees currently living in Botswana. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank you for your attention.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I call upon the Honourable Minister of Environment and Tourism.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to thank you profoundly for the opportunity to brief this august House on the critical outcomes for Namibia from the recently held 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as well as the 12th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

Honourable Members, the historic Paris Agreement, which unites all the Nations of the world into a first-ever universal, legally binding global deal to tackle climate change, was the key outcome of the 21st Conference of

23 February 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON SHIFETA**

the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

It is important to note that this legally binding treaty, which will enter into force in 2020, comes with domestic obligations and opportunities for Namibia. I would like to take this opportunity to inform this august House of the key elements of this Agreement, which I view as being of critical importance to Namibia's future development.

The Paris Agreement is considered very positive for African countries as it:

- (i) Signals a high level of ambition to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the impact of climate change globally;
- (ii) Reflects a good balance between mitigation and adaptation; and
- (iii) Contains commitments from developed countries to scale up financial support for climate change mitigation and adaptation actions in developing countries.

The Agreement also contains clear signals to move to the end of fossil fuels and to usher in a new era of development based on green technologies. This will have a major impact on the way business is done across the world and I believe, we are now poised for massive investment into technologies linked to Renewable Energy; Sustainable Transportation Systems; Water Supply and Management; and Alternative Approaches to Waste Management. Each of these areas can make a major contribution to Namibia's national development.

As we are all aware, water is the basis of life on earth and is essential for economic growth, poverty eradication, good health, for sanitation and a resource for maintaining life across the planet.

Honourable Members, according to our scientific data, by 2020, that is, 4

23 February 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON SHIFETA**

years from now, Windhoek which is the backbone of the country's economy is expected to face water scarcities. Climate Change, however, will alter patterns of water availability and the frequency of droughts and floods will increase. It is already evident, that many communities are facing severe drought, increased temperatures and unpredictable rainfall patterns. In order to address these issues of Climate Change in the Weather Sector, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, as the focal point of this Rio Convention on Climate Change, in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, has adopted the a list of multiple actions to mitigate the effects.

Honourable Members, a 2°C increase in the average global temperature above the pre-industrial level is scientifically regarded as the limit of safety, beyond which many of the effects of climate change – floods, droughts, heat waves, sea level rise and more intense storms are likely to become much more dangerous, and these are things that we are seeing nowadays. The Paris Agreement aims to hold the increase in global average temperature well below 2°C and states the intention to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C. This is a highly ambitious attempt to curb the catastrophic impacts expected from Global Warming, which is good news for vulnerable countries such as Namibia and the Small Island Developing States.

The Paris Agreement adopts Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) from all Member Countries – as the main vehicles for identifying national targets and priorities in mitigating and adapting to Climate Change. Namibia developed and submitted its first Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2015, well in time. This document contains a commitment to reduce the country's Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 89% of the projected emissions by 2030. This involves a range of strategic targets and actions to reduce emissions in Sectors such as Energy through moving towards Renewable Energy and cleaner transport; the adoption of Cleaner Technologies in industrial production and processes; a suite of actions in the Agriculture, Forestry and Land Use

23 February 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON SHIFETA**

Sector; as well as the recycling of municipal solid waste and wastewater sludge.

Under the Paris Agreement, Namibia must submit a NDC to the Convention every 5 years and these NDCs are expected to be progressive in ambition so that the global temperature reduction goals can be reached.

Honourable Members, adaptation to climate change is a critical priority for Namibia. Therefore, it is highly significant that the Paris Agreement contains a global goal on Climate Change adaptation to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to Climate Change. Greater international cooperation is also called for, to strengthen adaptation in developing countries, particularly those vulnerable to Climate Change. This will allow Namibia to mobilise support for strengthening the resilience of farmers and rural communities to drought events and for the construction of climate-proof infrastructure.

Honourable Members, it is built into the Paris Agreement that developed countries must continue to take the lead in mobilising climate finance for mitigation and adaptation in developing countries. It is also recognised that this finance should be scaled-up and developed country parties are required to report biennially on the amount of public financial resources made available to developing countries. Other Parties are also encouraged to provide financial support to developing countries, but on a voluntary basis.

I am pleased to also report to this august House that the Green Climate Fund is now fully operational. The Green Climate Fund is expected to become the main global fund for Climate Change finance and US\$100 billion is expected to flow through this Fund annually by 2020. The Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia has been accredited to the Green Climate Fund – there are only two countries, that is, Rwanda and Namibia, out of the Institutions that are accredited with this Green Climate Fund and we are busy preparing six project proposals that will be submitted to the Green Climate Fund later in 2016.

23 February 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON SHIFETA**

Honourable Members, the Paris Agreement will open for signature on 22nd of April 2016 in New York, and I strongly motivate that we ratify this agreement without delay.

Honourable Members, I would now like to turn your attention towards the outcomes from the 12th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). This Conference marked the end of Namibia's Presidency of this Convention and I am pleased to report that our tenure as President has been highly successful.

An important outcome of Namibia's Presidency is the inclusion of issues of desertification, land degradation and drought as a target in the new Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Framework. This was strongly influenced by the Group of Friends on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought, which was established by the United Nations Permanent Representatives of Namibia and Iceland, in 2013, to lobby for the inclusion of these issues within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). COP12 decided to recognise the UNCCD as the lead organisation for desertification, land degradation and drought and it was directed to seek cooperation for the achievement of this target of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). I am confident that this decision will help to mobilise greater resources for countries such as Namibia to tackle critical problems we are facing, including drought and land degradation.

Honourable Members, there is a new concept known as Land Degradation Neutrality, which is also breathing life into the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. The achievement of a land degradation neutral world was first mentioned in the Rio+ 20 Summit outcome document and relates to the need to set quantifiable targets for the prevention of land degradation and the rehabilitation of degraded land globally. COP12 strengthened the momentum behind this concept by:

1. Adopting a broad definition of land degradation neutrality which has made the concept of global importance;

23 February 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON SHIFETA**

2. Inviting all Country Parties to formulate voluntary targets for land degradation neutrality; and
3. Committing the UNCCD Executive Secretary to investigate the establishment of financial mechanisms to support the achievement of land degradation neutrality.

Honourable Members, I am pleased to inform you that Namibia is one of the most advanced countries with regard to implementing the concept of land degradation neutrality, having been one of 14 countries to be involved in a pilot project on this issue. We have completed Phase I of this Project and now have targets in place for Namibia to be land degradation neutral by 2040. Phase II of this Project, which will implement on-the-ground interventions, commenced in February 2016.

Honourable Members, during UNCCD COP12, I had the honour to chair a Roundtable Session during the high level segment on “*Drought adaptation: mainstreaming drought management policy in national agendas and mitigating the effects of drought.*”

This was partly in recognition of Namibia’s efforts as COP11 President to increase the role of the UNCCD in the mitigation of drought. In addition to the roundtable, a decision was adopted requesting the UNCCD Secretariat to continue improving partnerships fostering capacity development for national drought preparedness planning, drought early warning, risk and vulnerability assessments, and enhanced drought risk mitigation.

Honourable Members, in line with this decision and the outcomes from the Roundtable Session, it is proposed that Namibia will host an International Conference in August 2016, focusing on the development of a strategic framework to improve drought resilience in Africa. It is no longer acceptable for us to be caught unaware by drought events, especially as these events are set to become even more frequent under the

23 February 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON SHIFETA**

Climate Change scenario. This Conference will look at solutions to enhance our preparedness for drought events and will be held in partnership with a number of international partner organisations, including the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the World Meteorological Organisation.

Honourable Members, I would like to use this platform to highlight that the first ever UNCCD Day was held during the COP11 in Windhoek in 2013. The University of Namibia was instrumental in organising this event and was again closely involved in the organisation and hosting of the second UNCCD Gender Day at the COP12 in Turkey last year, 2015. The second UNCCD Gender Day was held under the theme – ***“Women’s Empowerment for a Land Degradation Neutral World,”*** and delivered a number of recommendations Policies Actions, Institutional Framework and Capacity Building. It was decided that the Gender Day will continue to be held alongside future United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification’s Conference of the Parties, which serves as a good Namibian legacy for furthering the empowerment of women on issues of Sustainable Land Management. I would like to commend the University of Namibia for their efforts in this regard.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I would lastly, want to reiterate at this platform that this Convention is, particularly, important for Namibia. There is a wealth of experience and good practices out there in areas such as, drought mitigation, climate smart agriculture and sustainable land management rangelands. It is critical that we continue to adopt and apply these good practices so that we can reduce our vulnerability to desertification, land degradation and drought over the long period of time. I thank you for your humble attention.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Muharukua, I was not sure whether you wanted to respond to an earlier Statement or to this particular Statement.

23 February 2016

**COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ON
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON MUHARUKUA**

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ON MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MUHARUKUA: No, to an earlier Statement of the Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration.

HON SPEAKER: Okay, go ahead.

HON MUHARUKUA: Honourable Speaker, I think by the time when this shenanigans situation was happening in the then Caprivi, I was still at school.

HON SPEAKER: The Zambezi Region.

HON MUHARUKUA: Yes, the Zambezi Region. I was still at school and it is a situation that I had hope Namibia will never ever return to or that will never ever come to Namibia again.

However, those that are calling for the secession of that Region, in their opinion they have a legitimate claim, I am not shedding any light on it because it is not my opinion, but the opinion of those involved – to the extent that there has been calls for a Referendum, asking or probing into that question.

My question, perhaps just to seek clarity from the Honourable Minister is; what is the Government's position on the call for a Referendum in the

23 February 2016

**COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ON
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON MUHARUKUA**

particular issue of the secession of the Zambezi Region? I am not saying it should come, I am just asking for the Government's position and opinion on it.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I think I will avail an opportunity to the Minister, if she wishes to respond to that question, but in the meantime, I just want to respond to the call by so many of you who are calling for a tea break. Thank you. We have a tea break. Can we come back at 16:00 and let us be on time please? Thank you.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:30

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:05

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. We are doing well, are we not? I think there was a question and as far as I can see, Honourable Muharukua is not insisting, and the Honourable Minister is not in a hurry to rush into answering that question. Can I move on to other things with your permission? Thank you.

The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**COMMITTEE STAGE - RECONSIDERATION –
CIVIL AVIATION BILL [B.1 – 2015]**

23 February 2016

**COMMITTEE STAGE - RECONSIDERATION
CIVIL AVIATION BILL
HON !NARUSEB**

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

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister Move that the Assembly now consider the Bill?

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. The Assembly will now go into Committee. Any objection? Agreed to.

I call upon the Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
The Whole House Committee is called to order. The Committee has to consider the *Civil Aviation Bill* [B.1 – 2015].

I put Clause 19. Any discussion? Honourable Minister.

23 February 2016

**COMMITTEE STAGE - RECONSIDERATION
CIVIL AVIATION BILL
HON !NARUSEB**

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

Honourable Members of this august House, if you allow me, I would like to record my appreciation for the careful consideration of the National Council of the critical important piece of legislation. The Report from the National Council has been considered with regard to broader legal and constitutional implications and in terms of the legal technical advice of the legal drafters.

In this regard, I wish to put on record the following points:

1. The Amendment seeks to address a question of conflict of interest. However, this is already dealt with comprehensively in Section 19 of the Bill.
2. The *SADC Model Act*, yet to be finalised, quoted by the Council was fully considered and analysed by the Government legal drafters when the *Civil Aviation Bill* was prepared. Section 19 was the end result of this consideration.
3. The Provision proposed, goes well beyond the Provisions contained in other Namibia Public Enterprises enabling legislation.
4. The wording of the proposed Amendment, would with respect introduce some constitutional problems, which would on their own require major reconsideration of the Amendment and Section 19 of the *Civil Aviation Bill*.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members I am, therefore, confident and comfortable that the Bill, as originally referred, by the House, to the National Council, effectively addresses the reasonable concerns of the Council Members. Taking this matter into account, I do not consider the

23 February 2016

**COMMITTEE STAGE - RECONSIDERATION
CIVIL AVIATION BILL
HON NUJOMA**

proposed Amendments to be either necessary or desirable.

Accordingly, I recommend to this august House that the Bill as approved by the National Assembly in November last year, be confirmed and transmitted for ascent to the Head of State. Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Any further discussion? Any objection? Agreed to. I shall report the reconsidered Bill without Amendments. Sorry, would you like to say something?

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: It is hammered already, so it is fine I agree.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Honourable Speaker, the Committee reconsidered the *Civil Aviation Bill* [B.1 – 2015], and report the Bill without any Amendments.

ASSEMBLY RESUMES

Bill as reconsidered, reported without Amendments.

23 February 2016

**REGIONAL COUNCILS AMENDMENT BILL
HON SHANINGWA**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I must confess that the ICT System is failing us – I am sitting there and can see you, but I could not hear anything. Even when you concluded, I was not sure where you were. I hope our technicians will take note of that and rectify the situation.

Having considered the Amendment, the Assembly has now finally passed the Bill and, therefore, concluded the Business of this item.

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

The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

REGIONAL COUNCILS AMENDMENT BILL [B.11 – 2015].

SECRETARY: *Regional Councils Amendment Bill [B.11 – 2015].*

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister Move that the Assembly now consider the Bill?

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:
Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members of the House, we would like to defer this item until further notice – it will be very soon. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. We will then consider that matter when the time comes.

23 February 2016

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL
HON SHANINGWA**

The Secretary will read the Third Order of the Day.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL [B.12 – 2015]

SECRETARY: *Local Authorities Amendment Bill [B.12 – 2015].*

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister Move that the Assembly now consider the Bill?

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:
Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members of the august House, the same goes for this one – until further notice and very soon. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. The two items will be postponed until further notice.

Notice of Motions, is where we are and I now call upon Honourable Van Den Heever to take the Floor on her Motion.

DEBATE ON AVENUES TO CURTAIL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

23 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON VAN DEN HEEVER**

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, I motivate the Motion on **Possible Avenues to Curtail the Upsurge in Domestic Violence and Gender-Base Violence Cases in Namibia.**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, between January 2014 and January 2016, 10,142 cases of Gender-Base Violence were registered with NAMPOL. These are only the reported cases and as is well documented, the majority of Gender-Base Violence cases are not even formally reported, as victims are too afraid and even ashamed to do so. Therefore, who knows how many more cases were there actually and how many women and children continue to suffer in silence.

As a point of departure, I am aware that Gender-Based Violence also affects men and there are also men who fall victim to such situations. However, the amount of women and children affected are significantly more and that is why my focus is specifically on how domestic violence affects women and children.

Having fallen into a cycle of being victims of the warmth and compulsions of a brutal society, it is high time that we, as Namibians, sought to restore the dignity of our women. Namibian women and children need to trust that this society values them and respects their dignity and humanity. This in simple terms, is my motive and inspiration for tabling this Motion before this august Assembly today.

Aside from our own local Laws, Namibia is signatory to many international instruments relating to the rights of women and children. However, given the low rate at which domestic violence cases are successfully prosecuted, it is evident that Laws alone do not serve as sufficient deterrents. In any event, by the time a domestic violence case eventually reaches that stage, it may often be too late for the victims as a lot of emotional and physical abuse has already taken place. Resolving this ill that has split our society is not an easy task and I will be the first to say that I do not have the perfect solution, however, I feel that the duty

23 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON VAN DEN HEEVER**

falls on us as elected representatives of the people to seek those solutions, however impossible it may seem.

What is required is a comprehensive multipronged approach that will involve the Namibian society as a whole, from Faith-Based Organisation, Non-Government Organisations, Gender and Human Right Activists, Lawmakers, Law Enforcement Agencies, Cultural and Traditional Leaders and all other stakeholders, to not only reform legislation, but to begin the process of reshaping our gender norms and promoting respectful relations between men and women. If family is the building block of any society, then sadly, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, our society is a broken one.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, to illustrate this point about how the gender norms in our society are directly contributing to Gender-Based Violence cases, I refer you to the recently released Namibian Demographic Health Survey, the NDHS, which shows that 28% of women between the ages of 15 and 49 believe that a husband may beat a wife if, for example, she burns the food, neglects children or refuses to have sex with him.

The NDHS also indicates that 22% of men believe that a husband may beat his wife for one of the above reasons, including if she leaves the house without saying where she is going. These figures are worrying and point to an inbred culture of acceptance of domestic abuse, which perhaps explains why all efforts so far have proven futile. Interestingly and encouragingly, however, the NDHS also reports that with increased education and wealth, these numbers are significantly lower.

This tells us that one of the solutions to ending or reducing incidents of Gender-Based Violence are Educational Programmes aimed at sensitising our people on gender equality and the importance of respecting another person's human dignity and Human Rights, and their simple worth and value as a human being in a free Namibia.

23 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON VAN DEN HEEVER**

Honourable Speaker, since the upsurge in domestic violence cases, the *Combating of Domestic Violence Act* was passed and came into force in 2003. Various NGOs, like the Women Action for Development (WAD), the Regain Trust and so forth have been actively engaged in trying to combat Gender-Based Violence. As noted from the NDHS Report, the frequency and tendency to commit Gender-Based Violence and the likelihood to be a long term suffering, victims of Gender-Based Violence decreases with education and awareness. Thus Educational Outreach Programmes remain a key mechanism in fighting domestic violence and I would encourage that such existing Programmes become more robust.

We have tried, and we will continue to try many different initiatives as a country, and further have a National Prayer Day. Government has taken various initiatives, however, if we look at the most recent Police Report just from the past weekend, it goes without saying that the problem remains and has not really slowed down. Keeping the above in mind, I believe it is time that we try creative alternative approaches to combating Gender-Based Violence and domestic violence. It does not make sense to keep doing the same things and expect a different result.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, for the above reasons, I propose the following ideas as mechanisms to help in fighting domestic violence:

Firstly, one of the main reasons why victims of domestic violence do not report their abuses to Law Enforcement is because they are often financially dependent on these people, do not have the resources to move elsewhere and are afraid to end up on the streets. This often creates a situation where women and children are stuck in a permanent cycle of abuse.

To this end, I propose that Government directly fund the creation of safe houses and safe havens in every Region that will house women and children who are at risk and would otherwise be forced to return to their

23 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON VAN DEN HEEVER**

abusers. This will not only prevent loss of life, but will also ensure that more victims have the confidence to come forward and report their abusers knowing that they will not end up having to return to the home of the abuser.

In the majority of cases, by the time a victim of domestic violence ends up in hospital or worse dead, they would often have been a long standing pattern of domestic abuse over many years. However, she stayed because she did not have anywhere else to go – and I would like to refer to the case over this weekend in Rehoboth. Building and directly funding the upkeep of safe houses across the country, will ensure that the victims of abuse have a way out of the cycle of abuse and this could potentially save many lives.

Secondly, I believe it is important that we make it easier for the victims of abuse to report cases, as often, they are subjected to a lot of stigma and shaming when they try reporting cases in person to Police Offices.

I, therefore, propose the creation of an e-Alerting system, whereby a hotline is created that enables victims to send electronic alerts to Police about abuse, both ongoing and past, a Special Unit that deals with domestic violence. Response will then be dispatched to the scene to come to the assistance of victims. This could open the door for children who witness their parents being abused, to being able to quickly and efficiently alert the Police and secure help that way.

Thirdly, the last idea I have, relates to the promulgation of a Law that protects Whistle Blowers and provide mechanisms and avenues for onlookers and passersby to confidentially and unanimously report incidents of domestic abuse. It is widely known that many women who suffer domestic abuse are so psychologically damaged, often blame themselves for the abuse, and are thus, either unwilling or unable to either report these cases or follow through after to the case has been reported.

23 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON DR MUSHELENGA**

In the majority of cases, there are family members and neighbours who are aware of the abuse and cannot only report it, but actually testify to it, but are afraid that relations with the victim would be negatively affected if they were to report, for example, their mother's boyfriend to the Police. I believe that creating an avenue where Whistle Blowers can report incidents of domestic abuse unanimously and confidentially, which will then be followed up by the relevant Law Enforcement Agencies, will help save many lives as one no longer only relies on the beaten down abused victims to report abuses.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, those are the three ideas in substance that I propose we look into in greater depth and see how we can find ways to decrease the rate of domestic violence crimes in Namibia as three:-

1. Government building safe houses nationwide;
2. The creation of an e-Alerting System; and
3. Promulgating a Law that will address and enable onlookers to report domestic abuse cases.

I then also propose that this Motion be referred to the Standing Committee on Gender Equality, Social Development and Family Affairs for further interrogation. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Dr Mushelenga you have the Floor.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
AND COOPERATION:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I rise to air my views and contribution to the Motion introduced by Honourable Van Den Heever on the issue of domestic violence.

23 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON DR MUSHELENGA**

I will, however, in the process also speak about domestic abuse in general, because the problem is not only the question of domestic violence, but also a broader spectrum of domestic abuses.

Honourable Speaker, the old Members should recall that many similar Motions have been introduced in this House. Perhaps we must also revisit what is it that we have done to those Motions? What happen to those recommendations? Otherwise, we will time and again, come to introduce Motions, make good recommendations, then we go back to square one. When these Committees bring up Reports here, these Reports are tabled for consideration and they are discussed. They are referred to the Ministries concerned – what is the status of these Reports from these from these Committees? Perhaps we also need to be appraised on that one.

Then talking in general, as I said, there are physical abuses and there are psychological abuses. Physical abuses are more common to women who are assaulted by men, tattered etcetera, which really symbolises primitivity.

I recall when I was at high school, there was a time when there was a boycott at school. During those years, boycotts were sort of compulsory. If you do not participate in a boycott – but this particular boycott was not political, I must say. This was mainly just learners who had a habit of going and lay at the hostel and wait for lunchtime after the second break. The Principal came, locked them inside the hostel, registered all of their names and told them to go home. Then a boycott was called because of those who were sent home. Since the only learners who were affected were boys, the girls were not affected, they did not participate in the boycott and they went to class as usual. The boys then went to beat these girls up who were attending classes because they did not want to be in solidarity – these are also type of physical abuses.

The then School Inspector who became the first Governor of the Oshikoto Region after Independence, Mr Namupala, had a serious talk about the

23 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON DR MUSHELENGA**

issue of the physically assaulted women. He said something very important that day. He told us that, when they were growing up, it was unheard of to see boys beating up girls and men beating up women. He said; *aamwandje, omikalo dha tya ngaaka dho kudhenga aa kadhona, no maa pagani kadhimo. (Interjection)* Translated this means – *such behaviour is, even among the pagan community, unheard of.* What he was trying to say is that, even the most primitive and non-believers do not do these things. You are supposed to be enlightened, but you are doing these things. That is really a symbol of a sick society.

When we were growing up tending cattle, one thing we observed is that, you will never see a bull fighting a cow, it will just fight another bull. You will never see a male dog fighting a female dog, it will just fight another male dog. Out of their consciousness, animals even know that it should not happen.

Then there is an issue of psychological abuse. That is more common to men and children. As a student of sociology, I learned that there is something called *scapegoating* of children. When parents fight their war there, the victims are children. If a man has issues with his wife, the children would be beaten up – it is true. I even know of Honourable Members in this House who told me – *my father used to beat me just because of this. (Interjection)* I have heard Members in this House saying it. That is a psychological problem whereby children become victims.

I also want us to call *spade a spade*. In most cases, when a woman moves with the children in a marriage with a different man, it is really in rare cases where you will find the husband having issues with stepchildren. However, when a man marries a woman and have children from other women – and let us call a *spade a spade*, because you said we are talking about domestic abuses – in most cases, women have issues with their stepchildren. Sometimes it escalates and becomes a problem between a man and a woman. We should, therefore, address these things in a broader perspective.

23 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON DR MUSHELENGA**

These things of domestic violence (*interjection*)

HON MEMBER: What are your solutions?

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
AND COOPERATION:** I first need to lecture you on sociology before I provide solutions, so that we do not repeat the similar solutions every year. Now listen to the lecture, do not just say *solutions*, I will come to that.

Let us not just look at the physical effects of domestic violence, it also has economic effects. If you can count the number of people that are hospitalised as a result of domestic violence, and imagine the medication that goes into these people, imagine those that would not be able to go to work because of that, the hours and time lost has an impact on the economy.

She mentioned that people are not always free to report domestic violence. It is true, because sometimes relatives are also to blame in these things – *No, no, go back you are not the only one suffering*. It is true. *You cannot leave because this happened to you one time, you are not the only one*. We grew up like this. This is a societal problem. Therefore, next time, a person will really feel uncomfortable to go and report these things.

Some of these domestic abuses are also caused by relatives who interfere in the marriages of their relatives – not the physical, but the psychological one. In our culture, when a man dies, the cause is the wife who bewitched the man, but when the wife dies, it is fine, she just died. What type of perception is this? The wife is left traumatised.

23 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON DR MUSHELENGA**

When a man and a woman are married and have their property, the relatives of the man should come from the clan, even if the woman is the one working and earning bread – they should come there get this – *she does not like our clan* – it is always the woman who does not apparently like the man's clan. Even when she is the breadwinner, she would be threatened, she would be squeezed psychologically – people poking their noses in the marriage. This is also one of the problems we must address as a society.

I agree with the new recommendations to have hotlines where people can report some of these things, but I do not also want the abuse of these systems, whereby you provoke someone – your spouse, either your husband or your wife because you want to fix him or her. We must also be careful about some of these things. Or where you maliciously report abuses that are not really true – we must also guard against this. However, it is a good thing to have a reporting system to protect Whistle Blowers, but we should also have a mechanism in place. What will happen to Whistle Blowers who maliciously report things that are not true? Let us think about this as well. They too need to be addressed.

Honourable Speaker, I said, let us go back and look at where we were with those recommendations, what has been done so far and how best we can improve on this.

With these few words, I support the sentiments expressed by the Honourable Members and I put my case to rest. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I call upon Honourable Hoffman.

23 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON HOFFMANN / HON NUJOMA**

HON HOFFMAN: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, I thought that I will be the last one, because I wanted to ask the indulgence of this House to postpone the Debate to next week Tuesday, the 1st of March 2016, so that I am ready to contribute.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I have a long list. Let me exhaust the list and then we can postpone the Debate to some other time, but for now I want to exhaust the list before me. Thank you. Yes, Honourable Nujoma.

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I would also like to add my voice to this very important Motion that was introduced by Honourable Van Den Heever.

I was listening carefully, and I think the Government of the Republic of Namibia has ratified almost all Conventions dealing with this issue, starting from the Beijing Conference where we participated in the Ratification of the Convention of the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of a Child, the passing of so many legislations; and, of course, the domestication of the *Combating of Domestic Violence Act* was passed.

I remember I was the Chairperson of the Law Reform, which was set up through Honourable Dr Kawana. It was introduced here – I cannot remember, (*interjections*) in 2003. I think from a legal point of view everything was done. I remember the previous year under the leadership of His Excellency, President Pohamba, we ran out of ideas and we called a Prayer Conference where all denominations, Faith-Based Organisations, NGOs, and everybody including Muslims, came together to pray. I do not know what was the result of that. Those are desperate measures when you run out of ideas.

23 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON NUJOMA**

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Maamberua on a Point of Order.

HON MAAMBERUA: If the Minister can just allow me to ask a small question, please?

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: You are welcome.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you. I think the statement that the biggest Former Liberation Movement, in terms of numbers, has ran out on ideas of how to address an issue despite the fact that all the resources through the Budget have been availed to Government – are you implying that it is the Ruling Party that has run out of ideas or the Government of the Republic of Namibia?

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: The answer is that society has run out of ideas – including yourself. You have been here, what did you propose? Why did you not introduce a SWANU White Paper on domestic violence? You have been here for the past ten years. The answer here is society, and that brings me to the next question.

We called in the Faith-Based Organisation and we have legislations in place. Therefore, perhaps the problem is the system whether it is a mixed economy or a capitalist society, or a mixture of both. It is probably the system that somehow generates inequality between men and women. We should go a little deeper to find the problem. Just recently a so-called Pastor named Bushiri jetted in, in a Lear Jet to come and solve apparent problems. I know some Namibians, but I do not know – Honourable

23 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON NUJOMA**

Venaani was also in Nigeria or Malawi to solve apparent problems. These are desperate measures because we are running out of ideas.

Some people want to win elections. You may even see them flying to – what is the guy in Nigeria?

HON MEMBER: TB Joshua.

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Yes, Pastor TB Joshua – while they were there, the Church was collapsing and he could not prevent the Church from falling on top of the people. (*Laughter*) There is also the issue of Boko Haram – why can Pastor Joshua not prevent Boko Haram from attacking the people? There is war in Nigeria.

When society runs out of ideas the Bushiris will come to us. Honourable Venaani, I do not think Honourable Maamberua has succeeded in attracting such a crowd (*laughter*) It is a lifetime wish of Honourable Maamberua, Venaani, but Bushiri manages it in a way. I will end up there before I go further. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I wonder what the Mover of the Motion thinks about Reverends, Bishops etcetera. (*Interjections*) No, no, I should not get to that. All I should say is that I think we have been given the way forward of the Motion for a brief reflection, but any other additional ideas will be submitted to the appropriate Committee.

Please do not spend too much time in trying to search for ideas. We have enough time allocated for this Motion already. It will be thoroughly investigated and brought back to the House. With that I call upon

23 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON NAMOLOH**

Honourable Charles Namoloh.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. The Mover of the Motion mentioned something about the involvement of Police and forwarded ideas on how this crime should be reported. There are quite a number of lines and channels at Police Stations where people can report. There are hot lines as well as emergency lines. There is also one important element which has been introduced – the neighbourhood watch groups.

They are quite very effective women and men in the society. I, therefore, want to request people to join these neighbourhood watch groups in their areas. We are working on e-Reporting, but when we address communities, some of our people do not listen to these things until they are attacked. Emergency numbers are provided, but people do not listen or they do not make use of them. Like Comrade Nujoma said, there was a time when the country ran out of ideas and called for prayers. Do you think everyone went to the Prayer Conference? They did not go there, instead they went to the *kambashus*.

They do not listen and do not pay attention to all these things until the monster comes to swallow them up. When this Motion goes to Committees you should be able to count on the Police to see the systems they have in place. You can ask them to give you all the information you need. I think then we can be able to enrich the e-Reporting System.

We also have the Woman and Child Protection Unit. There are quite a number of systems in place, but they are not fully utilised. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

23 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON DR KAWANA**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Next on my list is Honourable Dr Kawana please.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I rise to commend the Honourable Member for bringing this very important Motion to the House.

As the person responsible for the administration of the *Combating of Domestic Violence Act*, which was passed in this House way back in 2003, I really commend her. I join other Colleagues who have said we have put a Law in place, but the situation is getting out of hand.

Comrade Speaker, yesterday as I was going through some newspapers, I was really shocked, and I invite the Honourable Members to read the newspapers, the printed media of yesterday to find out what happened during the weekend from Friday to Sunday. You will be shocked at the number of murder cases involving women and children, and people who are hospitalised because of domestic violence. I do not know what we can do.

Some Honourable Members, starting with Honourable Mushelenga alluded to some causes. I want to join him to add to that list. Some have alluded to behavioural factors, but I divert from that angle. I want to take another angle and that is witchcraft and witchdoctors. This is one of the causes. Let me use the example of SWANU. I do not want to be personal. I am referring to the Political Party, not to Honourable Maamberua, SWANU. At every election they survive by a thread (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: On a Point of Order.

23 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON DR KAWANA**

HON MAAMBERUA: On a Point of Information. All Political Parties that are represented in this House did not come here by chance. They have come here on the basis of the provisions of the *Electoral Act* that is predicated on the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia to which we all have made an oath and sworn. SWANU did not survive elections by a thread.

We came here legitimately and given the performance of SWANU in the National Assembly and on the political arena in Namibia, SWANU has proven itself to be the vanguard Party in Namibian politics, and it is the Party that Namibians find to be the transmission belt of their aspirations.

Therefore, there is no need from the Comrade former Attorney-General and Minister of Justice to want to pretend to denigrate and belittle the contributions of SWANU either of now or yester years. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I am requesting the Honourable Members that this topic is very serious. I am not partaking in the discussions, but I just want to request you humbly to concentrate on the Motion.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Speaker, I am concentrating on the Motion and I am giving an example on why there domestic violence from an angle of witchcraft. I am sure family members of the Honourable Member or Party, which survived on a thread are looking at the Leader and say; *he is a witch, why is it only him every time*, and if a family member passes on, they would say; *it is this witch*. And domestic violence would start from there. In another situation (*intervention*)

23 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON DR KAWANA**

HON MAAMBERUA: May I request the Honourable Member with all the necessary dignity to withdraw his comparison of witchcraft and SWANU – as you know we are a Political Party based on the Marxist Leninist Ideology. We are a Party believing in scientific socialism; a Party that ensures that the primary intervention in order to transform Namibia is to address the material conditions of our people under the (*interjection*) Of course, as society was a classless of society.

I do not know where the issues of witchcraft has any relevance to such a progressive and as I said, a vanguard Party in Namibian politics.

Perhaps that could be only relevant to a Political Party that used to have an ideology like the SWAPO Party and in the midstream has abandoned that ideology, and has now become a capitalist philosophy. That is why we are struggling to find ourselves, to have to address issues of poverty 26 years after Independence and it has just been confirmed that they have lost that ideology (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member, thank you very much. I think this is the most unfortunate deviation from the real subject matter. I would like to appeal to the House – I am speaking as a father and as a grandfather, when we deal with Gender-Based Violence this is a very important subject for us to leave all the other things and concentrate on that, and to make a specific recommendation, because by doing so, we wish to send a message out there.

What message are we sending out to the people who carry out this kind of crime, if they listen to this? Can we come back to the subject for now? Honourable Dr Kawana, please take out that reference to witchcraft because it might simply be misplaced.

23 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON DR KAWANA**

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker, I was born in a rural area where these things are very fundamental. I will withdraw the reference to the SWANU Party, but I was not really personal.

Comrade Speaker, you are one of our Leaders from the 60s. You were in some of those African countries and you saw what happened – even during elections politicians, including Ministers, would end up in informal settlements to consult witchdoctors. I am talking about the reality. Let me move on. I am sure that may be some in this House who might have visited those places, I do not know. (*Laughter*)

Comrade Speaker, in those rural areas, if you are a successful farmer, as I heard that you are a farmer yourself, and you are very successful, they will say *it is because witchcraft*. That is the reality. If somebody dies in your family they will say it is because you went to the farm of the Honourable Speaker – it is the reality. They will hate you and they will hate your children. It will become a source of domestic violence within the family.

If you are a successful businessman or businessperson, let me perhaps put it that way, nobody must die in your family. These things are happening. It becomes a complete conflict within the family. Honourable Speaker, I am talking about the reality, which happens, particularly in the rural areas.

My message here is – how do we assist in order to address domestic violence? These are the issues that we need to tackle to say there is no such a thing as witchcraft for you to be a successful politician, there is no such a thing as witchcraft for you to be a successful farmer and there is no such a thing as witchcraft for you to be a successful businessperson. That is my message, Honourable Speaker, in context.

The other issue – you may recall that I presented statistics here about paternity tests, which shocked the Nation, where you find that 40% of men who were said to be biological fathers of children turn out not to be. I think time has come to zero in on all these. It is exactly what the Honourable Speaker is saying. Let us address and interrogate some of

23 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON SHANGHALA**

these things. They might be embarrassing, but let us address them, because if we do not, domestic violence will not end. Comrade Speaker, once again, I commend the Mover of this Motion. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Next is the Honourable Attorney-General.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. I will try to be very brief.

I would like to thank the Honourable Van Den Heever for a very good Motion and the recommendations are a good idea to start addressing part of the problem. I share the concerns raised before, that you may have genuine complaints, but you may also have opportunistic complaints. I think we need to find how we can manoeuvre in-between this very difficult title when the Committee deals with that.

I would also like to say that as it has been indicated here, many a times you find that when we cannot find a solution we resort to request that the Legislation be put in place. This is the evidence that Laws are not a panacea to the problems. These problems resort somewhere between our hearts and our emotions, which we can either control or cannot control. There is a generation or shift away from the type of education that our parents received, we received and that which we are given to our children and some of it is the cause.

We outsource the education of our children to the State, because the Constitution says education would be free. We, totally, abdicate our responsibility in all education, including the common decency education to tell young people to listen to the elderly; and while being a queue to know that if there is a pregnant woman or an elder person, you allow them

23 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON SHANGHALA**

to pass through. Once you have that lacking as a foundation – what do you do as you grow up? You continue perpetuating that and you put it in your children. Children are now making children nowadays – very young people and when they make children at a very young age, emotionally, they cannot deal with the fact that they are parents. These children will look for emotional guidance given to them – unfortunately that confusion, which breathes itself into a character and an animal that will bash. Our mothers must also help us sometimes (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: On a Point of Order.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:
Honourable Speaker, I am sorry to interrupt to my Son while addressing a very important issue.

I have been asking the same question for some time now in this House and I want somebody to tell me, maybe Honourable Shanghala will tell me. When we gained Independence in the 90s, there was a group of youngsters known as *street kids*, the majority of them were boys. Dr Libertine Amathila set up a soup kitchen around the Kalahari Sands Hotel. What happened to this group? Where are they?

HON SPEAKER: We do have an answer to that.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: I would like to hear.

23 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON SHANGHALA**

HON SPEAKER: I think the majority of them graduated in terms of upward mobility, opportunities and self-discovery. Honestly speaking, it was a worthwhile exercise, but for some reason the initiative ended. I do not know why we did not continue, because there are still kids roaming the streets of Windhoek and other towns. Perhaps we need to encourage and find an Institution that can carry out a proper evaluation so that we can be properly informed.

Therefore, your question is extremely valid and something ought to be done to compliment or add to what I am saying now, but I have come across some people who went through that experience and who are today having jobs. Yes, Honourable Attorney-General.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Mr Speaker, I think the question of the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs goes a little bit deeper and I want to elaborate on it a little bit, because it touches to a generation that is today perpetrating these acts of domestic violence upon a generation tomorrow.

In 1990, a two up to a six-year old child of a – what we used to call back in the day where I grew up, *Makakunya*, walking around with the pride of brutality on their shoulders and the blood of our people on their hands – that is what was inculcated into them – we are better than them. Where are they today? How do they manifest their emotional management? How do they manifest their sexual relationship or their male to male human relations? These are the issues. Yesterday's statistics were given to us at the Train the Trainer Workshop, which was opened by the Right Honourable Dr Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, where people in the Criminal Justice System are going to be trained on how to deal with vulnerable witnesses in domestic violence cases.

From UNICEF statistics, in 2015, 300 children were sexually violated within the first six months. 99.99% of these violators must be men. I am

23 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON SHANGHALA**

asking myself; what type of Namibian men are we? Why are we so angry? (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: On a Point of Order.

HON MUHARUKUA: With the permission of the Honourable Member, I would like to pose a question to him.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Yes, please.

HON MUHARUKUA: Is the Honourable Member insinuating that domestic violence is being perpetrated by the sons or the children of the *Makakunyas*, as you are referring to them? I just want to get some clarity.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: What I am trying to say is that, as a section of our population, we have to look at the inherent balance from which we come from that informs where we are. Victims can be caught in a victim syndrome.

While I was working as a researcher at UNAM at the time, a woman at a village near Oshigambo told us that she needs her husband to beat me now and then. We were shocked and we asked her; *why?* She said; *if he hits me, at least, he would come back showing love and affection and now I miss that because he is old now.* We were stupefied.

23 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON SHANGHALA**

Sometimes it is just some of the understandings that we have engraved in ourselves as being normal, which is not normal. (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Another Point of Order.

HON VENAANI: I am sorry to disturb your very good analysis, but I want to ask you a question.

HON SPEAKER: Please go ahead.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Shanghala, you are doing very well, but do you not think that the Leaders and society in general have never addressed the genesis of man/woman relationship in an African culture. I think Honourable Mushelenga wanted to touch on it a bit, then he went astray.

For example, what was the general perception of a man towards a woman in our own African culture, 50 years ago? (*Interjection*)

HON MEMBER: You were not even born then.

HON VENAANI: Yes, we were not born yet (*laughter*) Just very brief, in my culture, hundred years ago, roughly seventy years before the

23 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON SHANGHALA**

Genocide, a woman was never buried in a normal cemetery. A woman would never be buried in a cemetery. She would be buried behind an anthill. It was the culture. Let us come to the contemporary culture of the Arabic States and address that relationship so that we can come to the causes of this problem.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Thank you very much. I think you are touching on a very important issue. One of the issues that definitely contributes is the inarticulate premise of how we were brought up and socialised into our thinking. It could be from the colonial past that we come from, undeniably, and the cultural precepts from which we form our positions of thoughts, but also the other socialisation we engender with one another as we form a unified society. For example, what is happening to the good part of our culture when we modernise at such a fast pace that we are modernising? It was only less than 150 years ago when we first started reading and writing in my community and moving from the loin cloth to wearing a suit today. That accelerated development and the negation of our culture in the face of that development has brought us to a situation where, sometimes, in our evolution of the way we do things, we are missing some of the very important ground work of inculcating a sense of identity of individuals.

I think this to be true, because when you are, for example, told about some things that were bad or that was happening 50 years ago, but there were surely very good things we could have taken and we missed the opportunity. However, this Pepsi culture, the iPhone culture and the information which is being flooded upon people and children within our society, I think it is giving us difficulty in finding our moral compass.

Therefore, what I wanted to suggest to the Motion, which I think, as I said is a very good Motion, is that maybe we ought to also try, and – hopefully as we discuss with the Committee – to see if we have done enough from a

23 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON SHANGHALA**

soft element. I used to say this about our society; when we see something broken we quickly take a brick and mortar, and we fix it. It is definitely the nature of the Party that I represent, because if you were evolving from a Guerrilla Movement, you fell ill, you were shot, you were fixed, but were there Social Workers, are there people to deal with our psychic? Can we maybe have enough of these Social Workers at schools? We can then pick up where those domestic violence issues are coming from. Do we have enough Social Workers, at all, at the Courts, particularly the Magistrates' Court to deal with maintenance issues, domestic violence issues, and even the wellbeing of the workers within the Criminal Justice System? Those people prosecute everyday (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: A Point of Order.

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Comrade Speaker, through you, on a Point of Order to the Attorney-General.

I have noticed that we are now interrogating the causes of domestic violence and I want to go back to my upbringing in the Old Location, in Windhoek, where I was born. I recall during that time that black people were not allowed to consume alcohol.

These cases of Gender-Based Violence were not so rampant and rife then. There was mutual respect. Is it because alcohol was banned? When I was growing up, people used to meet at what we called bazaars. They will gather at a house where there is a difficulty and people will drink something made locally, because there was no alcohol. People used to drink Ginger and *Oros*.

23 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON SHANGHALA**

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nujoma, they used to consume alcohol that people used to buy illegally.

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Yes, something called *Ozonguindi*.

HON SPEAKER: Wine, sometimes beer.

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Yes. Gender-Based Violence was also very minimal then. We grew up, we went into exile and I can testify that it was none existent there. That was a life I must tell you. It was just clear that one could not commit Gender-Based Violence. It was just not there. It did not exist. It would not exist. I just want us to reflect a little bit. Then we started the liberation war against Apartheid – that evil system, that cancer!

When we were coming back to confront this enemy, we realised that there were *Shebeens* all over the country, which were created deliberately. They started in the north where we waged the war and now they are in every house all over Namibia. Those are some of the causes. When we say those who are defending Apartheid are defending a system that was criminalised by the international community, and fought by the Utoni's and the other generations in order to eliminate that cancer, but now we have to compensate people who were supporting that system (*laughter*) It boggles my mind. But thank you.

23 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON SHANGHALA**

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nujoma, I am still waiting to hear the question. (*Laughter*)

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Comrade Speaker, Honourable Nujoma has taken me to my last recommendation, which is that: the Committee must consider a quota-based systems. Firstly, let us put the *sunset* Clause to all the liquor licences in the country. There is an oversupply of Cuca Shops per population ratio. Yes, I understand that you are selling in order to send your child to school, but this child is growing up in an environment where this drinking is now normal. This liquor is consumable on a daily basis.

Mr Speaker, I think, when the Committee engages the matter, it should look into liquor licensing and gambling, particularly in our towns, they should make *in loco* inspections to find out. They must also carry out a numerical count; for instance, in a street of so many households, how many Cuca Shops are there? Evelyn street is the Sodom and Gomorrah of our lifetime – from the beginning to the end – and there are houses just there. I wonder what we are doing in the social engineering of these children and people who are exposed to this type of lifestyle.

Honourable Speaker, as I end, I would like to, not only thank the Honourable Van Den Heever, but I would like pose a challenge to her, that if you, particularly touch on the last item that I made mention of, the issue of liquor licence and gambling machines, you will become unpopular, but I have the following words for you:

I think we owe ourselves the honest truth, and I said this before when we were dealing with a discussion on race and tribalism. We are the ones, particularly those who previously suffered from racial discrimination Laws, in other words black people – we are the ones who are to lose the most if we do not focus ourselves to doing the right thing. It was distorted by those who intended to distort it, but I keep saying it again with

23 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON SHILUNGA**

conviction that if we can challenge these Cuca Shop owners – yes, they support us politically, they will support you, they will support me as the Party, to go and campaign, but this is not business, it is poison. This is Sodom and Gomorrah. Let us bring it to an end or control it. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Let us move on. Time is not on our side. I call upon Honourable Shilunga, please.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank the Honourable Member for the important Motion that she has brought to this House and I also want to make my contribution.

It is true that our culture and tradition has also contributed to Gender-Based Violence in a way and I would also want to agree with Honourable Peya on the types of Gender-Base Violence. Yes, we have physical violence, like beating and kicking and we have psychological and emotional violence where you will not find any beatings. In such cases, there are no wasting of resources, but no one greeting the other in the same house. The two partners are not greeting each other. There is no intimacy in the house and that already constitutes a problem. They are sleeping in separate rooms, some start sleeping outside their homes, having extra-marital affairs. You are not being beaten, and when you go to somebody and complain, some people will not understand you, especially the elders, they will just tell you - *can you stay in your house, why do you worry with a man who is going around or who is going outside the house? Just be in your house and wait for him to come back whenever he want.* This is violence in its own right.

23 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON SHILUNGA**

Then we have economic violence, where resources are being brought in the house and are abused. An example of resources being abused is when money is being used on alcohol when there is no food to eat in the house or sometimes you do not, as a woman or a man, have control over your own money. The money is being controlled by somebody else. For you, it is just to get your salary and put it on the table back home, and then somebody else, either your husband or your partner has full control over that money (*interjection*)

HON MEMBER: or your wife!

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Yes, or your wife.

HON SPEAKER: You mean either way, it is not a one sided thing?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Yes, it is not one sided, but the majority of them are women.

I have seen a case in Okahao or Ongandjera, where a teacher was getting her salary, but she did not have any control over that salary - the Autobank Card was with the husband (*interjections*).

HON SPEAKER: Yes, please just continue.

23 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON SHILUNGA**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: One thing that I also want us to be aware of is that the notion of *an apple does not fall far from the tree*, is also working. Some of us are Leaders, we are Honourable Members of this House, but we are also perpetrators when it comes to violence. Some of the Community Leaders – they can be Governors, they can be teachers, they can be respected members of their respective communities, but back home they are doing all this things that we are talking about.

HON SPEAKER: On a Point of Order.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: On a Point of Order Comrade Speaker, the Honourable Member, Comrade Shilunga, is making a good point that reminded me of something that I just thought I should put in quickly before she proceeds.

You know, in my culture, a family affair is supposed to be dealt with secretly and confidentially. Even when you quarrel, you must quarrel quietly and Comrade Speaker, that also has an effect that some of us, despite our positions can afford to do things in our homes knowing just so well that our partners will not say anything. I just thought I should add this.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Member, please continue. I am watching the clock.

23 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON SHILUNGA**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Thank you very much Honourable Ithana. Let me continue.

I also understand when an Honourable Member made a contribution saying that there was no violence in the past. Yes, to a certain extent it was not there, but there were also some measures that the families put in place to avoid that. I think for those who come from my tradition, we know that you could marry your cousin – is it your cousin or nephew, if you are from a woman and the other one is from a man – you will be able to marry each other. If anything happens between these two, because traditionally, they are a brother and sister, there is no way that you will beat your brother or your sister. It was also one measure, because they will bring you together and bring an end to it.

On the recommendations, I would want to recommend that we need to create a friendly environment for our victims, especially at the first point of contact. That is now either the Woman and Child Protection Unit or maybe at the Police Station. If there is no Women and Child Protection Unit in your area and you go to the Police Station, sometimes a victim goes there, followed by the perpetrator. At the Police Station, you are just asked - *what is your problem* - in front of everybody. There are no private rooms where you can be asked, for you to bring your issue on the table. If the perpetrator is behind me, I am obviously, not going to say anything – and the environment is not friendly. Those Police Officers at the Station are always aggressive – asking; *what is your problem, what has happened*, and all that. Then the other point is (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Can I? Because of the time – I do not want to rush you at all. I think I would rather stop here. I have more names on the list and we can continue without rushing anything tomorrow. This is a very important subject and I think we can only do justice to your statements. You will be the first person to start when we convene tomorrow. Can we

23 February 2016

ADJOURNMENT
RT HON DR KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA

do that? Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Yes. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: On that point, may I ask the Right Dr Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, I propose that the House adjourns until tomorrow, at 14:30.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The House stands adjourn until tomorrow, the usual time.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:50 UNTIL 2016.02.24 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
24 FEBRUARY 2016**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, today I have been informed that the Republican Party – not the one in the United States – has nominated Honourable //Gowases to serve on the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Grouping.

I now declare the Honourable //Gowases duly appointed to the said Parliamentary Grouping.

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? I call upon the Honourable Kavekatora.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

24 February 2016

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON KAVEKOTORA**

QUESTION 25:

HON KAVEKOTORA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 3rd of March 2016, I shall ask the Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation, Honourable Itah Kandjii-Murangi, the following questions relating to our students currently studying in Congo Brazzaville.

It was reported (*interjections*)

HON SPEAKER: No, allow him.

HON KAVEKOTORA: It was reported in printed media that the situation in that country is not conducive and in some instances risky.

1. How many Namibian students are currently studying in Congo Brazzaville?
2. How many of the original students came back and why?
3. Is it true that monthly allowances due to these students from the Government are not forthcoming and if in the affirmative, why?
4. How many of the students in Congo Brazzaville want to come back home and what is the Ministry doing to facilitate their safe return?

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Next is Honourable Venaani?

24 February 2016

**ORAL QUESTION
HON VENAANI**

ORAL QUESTION

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I wish to ask an Oral Question to the Honourable Minister of Urban and Rural Development.

HON SPEAKER: I did not get the name?

HON VENAANI: Honourable Shaningwa Sophia, my Dear Mother and beautiful Sister.

HON SPEAKER: Do proceed, please.

HON VENAANI: This is quite a very important question that I want to ask.

I am reading that, because of the delimitation of new Constituencies across the country (*interjections*) wait I do not want to speak through you, let me speak through my mind – you are confusing me – that were demarcated, especially in the Ongenga Constituency, the Councillor there was reported saying that he is working from his car. Councillors at Otuni in the Opuwo Rural Constituency do not have offices due to this new demarcation. The questions are as follows:

Why is the Ministry not using containers? (*Interjections*) There are containers here in Windhoek at Container World that we can temporarily use in these areas. (*Interjection*) The Councillor was in the newspaper

24 February 2016

**RESPONSE TO ORAL QUESTION
HON SHANINGWA**

saying that he is working from his car – what do you know? You do not know. Are you the Councillor?

HON MEMBER: I know that.

HON VENAANI: No, you do not know, but that is not the question. The Honourable Member is just disturbing me (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Is the question directed to the Minister?

HON VENAANI: To the Minister, yes. I think we cannot sit with Government trying to evolve powers to the Regions while we are sitting with Councillors that do not have offices. It is understandable that we have not constructed the offices because of the demarcation, but I think we can use temporary measures to house these Councillors. Is the Ministry going to look at that proposal to address the matter in the interim? What is your view? *Okuhepa* (thank you).

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. The Minister can decide whether to respond to that question or whether she would like this to be in a written form so that she can deal with it. I will give the Minister the opportunity.

HON MINISTER OF RURAL AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT:
Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, and

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON SHILUNGA**

thank you very much, Honourable Member, for the question. I think the Honourable Member slept on his question. I should, therefore, also go and sleep on the answer. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Good. Thank you. I think we are done. Any Notice of Motions? Message from the Head of State? We are doing very well.

The Secretary will read the Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON AVENUES
TO CURTAIL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Avenues to Curtail Domestic Violence.

HON SPEAKER: When the Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, the 23rd of February 2016, the question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Van Den Heever. The Honourable Deputy Minister of Mines and Energy had the Floor. May I now call upon her to continue?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, let me once more thank the Honourable Member for the important Motion on the Table. I would like to continue with my contribution on Gender-Based Violence.

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON SHILUNGA**

Gender-Based Violence involves men and women and it stems from unequal power relations within families, communities and States. It can be physical, sexual, emotional or psychological, and the world has spoken through international instruments like the Millennium Development Goals that was replaced by the Sustainable Development Goal Number 5, which seeks to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. Nationally, we have also come up with measures. We have some Acts and Policies in place – to mention just a few:

- The *Domestic Violence Act*;
- The *Married Persons Equality Act*;
- The Gender Policy under the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare; and
- The Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.

These are some of the instruments that we have in place and they are all trying to redress the situation of Gender-Based Violence. We have spoken until we have ran out of words as Honourable Nujoma stated yesterday, but the more it continues the more we need to talk about it.

Yesterday, I started with the recommendations and I would like to continue with Recommendation 2:

Continuous public awareness still needs to be in place. I talked about creating a friendly environment for the victims, family members of the victims and for the perpetrators – most importantly for the victim, because she/he is directly affected by the situation. However, we must also look at the family members, especially the parents of both the victim and the perpetrator. Generally it is the family of the victim which is protected and talked about. However, the family of the perpetrator, which also suffers because they do not know what drove their child to commit the crime, are seen as if they have committed the crime, and there is normally no one to console them. Therefore, it is very important that we also attend to them.

We also need to have a comprehensive professional counselling –

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON SHILUNGA**

meaning that when we look at the victim we must also look at the environment the person comes from, and whether it is safe or dangerous for this person to go back to such an environment. We also need to consider same sex counselling. Let us say, I am a female rape victim and the perpetrator, obviously, is a man and when I go to the Institution for counselling, the counsellor attending to me is a man. I would be afraid to be in the same room with the male counsellor – I would have the fear of falling victim again. Therefore, providing information will not come automatically, because of fear and sometimes also due to sensitivity, I feel that a man will be more sensitive towards another man's problems and *vice versa*.

Service providers must receive proper training. I have seen situations of men who have gone to Police Stations to report that they are being violated and beaten up by partners, girlfriends or wives. When they get there everybody laughs at them. In Oshiwambo they say *evaya, shivaya aave* – you are a coward how can you be beaten up by a woman? You must go back. It does not only happen at the Police Stations, it also happens within the communities. Where I grew up, I have seen some strong girls who used to beat up men. When these girls happen to get married they would continue beating up their husbands because they are capable of doing that.

Non-Governmental Organisations, Churches, Schools, Communities and Traditional Authorities also need to serve as first points of contact on Gender-Based Violence, because that will enhance access to immediate protection, and because some people are staying very far from the Institutions where they are supposed to report, they end up not reporting. I, therefore, think that it will help to have immediate centres within the communities which are connected to the Woman and Child Protection Units or the nearest Police Stations so that they can report these cases to the Police as soon as they receive them.

We also need shelters and homes of safety for victims of abuse or survivors of abuse – as we call them. I heard the Minister of Gender,

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON SHILUNGA**

Equality and Child Welfare talking about the shelters in some Regions, but they are not yet open. I would like to commend the Ministry for the initiative, even if it is not in all the Regions. I think we still need to continue and accelerate the process so that they can open up for the communities, because the victims of abuse do not have anywhere to go after reporting the cases. If I am your husband or boyfriend, would you come back to my place after you went to report me? It would not happen. If it is going to happen (*interjection*) Therefore, we need to have shelters for these victims to stay for a while until the anger subdues or until the perpetrator is in a position where he is willing to listen to other people who are trying to help.

Measures on how to deal with psychological and emotional violence should be put in place because this is not a straightforward indicator. When a person is emotionally abused, because there is no physical evidence some people tend to think that the abuse is not taking place, which could be more harmful than physical abuse.

Men must learn to open up. When you are abused, as a man, you must speak up about your problems – do not fear you are just a human being like others and, therefore, you must report the abuse. If you do not report it, the problem escalate and may reach levels where it becomes a danger even to yourself.

Let us also connect Gender-Based Violence Prevention Programmes to HIV/AIDS Programmes. We have done so well with the HIV/AIDS Programmes – it is at workplaces and other places, so let us connect Gender-Based Violence to these Programmes so that they can be addressed together. We also need to encourage community participation and collaboration in the formation of social transformation fora.

We also need to minimise or do away with stigmas, for example, in the case of rape. When a girl is raped she will find it very difficult to find a partner to marry in the future, because wherever she goes people will always talk about that rape – *do you want to get married to the girl that*

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON SHILUNGA**

was raped – while it was not her mistake, it is something that happened to her she did not plan for it, but it will follow her into adulthood.

We also need to be observant of abnormal behaviour, whether we are Parliamentarians or community members – we need to be very observant. Sometimes we stay with our family members, colleagues, or friends and we do not realise when a person appears differently, therefore, we also need to interrogate some of these situations – *my friend, why are you looking like that today? You look depressed, do you have a problem?* Some may not open up, but some will be straightforward and say; *I am in a serious problem*. Sometimes they are afraid to share, but when we open up they will be able to tell.

I would like to talk about some of the symptoms that can be indicative to us of a person is going through a difficult situation:

- A person might display symptoms of depression; he/she is depressed and is in a state of anxiety.
- The person is suicidal; somebody may say to you; *I just want to kill myself, I think life is hopeless*. You can then further ask questions, what he/she means.
- Sometimes a person you know to be clean and tidy might suddenly appear unkempt. That would indicate to you that something might not be fine.
- Some colleagues might hide injuries. I might come with a red or a blue eye and when you ask me I would say; *I fell off the stairs and I bumped myself against something*. When you listen to this, sometimes you can easily tell that it is not true.
- Sometimes you would meet a couple you know and immediately realise that something is wrong, but when you start to ask questions

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON SHILUNGA**

the aggrieved person might not feel comfortable to say something in the presence of the partner. This can also be an indication that something wrong is happening.

- Absence from work – absence from Parliament, for example: Yes, I know we have got responsibilities and we might think that you are away with work, but it may also happen to you, because we are also human beings. If something happens (*interjections*) let us not just assume the Colleague has gone with work – sometimes there is a serious problem. Lastly, (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: There is a Point of Order before you conclude.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Mr Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question?

HON SPEAKER: I think the answer is yes.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Was the Honourable Member being general in her statement or was she referring to her neighbour? (*Laughter*)

HON SPEAKER: You may continue.

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON MUHARUKUA**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: I have got many neighbours and if they are affected, I will invite them to see me afterwards.

Lastly, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to encourage men to cry when the need arises – just cry! (*Laughter*) Please cry it out, because if you do not cry, it becomes a problem. I am so happy now as I am making this contribution, because there is an Article in today's *The Namibian* Newspaper, on Page 11, on why men should cry and I would like to quote one of the Paragraphs; "*Crying a lot means you are mentally balanced and can deal with emotion.*" It continues to say; "*Crying does not mean you have no capability of handling life, it means you have even more ability to deal with anything that comes your way, because you do not try to escape.*" I so submit, Honourable Speaker. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I must say, we listened to you yesterday, and listened to you today, and the subject we are dealing with is such that it will require champions – men and women, Honourable Members of this House and beyond this House, to join in this fight against Gender-Based Violence, and in you I think we have a champion.

I will call upon the Honourable Muharukua.

HON MUHARUKUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I only cry at funerals, I do not cry unnecessarily.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Do you cry at funerals?

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON MUHARUKUA**

HON MUHARUKUA: Yes, Ovahimba men cry at funerals. In fact, my father is one of those men who cry at funerals and I do not like it, so I do not cry at funerals.

Honourable Speaker, let me also join the Members who have thanked Honourable Van Heever for bringing this (*interjection*)

**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGY:** Van Den Heever.

HON MUHARUKUA: Van Den Heever, yes. *Afrikaans is my taal*, Honourable Tweya. Be that as it may.

This is quite an evolving issue in our society. Society out there is talking about it and we are talking about it here. We are talking about it so much that, at times, you feel hopeless – at times you feel, like Honourable Nujoma was saying, we have run out of ideas, but sometimes, and perhaps, we must do the first things first and last things last. I am of the firm opinion that at times prayers should not be the last resort, but the first thing that we should do. 1 Corinthians 13, talks about love and I think we (*interjections*) Honourable Attorney-General not witchcraft, but 1 Corinthians please – it talks about love (*interjections*)

HON MEMBER: Do you want to talk about Bushiri?

HON MUHARUKUA: No, not Bushiri – the Bible – I do not know what

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON MUHARUKUA**

Bushiri says, I did not go to him.

The Bible talks about love and at times when society is faced with this catastrophes one thinks whether it is not, about time that we bring the Bible back to our school curriculum. I know it is an issue that has implications on our Constitution, but it is also an issue that has to deal with our morals – teaching our children biblical values and morals, and values of love that 1 Corinthians 13 is talking about from a very young age.

Let me move on to something that the previous Honourable Member was talking about, and that is the discipline of our Police. It is unfortunate and I will say it again, and because the issue comes up again and again, one will end up saying things time and time again. The Police that we see, who greet us at the gate when we enter Parliament, smiling, very well dressed, happy to see a fellow human being, is not the Police that the public see at Charge Offices. Let me be clear, not all Police Officers behave in that manner, but we have elements in our forces who behave in a manner, which is unbecoming to the public. These elements are also contributing to people not going to Police Stations, especially to report cases. In fact, I, as a man is abused, I will probably not go to the Police Station because I am afraid someone will laugh at me. What she was saying is true. Some Police Officers, even ladies, (*intervention*)

HON MEMBER: So you should cry.

HON MUHARUKUA: Maybe, yes. I will just cry in my room and continue with life, which is wrong.

But these elements are there within our Police Stations. About two weeks ago, I went to Wanaheda Police Station, not to report, (*interjection*) at

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON MUHARUKUA**

night – not for maintenance either – late at night (*interjections*) yes, I wanted maintenance maybe. I saw an individual there and the manner he was spoken to showed me that that person never went back there. There is also another issue that relates to when a person first comes to a Police Station. One day that I was in the Charge Office, busy (*interjection*)

HON MEMBER: You go there very often!

HON MUHARUKUA: I used to go very often, almost daily. But this time, I have only been there once. On two separate occasions, I encountered two people at the Charge Office, once a lady and the other time a gentleman – these people walked into the Charge Office to report a case and they were clearly intoxicated. The lady went to report a boyfriend's sister whom they stay together and was trying to provoke her into a fight and the Police said; "*Go back, get sober and come back to open a case.*" This person was taking a preventative measure before anyone is physically harmed, further emotionally abused or harassed and the Police is saying; *you are intoxicated, therefore, we are not in a position to listen to you.*

I know the rationale behind it is that – *we cannot take evidence from you in the state that you are in because tomorrow we may not use it or it may be used against yourself*, but perhaps, as a Nation, we must come up with a way to catch those that come before harm is done. That is one aspect.

The Honourable Member, in her submission, made various proposals and I want to chip in, she specifically talked about e-alerting, but she also talked about our Laws. I am happy that the Honourable Members have a firm understanding of what domestic violence is, because naturally to a layman when you talk about domestic violence people would naturally think it is when someone is being beaten, but as I listened to the contributions of the

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON MUHARUKUA**

Members, they have a firm understanding even of the outline of what the *Domestic Violence Act* has – that is, it is a range of things and does not only confine to beating.

I want to state the following: When you look at the Act, and I believe the lawyers in the House will agree with me, there is only one instance when you can put a person outside the house when there is domestic violence involved and that is when there is physical abuse. In all other instances you cannot. Even where physical abuse is involved and it is your house, say for instance – let me not mention names – Honourable X has been beating his wife or slapped his wife, or the wife slapped the husband – if that is your house, you can only be put out of the house for a limited number of times. I think it is about six months that you can put this person out of the house after that the person can come back.

HON MEMBER: Your own house?

HON MUHARUKUA: Your own house, yes. You can be put out, but only for six months, and then you can go back.

I think the reason why the Act sets out that only in terms of physical violence can a Magistrate put a person outside the house is, because, perhaps physical violence can lead to a loss of life or grievous bodily harm. I am of the respectful view that physical violence can never exist in isolation. Never! I think it is always preceded by some sort of harassment, sexual abuse, alcohol abuse or economic abuse. It is present from either side leading to physical violence. I think it is perhaps about time that we, as a Nation, put our money where our mouth is, in terms of what we want with regards to this issue by completely eliminating that evil.

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON MUHARUKUA**

I want to recommend a resolution that I previously proposed. In other countries, for example, Britain has a system with a punitive measure where an offender in a criminal setting is tagged. The person gets a tag on the leg to confine that person to a certain area. You get a restriction – for instance, if you have been sentenced to house arrest you get a tag and you are told not to leave Katutura, for example, and the moment you leave Katutura the tag will do two things; it will either alert the authorities you left Katutura or clamp you so hard you will go back to Katutura. We have seen many cases where victims obtain various protection orders against perpetrators, yet the offender continues to cause loss of life or grievous bodily harm.

When this Committee goes out to investigate the possibilities of what we can do to prevent the loss of lives, harm or Gender-Based Violence they must also look at the possibility of Namibia obtaining this, I do not want to say gadget (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: I thought you were done, but I think there is a Point of Order. We are moving towards a major busy period – I want to curtail line of intervention.

Seeing that the Motion is going to a Committee, this information can be supplied there to strengthen the research and the recommendations, which will emerge from there. Yes, on a Point of Order.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Yes, Honourable Member. I think you are doing well, but instead of recommending the Committee to come up with this kind of technical legislative intervention, would it not be appropriate to recommend to the Members of the Law Society, as part of their social responsibility, to

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON MUHARUKUA**

initiate a draft in that direction and help the Debate or the discourse rather than just taking it to the Committee?

HON MUHARUKUA: Thank you very much, Honourable Member. I think the Law Society is one of the stakeholders in this, therefore, one can take that avenue or alternatively, the Committee can also consult them.

HON SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Dr Kawana.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Speaker, maybe a Point of Information. The Honourable Member might have noticed in today's printed media, particularly *The Namibian* Newspaper and the *Namibian Sun*, there is a full advert from the Ministry of Justice inviting proposals.

In fact, we have invited proposals earlier on, but we were not satisfied, so we extended the period so that the Amendment can be done as soon as possible and this House will be able to debate the Amendment (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much for reminding the House on that important topic. Yes, Honourable Member.

HON MUHARUKUA: Honourable Speaker, for the Committee to investigate the possibilities of having this technology in order to save

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON KAVEKOTORA**

lives. Let me just conclude. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Are you done? Thank you very much. The next one on my list is Honourable Kavekatora.

HON KAVEKOTORA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I also concur with the Colleagues that this is a very important Motion and I also agree with the proposal that has been forwarded that this must go to a relevant Committee to put more value to it.

While the Honourable Colleagues who have spoken before me were talking, I was asking myself the question, do we really know the root causes of Gender-Based Violence? Unfortunately, the response that I gave to myself is; no, we do not. We do not know the root causes of Gender-Based Violence and as long as that is true, we will continue running out of ideas without coming to a solution on what needs to be done, because any solution is just as good as a definition of a problem that you are facing.

Honourable Speaker, yes, we do have Laws that are trying to address the issue of Gender-Based Violence, but the question is; how effective are these Laws? We talk about gender discrimination – to what degree have we been successful in addressing discrimination based on gender? And the answer to my perspective is that we were not successful, we are still not successful.

Gender inequality – to what degree are we an equal society? Honourable Van Den Heever who brought up the issue was saying that we are a broken society, because we are not an equal society. To what degree have we addressed that effectively? The question of economic status – I will put up a hypothesis to say that, based on your economic status you will

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON SIOKA**

experience Gender-Based Violence in different ways. There is a possibility that the premises of saying that if you are economically well off Gender-Based Violence will not come in the same magnitude as an economically deprived individual.

It is also an issue, Honourable Speaker, of people understanding their Rights – to what degree have we articulated the Right of individual for them to know what is my Right and how do I stand up protecting my own Rights? It is also a question of assertiveness versus societal values because in certain societies where some of us come from, a man is always the dominant figure and a woman has to be subservient to the man.

Assertiveness is a principle that gives you the right to say – *yes*, if you want to say yes and the right to say *no*, if you want to say no.

Honourable Speaker, all I am saying is that, the Committee needs to interrogate the issue of a serious research for us to identify and to define the problem more effectively before we come up with solutions that might not necessarily address the issue at hand. It is important for us to do that and I would suggest that the responsible Committee starts looking outside the box, engage affected communities and create an hypothesis to make sure that they test those hypothesis as to the validity of what we are trying to propose as a solution to the problem. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I call upon the Honourable Sioka.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. It was not my intention to intervene, but when I heard that the issue is being referred to a Committee, I felt that I should also say something.

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON SIOKA**

Honourable Colleagues, I am very impressed, especially with the Mover of this Motion. This is one of the signs – I can see that all Namibians, including Parliamentarians are feeling the pinch of what is happening out there. I have been calling on all stakeholders – Parliamentary Committees, Traditional Leaders, Churches and Schools to talk about Gender-Based Violence. The Honourable Member, my Sister there, said that Gender-Based Violence should not be confined to one Ministry and we should regard it and address it in the same way as HIV/AIDS.

I have been saying, let us tackle Gender-Based Violence the way we did with HIV/AIDS and the Head of State said the same thing. This is the best way we are supposed to do it. I am very impressed with all the Colleagues – on many occasions Members of Parliament pronounced themselves by bringing Motions on Gender-Based Violence to Parliament.

The scourge of Gender-Based Violence is really getting out of hand. We have got enemies with strategies. It is a challenge to all of us, because when we tackle this, they go and strategise to do something else. I will not commit the Ministry of Gender alone to tackle this – if I do not have wings, you are my wings.

I would like to recommend to the Committee to visit prisons and interrogate our people who have committed these crimes. Ask them what their motives were, maybe we will get the answer to Honourable Kavekatora's question that we do not know the root causes. Let us get in touch with them to get the answers. Some may have done this by mistake and others purposely, but it will somehow help us solve the problem.

Two Conferences were held and the people are asking about the implementation. The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare has implemented some of the recommendations, like the awareness campaign, and there is also training taking place right now. If you listen to the radio there are dramas on Gender-Based Violence at 12:00. We have put up clusters in the Regions and at national level. The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON SIOKA**

Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Safety and Security are heading these clusters on Gender-Based Violence in the various Regions at Constituency levels. When they detect issues of Gender-Based Violence they report through the channels of the Constituency to the Region up to the national level. That is how we are addressing the issues and there are monitoring and evaluation mechanisms through which they have to report back for us to see what they have done on the ground.

I thank you very much, Colleagues, if you take it up then you are giving me wings so that I can fly and speak more.

Awareness is very important. As we are talking now, maybe one of us today is going to commit Gender-Based Violence. Gender-Based Violence is not only limited to men, but they are in the majority that is why we are emphasising on men. Some men have got ears, but they cannot hear, because you just listen and then you go and do it. Some women also do the same. We must live in a Gender-Based Violence free society. We should live in this country free of Gender-Based Violence. If we address it as a united team, we will definitely defeat it. And if we educate our children while they are still young, the generation to come will live in a peaceful country.

If we master that, the world will also live at peace. I am afraid of one thing – whatever happens in this world affects everybody. We have observed many factors and I have been mentioning one factor – let us not accuse normal Churches, there are fake Churches that are cheating our people. *“Go and sleep with your mother, go and sleep with your aunt and so on, or with those people who are close to you, and you will get rich.”* (Interjections)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: That is witchcraft.

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON SIOKA**

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: No, it is not witchcraft, this are Churches, Dr Kawana.

I am sorry to say this, but it is true. Where do they take the organs of the people they kill? (*Interjections*) It is not witchcraft, maybe the doctors who are here can tell us, because I heard that the hearts and kidneys are normal when pumped, and are transplanted in someone else. We should also question the professionals. I have not seen it here in Namibia, but I have seen it in Europe somewhere (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: I am extremely reluctant, I think what the Minister is talking about are things that can be properly verified, scientifically addressed and proven, because we cannot deal with things that we cannot prove.

The Attorney-General wanted to speak on a Point of Order, but before you do that, I was hoping that we will finish on time, at 15:40 to give you time for tea, but I am really constrained by the speed at which we are moving, because I feel that we have to get on the job. Let us speak briefly and to the point. Yes, you have the Floor please.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Speaker, I wanted to respectfully ask a question to the Honourable Minister?

HON SPEAKER: Yes, please.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Minister, you made

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON SIOKA**

mention of some fake Churches that are in the habit of duping our people to making them believe that there is salvation in doing some hideous things to our people. We are also aware that these Churches are within the SADC Community, particularly, where we see that people are being made to eat snakes and rodents, grass, hair, people are standing on the backs of people, because the so-called prophet cannot touch the ground. In the context of the abuse that we have within our society, how can we deal with them when, particularly, our Senior Officials in Government Institutions are the proponents?

I understand some church gathering here where a Prophet Bushiri was, so-called prophet, or however his name is pronounced, was apparently organised by our senior Officials. They are the spokespersons. By the time you know it, these people have – I do not even know if they had work permits, he was certainly working here. Did he have a work permit? How do we deal, as an entire society, from all the arms of Government, whether it is just the advocacy part of it, but also the part where we can regulate and protect our people against themselves and their gullibility. It seems that we can use the existing Laws to protect, not to regulate, maybe protect our people.

Maybe if you can touch on that a little bit, because as was indicated earlier, sometimes we should start with the first things first and it will be a genuine prayer, but not a demonstration of witchcraft for people to sustain themselves in fuelling the next air mileage in their jets and their lavish lives. For example, Honourable Minister, in your experience, have you seen any of these people providing any solutions to the work you do or are they just preying upon our people? Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Can I come in because I feel the Honourable Minister was not really dealing with issues that provide information on those issues that the Attorney-General is raising.

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON SIOKA**

I am just beginning to wonder why the question is directed to the Minister – because of your prime role as the Minister responsible, do you wish to respond to those questions?

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Yes, I will try.

HON SPEAKER: Yes Please.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Comrade Speaker, on the issue of what transpired in Namibia recently, first of all, I will try to advise on the issue. Our Civil Servants who were involved and everybody else – let me not confine myself to Civil Servants, let me include everybody. Since the creation of man, there was one Bible which tells the truth. I cannot quote well (*Interjection*)

HON MEMBER: Is it Genesis perhaps?

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: What Genesis? (*Laughter*) There is a verse, I think it is in Matthew, if I am not mistaken (*interjection*)

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON SIOKA**

HON MEMBER: Which was?

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: I have got my Bible here, I do not want to delay. Which says, *there will be false prophets*. We see them, we hear them. They will have powers to heal, but it is not that they are my people.

HON MINISTER OF POVERTY ERADICATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Are they not your people?

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: No, they are not my people, Honourable Bishop (*laughter*).

The only thing I will say is for us to have awareness campaigns and when the Committee goes out there, they should trace that issue, they should know about these false prophets. Is there anyone who was healed here? Some Members of Parliament were there – was anyone healed?

HON SPEAKER: Yes, on a Point of Order, Honourable Shixwameni.

HON SHIXWAMENI: I would like to ask one question to the Minister, but also linking it with what the Attorney-General spoke about. We are a secular State.

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON SIOKA**

**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD
WELFARE:** We know.

HON SHIXWAMENI: That is in our Constitution and there is also freedom of Religion. I am not an admirer of Bushiri and the prophets, and all these kinds of things, but where do we locate ourselves being a secular State and also advocating freedom of Religion in the Constitution.

Why do we want to condemn other Religions as being fake and other Religions being right? Further than that, I would like to know, which of the Religions or Churches are real and which ones are fake? I would like to know that.

HON SPEAKER: I wish to beg you to conclude please, because now we are really totally deviating, and touching on everything under the sun.

We have agreed that the Committee will deal with that. Honourable Minister, please conclude.

**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD
WELFARE:** Comrade Speaker, I was about to conclude, but once you allow somebody I must wait and entertain them.

Honourable Shixwameni, we know that very well. I do not want to mention our children, but will it make you feel good to see your son getting married to a man? That is abuse of the secular State. We should be very careful because those things are coming where my daughter would even marry her own sister.

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON VENAANI**

Comrade Speaker, in conclusion, I would like to tell the Committee to make sure that they investigate the clusters to see if they are doing their working so that the Counsellors can implement these clusters that we have created in the Region. When you come back or before you go, please get in touch with the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare to give you more information that will help you interrogate our people. With these few remarks, I thank you, Colleagues for your contribution.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. We can assure you, you are the primary and important stakeholder, therefore, the Committee will touch base with you before going and after they return, and before the Report is brought to the House. I think it is only fair that we should do that. With that we move on to Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, thank you very much. I shall be very brief on this very important issue and I want to thank the Mover who have raised a very important Motion.

Honourable Speaker, permit me to, as an anecdote or a footnote chronicle the genesis of prejudices against women. Let me start with a biblical story tale of the fight between David and Goliath, which is probably one of the most retold stories of the weaker defeating the strong.

In the Valley of Allah many years ago, Goliath was prepared for combat and was caught off guard when a person without experience in combat was chosen to engage him in a battle, and because he was unprepared for a normal sheep herder to come as the person, he from the onset, dismissed the young man, he thought it was a big joke, given his height and his heavy clothes, which was his weak side, David defeated him.

I am using this story to relate to the question of prejudices against women,

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON VENAANI**

in general, because if you want to address the question of Gender-Based Violence, it comes from a historical background on how men view women in general. I think if we had not addressed the man element on our own, as men, probably, or with our women partners, we will not really interrogate the question of why men behave the way they do.

I am very glad that just before me the Minister of Gender, Equality and Child Welfare, Attorney-General and Honourable Shixwameni were entangled in a Religion battle. How does Religion, perceive women over the years? It is only now, twenty or thirty years, that women can become Priests in Churches. The Biblical Religion that we are talking about (*interjections*)

HON MEMBER: There is none in the Roman Catholic.

HON MEMBER: Yes, the Roman Catholic is zero. For one of the biggest Churches in the world, it is a taboo for a woman to become a Priest. I am giving the necessary decorum and respect to all Religions, because I want to highlight the religious deficit that we have that creates the biggest prejudice against women, in general. I want to speak, with all due respect, to all religions that I am going to mention.

Look at the Muslim Religion today, a Muslim woman, a mother who has given birth to a child, needs to ask permission from a 12-year old son when she wants to visit a friend outside the house, if the father is not around. (*Interjection*) Do not worry I am not worried about them.

It is the reality today. Visit the Arabic countries and you will see that there are two different doors at official meetings. Let us say you are invited to a Conference as Prime Minister of a country and a delegate – because I am a man in the Arab Nation, I will enter through a different

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON VENAANI**

door and because she is a woman and head of delegation, she will enter through a different door. That is prejudice against women.

Let me come closer to home, to address the cultural prejudices that we, as men, have against women. Culture is also fostering the thinking that a woman is not important. Yesterday, I related a story to many of you and most of you were shocked. It is true you are an elder, amongst Hereros, you have not seen a grave of a woman who died during the war of 1908 – a grave marked, Elizabeth Venaani was buried here. But we know all the graves of all our forbearers – *our father Venaani was buried where, Katjavivi was buried where*, but you do not know where the mothers of these men were buried. It is a cultural prejudice.

HON MEMBER: They are not alive?

HON VENAANI: They are not alive (*laughter*) 90,000 people died, but there is no grave of a Herero woman who died before 1908. It is very rare to find such a grave – only men. The only graves that you will find are the graves of, for example, Samuel Maharero's mother, because Samuel's mother (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Because she was a powerful woman.

HON VENAANI: Powerful, but not because of her power, but because of a curse, but I do not want to venture into that.

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON VENAANI**

HON MEMBER: Go into history.

HON VENAANI: I do not want to go into history, we will talk about history later. However, I want to address the question of culture promoting prejudice until today.

Let me come to the economic and cultural prejudice against women practised by Africans in general. Yesterday, I made a joke to Honourable Muharukua when we left here. I said; “*Honourable Muharukua, your father happens to be a Member of Parliament. He just bought a new Land Cruiser Pick-up, if you have to travel back to Okaoko in the same car with your mother and your father, who would sit at the back?*”

HON MEMBER: It is not culture (*interjection*)

HON VENAANI: We should interrogate culture. Culture will dictate that, because he is the eldest son, there is no way that his mother, who gave birth to him, who brought him into this earth, would sit in front while he sits at the back. *Omukaendu ngaende ko ngotwe.* (She is a woman she must sit at the back). Yes, you know these things. More so, the wife would be a Teacher or a Director somewhere (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Yes, Point of Order.

HON SHIXWAMENI: I know my Brother is doing quite good in terms

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON VENAANI**

of culture and tradition, but I would like to ask a simple question to my Brother. This culture and tradition of the Hereros that you are talking about, when did the cars start being part of the Herero Culture?
(*Laughter*)

And for it to be supported that in the culture of the Hereros women sit behind. I just want to find out when that culture gotten into society?

HON VENAANI: Well, I am just using a Herero narrative to speak about the African culture in general. In our culture, when you are burying someone, all the men will go first and your mothers will come after you, because they are women. It is in our culture. A wife cannot do cultural rituals. My wife cannot walk in front of me at a death of someone. Even at State funerals, she would wait for me. She would even wait for me to greet her friends. She must always wait for me to go before her – as a man I must die before her. A car is just an added benefit through modernisation.

On one hand culture is accepting modernisation while on the other hand we are prejudicing those that we are promoting. At a funeral you would find the plates of meat, then you would hear; *ovarumendu kave yaria* (the men have not eaten). Whether you are the Prime Minister or not, you will wait for your turn. These are realities of our society.

I want to bring the issue of modernisation and our legislation *vis a vis* how prejudice has come along over the years, and for the purposes of this Debate, I would like to use the women Members of Parliament. Thirty years ago, there was no woman who would assume a position of power in Africa. (*Interjection*) I am talking about thirty years ago. Look at Kwame Nkrumah's first Government – which woman was there? *Kurama arikana*, (please wait) I just want to (*intervention*)

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON VENAANI**

HON SPEAKER: On a Point of Order.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I just want to ask a small question – first thanking him for the school and the history, we are learning quite a lot.

Are you aware of a certain lady known as Ntekaka who was a notorious and powerful DTA Member whose house was surrounded by Koevoet? How can you not know her, Honourable Member?

HON VENAANI: Of course, Honourable Mushelenga knows that I know her and where she was buried. But I think you are just confusing the matter. (*Laughter*) Ntekaka has nothing to do with this Debate. She was not a powerful woman as you are saying. (*Interjections*)

HON MEMBER: She was very powerful.

HON VENAANI: She had money and so on, that is the time that we lived in.

But let me come to the issue back home. The point that I am trying to drive home is how men forget that we are products of mothers, first and foremost. For you to become a man that you are, you are a product of a mother. You came from somewhere. But we forget to reciprocate that respect that the mothers have given to us, by giving us education – your father was never there in your life. Your father would start at the age of seven to really be your father, but from birth up to the age of seven, it is

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON VENAANI**

always the mother who takes care of children most of the time.

The acceptance factor is the difficult one. You are sitting with a woman, the breadwinner being a Member of Parliament – I am just putting it, as breadwinner, sitting with a husband who could be a Director or whatever job he undertakes in Government or even a farmer, and because this woman has an economic effect in the household, the husband would say; *Oh, this woman does not listen to me because she is a Minister and she thinks she is powerful, because she is a Member of Parliament.* These things are happening in our families. Men, in general, suffer from inferiority complex. When the wife starts earning more than you, you start having problems. When you are going to meetings, you are not telling her. It is a weakness that you have in your mind that, this person is now calling the shots that I used to call at home. The favour is now being returned by somebody else.

I want to address the question of economic abuse because it goes both ways in normal cultures, and I am talking about the African culture. Even if your wife is a Minister, if you are a well to do man – men have a tendency to give more to women, that is just in general. Men just give more. Herero men (*interjection*) Yes, generally I am talking about the majority of situations. It is in very rare cases where you find a woman giving more money to a man. It is very rare. (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Can I, just for the sake of clarity, just stay there. When you say *give more*, could you elaborate a bit of that. Is it by the means of the cheque book, the Visa Card or how is it done?

HON VENAANI: I am addressing the question of economic benefit, which is the greatest cause of these abuses. Let me start from the rural village, a husband who is over 80 years old with limitations because of

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON VENAANI**

health issues – when *Meme* Maria goes to her relative's funeral the means of production is just the cattle. As a man when your wife goes to her relatives to attend a burial, you are compelled by pride and a bit of culture to give. Generally, today as we speak and I am talking from experience, all senior Herero men, I am just using this narrative, because I know it better, have lesser cattle than their wives, but when they got married the husband had 300 cattle. When the husband dies, he only has 20 cattle while the wife has 140 cattle, because every time (*interjections*) *puratena, puratena!* (Listen, Listen!) Because every time that you are going to your relatives, I will give you a cow; *mommie or honey here is a cow to sell for you*. But every time that I give you a cow – let us say, I do not have an ox of my own, and you have an ox in your stock, so I will take that ox and we exchange. I will give you a cow and I take the ox. That is perpetual.

Let us come to modern society in Windhoek, Otjiwarongo, Oshakati, Ondangwa and everywhere – there is a culture of dependency. Our cultures have also produced a culture of dependency. A young girl would demand for a cell phone, even if you tell a lady; you are looking beautiful, the culture tomorrow is that *no send me* – what is it?

HON MEMBER: Credit.

HON VENAANI: Or *eWallet*. The triple C – Cash, Car and Cell phone. And men are using this economic dependency to say that; *I have given you N\$5,000 yesterday now you want Utoni today, are you crazy?* That issue should also be addressed properly in its context so that we can teach our women moral economic values.

Poverty is also a problem. Poverty is also leads to that. The culture of rejecting divorce – in all our cultures – when you read in the paper that Honourable Who is getting a divorce, the reactions is; *argh*, how can he

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON VENAANI**

do that? That's the prejudice that we have about divorce, we think that divorce is so bad. We also live in a rumour mongering society. If you just hear who and who is getting divorced (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: I was going to ask you to please conclude. Yes, Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a point of Order. It is a point that I think can be used in a way that can be damaging to society by people who may not be able to contextualise it properly, and that is the point that young women go gold digging and as a result they become victims of Gender-Based Violence. That is what it amounts to.

I know that he said a lot of positive things and he may have tried to contextualise it, but I am just not able to resist the temptation to respond to this one because out there in the social circles, there are people who do not even make an attempt to contextualise the issue they just go straight to it. Every time you see a report about a young woman killed, you would hear this; *no, it is because she was having a boyfriend who was supporting her while she was having another one on the side or she decided to leave this one and so on*. You are forced to conclude that what we are saying is that they are getting what they deserve. They looked for it. I am not saying that is what you are saying, but that is what one can deduce from a statement like that.

I just want to say that when you look at these incidences of domestic violence, you also find a lot of women who get killed and the spouse who killed them was actually depending on them financially. This person would kill this other person because, by leaving them, they were leaving them in destitute. You have a case of a boyfriend who was staying in a flat paid for by a girlfriend, but he had another girlfriend somewhere else

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON VENAANI**

with whom he had a child, when the girl hears about it and wants to leave the relationship, the boyfriend decides to kill her, because he is thinking; *if I cannot have you, no one else should have you*. So, we have women that are otherwise economically independent being killed by their spouses, because these women want out of the relationships or sometimes two years or more after divorce.

I am told of a case of a former husband who went to kill a former wife at her workplace in a hospital, and when this woman was rescued by other staff members he said; *I am going to jail and serve my two years and I will come back and finish the job*. Therefore, I think yes, there may be really situations where we have to educate our young people, but I want us to avoid some of the statements that can be misconstrued, it is not that that is what you are saying, but they can be misconstrued to be suggesting that women are subjected to domestic violence, because they did something wrong to set them on.

I want to end by saying that none of our young people should want to have their cake and eat it. In most of these relationships where these young men are perpetrating violence against young females, these males are living with these females the way that a husband lives with his wife. When the relationship ends, they only remember the cell phones they supposedly gave the girlfriend.

In our traditions when you have a relationship with a woman you are not married to the way a married man relates to a wife, you are asked to compensate the family, because you have caused damage to the young woman. Therefore, I think we should also look at these things both ways.

I am not talking to the Honourable Member on the Floor, I am just talking to the issue, in general, otherwise I agree with many of the things that you have said, but I just wanted to make this specific point.

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON VENAANI**

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, the reason why I brought the castigation of divorce is that most of the time these abuses happen over a number of years in a relationship, when the wife tells her parents about it they would say; *we just gave you off to this family, you will not embarrass this family – what do you want?* We are forcing people to remain in untenable situations, because of the value that we attach to marriage in our areas.

When this Motion goes to the Committee, I want us to address a cross-sectoral issues from religion, culture, modernity and so on, because we have not really addressed those facets in Gender-Based Violence. I support the proposal of whistle blowing, but I want to disagree with my Dear Honourable Iivula-Ithana who was saying that in their time Gender-Based Violence was unheard of. Gender-Based Violence is as old as time in memorial. It was always hidden – society used to hide it, because there were no Courts or Police to run to, so nobody thought it even existed.

As a person who loves family trees, one day I enquired about a grandmother of mine who died – how did she die? Everybody just kept quiet. The other day I asked again how she died and the response was that she was beaten up by her husband while she was milking the cows in the kraal, and she died on an allegation that a man came to see her at the house. That grandfather of mine lived life normally and got married to new wives. That was accepted, so let us not say Gender-Based Violence was not there. It was always hidden and now we must come out in the open.

I want to conclude by saying that men should start interrogating their weaknesses and the prejudice they have against women in general. Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable //Gowases please and then we move on.

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON //GOWASES**

HON //GOWASES: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I rise to contribute to the Debate, because I was a victim of Gender-Based Violence (*interjections*) No, the question should be when and how I was a victim.

HON SPEAKER: Exactly.

HON //GOWASES: Both men and women are victims of Gender-Based Violence. Men are abused by being locked outside the common house and are denied food to eat, but they shy away from reporting such cases to the relevant authorities. Women are likely to report Gender-Based Violence (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: On a Point of Order. Chief Whip, you have the Floor.

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: Honourable Speaker, I am quite impressed with the way the Honourable Member has started her statement and I really want to commend her for starting with herself, and showing herself as an exemplary Leader to the public out there, which thinks that when you are in this House you are immune from these types of issues.

HON //GOWASES: Thank you, Honourable Chief Whip. Just organise a workshop and I will be the facilitator. (*Laughter*)

Women are likely to report Gender-Based Violence cases, but due to

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON //GOWASES**

dependency on their husbands/partners they tend to withdraw such cases. Another reason can be the fear of how their husband's family will look at them. In a marriage situation, the couple is normally advised to report to family committees any problems that may arise. But these committees are currently ineffective. This terrible plague of Gender-Based Violence is a national problem; we are all affected. Therefore, a corporate solution is what is needed.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I wish to take this opportunity to applaud the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare for their efforts to combating Gender-Based Violence. A lot has been done by the Government, but much effort from all stakeholders is required, namely the Churches, Traditional Leaders, Non-Governmental Organisations, Civil Societies, Communities and the Private Sector.

We suggest the following to combating and eliminating this national problem:

- a. Aggressive combating Gender-Based Violence campaigns country wide;
- b. Aggressive educational campaigns to educate men, women, girls and boys on Gender-Based Violence - what it is, and how to deal with it;
- c. Enact and enforce legislations prohibiting all forms of Gender-Based Violence; and
- d. Ensure that perpetrators of Gender-Based Violence, including domestic violence, rape femicide, sexual harassment, female genital mutilation and all other forms of Gender-Based Violence are tried by a Court of competent jurisdiction;
- e. Laws on Gender-Based Violence, which provide for the comprehensive testing, treatment and care of survivors of sexual offenses;

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON VAN DEN HEEVER**

- f. Review and reform our Criminal Laws and procedures applicable to cases of Gender-Based Violence;
- g. To ensure justice and fairness in a manner that ensures dignity, protection and respect to survivors of Gender-Based Violence;
- h. Put in place mechanisms for the social and psychological rehabilitation of perpetrators of Gender-Based Violence;
- i. Ensure that cases of Gender-Based Violence are conducted in a gender sensitive environment;
- j. Establish special counselling, legal and police units in all regions to provide dedicated and sensitive services to survivors of Gender-Based Violence.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I hope that as Members of Parliament, we represent our Political Parties and in general, the Namibian population. We too are called upon to combat this national issue as we keep regular contact with our Constituencies and enrich the lawmaking process. I support the Motion. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Any further discussion? I am assuming we have exhausted the list and, therefore, I would request the Honourable Member to reply.

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I had a little food for thought on this Motion when Honourable Nujoma was saying that we have run out of ideas. Maybe we, as Legislators from the National Council and National Assembly should go out there and *toyi-toyi* to the society and say that we have had enough of this.

24 February 2016

**AVENUES TO CURTAIL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HON VAN DEN HEEVER**

I will not respond to individual questions or contributions, but I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everybody who contributed positively and who expanded on the recommendations that were brought forward. I trust that the responsible Committee will expand on the interrogations and will go out there vigorously and aggressively to make an effort to combat this evil.

It is heartbreaking that society is labelling these gruesome murders with a very nice title – *Passion Killing*. There is nothing passionate about killing. I do not believe in it, and it is true that, although the Honourable Members mentioned the fact that we are in a secular State, this violence has escalated after religious studies was taken out of the school curriculum.

Thank you very much, Honourable Members, for the positivity. I hope and trust that we will look into it, as I said, very aggressively. I would also like to commend the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung with the Regain Trust Website and came up with a book titled *The Voice of the Survivors*, a very nice book and this is an argument for a new approach against Gender-Based Violence. *General Namoloh*, in this book, they mentioned many comments made by the Police, so let us look into this and see what we can do about it.

Honourable Speaker, with those few words, thank you very much, and I trust that we will join hands, and we will have different approach to this Motion. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, indeed. We join hands in making sure that this Motion is taken up by the appropriate Parliamentary Committee and brought back to the House for us to re-examine the work that they have done.

With that this Motion stands referred to the appropriate Committee.

24 February 2016

**DEBATE ON CONSTRUCTION OF
NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING
HON MAAMBERUA**

Thank you very much.

The First Notice of a Motion is one of Honourable Maamberua. Does the Honourable Member now Move the Motion?

HON MAAMBERUA: Yes, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds the Motion? Any objection? Agreed to. I call upon the Honourable Member to take the Floor.

**DEBATE ON CONSTRUCTION
OF
NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING**

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. This is a very important Motion and because of its very technical and complex nature, I have tried to develop my presentation in a systematic manner of which I have a brief introduction. I will then move on to look at what the problem is and the question that is going to be addressed in order to look at that problem; and then I shall point at what I refer to as representation solutions, after which I would move to solutions regarding the separation of powers. Thereafter, I want to look at the brick and mortar solutions before I conclude.

I thought I was going to do a presentation, but due to time limitations, I am just going to create the statement verbatim.

24 February 2016

**DEBATE ON CONSTRUCTION OF
NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING
HON MAAMBERUA**

Comrade Speaker, the purpose of this Motion, is for the National Assembly to *discuss and debate the need, or otherwise, of constructing a new Parliament Building*, and also remember that after Independence the building of the New Namibian Parliament is probably the most contentious project and has attracted so much unprecedented media and public discourse. Perhaps that is because of the expectations regarding the quality, the durability, the civic and political importance, and above all its symbolic structure for Namibia.

In this context there is, of course, the desire that if you pay tribute to the Land of the Brave's achievements and signalled its future aspirations - whether this is just a physical manifestation of democracy or just another unnecessary public project, we hope, during the Debate as it unfolds, it will be confirmed.

Honourable Speaker, it is in this respect that I agree with the President that the Debate and decision about the new Parliament is located squarely and constitutionally within the ambit of the Legislature. Similarly, it is also to allow this raging, yet scattered Debate some structure, form, time and space. As far as I recollect, there has not been formal discussions by Parliament as an Institution on this subject matter and that is why I decided to table the Motion of this nature.

Comrade Speaker, the problem does not seem to be the heat we experienced recently in the tent, in the Parliament Garden, but I suppose that the underlying problem is the increased number of Members from both Houses who cannot be accommodated within the current facilities available, particularly, during the joint Sessions. Thus, the question to be answered, through this Debate is, should a new Parliament be built amongst many other options to address this identified problem or not? Hence, the Motion seeks to locate the implications and ramifications of the problem that led to the decision to construct a new Parliament Building.

Secondly, the Motion encourages Members of Parliament to explore other

24 February 2016

**DEBATE ON CONSTRUCTION OF
NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING
HON MAAMBERUA**

alternative solutions to the problem. Hence, I want to start with the first option or alternative under what I titled, “*Representation Solutions*” and under that there is bicameralism, that is, having the two Chambers. The problem at hand could probably have been compounded by our system of bicameralism. Many arguments have been advanced against the practice of the two Houses of Parliament as this line of thought is suggesting that Bills ought to be thoroughly discussed and examined by relevant Committees assisted by experts without the need for review by another House. That is one view.

Furthermore, experience has shown that if the same Political Party controls both Houses, Bills passed by the Lower House shall be passed in the same form by the Upper Chamber – this is what experience has shown. If two Parties, however, control the two Houses, it will lead to deadlocks and delays, thus in both cases thwarting the will of the people.

In this regard, Comrade Speaker, what is obtained in Namibia in terms of the configuration of Parties representation in both Houses suggests a mere absolute control of both Houses by one Party. The 80% of control of the National Assembly and about 100% control of the House of Review or the National Council by one Party is a negation of the objective of review and checks and balances.

Comrade Speaker, this has been the situation for a number of years now. In view of this, abolishing one Chamber is an option, but (*interjections*) Can I speak, please? (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: On a Point of Order. Yes, Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Member, in his Notice of his intentions to Move this Motion indicated that

24 February 2016

**DEBATE ON CONSTRUCTION OF
NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING
HON MAAMBERUA**

he wanted us to deliberate on the need, or otherwise, for a new Chamber and what I hear now is the Honourable Member criticising the two House Parliamentary System, which is a Constitutional Provision. It is my understanding that where something is a Provision of the Constitution, you criticise it only when you are motivating for a change to that Provision in the Constitution and the Member is not doing that. I thought that would be a violation of the Rules. I seek to be guided.

HON SPEAKER: No, I think the objection is sustained in the sense that we cannot deal with a new Parliament – the Motion is clear, but you are linking it to other issues, and you are not yet dealing with the actual subject on the Order Paper.

Therefore, if you could help us to omit the extra issues that touch on the Constitution then we can entertain that, but if you are going to continue dealing with things that are not part of the subject matter in terms of the Motion – issues that hinges on the actual Constitution in terms of the need to amend the Constitution then, obviously, you are creating a particular difficulty for the Chair.

HON MAAMBERUA: Comrade Speaker, we have a problem at hand that must be addressed. I identified the problem and I suggested that there are different options on how to address that problem. May I just continue?

I am not asking for any Amendment and even if I were to ask for the Amendment of the Constitution, I think it is still within my right to do so, but I am not doing so, I am actually identifying different options that could be used to address the problem at hand. I started with the representation issues. I am going to the separation of power issues and then I am going to look at the brick and mortar issues, if you could just allow me, please?

24 February 2016

**DEBATE ON CONSTRUCTION OF
NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING
HON MAAMBERUA**

HON SPEAKER: Okay, please continue, but bear in mind that we are all listening carefully, but if you feel (*intervention*)

HON MAAMBERUA: I have not criticised the Constitution at all. Just point to any phrase that is criticising the Constitution – any phrase that I have said that criticises the Constitution. (*Interjections*) Of course, there is nothing that stops me from saying (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: The thing is this, honestly Honourable Maamberua, (*intervention*)

HON MAAMBERUA: Otherwise, I just have to stop here, because I cannot (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Because we have (*intervention*)

HON MAAMBERUA: If you do not want this issue to be discussed (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: No, no, but the difficulty is that you are discussing it on particular terms that you have chosen to be the kind of methodology that you are going to use, but you should not be surprised if people are objecting on issues that they consider to be touching on the Constitution.

24 February 2016

**DEBATE ON CONSTRUCTION OF
NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING
HON MAAMBERUA**

The Bicameral System that you are talking about is what have, but if you are raising the issue, are you suggesting that we should do away with it? Is that what is on the agenda? That is not on the agenda. No, please you have the Floor.

HON MAAMBERUA: I think if the Members and the House can just listen to my Statement up to the end then you know what it entails.

HON SPEAKER: Please, continue.

HON MAAMBERUA: Comrade Speaker, in view of this, abolishing one Chamber is an option, but that may not go far enough to address the problem at hand without addressing the attendance (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: There is a Point of Order.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Speaker, I rise to make this Point of Order to Honourable Maamberua's Motion.

The Honourable Member is not only addressing the Honourable Members who are here on this issue, you are also addressing the public out there. I want to believe that when you Move a Motion, it might not be heard or understood by the public out there and when they are picking up in your current wording that the Bicameral System that the two the two Chambers

24 February 2016

**DEBATE ON CONSTRUCTION OF
NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING
HON MAAMBERUA**

are using could be abolished, in your view, you are sending a wrong message to the public. This is where we are saying, if you are sending that message out to the public, unless you state that – I am moving a Motion for the Amendment of the Constitution of the Bicameral Chambers, I will be having some difficulty understanding what you are trying to send across.

HON SPEAKER: Let us make progress. Honourable Member, please continue, but take into account the fact that anything that refers to things that are extra to the Motion are likely to attract the kind of objections that you are observing. Please have the Floor.

HON MAAMBERUA: Comrade Speaker, I now have to seek your guidance in terms of the Provisions – in terms of the Motion that I have tabled, should I not suggest any solution that can be resolved by Constitutional means?

HON SPEAKER: Is the solution you are not seeking, the solution that will have to be achieved through amending the Constitution? Is that it? If that is the case, then the Motion that we have – if you are saying that your Motion that you have put before the House would at the end require us to amend the Constitution, then what is on Order Paper does not say that, the alternative options you are looking at do not necessarily require that we should amend the Constitution.

I am merely saying that, if we are saying that our discussion should extend to amending the Constitution, then I think we are not yet there. The Motion does not speak about changing the Constitution for us to embark upon whatever construction we have to undertake. This is all I am saying.

24 February 2016

**DEBATE ON CONSTRUCTION OF
NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING
HON MAAMBERUA**

You have the Floor, you can continue, but please try and help us to make progress.

HON MAAMBERUA: Comrade Speaker, thank you very much. I have to re-read that Clause. In view of this, abolishing one Chamber is an option, but one that may not go far enough to address the problem at hand without addressing the accompanied limitations addressed under the Section which is dealing with the option of rehabilitating the current National Assembly facility.

Another option under the representation solution is to change the representation system from Party List to Constituency Representation System. This is an option (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: You are totally ignoring what people are saying, because, for instance, if we are going to abolish the National Council, let us say if we do away with that, what do we do, where do we put all these Members combined in terms of accommodating them? Where do we go?

I want you to think about what we are saying. What you are doing now is ignoring what we are saying. I am simply saying that we can debate about this issue, the proposal you are bringing to the Table, but I am really worried. Are you, seriously saying we should simply sit and listen to the arguments you are putting forward, which are not based on a Motion, and the issues you are raising hinges on amending the Constitution?

Honourable Member, this is the difficulty I have. The Motion I have does not call for the Amendment of the Constitution, in any form of shape and, therefore, I cannot entertain arguments that hinges on amending the Constitution. That is totally Out of Order.

24 February 2016

**DEBATE ON CONSTRUCTION OF
NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING
HON MAAMBERUA**

For the last time, I am saying you have the Floor, please continue, but let us all try and understand each other.

HON MAAMBERUA: Comrade Speaker, let me move on to the *(interjections)* Comrade Speaker?

HON SPEAKER: You have the Floor. Honourable Member, you have the Floor. Let us hear you, but also take into account that on the Motion that we have here, the proposal to change the Constitution cannot be brought by the way. It should be properly put to the House so that we know what we are debating.

HON MAAMBERUA: Comrade Speaker, I am not making any proposal to change the Constitution, I am putting on the Table for Debate, options to address the problem facing us and the problem facing us is a problem of numbers. We are not able to *(intervention)*

HON SPEAKER: No, I am saying, if we cannot accommodate the combined membership of the Namibian Parliament here, if we abolish the particular Chamber – you are basically saying, *do away with the second Chamber*, that is what you are saying, and that will amount to amending the Constitution.

HON MAAMBERUA: It is an option, Comrade Speaker. I am not suggesting *(interjections)*

24 February 2016

**DEBATE ON CONSTRUCTION OF
NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING
HON MAAMBERUA**

HON MEMBER: Just cool down.

HON MAAMBERUA: Comrade Speaker, I need to be guided. If there is a problem facing us, that we should not say anything that will have a telling on the Constitution.

Does that mean that, I should not make any suggestion that, if we were to address a particular problem in our society, that within that suggestion I should not mention a specific area in the Constitution that could be amended in order to address that particular problem as an option?

HON SPEAKER: No, I am not saying that. I am saying that the title of the Motion before us is speaking to the challenge of constructing a new Parliament Building and coming up with the option of building a Parliament to accommodate the membership of Parliament as a whole. It does not venture into amending the Constitution in order to do that. Yes?

HON MUHARUKUA: I seek clarity as to the possibility of the following: At the Opening of Parliament the Honourable Speaker was on record to have indicated that the reason for building a new Parliament – I am not shedding light on whether I agree or not, but the Honourable Speaker is on record that the number of the Members is the material reason why we must build a new Parliament – It is, therefore, one of the challenges why we have to build a new Parliament.

What I seek clarity on is, how possible is it that this House cannot discuss those challenges without discussing that particular challenge which is emanating from the Constitution? I seek clarity on that, Honourable Speaker.

24 February 2016

**DEBATE ON CONSTRUCTION OF
NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING
HON MAAMBERUA**

HON SPEAKER: A challenge is a term that we are using, generally, as we are doing now, but it does not include changing the Constitution in order to find a solution to the increased membership of Parliamentarians.

HON MUHARUKUA: Why not?

HON SPEAKER: I do not think that is an option that is on the Table. It is not on the Table.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: We need guidance from the Honourable Speaker in this regard.

Besides the point I made previously, the Honourable Member, by trying to suggest that we can change the Parliamentary System in Namibia so that we can all fit in one building is trivialising the issue to an extent that cannot be accepted. We determined the governance system that we should have in this country for purposes of optimising the governance of our country and the development of the country, and not on the basis of whether we, as Lawmakers can fit in this building or another one.

Can the Honourable Member focus his Motion on *the need, or otherwise, of having a new Parliamentary Building*, and not on whether we should have a bicameral Parliamentary System or not? I really have a problem there.

The Honourable Member can discuss the latter issue, if he likes, but it should be in another Motion. He cannot deceive us into agreeing to him motivating that Motion by believing that he is going to talk about whether or not we should have a new building only to hear that we are being asked

24 February 2016

**DEBATE ON CONSTRUCTION OF
NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING
HON MAAMBERUA**

to consider to abolish the one House of Parliament.

Otherwise, if the Honourable Member is allowed to continue with the Motion in its current form, when we participate in the discussions, should we ignore those other parts or should we also deal with them, because somebody may want to contribute only on whether or not we should continue to have a Bicameral System, and not say anything about the building, then you will say the person is deviating from the discussion while the Motivation of the Motion covers those issues (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I think that is the particular concern. Yes, Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: To both sides of the arguments, this is a House of Debate, the Right Honourable Prime Minister, through you Honourable Speaker.

Whether the Member is raising a trivial issue, it is his Right to do so in any fashion or manner, and the Ruling Party has the greatest honour as the governing Party and the majority Party to rebut his argument. I want to protect the integrity of the Speaker while I am saying the following:

For the Speaker to be seen to supporting an idea that a person cannot talk about a Constitutional matter if he is not pushing for an Amendment, he is not saying amend the Constitution, he is mentioning some of the ideas, and a person can talk generally, in this House.

I want to protect the integrity of the Speaker – because it looks like there is a preconceived idea from the Ruling Party that this Debate should not take place. We must remember that the first Motion was rejected because of technicalities, because you were making the noise.

24 February 2016

**DEBATE ON CONSTRUCTION OF
NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING
HON MAAMBERUA**

In the second one, the Honourable Member is not even allowed, in a democratic House that we are sitting in, to expand his ideas. Let the Honourable Member have a say and you will have your word.

HON SPEAKER: No, I can defend myself. I can defend myself and I am very clear. I am listening, carefully, the point that I am making is this (*interjections*) Let us listen to each other carefully.

I am simply saying the Motion as we have it before us is very straightforward, but from the word go, Honourable Maamberua is already talking about that we can do away with one House and this is implying that we amend the Constitution in order to be able to accommodate the Members. That is, we should do away with the second Chamber and confine ourselves to the National Assembly, as a way of dealing with that serious and important challenge that we are talking about.

I have a difficulty with that because the Motion on the Order Paper does not deal with anything that would imply amending the Constitution.

HON MAAMBERUA: It does.

HON SPEAKER: It does?

HON MAAMBERUA: Yes, it does.

HON SPEAKER: Well, then (*intervention*)

24 February 2016

**DEBATE ON CONSTRUCTION OF
NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING
HON MAAMBERUA**

HON MAAMBERUA: Let me just explain quickly, just on that one, Comrade Speaker please.

HON SPEAKER: Okay.

HON MAAMBERUA: The Motion says; *discusses*, that is now the National Assembly, and *debates the need, or otherwise, of constructing a new Parliament*. To discuss (*interjections*) Just wait – to discuss whether there is a need to construct the new Parliament or otherwise (*intervention*)

HON MEMBER: Building?

HON MAAMBERUA: Yes, building, now wait. Just listen. If alternatives are found then you do not have to build a new Parliament, you have other solutions, what are the other solutions? (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: You destroy your own Motion when you say that, to do away with the second Chamber that will be the alternative. I find it extremely difficult to go along with that. I, absolutely, find it very difficult to go along with that, because the Motion – already before you even have a Motivation, you have declared that you are enlarging on the proposed Order Paper as we have it and I am not very clear on that. Yes, Honourable Member.

24 February 2016

**DEBATE ON CONSTRUCTION OF
NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING
HON MAAMBERUA**

HON KAVEKOTORA: Honourable Speaker, I seriously do not understand what the fuss is all about because (*interjections*) Just hear me out.

HON MEMBER: You must learn to listen then you understand.

HON KAVEKOTORA: I do not think and I do not believe that Honourable Maamberua has the right to change the Constitution, unilaterally. I do not believe that. I also do not believe that one can block a Member of Parliament to come up with certain options.

At the end of the day I have to relate to what Honourable Venaani has said that, when those options are put onto the Table, because we are still debating the Motion on the Table, this House can then look into the options that have been proposed by Honourable Maamberua and chuck them out if they are not the right options that the House would want to take.

Why are we fighting about something that is not even a lost case, because if Honourable Maamberua is putting certain options on the Table, it does not mean those options are the only ones available. I can assure you that with the majority of the Ruling Party, the South West African People's Organisation, (*interjections*) these options will not go through. Therefore, let us allow the Member to continue with what he wants to put on the Table. At the right time, these options will be rejected on the basis of the fact that that is not what the House is looking for and we might find some other options that are more workable.

Honourable Speaker, I really do not see that anything has been lost by allowing Honourable Maamberua to put those options, even if they are not relevant, they are not the ones which would eventually be approved for

24 February 2016

**DEBATE ON CONSTRUCTION OF
NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING
HON MAAMBERUA**

implementation. Thank you. (*Interjections*)

HON MEMBER: *Haama* (sit down).

HON KAVEKOTORA: *Me haama, muina* (I will sit down, keep quite).
But they are relevant.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I know there are many eyes, there are many ears, there are many views, but I am simply saying the Motion that we have here is very clear in terms of what the Honourable Member is proposing. I do not have any difficulty with that. However, the issue that touches on the Amendment to the Constitution, that is what I am objecting to, because the Motion is not necessarily dealing with the change to the Constitution.

Therefore, I am respectfully asking him, please let us make progress, deal with the issues that you are proposing to deal with, but do not bring in the change. For example, what I took as an exception is the reference to abolishing the second Chamber in order to make us fit into this space or whatever space you have in mind. I find that it is really downplaying the serious issue that is confronting us. Yes, please.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I think I need to change gears now. Comrade Speaker, (*intervention*)

24 February 2016

**DEBATE ON CONSTRUCTION OF
NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING
HON MAAMBERUA**

HON SPEAKER: Is that another Point of Order? Yes.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:

Honourable Speaker, I have listen to the Honourable Member for too long now and I must register my protestation.

Honourable Speaker, my problem with the Mover of the Motion is that the question of building a new Parliament has not been articulated. I am only hearing; *there is a problem, there is a challenge*. I appreciate that we are not English people, we are not in England, thus, if English is a challenge, then we need to address that, because in my own view, if you raise an issue, like the Debate on whether the Parliament should be build or not – I was trying to listen as to what the actual issues are, whether positive or negative. What is negative about constructing a new Parliament building and what will be the options worth those challenges?

However, I did not hear anything raised as to what the actual issue in Parliament Construction is.

HON MAAMBERUA: It is here.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: If you provide options you are providing options to a problem, which we have not identified. That is the problem with the Motion. You do not come with an option if you have not identified a problem, because an option is a solution to a problem. Identify those problems which go with the construction of the new Parliament and then let us debate it.

24 February 2016

**DEBATE ON CONSTRUCTION OF
NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING
HON MAAMBERUA**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Do you still want to continue with that or is it something new?

HON MAAMBERUA: They are already discussing the Motion now.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:

Comrade Maamberua, let me call you Comrade this time. You are a scholar and you are an academic or academician, whatever word you choose. When you choose a research topic, your argument must be congruent with the topic that you have chosen, and here you are bringing in things that have nothing to do with what you have told us is the topic of the Debate.

You were already asked to go and amend, and Professors do that all the time with their students. Why did you still come back and fall into the same problem again? If you want your research paper or topic to be accepted, go back and refine it so that you do not have to sneak in things – you chose to do research on a frog and now you are talking about a hyena. It is really bad. (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Okay, thank you, Honourable Member.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:

Thank you.

24 February 2016

**DEBATE ON CONSTRUCTION OF
NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING
HON MAAMBERUA**

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Maamberua, let us make progress. Let us stick to the topic and let us continue.

HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Speaker (*interjection*)

HON MEMBER: Stick right to the point.

HON SPEAKER: Please, let us have order.

HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Speaker, there is a topic of the Motion on the Table that should *discuss* and *debate* whether we need to build or construct a new Parliament Building or not.

This topic will be informed by all the relevant, possible options available under the universe, whether it is a change of Constitution, whether it is hiring tents for the rest of the life of Namibia or whatever options, as long as it is agreed in this House.

I am not going to discuss whether the Parliament must be built with bricks from Uis or from bricks from Mariental, or something like that, I am not getting into those technicalities of what type of Parliament should be built. That is why I am looking at the representation solutions.

If they are not available, I go to what I called separation of powers solutions, which are also here. I also go to the alternative of looking at whether we cannot just rehabilitate this particular facility and I have got arguments for that or otherwise, and then I proceed as I have structured

24 February 2016

**DEBATE ON CONSTRUCTION OF
NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING
HON MAAMBERUA**

my presentation. (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: I think I have to conclude that we are not meeting each other halfway. My reading of this whole thing is that you are bent to amending the Order Paper to include changing the Constitution. If that element was there, I would have been very happy, but the options do not necessarily imply that we are going to abolish the second Chamber or change the Constitution, because that is a different ball game altogether. If that was the case put before the House, we could have looked at that from a different perspective.

However, the way how you are raising it now – I have been backing you and requested you respectfully to say, please let us get on with the job, but avoid including things that are not covered on the Order Paper. If that is the case, then I am simply saying we are talking at cross purposes and if that is the case, I am now basically taking a firm decision and ask the House are we going to continue to debate the Motion as it has been implied by the author? I will have to resort to asking you.

HON MEMBER: Just vote, the House is divided..

HON MAAMBERUA: You can vote.

HON SPEAKER: The House is divided on this. Yes.

24 February 2016

**DEBATE ON CONSTRUCTION OF
NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING
HON MAAMBERUA**

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I am looking for clarity again. I really thought that we will put a question for the House to vote on the issue that has been put to the House according to procedures. We have a situation where we are saying procedures have not been complied with. I thought that in that case the Speaker will just issue a Ruling and say that the Member should follow the procedures, if he would like to have the matter discussed in the House, instead of us dividing the House, because I think the Honourable Member who has put the issue just wants to politicise the issue. He wants to politicise the issue instead of bringing this issue as it is and having it discussed as such. He wants to bring it in such a way where he provokes us to act in a certain way so that he will be able to say, *yes, this is how SWAPO behaves.*

If he wants the House to discuss the issue of building a Chamber for Parliament, he should just bring that issue according to the procedures. If he does not follow the procedure, my proposal is that the Speaker should just rule to send the Honourable Member to go and put his issue properly before he brings it back to the House.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Shixwameni, you have the Floor.

HON SHIXWAMENI: I am really standing, trying to understand what is going on. The President challenged Parliament at the Opening of Parliament, that the issue of bringing a new Parliament does not lie squarely with us. I understand the other technicalities and all these kinds of things, in terms of the Rules, in terms of the Constitution and all these things, but why throw out the baby with the bathing water altogether? I would say, now that the blood pressure is rising high – why do we not consult? The Speaker is dismissing the Motion or voting on the Motion, we allow consultations between the Speaker, the Leader of Government Business in the House and the Mover of the Motion probably with some

24 February 2016

**DEBATE ON CONSTRUCTION OF
NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING
HON MAAMBERUA**

other people so that we consult and see how we can really discuss this topical issue of building or not to building the new Parliament instead of throwing out the baby with the bathing water? That is what I will suggest.

HON SPEAKER: I am open. I am quite flexible. The Chief Whip is there, a consultation can take place while we move on to other issues, however, I am also asking the Honourable Member, because I am interested in us making progress, but I am not getting a response in terms of accommodating the concerns that are put on the Table.

If you had said upfront that the Motion would imply changing the Constitution, we could have accepted, rejected or agreed to that, but I do not want this last minute inclusion by yourself that the option means that we do away with the second Chamber and thus, embark upon the change of the Constitution. If that was understood by everybody, it could have been a different story, but that is the hidden agenda that the Honourable Member is advancing, which I find extremely difficult to entertain since it is not included in the Motion that is on the Order Paper. Yes, please.

HON MAAMBERUA: Comrade Speaker, another option to resolve the problem of numbers is to change the Constitution in order to have the Executive separated from the National Assembly. It is also included here. It is an option. (*Interjections*) It is very relevant. (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Can I encourage consultation on the issue, if you want to consult further, as moved by Honourable Shixwameni, to see if that option can be taken. I will be more than happy to encourage that. Is that in order? Honourable Maamberua is ready to consult next week. Can we leave it at that? Thank you very much.

24 February 2016

**MOTION ON NAMIBIA TO ENACT
LEGISLATION ON NATIONAL LIVING WAGE
HON NEKUNDI**

The Second Notice of a Motion is the one by Honourable Nekundi. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion?

HON NEKUNDI: Yes, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds? Any Objections? Agreed to. Honourable Nekundi, you have the Floor.

**MOTION ON NAMIBIA TO ENACT
LEGISLATION ON NATIONAL LIVING WAGE**

HON NEKUNDI: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would like to present this very important Motion which I term as *Pro-Caring* Motion, seeing that this matter will directly touch on a multiple number of individuals and families who have been suffering over the years from low wages against the ever increasing costs of basic commodities and services.

I must emphasise that many Namibians, especially those at the low end wage levels, have over the years, been hoping and wishing for the day when this important piece of Motion will be tabled in Parliament, knowing this as the House of the People, indeed a *Pro-Caring* House.

I propose to Move this Motion because there is an unambiguous demand by the masses out there that their wages are way below the cost of living, and that their wages are placed in a marathon mode, while prices of basic commodities are placed in a sprint mode.

24 February 2016

**MOTION ON NAMIBIA TO ENACT
LEGISLATION ON NATIONAL LIVING WAGE
HON NEKUNDI**

Honourable Speaker, this year alone, the prices of basic food commodities took a two-time upward shift while the wages remained at the red traffic light. My goodness, even the price of water went up. Market forecasts anticipate that the prices of basic food commodities and related items will continue to rise till 2018. Mind you, between 2014 and 2018 the price of food is expected to rise by 12%-15%, yet there is no indication that prices will drop thereafter.

It will be naive to expect prices to drop in our market. This simply means – afford less; cook less, eat less, buy less books, bath/shower less, do less laundry, study less at night, foot to work, foot to school and many other accompanying *less* factors. Yet there are no savings, you cannot even save to study further, you cannot even save to entomb your loved ones; you can also not even save to have a decent bed or just a decent mattress to sleep on for a tomorrow's desire for a productive day. All these *less* factors are purely because there is simply no correlation between wages earned and prices of basic commodities.

Honourable Speaker, our Government tried to mitigate the prices of basic products and services, such as the removal of the VAT on basic commodities, but these cash-oriented companies undermine such commendable efforts by our progressive Government and its progressive leadership. Worse, some of these cash-oriented companies are even beneficiaries of the Infant Protection Policy of our Government, yet they do not pass over such benefits to the consumers who are the Government's people. Contrary to all, they are paying their employees meagre salaries that cannot purchase brown bread for the whole month, let alone pay taxi fares, which take the very same people to their respective duty stations.

That being said, I must underscore that the Infant Industry Protection Policy is an important instrument for our economy as it aims to preserve and nurture our economy, drive our industrial growth agenda, and in turn fast-track job creation, wealth creation, equalize wealth dissemination by moderating and creating policy space for existing economic value chains.

24 February 2016

**MOTION ON NAMIBIA TO ENACT
LEGISLATION ON NATIONAL LIVING WAGE
HON NEKUNDI**

Honourable Colleagues, the prevailing situation of low wages against the high cost of basic products and services has a serious impact on consumers. Our very own people who wake up early every single morning for work and by implication who have to provide for their beloved families.

Honourable Speaker, Dear Honourable Colleagues, high goods prices inadvertently reduce consumers' purchasing power and concurrently their commodity choice get frustrated.

Honourable Speaker, in terms of Article 95(i) of the Namibian Constitution, on the Principles of the State Policy, it is required of the State to ensure that employees are paid a living wage which is a Right to dignity. Therefore, the introduction of a National Minimum Wage will help those facing extreme poverty and restore their human dignity. It will aid workers across all formal jobs to have fair values and dedication to their work.

A National Minimum Wage will stop companies from exploiting our people – those with little employment options and those with the inabilities to negotiate better wages.

Yes, there are Trade Unions, and one would argue that salary negotiations is the obligation of Trade Unions. Alas, I will differ, because all Namibians belong to the State and the State has an unequivocal responsibility to protect our people against any form of exploitation and the provision of decent living, and this should be done, amongst others, the promulgation of Laws and enforcement of such Laws. This House is mandated to do just that, and do just that for a good course. (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Point of Order. Honourable Venaani.

24 February 2016

**MOTION ON NAMIBIA TO ENACT
LEGISLATION ON NATIONAL LIVING WAGE
HON NEKUNDI**

HON VENAANI: (*Interjection*) Listen, you will never know if you do not listen. The Mover is moving a very important Motion. May I ask him one question so that I understand the premise of the Motion. (*Interjection*) Why did you not wait?

HON SPEAKER: Yes.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Nekundi, you are doing really fine. I just want to know whether the proposal of your Motion addresses sectoral minimum wage or across the board minimum wage, because Sectors are not the same and incomes are not the same.

Are you addressing sectoral minimum wages for the Mining Industry, Fishing Industry or is it across the board? I just want to hear that so that I can understand.

HON NEKUNDI: I will always do good as always, thank you very much. That being said Honourable Speaker, my Learned Colleague will understand (*interjection*) because the heading of the Motion says; *to discuss the National Minimum Wage*. National not sectoral – national means across. Next time I will invite you to my English lessons. (*Laughter*)

Honourable Speaker, can our Industries afford to pay scientific-based minimum wages? Yes, they can afford, even private household owners can afford to pay minimum wages to their domestic workers! Can this august House promulgate a National Minimum Wage Law? Yes, we can and we are able to! When can we promulgate the National Minimum Wage Law? As soon as yesterday, our people are waiting!

24 February 2016 **MOTION OF PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP
TO HARVEST UNWANTED BUSH
ON PRIVATE AND STATE-OWNED LAND
HON MUHARUKUA**

Therefore, Honourable Speaker, I Move that in line with Article 95(i) of the Namibian Constitution we urgently discuss the poor wages across all Sectors of our economy and for this august House to promulgate a National Minimum Wage legislation and that this Motion after Debate, be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Gender Equality, Social Development and Family Affairs and for it to report back to this august House. I thank you for your attention.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much indeed. In fact, I do not have anyone who wishes to take the Floor. I will refer the Motion to the relevant Committee, that it be discussed there and brought back to the House. Is the House in agreement with that? *D'accord*. Thank you very much. The Motion stands referred to the relevant Committee for further elaboration.

We move on slowly, but sure. The Third Notice of a Motion is the one of the Honourable Muharukua. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion?

HON MUHARUKUA: I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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

**MOTION OF PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO HARVEST
UNWANTED BUSH ON PRIVATE AND STATE-OWNED LAND**

24 February 2016 **MOTION OF PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP
TO HARVEST UNWANTED BUSH
ON PRIVATE AND STATE-OWNED LAND
HON MUHARUKUA**

HON MUHARUKUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, our land as dry as it is thought to be, has done remarkably well in meat, especially beef, and animal production. Encroaching bush is now a huge challenge to our meat production. Further, despite notable progress that our economy has made in a relatively short period of 25 years, the inequity and income disparity remain a huge mountain to climb.

Encroaching bush may just be our blessing in disguise, since we can create an Industry with established bush-based biomass value chains. These unwanted plants can be the solution to our youth unemployment and SME development.

The Motion seeks to investigate the possibility of amassing resources to embark on mass national de-bushing programme on commercial farmland, which constitutes most of our fertile and larger farming lands. It seeks the investigation into the commencement of large scale de-bushing activities that are demand driven, as we identify and promote potential bush-based biomass value chains. What it further seeks, is the mass utilisation of youth energy and ingenuity, while we offer them jobs and entrepreneurship opportunities. Similarly, commercial farmers can make a profit from their unwanted plant species on their commercial farms, while at the same time reversing the effects of bush encroachment.

Commercial farmland with freehold tenure covers about 44% and State-owned land covers 15% of our country.

In this Motivation, I shall look at the Charcoal Industry, as well as the Compressed Firewood Industry, and how these two Industries can contribute to alleviating the problem of bush encroachment, as well as decreasing youth unemployment and boost SME development and entrepreneurship amongst the youth. Honourable Speaker, at this juncture, I would like to beg for the Honourable Members' indulgence.

24 February 2016 **MOTION OF PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP
TO HARVEST UNWANTED BUSH
ON PRIVATE AND STATE-OWNED LAND
HON MUHARUKUA**

Due to the nature of the topic I have a long submission and it can be a little difficult.

Bush encroachment occurs when relatively open and often degraded areas are covered by dense layers of woody plants, the number of individual plants often totalling thousands per hectare, leading to significant decrease of grass. Bush encroachment has become a National challenge in our beloved Namibia. Various studies have been done to look at the extent of the problem. Experts found that between 26 to 30 million hectares of farmland in Namibia is infested by undesired plant species, of which about 15 million hectares is on freehold farms. Encroacher bush density may vary from 2000 to 10,000 bushes/ha. Although some species may be dominant in some areas, most encroacher bush consist of a diversity of species of different sizes and age groups.

The loss of a diversity of species and the weakening strength of our land are some of the major causes of bush encroachment. The dry conditions and diminishing rainfalls of our country are also huge contributing factors to dry bush encroachment. We receive a low and highly uncertain rainfall with variable patterns. Namibia has a country-wide annual precipitation average of less than 250 millimetres of rain.

The United Nation's Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCDP) defines that only 8% of Namibia falls within the dry sub-humid belt. Southern Africa and Namibia will become drier as rainfall variability increases and extreme events such as drought and floods will become more frequent and intense. This is according to a Research Report by Tarr, J of 2009 titled; *"An overview of the Current Impact of Climate Change in Namibia."*

It is also predicted that that by 2050 rain in the central parts of Namibia will have decreased by 15%. These alarming statistics should impress upon us to deal with bush encroachment as a matter of urgency because it

24 February 2016 **MOTION OF PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP
TO HARVEST UNWANTED BUSH
ON PRIVATE AND STATE-OWNED LAND
HON MUHARUKUA**

also predicted that with every 1% drop in rainfall, the carrying capacity of the land will drop between 1.2% to 1.6%, and livestock annual revenues will drop by 1.3%.

Not only does the bush suppress the growth of grass, but it also makes certain parts of grazing land inaccessible to livestock and thereby further reduces the carrying capacity of land. When bush encroaches, livestock production also becomes increasingly vulnerable to draught and floods. In addition, it causes soil erosion, and it is also suspected to cause loss of underground water potential.

In some places, especially in communal areas like: Okongo, Ongandjera, Otjituuo and Otjiku-Tjithilonde; bush encroachment has resulted in the decline of carrying capacity of land from 1 Life Stock Unit per 10 hectares (LSU/10 ha) up to 20 to or even 30 in some places.

Overall, the national loss in meat production is estimated at between N\$1.4 – N\$1.6 billion per year. With one of the world's highest economic disparities, our GDP cannot continue losing this much money. Our annual population growth rate is estimated at 2.6%. According to the 1999 UNOP (United Nations Development Programme) report entitled "*The Environment and Human Development in Namibia*," the Namibian community is young and will show a high growth in years to come. We cannot sustain the economic and habitat loss to the unrelenting encroacher bush. We must act now to ensure that our people's economic needs do not compete on even footing with encroaching bush.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I am a believer in what Dr. Adrian Rogers once said – "*You cannot legislate the poor into freedom by legislating the wealthy out of freedom. What one person receives without working for, another person must work for without receiving – when half the people get the idea that they do not have to work because the other half is going to take care of them, and when the other half gets the idea*

24 February 2016 **MOTION OF PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP
TO HARVEST UNWANTED BUSH
ON PRIVATE AND STATE-OWNED LAND
HON MUHARUKUA**

that it does no good to work because somebody else is going to get what they work for, that my dear friend is about the end of any nation. You cannot multiply wealth by dividing it."

In fact, I am a proponent of the old Chinese proverb that says – "*Give a man fish and you will feed him for a day, but teach him how to fish, and he will never starve again.*"

The latter, does not mean every man for himself and God for us all, neither does it say the race is for the swift and survival for the fittest. We are our brother's keepers.

There are many hearts out there praying to be at the deepest of our concerns and conscience when we deliberate; there are many eyes out there looking on to us with hope that what we do today will bring a better tomorrow; there are many Namibians knocked to the ground in life and whose hands are stretched out waiting for you and I to lift them up onto a path towards a decent life.

De-bushing presents various end-use opportunities. With the right interventions, we can use it to go a distance in the attempt to address various social and economic disparities, such as the gap in economic welfare between the have and have-nots.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the proposal is not to reinvent the wheel. Government already has a scheme in terms whereof it provides equipment to prospective entrepreneurs. Farmers are engaged in value addition to certain encroacher bush products, such as: charcoal, wood chips, compressed fire wood, fire wood, animal feed, wood pellets, poles, wood-cement bonded boards, brick, medium density fire boards, wood-sand boards, wood plastic composite, shingles and traditional medicine.

Some of these opportunities, such as charcoal, woodchips and fire wood,

24 February 2016 **MOTION OF PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP
TO HARVEST UNWANTED BUSH
ON PRIVATE AND STATE-OWNED LAND
HON MUHARUKUA**

require limited technology, skills and investment. These are low risk investments and might provide work for a maximum number of Namibian youth. These products also have real effect on de-bushing, because they have no problem using mixed encroacher bush species and also use large quantities of encroacher bush.

Allow me now to take a brief look at of two of these products, namely; Compressed Firewood and Charcoal.

Compressed firewood is currently used for heating and can be used as a replacement for firewood or charcoal. Only two companies are currently involved in the production of this product in Namibia: Cheetah Conservation Fund and Ecology. The latter uses highly sophisticated machines to harvest bush while the former, uses manual labour. The product is made by fine grinding of mixed invader bush wood chips and the subsequent compacting of the dry chips. This product is able to utilise smaller branches that are useless to charcoal production.

There are technologies out there that can extract 5,000 to 50,000 tonnes of compressed wood per hectare. The weight of our domestic invader bush gives us a competitive edge over *bushbloks* made in other countries.

The Namibian Compressed Fire Wood is mainly used locally and marketed in South Africa. Surely, there is potential for growth of this product. It is estimated that demand of this product far exceeds production. Marketed properly this product could replace the use of firewood, which is normally dead wood picked and which has a minimal effect on de-bushing.

Compressed Fire Wood is known to have better combustion behaviour and to be much easier to transport than ordinary firewood. The product is very marketable, in that it is classified as an eco-friendly product with

24 February 2016 **MOTION OF PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP
TO HARVEST UNWANTED BUSH
ON PRIVATE AND STATE-OWNED LAND
HON MUHARUKUA**

smokeless fuel and glows without flames, and further, with very low ash content.

It is reported that there is remarkably high demand for Namibian *bushbloks* in South Africa. For a country that produces the product itself, this shows the competitive edge of the superior Namibian product. The UK is one of the major markets we could penetrate. The demand for this product in the UK is 360,000 tons/annum and South Africa has already done the ground work on consumer education for us. With the better burning capacities of our bush, we could penetrate and bypass the market share of the South African products in that country and other international markets.

This product is one of the things that you can exploit to improve the livelihood of our youth, because it has the potential to employ a sizeable number of Namibian youths, like the Charcoal Industry.

The Charcoal Industry is very important to de-bushing. Currently it is the only real industrialised end-used product from bush-based biomass. It can be produced from wood and other agricultural residues. It uses pretty much all species of invader bush. The product is used for various purposes from heating to silicon production in China, and the dust from the product makes briquettes.

Charcoal production is a world-wide business. In Namibia out of close to 2,500 commercial farmers, we only have 240 producers of charcoal, of which 50% are previously disadvantaged farmers. The Charcoal Industry directly employs 5,500 people and about 800 indirectly. The annual production of 85,000 to 100,000 tonnes, of which 99% is exported. With about 220,000 tonnes, Germany is the highest importer of the international charcoal market; followed by China with 215,000 tonnes.

Studies have shown that we could increase our production from 100,000

24 February 2016 **MOTION OF PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP
TO HARVEST UNWANTED BUSH
ON PRIVATE AND STATE-OWNED LAND
HON MUHARUKUA**

tonnes to 400,000 tonnes per annum. With this we can supply the under supplied global markets.

Studies have further shown that our current charcoal market can still employ a further 700 people. Further, with a fourfold increase in our production, with semi-mechanised harvesting, 21,000 jobs will be available for Namibian Youth.

It is my respectful view that we can continue and increase our production levels, while we continuously assess other optional biomass-harvesting technologies and determine the value and properties of our biomass resources.

As a result, this motion seeks this House to investigate the possibility to have a deliberate and targeted intervention to provide equipment and support to youth joint ventures with commercial farm owners in a Mass De-Bushing Campaign.

This deliberate double-edged sword pulls together the resources of the farm owners and Government, and the youthful energy of the poor and unemployed youth. It is my respectful view that this is how we can heed to farmers' cry against bush encroachment, and at the same time, the plight of the jobless and the poor. In essence, these attempts will make encroacher bush an indirect asset to Namibia.

Honourable Members, the proposed Mass De-Bushing Programme could operate as follows:

A commercial farmer may identify areas that he wishes to de-bush and apply to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism for a permit to de-bush, with a view to create specified products – especially the two above mentioned products, in the form of Charcoal and Compressed Fire Wood.

24 February 2016 **MOTION OF PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP
TO HARVEST UNWANTED BUSH
ON PRIVATE AND STATE-OWNED LAND
HON MUHARUKUA**

The *Forest Act* requires a permit where 15 hectares of land is to be de-bushed.

Youth with various capacities, ranging from business administrators, chemists, skilled and mere labourers would form and register SMEs, with an aim to team up with commercial farmers in the Mass De-Bushing Programme. Once a commercial farmer obtains his permit, he can approach the Government to avail a list of the Youth SME's with whom he could partner with in the programme. The Government shall, preceded by short term training, furnish the SME with all equipment required for value addition to the given end-use product.

The relationship between these parties shall be regulated by formal agreements to which the government shall be party. The hard labour and the administration will be primarily done by the youth. While the farmer's responsibilities will mainly be to provide for daily utilities, water, shelter and transport for youth workers and goods. The Government's involvement shall not only end at providing equipment, but it shall further be responsible for mentoring the Youth SMEs with stringent reporting requirements, with emphasis on profitability.

Honourable Members, it is my firm view that there is a realistic chance of enhancing Youth SME and export capability and job creation with a little push from government.

Further, the development costs will be marginal in light of the benefits such as increased livestock carrying capacity, mitigation of the effect of drought on farmers, promotion of exports, substitution of imports, fiscal benefits as well as employment creation and income generation, in particular in rural areas for economically disadvantaged segments of the population.

24 February 2016 **MOTION OF PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP
TO HARVEST UNWANTED BUSH
ON PRIVATE AND STATE-OWNED LAND
HON NUJOMA**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members:

1. I implore this House to investigate the possibility of establishing a deliberate de-bushing equipment aid programme that could work as described above or otherwise.
2. Further, the possibility of enhancing our capacity in the production of the two bush-based biomass products I have extensively discussed herein, or any other.

The above two requests includes the investigation of the establishment of a regulatory framework that could allow us to commence the de-bushing programme set out herein.

I, thus, request this Motion to be referred to the Committees on Natural Resources and Human Resources and Community Development.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Due to the time and the fact that I do not have anyone on the list to take the Floor – yes, Honourable Nujoma.

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Is it okay to make a contribution to this Motion tomorrow?

24 February 2016 **MOTION OF PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP
TO HARVEST UNWANTED BUSH
ON PRIVATE AND STATE-OWNED LAND
HON NUJOMA**

HON MEMBER: Tomorrow?

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Yes, tomorrow.

HON SPEAKER: Tomorrow after the Motivation of the Budget, I think.

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Yes, after the Budget.

HON SPEAKER: Remember tomorrow is Thursday; we have a long list of questions to be responded to, so I would have thought that it will be better to postpone it to Tuesday. Do you want to postpone the discussion of this Motion until next week Tuesday?

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Yes, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. That is quite in order. Well, all that is left for me is to call upon the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House.

24 February 2016

ADJOURNMENT
RT HON DR KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA

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

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. The House stands adjourned until tomorrow, the usual time.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:48 UNTIL 2016.02.25 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
25 FEBRUARY 2016**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

HON SPEAKER: There is still time for those who are delayed to find a way to their places. Honourable Members, I have a few announcements.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics and Public Administration in collaboration with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung will host a Budget Analysis Breakfast Meeting, which will take place tomorrow, Friday from 07:30 to 10:30 am at Avani Hotel – formerly known as the Kalahari Sands Hotel. All the Members of this House and other interested parties are, therefore, invited to attend this important event. A confirmation list will be send out for Members to indicate their availability while the programme will also be prepared and distributed during the course of this Session.

Furthermore, I wish to announce the passing on of a well-known Pan-Africanist, a longstanding Diplomat, well-known to many of us, a Brother who hails from Egypt and that is the late Boutros Boutros-Ghali who passed on a few days ago.

Furthermore, we also announce the passing on of a prominent revolutionary, a well-known personality in his own country in Latin America, the Caribbean and further from home as far as Africa, Roman Castro, the elder brother of Fidel Castro who also passed on a few days ago.

25 February 2016

**NOTICE OF MOTION
HON SHANINGWA**

Lastly, much more closer, at home we have lost a patriot, a well-known personality in this country who served a number of institutions and those who are close to him characterised him as a gentle giant, and that is Siseho Simasiku who passed on just few days ago. May I request you to respectfully rise and observe a moment of silent?

HOUSE OBSERVES A MINUTE OF SILENCE

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Let their souls rest in eternal peace. Any Petition? Report of Standing or Select Committee? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? I suppose not on this day. Notice of Motions? Yes, Honourable Sophia Shaningwa, you have the Floor.

NOTICE OF MOTION

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:
Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable House, I rise to give Notice that on Wednesday, the 2nd of March 2016, this Assembly:-

Ratifies the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralisation and Local Authority Development.

I so Move. Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Could you please table the Motion? Thank you. Messages from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements?

25 February 2016

**FIRST READING – APPROPRIATION BILL
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

We will return to the last item dealing with questions that have been raised, but today, I am going to pretend that today is not Thursday. Today is a special day on the calendar of the Parliament of Namibia.

All eyes are on one person in this Chamber and we know who that person in question is.

The Notice of a Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Finance. Does the Minister Move that the Bill be now introduced?

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

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

The Secretary will now read the Bill a First Time

FIRST READING – APPROPRIATION BILL [B.1 – 2016]

SECRETARY: *Appropriation Bill* [B.1 – 2015].

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Does the Honourable Minister Move that the Bill be now read a Second Time?

25 February 2016

**SECOND READING – APPROPRIATION BILL
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

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

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

SECOND READING - APPROPRIATION BILL [B.1 – 2016]

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the Assembly, fellow Namibians, I have the honour to table the Budget for the Financial Year 2016/2017, a second under the Presidential Administration of His Excellency, President Hage Geingob.

Allow me, Honourable Speaker, to use this opportunity to once again wish you and the Honourable Members a prosperous and, indeed, a productive year ahead.

I want to take this opportunity to profoundly thank His Excellency, President Hage Geingob for the trust he bestowed on me by appointing me as the Minister of Finance.

I also wish to thank him, the Vice President, the Right Honourable Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister for the cooperation and guidance during the Budget formulation process. Equally, I thank my Cabinet Colleagues for the support they have rendered me and for the common commitment to implement spending allocation measures that support our fiscal consolidation stance.

Honourable Speaker, our country and people have rallied behind the common aspiration for achieving shared prosperity for all. The Government has articulated this policy agenda and as Jacob Lew said –

25 February 2016

**SECOND READING – APPROPRIATION BILL
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

“The budget is not just a collection of numbers, but an expression of our values and aspirations.”

Honourable Speaker, this Budget is underpinned by two fundamental and mutually-reinforcing policy objectives. The first objective is to reassert and re-establish a sustainable path for public finance, thereby maintaining macroeconomic stability as a basic enabler for future sustainability and socio-economic development. The second objective is to redirect increasingly scarce financial resources to the priority areas of national development; with the objectives of unlocking potential economic growth, job creation and poverty eradication towards the achievement of shared prosperity for all.

These objectives are premised against the backdrop of significant developments in the external economic environment on the one hand, and on the other hand, the urgency with which the Government has undertaken to promote and advance the national development agenda.

Honourable Speaker, a fortnight ago, when His Excellency the President opened the Third Session of the Sixth Parliament, he implored all of us collectively, to decisively move faster ahead when he stated:- “ *in 2016, it is time to turn words into reality, it is time to implement and, therefore, this is the year of implementation.*”

This Budget, therefore, gives scope for the implementation of national priorities commensurate with the available resource envelope.

This Budget proposes the commencement of a growth-friendly fiscal consolidation, anchored on the reduction of public expenditure. It proposes the targeting of resources to the productive sectors of the economy, solidifying gains in the social sectors and instituting measures to improve the quality of spending.

Honourable Speaker, we aim to achieve the dual objective of aligning the future fiscal policy trajectory to the changing macroeconomic environment, whilst giving precedence to the implementation of priority

Development Programmes for continued progress on the economic and social fronts. Hence the theme of this Budget is:- ***“Towards Pro-growth Fiscal Consolidation.”*** This theme and Fiscal Policy stance are necessary for the future sustainability of positive development outcomes. And it requires that we innovate, improve returns on our investments and implement policy reforms to optimise outcomes that will lead to timely, reliable and affordable quality service delivery to the Nation.

When addressing the last Session of Cabinet in December 2015, His Excellency President Geingob articulated the four pillars for accelerated socio-economic development agenda, to be enshrined into the high-impact – ***“Harambee Prosperity Plan.”*** These are the pillars of economic and infrastructure development, social development, and effective governance and service delivery.

These overarching pillars of the medium-term policy focus resonate well with our National Development Goals and constitute the key levers for the transition to the Fifth National Development Plan.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in this context and, in terms of Article 126(1) of the Namibian Constitution, I have the honour to table for the favourable consideration of this House, the following documents:

(a) The *Appropriation Bill*, 2016/2017; and

(b) The Estimates of Revenue, Income and Expenditure for the Financial Year 2016/2017 and the corresponding Medium-term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) for the Financial Years 2016/2017 to 2018/2019.

Additionally, Honourable Speaker, I present the Fiscal Strategy Policy Framework, the Development Budget and the Accountability Report as important policy information and public accountability documents.

Honourable Speaker, when I tabled the Financial Year 2015/2016 Budget and MTEF, I laid out the Budget priorities. These priorities have been reiterated in the 2015 Mid-Year Budget Review.

Namibia's economy is small and open and, therefore, vulnerable to volatility from external factors including trade volumes between SACU and the rest of the World. Whilst we shall continue to use the MTEF as tool for sound expenditure planning, we need to recognise that this is a framework of what we expect to happen and not what will actually happen. Therefore, in the medium-term, we shall revisit the MTEF forecasts on an annual basis to see if we need to rebalance our Budget proposals on what we know are the financial resources and policy space available to us at that point in time. To ensure that our Budgets are realistic, credible and targeted; we shall continue with the Mid-Term Review of the Annual Budget as a means of assessing what we have achieved in the Financial Year to date and where we need to redeploy our resources to those activities that are identified as national policy objectives.

We have set forth four priority focus areas for the Budget, namely;

- Economic Growth and Sustainable Development;
- Poverty Eradication and the Improvement of Social Welfare;
- Progress Towards Prosperity; and
- Improved Delivery of Timely, Reliable and Affordable Services to the Public.

Given this set of broader national priorities, I wish to emphasize the indispensable need for continuing to entrench macroeconomic stability. This is a non-negotiable basic enabling factor for ensuring a sustainable path for the efficient management of Public Finance.

The implementation of interventions in these core priorities has progressed, thus demonstrating Government's commitment to achieve accelerated results that will lead to shared prosperity for all Namibians.

Within the inclusive growth and sustainable development agenda;-

- The targeted policy package is to diversify and industrialise the economy, develop the skills base and implement structural policy

reforms to draw more Namibians into the mainstream economic activity.

- We have achieved free primary and secondary education as a basis for expanded access to education. Increasingly, more resources are allocated to improve access to tertiary education, vocational training, as well as funding for Innovation and Research & Development.
- Infrastructure development in the Logistics Sector has benefited through direct funding from the development budget and targeted actions by Public Enterprises. This priority objective will be pursued over the MTEF, with priority funding for road, rail, water, energy and ICT infrastructure so as to make the goal of a logistics hub a reality.
- New instruments for SME funding in the form of a Venture Capital Fund, a Credit Guarantee Fund and a Challenge Fund are being developed to further scale-up support to SMEs. The Investment Bill is due for tabling in Parliament and a reviewed set of investment incentives is being formulated as we prepare for the National Investment Conference in May this year.
- Development Finance Institutions will remain key catalysts for economic development in promoting domestic investment and access to finance. The roles of the Development Bank, AgriBank and SME Bank have been delineated in relation to their lending portfolio and client-base; and
- The Public-Private Partnership legislation is due for tabling in this House, once the legal certification process is finalized. This will provide an added window for Private Sector development and infrastructure development through PPPs, with a pilot project proposal for developing affordable housing units in urban areas, and
- In line with the national commitment to provide affordable housing to our people, funding is made available in support this commitment.

In respect to the priority on poverty eradication and the improvement of social welfare;-

- The Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare has been hard at work to define an integrated package of cross-cutting instruments for driving back the frontiers of poverty and vulnerability, through a wide range of national consultation.
- In particular, improved quality and coverage of social safety nets are implemented. This Budget proposes to increase Old-age pension and improved coverage in respect of Orphans and Vulnerable Children and Veterans of the Liberation Struggle;
- In the ensuing Fiscal Year, Government will undertake expenditure review in the social sectors as a basis for consolidating the various social safety nets and improving their targeting;
- The tax policy reform agenda will continue over the MTEF, with key Amendments having already been approved and implemented last year. Our focus is not only to broaden and deepen the tax base, but also to make the tax system more progressive, so that it contributes positively to the social objectives of reducing income inequalities. We understand that the proposed Solidarity Tax is not fully understood by various sections of society.

Therefore, this and other high-impact Programmes for targeted funding from this Tax need to be well defined. We shall, therefore, continue to engage the public on the specific tax proposal for a broader understanding on the benefit, principles and administrative arrangements for this national intervention.

Honourable Speaker, we recognise the income inequalities and skewed ownership of sources of income that we have inherited from many years of divisive policies and exclusion prior to the Independence of our country still exist. We have made positive progress in addressing these structural challenges. And more still remains to be done. Hence, the Budget avails

25 February 2016

**SECOND READING – APPROPRIATION BILL
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

resources to specific interventions to tackle the persistent high inequality through the promotion of wealth creation and shared prosperity:-

In this respect:-

- Government is implementing its commitment on delivering affordable serviced land and housing under the Mass Land Serving and Mass Housing Programmes;
- The *Public Procurement Act* has been promulgated last year and the subordinate regulations are due for gazetting. The local economic development content of the *Public Procurement Act* will draw more enterprising Namibians into the mainstream economic activity, while increasing the public procurement multiplier effects in the economy.
- Public consultation is now underway on the provisions of the New Equitable Economic Empowerment Framework (NEEEF), promoting affordable and sustainable access to the means of production, while maintaining responsible lending;
- Further facilities are being developed to support SME access to Finance and Mentorship Programmes,

Lastly, the Government has assigned great priority to increased delivery of Public Service through a performance-oriented and results-based work culture. To this effect;-

- The reform agenda for the Public Enterprises Sector has started under the mandate of the Ministry of Public Enterprises to ensure good governance, internal efficiency and effective provision of goods and services, and
- The stage has been set for a performance-driven work culture through the implementation of performance agreements at all levels of public service delivery.

25 February 2016

**SECOND READING – APPROPRIATION BILL
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

Honourable Speaker, on the 3rd of November 2015, I had the privilege to table the first Mid-Year Budget Review for Namibia. On that occasion, I laid out the Medium-Term Policy Framework and fiscal stance, which will underpin the Financial Year 2016/2017 Budget and the coming MTEF.

The Mid-year Review critically highlighted the key macro-critical policy issues to be addressed over the next MTEF, namely

- The structural challenges of addressing unemployment, inequality and implementing measures to eradicate poverty, through targeted developmental intervention measures. Multi-pronged interventions, better targeting and more urgency are required to make a meaningful impact on these structural challenges.
- The declining public revenue due to contractions in receipts from the Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU) and the impact of external factors on the domestic economy requires that we align the expenditure outlook to the revenue outlook and the changing macroeconomic environment. Consistent with the Mid-Year Budget Policy Framework, this Budget further proposes the fiscal consolidation stance over the MTEF.
- We have to contend with the widening twin deficits regarding the budget deficit and the current account deficit as a result of shocks on revenue and the weakening of the external trade position. The fiscal consolidation framework will seek to reduce the Budget deficit over the MTEF in order to stabilize growth in public debt. Its pro-growth dimension supports interventions to help lift tomorrow's growth potential of the economy. However, more structural policies to improve the productive and export-oriented capacity of the economy are needed to buttress the external position over the medium to long-term.
- We had to contend with declining levels of international reserves as a consequence of negative trade balances, with reserves reaching as low as 1.3 months of import coverage in October 2015. We have been able

to raise reserve levels above the international benchmark level of three months of import cover, thanks to timely interventions.

Honourable Speaker, we made notable progress in addressing some of these challenges. We have been able to earn and retain our sovereign credit rating and implement policy advice from the Article IV Consultations, thanks to our common commitment to implement timely and credible policy measures to mitigate downside risks to our economy. Through this Budget, we reiterate our commitment to address the sovereign credit risks and implement policy measures set forth in the ratings recommendations.

Honourable Speaker, this Budget and the Medium-term Expenditure Framework provide resources and funding strategies aimed at tackling the structural challenges that affect the development potential of our economy and improving the welfare of Namibians in an inclusive and sustainable manner. It is a consolidation Budget with a pro-growth dimension.

As such:-

- Overall allocations to Education and Health Sectors as well as Social Welfare Programmes are scaled-up to guard against slippages in the provision of services. This was still possible within the reduced overall expenditure ceiling.
- Social Safety Nets are strengthened, consistent with the commitments announced in the Financial Year 2015/2016 Budget;
- Unproductive capital expense is reduced, while productive development infrastructure allocations are maintained under the Development Budget and the priority infrastructure projects under various Public Enterprises
- Continued investment in the maintenance of Law and order and democratic governance is made to safeguard peace and stability; and

- Government contractual and statutory commitments are resourced, providing assurance to meet these commitments.

More importantly, Honourable Speaker, *“not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts.”* More funding, therefore, does not necessarily guarantee greater success. Policy reforms, innovation, integrity of institutions, internal efficiency and implementation capacity are critical determinants of successful outcomes and accelerated results. This should form the main defining strategy for Offices/Ministries and Agencies in this new paradigm of executing our sectoral mandates

Honourable Speaker, before I proceed to the specific elements of the Medium-Term Budget Policy stance and budget allocations, allow me to highlight the economic context under which this budget and MTEF come into operation.

This Budget is presented against the backdrop of highly uneven and fragile global economic growth. Global economic growth is estimated at 3.1% in 2015, representing a slowdown from the growth rate of 3.4% witnessed in 2014. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects a pickup in the growth trajectory to 3.4% in 2016 and 3.6% by 2017.

However, considerable asymmetry and downside fragilities underpin this growth trajectory. While growth for the Advanced Economies is projected to be firmer and more broad-based, Emerging Markets and Developing Economies, which account for about 70 percent of global growth continue to face a more challenging outlook.

Three transition forces underpin the growth prospects for this group of economies. These are in regard to the normalisation of monetary policy in the World’s largest economy, the United States of America, the slowdown and internal rebalancing in the World’s second largest economy, China, and the prevailing lower prices across a broad range of commodities.

The combined effect of these factors has triggered net capital outflows

25 February 2016

**SECOND READING – APPROPRIATION BILL
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

from Emerging Markets and Developing Economies and sharp volatilities in Financial and Capital Markets across the globe, including excess volatility in exchange rates and currencies, with implications on the external position and sovereign debt financing position for these economies.

Indeed, Namibia is no exception to these developments. The Namibian Dollar, through the currency peg mechanism as well as the domestic interest rate environment has not been spared from these excess volatilities.

The Sub-Saharan African region has also taken a knock from the generalized slowdown in Emerging Markets economies. In fact, the soft landing for the Chinese economy has resulted in a much harder landing for Sub-Saharan African economies through the trade channel.

Closer to home, the South African economy, which is closely linked to Namibia through strong trade, monetary and financial ties, is projected to grow at a rate of about 0.9% in 2016, which represents a further slowdown from 1.3% in 2015. This low growth trend for the South African economy holds negative implications for Namibia through trade and financial linkages as well as revenue derived from SACU.

Honourable Speaker, the above developments in the global and regional economies have inescapable direct and indirect consequences for our economy.

Domestic economic growth for 2015 is estimated at 4.5%, reflecting a deceleration from the growth rate of 6.4 percent posted in 2014. This is lower than the 5.7% growth rate anticipated in the previous Budget, as well as the revised 5.1 percent envisaged in the Mid-Year Budget Review. However, this pace of growth mirrors the historical average growth rate for Namibia and signals a readjustment from the boom years of expansionary fiscal and monetary policies. It is a paradigm which calls for supportive policy and structural reforms in the medium-term to realise a more robust and inclusive growth trajectory.

25 February 2016

**SECOND READING – APPROPRIATION BILL
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

On the demand side, high investment especially in the Minerals and Retail Sectors normalised as most of the recent Investment Projects reached completion stage. Final consumption demand also softened, reflecting effects of monetary and Fiscal Policy tightening, while export growth moderated, mainly due to subdued commodity prices in the Minerals Sector.

On the supply side, mining output for some of the major commodities was weaker due to low prices and weak external demand which, together with the effects of the drought in the Agricultural Sector, resulted in the estimated reduction in output from the primary industries. On the other hand, activity in the secondary and tertiary industries lent support to growth during 2015, though retail growth slowed from recent high rates as growth in credit extension began to subside.

Honourable Speaker, domestic inflationary conditions were stable during 2015, with consumer price inflation reaching its lowest level since 2010 at 3.4%, thanks to lower oil prices and its concomitant positive effects on transport related cost prices.

However, the effects of high household credit extension and Monetary Policy normalisation in major economies as well as continued weakening of the South African Rand in 2015, necessitated gradual domestic Monetary Policy tightening by a cumulative 75 basis points to date since February 2015.

Through the Mass Urban Land Servicing and the Mass Housing Programmes, we are tackling the prime cause of price escalation in the Housing Sector.

Currency depreciation is expected to drive up the price level of imported goods in the coming months, which will combine with drought-related food price increases to lead to higher inflation.

Honourable Speaker, one of the macro-fiscal structural challenges that we should overcome in the medium to long-term is the reversal of the twin

deficits for the Budget and the current account.

There have been positive developments in this regard. The Overall Balance of Payments returned to a surplus of N\$12.6 billion during 2015, compared to a deficit of N\$1.8 billion in 2014. This was primarily due to the capital and financial account surplus from the Eurobond issuance in the last quarter of 2015. The current account deficit widened further to an estimated 9.7% of GDP, from 8.8% in 2014, as a consequence of a negative trade balance. This is to say that measures to improve the productive and exporting capacity of the economy and a stronger fiscal balance should assume policy prominence during the ensuing period.

Honourable Speaker, for the greater part of 2015, we have had to contend with decreasing levels of foreign international reserves to as low as 1.3 months of import cover, seen against the international benchmark of three months of import coverage. Significantly high imports of machinery and luxury goods continued to erode the reserves stock. Low levels of official reserves constitute sovereign credit rating weakness.

As such, Government has utilized a portion of the Eurobond issuance last year in combination with Rand denominated domestic asset swap in order to defend the reserve position. Through this intervention, we have been able to rebuild the reserves to 3.4 months of import cover. In absence of this timely intervention, the reserves would have been below one month of coverage by this date. Going forward, there is confidence that export growth from the major investment undertakings in the Mining Sector, supported by domestic policy response, will form a sustainable basis for enhancing the external position.

Honourable Members, with respect to the exchange rate, we have witnessed excess volatility during 2015 and the year-to-date. The South African Rand, to which the Namibia Dollar is pegged on parity, has depreciated against the US Dollar by over 30% since September 2015. The sharp depreciation of the Rand reflects external volatilities in the international financial markets, subdued commodity prices and economic challenges in South Africa.

The deterioration in the currency has immediate implications for our economy. While depreciation confers competitiveness to the Exporting Sector, it has immediate effects on raising sovereign debt and debt servicing as well as a higher import bill and, consequently, inflationary costs.

Honourable Speaker, I am aware that there have been mixed public reactions regarding the relevance of the currency peg to the South African Rand. Let me use this opportunity to reassure the public that due to the significant trade linkages, the currency peg to the South African Rand remains a relevant policy and a credible anchor of domestic price stability and trading for Namibia. Such relevance only gets eroded if imported inflation and excess volatility becomes a permanent occurrence and fundamental macroeconomic imbalances emerge.

Government's borrowing strategy continues to promote domestic capital market developments. During 2015, a total amount of N\$5.1 billion or some 63.0% of the expected borrowing requirements was sourced locally, with concerns about tight liquidity levels in relation to placements on bonds and treasury bills being evident. As such, the rest of the financing requirements, mainly the US\$750 million and R870 million were sourced from the international market and the Johannesburg Stock Exchange listing. Out of the proceeds of the Eurobond listing, US\$250 was used to finance Development Budget spending, US\$300 million was set aside to defend the reserve position and will serve as a source for Eurobond debt servicing, while US\$190 million was set aside for financing the deficit in the coming year.

This recourse to international funding sources demonstrates clearly the importance of Namibia's diversification in terms of debt instruments. Further prudent management of public finances and a measured consolidation in the coming MTEF will safeguard the country's investment grade credit rating, allow for the fiscal space needed to fund policy priorities and to respond quickly to future economic developments.

Honourable Speaker, in terms of the regional integration agenda, progress

25 February 2016

**SECOND READING – APPROPRIATION BILL
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

has been achieved to unlock gridlocks in reviving the SACU institutional arrangements. The meetings of SACU institutional bodies are expected to return to normalcy, with the decisive SACU Council retreat scheduled for April this year.

Namibia believes that SACU has an important role to play as the engine of regional integration and industrialization. We believe that SACU revenues are currently broadly shared in a manner that reflects the realities of the SACU economies.

In regard to SADC, the Tripartite Free Trade Agreement between and among the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) was launched in June 2015. The Free Trade Area is an opportunity for unlocking intra-African trade. Namibia thus needs to establish a market share in this greater continental trading arrangement, while improving her productive capacity.

Honourable Speaker, following a protracted period of resolving the outstanding issues the EU-SADC-EPA negotiations have been successfully concluded. The Partnership Agreement is expected to come into force early this year.

It should be recalled that Namibia had only initialled, but not signed the SADC-EU Agreement nearly a decade ago. As a nation, we raised and persisted on matters of domestic industrial development, which were not fully addressed in the Agreement. This is especially in regard to infant industry protection, taxes to promote industrial development and the Most Favoured Nation clauses. It is pleasing to note that all SADC Member States, which had ratified the Agreement by then, had joined forces in a constructive engagement with the EU for an all-encompassing Agreement. Together with other SADC Member States, we have prevailed in our negotiated settlement and now look forward to ratifying the Agreement.

Honourable Speaker, the Mid-Year Budget Review provided details of the revenue and expenditure execution in respect to the most recent actual

year as well as estimates for the current year. The total revenue for 2014/2015 stood at N\$49.93 billion, this being 4.8% lower than the budgeted revenue, but a 19.1% increase from the previous year.

The preliminary revenue outturn for the Financial Year 2015/2016 is estimated at N\$56.76 billion, which is 4.6% lower than the Budget estimates of N\$58.44 billion, due to adjustments for shortfalls from the previous year and a lower than anticipated economic activity.

Total spending for the Financial Year 2014/2015 amounted to N\$58.70 billion, reflecting a spending rate of 97.5%, compared to 98.2% in the previous year. Operational Expenditure Execution Rate was 97.5%, and the Corresponding Utilisation Rate for the Development Budget was 90.1%.

For the Financial Year 2015/2016, total expenditure by Mid-February is estimated at N\$53.08 billion, representing 79.1% of the N\$67.08 billion Budget. This comprised 80.8 execution rate for Operational Budget and 71.6% for the Development Budget. The Mid-Year *Appropriation Amendment Bill* proposed a reallocation of N\$4.01 billion within and across programmes and maintained the overall expenditure ceiling of N\$67.08 billion. It is expected that the Budget Execution Rate would approximate historical spending rates by the end of the Financial Year.

For the Financial Year 2014/2015, the Budget balance stood at a deficit of 6.0% of GDP, an upward revision from the 5.5% budgeted deficit, given the shortfalls in revenue as a result lower economic growth outturn. A similar trend prevailed during Financial Year 2015/2016, with downward adjustments in revenue, as announced in the Mid-Year Budget Review. Sufficient financing has been secured during the year to fully fund this deficit level and no funding shortfall is experienced. However, a policy stance to reduce the Budget deficit and stabilize growth in public debt is necessary.

As a result of increasing financing needs, the total debt stock has risen from N\$35.95 billion in Financial Year 2014/2015, to an estimated

N\$59.79 billion by the end of Financial Year 2015/2016 and stands now at about 37% of GDP. While this level of debt is well below the median of 40% for Namibia's sovereign rating peer group of BBB-, it is, in effect, estimated to have exceeded the national cap of 35% in the current Financial Year. The fiscal consolidation stance proposed in this Budget and MTEF is aimed at stabilising this growth in public debt and bringing the proportion of public debt within the threshold level.

The depreciation of the Namibian Dollar in recent times has increased debt servicing cost for the foreign debt portfolio. Total interest payments have increased to N\$3.13 billion in Financial Year 2015/2016, from N\$2.52 billion in Financial Year 2014/2015. As a ratio of revenue, debt servicing stood at 5.5% by Financial Year 2015/2016, while contingent liabilities is estimated at 3.8% of GDP in Financial Year 2015/2016, both of which are below the ceilings of 10% of revenue and GDP respectively.

Honourable Speaker, the Government Accountability Report gives a detailed account of achievements by Votes and Programmes. I will rely on my Cabinet Colleagues to expand on the key achievements by Programmes under their institutional mandate during the Committee Stage.

Let me now to turn to the details of the Financial Year 2016/2017 Budget and the Medium-Term outlook.

Honourable Speaker, in spite of a particularly challenging external economic and financial landscape, our economy is projected to grow by 4.3% in 2016. This growth trajectory is further projected to improve to 5.9% by 2017 and average around 4.9% over the MTEF, in spite of headwinds from the subdued regional economic and financial environment, weak commodity prices and subdued trade environment.

These projected growth rates are above global averages and consistent with historical performance of our economy. It is a growth outlook that outstrips the projected Sub-Saharan Africa average growth levels of 4.1% over the Medium Term.

On the demand side, increased exports from the recent investment projects in the Minerals Sector as well as steady Private Sector investment are expected to anchor the growth outlook.

On the supply side, increased output from the Mining Sector is expected to lead recovery in the primary sector, amidst the adverse impact of the poor rainfall conditions in the Agricultural Sector due to the prevailing El Niño event affecting the Southern African sub-region. Continued growth in the tertiary industries is also expected to support the outlook, as tourism benefits from the depreciation of the Namibia Dollar and the Logistics Sector is boosted by new port infrastructure. For the coming Financial Year, the gradual pace of fiscal consolidation demonstrates Government's commitment to growth-friendly Fiscal Policy, to cushion the tapering off of boom cycles in the Construction and Retail Sectors.

Revenue for the 2016/2017 Budget Year is projected at N\$57.84 billion, an increase of 2% over the previous year, given the sharp reduction in SACU receipts. For the MTEF, revenue is projected to increase at a moderate pace of about 7.2%, to reach N\$69.82 billion by the end of the MTEF or about 27.5% of GDP. This projected annual growth rate in revenue is lower than the actual average growth of about 14.0% observed in the last three years due to the projected decline in SACU revenues and an adverse external environment.

The major drag and significant risk for revenue growth is the projected reduction of SACU revenues, on account of lower growth outlook for the South African economy. In the coming Financial Year, Namibia has to repay a total of N\$2.96 billion back to the SACU Common Revenue Pool due to the deficit experienced in the Pool as a result of the factors I alluded to above and ex-ante payments made to Member States. Continued implementation of domestic tax policy and administrative reform agenda as well as the industrial development capacity will contribute to increasing the increasing contribution of revenue from own source.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I table before you a N\$66.00

billion Budget, equivalent to 34.9% of GDP. This expenditure outlay represents a 1.6% reduction from the previous year's Budget and a 7.3% cut from the indicative ceiling for Financial Year 2016/2017 proposed in the previous MTEF.

Of this N\$66.00 Budget, the total non-interest expenditure for 2016/2017 amounts to N\$61.12 billion, a reduction from N\$63.22 billion in 2015/2016 and averaging around N\$64.91 billion over the MTEF, in line with the fiscal consolidation stance.

Over the MTEF period, total expenditure is proposed to increase by an average of 3.8% annually, ushering in a period of fiscal consolidation over the entire MTEF, in line with the proposed policy stance.

The key levers for fiscal consolidation are the non-essential Operational Expenditure items such as materials and supplies, subsistence travel, overtime, furniture and office equipment and vehicles, as well as the postponement of other non-productive capital spending on office buildings in respect of the Development Budget. Thus, non-interest Operational Expenditure for Financial Year 2016/2017 is reduced by N\$106.9 million relative to its Financial Year 2015/2016 level, while the Development Budget in respect of non-productive undertakings is reduced by N\$1.99 billion.

Interest payments, which represent the Government obligations to debt servicing, are budgeted at N\$4.88 billion in Financial Year 2016/2017 or some 8.5% of revenue, seen against the statutory cap of 10% of revenue.

Non-Interest Operational Expenditure for the Budget year is set at N\$52.06 billion or 27.5 percent of GDP, representing a 0.1% nominal reduction over the previous Financial Year and taking into consideration Government contractual commitments, remuneration adjustments and the provision of critical public services.

The recent trend in growth in remuneration expenditure and related Budget subdivisions has been a cause for concern. Whilst these categories

of expenditure support gainful employment and opportunities for many Namibians, we must seek to ensure that recurrent expenditure is not funded in the long-term at the expense of other public investments to improve the productive capacity of the economy.

In this regard, and in keeping with Government's commitment to ensuring that all Public Institutions become more effective in what they do; more efficient in how they do things; and, more economic in the use of Public Funds, a realignment of growth of remuneration expenditure in line with inflation is currently under consideration. We are proposing that any Public Sector wage increases should be capped to a maximum of the annual inflation rate. We would further propose that there should be no net increase in the current size of the civil service. Both of these proposals should remain in place for the MTEF.

As part of the consolidation stance, the Development Budget is also reduced, but such cuts mainly lie in the postponement of the construction of office blocks for various Offices, Ministries and Agencies which are non-productive investments. Taking into consideration these effects, the total Development Budget has been reduced to N\$9.06 billion in Financial Year 2016/2017 and rises moderately over the MTEF to reach N\$11.01 billion by Financial Year 2018/2019.

In addition to the Development Budget allocation, budgetary allocations are made under the Operational Budget for targeted transfers to Public Enterprises for investment in strategic infrastructure projects. Among the key off-budget infrastructure projects are railway works, the rehabilitation of several national road projects, energy and water infrastructure development projects.

Going forward, Government must seek a better alignment of the Development Budget to our economic priorities, Industrialisation Policy and our Growth at Home Strategy. This alignment would further be optimized through leveraging local sourcing requirements, PPPs, improved Namibian ownership and the development of value chains across the development initiatives.

Honourable Speaker, in line with the projected revenue and consolidated expenditure outlook for the MTEF, the Budget deficit is projected at 4.3% of GDP in the Budget Year and is expected to average around 3.0% over the MTEF. For Policy consistency purposes, this deficit outlook trajectory defines the fiscal consolidation path over the MTEF as a means to stabilize growth of the public debt.

Total debt is now estimated at about 37% of GDP. For the Financial Year 2016/2017, this proportion is projected to reduce to 34.6% and is forecast to average around 30.6% over the MTEF, thanks to the consolidation phase and better improvements in the pace of economic activity. Given the downside risks to growth and revenue, continued measures to curtail significant growth in public expenditure will augur well with the lasting effects of stabilising public debt levels within the threshold of 35%. Within this framework, no significant additional expenditure is anticipated over the next two years.

In nominal terms, total debt is projected to increase to N\$63.73 billion in the Financial Year 2016/2017, from N\$61.32 billion in Financial Year 2015/2016, and to average around N\$68.22 billion over the MTEF. This forecasted annual growth in public debt is offset by a relatively healthy Year-on-Year growth in nominal GDP.

Government intends to finance the substantial component of the deficit from the domestic and regional capital markets. Contingent liabilities are projected to increase to an average around 9% over the MTEF, as Government extends support to SOEs for project financing on the strength of their balance sheets.

Honourable Speaker, reasserting a credible path for the sustainability of public finances is but one objective of the Budget that I lay before this Honourable House. The growth and social development dimension, which comes about by virtue of deliberately directing increasingly scarce resources to the priority areas of national development, is yet another important objective.

25 February 2016

**SECOND READING – APPROPRIATION BILL
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

These overarching pillars of the Medium-Term Policy focus, resonate well with our national development goals and constitute the key levers for the transition to the Fifth National Development Plan.

Let me now give a synopsis of the main budgetary provisions made in this Budget and over the MTEF.

The Budget proposes an allocation of 22.2% of total non-interest expenditure or some N\$13.56 billion to the Economic and Infrastructure Sectors, for investment in growth enhancing infrastructure, including in the Logistics, Water and Energy Sectors. Over the MTEF, this allocation amounts to as much as N\$44.75 billion, equivalent to 23.0% of total non-interest expenditure. A non-interest expenditure is total expenditure minus debt servicing.

In addition, an amount of N\$17.23 billion is allocated as targeted subsidies and other current transfers to Public Enterprises for targeted development of key national infrastructure projects.

The key projects are the rehabilitation of the national railway, the on-going expansion of the Port of Walvis Bay, several national roads, water infrastructure, the Mass Housing Programme and increased funding to the Public Financial Institutions for Private Sector support and SME development.

Honourable Speaker, over 46% of total non-interest expenditure is allocated to the Social Sectors to protect and improve on the achievements we have made in the areas of Education, Health, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare as well as the Housing Sector. Thus, a total of N\$28.53 billion is allocated to the Social Sector in Financial Year 2016/2017 and an average of N\$91.41 billion over the MTEF.

Honourable Speaker, these are substantial allocations which, in themselves, do not buy success. Efficiency gains and improvement in the quality of outcomes are increasingly needed to realize value for money.

- Education is the largest recipient of this allocation, with a combined allocation of N\$16.20 billion in the Budget Year and N\$52.28 billion over the MTEF;
- Out of this allocation, the Ministry of Basic Education, Arts and Culture receives N\$12.79 billion in the Budget Year or 79.0% of the total allocation to the Education Sector.
- The Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation gets N\$3.41 billion in the Budget Year and N\$11.48 billion over the MTEF. Access to Tertiary Education will be further expanded through formula-based funding, increased financial assistance to students and funding for innovation, Research and Development as well as facilities for vocational training;
- The Old Age Pension grant is increased by an additional N\$100.00 to N\$1,100.00 per month. The MTEF allocations make provision for an additional N\$100.00 per month in the next Budget. At this level of Grants;
- Our Senior Citizens are placed above the national poverty line, making the grants an effective and credible shield against poverty and vulnerability;
- A total amount of N\$7.23 billion is allocated to the Ministry of Health and Social Services for the coming Financial Year or some N\$22.17 billion over the MTEF for the provision of health services and related facilities. We also intend to bring about efficiency in the administration of PSEMAS through the introduction of a biometric card system.

The Public Safety Sector is allocated an amount of N\$13.01 billion for Financial Year 2016/2017, and some N\$41.02 billion is made available over the MTEF, representing the continued investment in Peace, Public Safety and Rule of Law.

A total allocation of N\$6.03 billion is made to the Public Administration Sector to support effective governance and efficient administration of the Public Sector and functional realignments to the structure of Government. Over the MTEF, this allocation amounts to N\$17.55 billion.

An amount of N\$200 million is allocated to the Contingency Provision for the Budget Year and N\$278 million for the following year to cater for unforeseen emergencies such as drought relief and others. In respect of the previous Financial Year, a total of N\$499,29 million was allocated to the Contingency Fund and the total amount has been committed. I have distributed the information regarding the use of the Provision in the last Financial Year, and that table indicates the commitments up to mid-February this year.

Honourable Speaker, doing more with less requires that we implement administrative, structural and policy reforms to make efficiency gains and optimize outcomes. It is, therefore, important that implementation of key policy reforms is accelerated in various Sectors of the economy under the mandate of Offices, Ministries and Agencies.

In regard to Tax Policy, the following measures, some of which were announced previously, will be undertaken during the Budget year and over the MTEF:-

- We will proceed to finalize the approval and implementation process of the environmental and export taxes to promote domestic value addition as previously announced;
- Increasing the fuel levy administered under Schedule 1, Part 5 of the *Customs and Excise Act*. This is a fuel levy duty which is different from the National Energy Fund levy and it has remained constant since 1998.
- The work to assess the feasibility of a presumptive tax on Informal Sector, develop the Double-Taxation Agreement Policy and

increasingly leverage international tax cooperation on matters of illicit trade flows and transfer pricing will continue and driven to finality;

- The Customs Bill which seeks to domesticate regional and international best practices is at legal drafting stage and it is one of the legislative Amendments due for tabling this year;
- We will continue to finalise the consultation on the proposed introduction of Solidarity Tax during the course of the coming year, with the view to develop the tax proposal. While we have made progress to reduce income inequalities from the Gini Coefficient of 0.70 to 0.597 by 2009/2010, Namibia remains one of the countries with significantly high income inequalities with highly concentrated wealth.

The Solidarity Tax will be a progressive, redistributive tax which will contribute to the reduction of income inequalities and take into consideration the income levels and the ability to pay. Thus, it is not a tax base-broadening measure, but a redistributive tax with a relatively high tax threshold.

As I have stated, the proceeds of the tax will accrue to a designated fund which attracts a separate audit and Parliamentary approval. I have established a Task Team that will also comprise independent tax experts to formulate a White Paper on the specific tax proposal and its modalities. This concept Paper will form the basis for finalising the consultations and formulating the tax proposal.

- We will proceed with strengthening the provisions for recovery of tax debts, deploy the new Integrated Tax System and implement the transitional modalities for the establishment of a Semi-Autonomous Revenue Agency.

Honourable Speaker, Members of the House, taking into account sales volumes and targets set for the total tax burdens on respective excisable commodities, the following Sin Tax percentage increases have been agreed upon to become applicable retrospectively with effect from 24

February 2016 as is required under the SACU Agreement:-

• Malt Beer	8.5%
• Unfortified Wine	8.0 %
• Fortified Wine	6.7 %
• Sparkling Wine	8.0 %
• Ciders and Alcoholic Fruit Beverages	8.5 %
• Spirits	8.2 %
• Cigarettes	6.7 %
• Cigarette tobacco	6.8 %
• Pipe tobacco	7.0 %
• Cigars	6.7 %

These amended rates of duty are set out in more detail in the Taxation Proposal which I am tabling today in terms of Section 65(1) of the *Customs and Excise Act, 1998* and which will be deemed to have come into operation as from midnight the 24th of February 2016. A Government Notice to this effect will be tabled in the National Assembly within the period prescribed in Section 65(8) of the Act.

Honourable Speaker, in the realm of Public Finance Management, we have made progress on some of the key reforms.

- A Mid-Year Budget Review was introduced in November last year, as a measure to enhance allocative efficiency and inject greater transparency into the budget process.
- The Public Procurement Bill was tabled in this House and subsequently enacted. The Ministry is now proceeding with the finalisation of the regulations;
- The Public Private Partnership Legislation is now at legal drafting and certification stage for tabling in Parliament this year. This legislation is destined to play a catalytic role in leveraging Private Sector funding and efficiencies and thus mitigating public financial obligations.

- The Ministry of Finance is working closely with the Ministry of Justice and Law Reform and Development Commission on the drafting of a new Public Finance Management Bill, which will amend and modernize the present day *State Finance Act*.
- We intent to roll-out the Public Expenditure Reviews, especially in the social and welfare-related sectors to, among other things, support the formulation and targeting of interventions for poverty eradication and social protection; and
- An Asset Management Policy for the management of public assets is being developed and this will be finalized during the coming Financial Year

Honourable Speaker, the Financial Sector is a key catalyst for investment and wealth creation through its intermediation role and provision of access to finance. Several policy reforms have been initiated to elevate the role of the Sector in the economy. Most of these reforms are being undertaken within the framework of the Financial Sector Strategy and the Financial Sector Charter.

- In the Banking Financial Sector, I intend to table Amendments to the *Banking Institutions Act* with the view to improving the supervisory regime, especially in respect of microfinance and second-tier banks, provisions for financial stability as well as promoting Namibian ownership in the Sector; and
- Loan-to-Value regulations will be introduced in respect of acquisition of secondary residences, as a measure to limit individuals' exposure to credit risk and price escalation especially in the housing market.

National consultations on the New Equitable Economic Empowerment Framework (NEEEF) are now underway under the Office of the Prime Minister. The Empowerment Provisions proposed in the Framework will provide the necessary catalyst for more Namibians to participate in

mainstream economic activity and support the Financial Sector Development Agenda.

- The *Financial Institutions and Markets Bill*, the *NAMFISA Bill* and the *Financial Adjudicator Bill* are at legal drafting stage and will bring about better supervision and adjudication standards in this multi-billion Sector. In the meantime, a substantial body of regulations and market standards have been drafted in preparation for the implementation of these regulatory reforms;
- The *Micro-Lending Amendment Bill* and the *NASRIA Bill* are also proposed for tabling to this House, once the certification process is finalised; and
- We have started with industry consultations on the Amendments to Regulation 28, Regulation 15 and Regulation 29 to among others, lift the domestic asset requirement threshold from the 35% of total assets to between 40% and 50% over the MTEF period. This regulatory measure will support the National Development Goals for the mobilisation of domestic savings to fund local economic development; and
- Government will develop proposals for the partial listing of some of the Public Enterprises on the Namibian Stock Exchange (NSX) and assessing the feasibility of listing an infrastructure bond on NSX.

Honourable Speaker, these are only some of the policy measures and interventions. Sectoral policy and legislative reforms aimed at improving the general business environment the spectrum of the Public Sector are also being spearheaded under the various O/M/As.

The budgetary allocations and other policy intervention measures set out in this Budget represent the Government's resolve to address the socioeconomic challenges that we face in a more targeted manner.

Honourable Speaker, there is, therefore, more to this Budget than the

tightening of the fiscal purse. The Budget gives scope to maintain the provision of essential services. It calls for greater resource prioritization and quality of spending which Offices, Ministries and Agencies have to embrace.

Let me extend my gratitude to the Minister of Economic Planning and Director General of the National Planning Commission and his staff for his supportive role throughout the Budget formulation process.

I thank the Governor of the Bank of Namibia and his staff for the stewardship of the Banking Sector and for routine policy coordination and initiative. Equally, I thank NAMFISA for the sterling efforts and the regulatory reforms to improve supervision and compliance in the non-Banking Financial Sector.

I am indebted to my Deputy Minister of Finance, Honourable Natangue Ithete for the all-round support in the day-to-day execution of our mandated responsibility. I thank my Permanent Secretary, Madam Ericah Shafudah, the Management and the Budget Team at the Ministry of Finance for the hard work and selfless efforts devoted in the preparation and finalisation of this Budget. I equally extend my sincere gratitude to the staff of the Receiver of Revenue and Commissioner of Customs and Excise and their staff for the revenue management and collection activity which enables the State to increasingly fund the socioeconomic development needs of the country.

Honourable Speaker, I will be remiss of me if I did not express our sincere appreciation for the financial and technical support we continue to receive from our development partners. These have gone a long way to make a meaningful impact on the lives of ordinary Namibians.

Honourable Speaker and Members of the National Assembly, a renowned economist, Joseph Stiglitz, said that, and I quote – *“macroeconomic policy can never be devoid of politics: it involves fundamental trade-offs and affects different groups differently.”*

We are experiencing such trade-offs vividly, hence our emphasis on stability and inclusivity and pro-poor policies for a prosperous Namibia.

In this Budget, we have undertaken to:-

- Strengthen macroeconomic fundamentals as a basis to long-term fiscal sustainability and the sustained funding of interventions to grow the economy.
- This Budget marks a firm commencement of the Fiscal Consolidation Programme that curtails the negative effects of excessive budgetary expansion and fiscal austerity.
- It inspires confidence in the future, by placing fiscal operations on a long-term sustainable path, fund growth-enhancing Infrastructure and Social Development Programmes. The priorities on Education and Skills Development, the provision of Health Services and Infrastructure Development are retained.
- The Budget allows the Government to meet its financial operations and contractual obligations, without compromising service delivery to all Namibians.
- We are committed to the improvement of social welfare through Poverty Eradication Programmes and better safety net systems.
- The institution of performance contracts is an added facet through which accountability for the resources allocated and its effective use are monitored.
- Through this Budget, we strike a fine balance between growth and fiscal consolidation. The country's growth outlook is reasonably robust in relation to regional and global averages. We can, therefore, look forward to the future with confidence.

Honourable Members, targeted resource allocation proposals have been

made. What matters is effective implementation and results-based management and we need to act decisively. I thus seek for your support and insights going forward.

I conclude my 2016 Budget Statement with a quote from the renowned African American Athlete Jesse Owens. He said – “*We all have dreams, but in order to make dreams come into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline and effort.*” We will need all of these attributes in the years ahead if we are to make Namibia the country we all desire to see.

It is now my distinguished honour to submit for your favourable consideration the *Appropriation Bill* 2016/2017, the Estimates of Revenue, Income and Expenditure and the 2016/2017 – 2018/2019 MTEF. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Minister. You have been given sufficient homework over the coming days and weeks. Yes, I will call on Honourable Maamberua.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I am not making any intervention as far as the contributions are concerned. I just have an observation, which I think is critically important, before we move forward.

In terms of the *Appropriation Bill* that we have before us, it is written here that; “*subject to the State Finance Act the amounts of money shown in the schedule*” – that is this paper here – “*are appropriated for the financial requirements of the State during the Financial Year ending 31 March 2017, as a charge to the State Revenue Fund.*”

This schedule that we have before us has a total of N\$61 billion, yet in his

25 February 2016

**SECOND READING – APPROPRIATION BILL
HON SCHLETTWEIN / HON MUHARUKUA**

Statement, the Minister is referring to N\$66 billion. During the Statement of the Minister I tried to add up these figures with this small gadget of mine and I am not getting the same total. I would like to suggest to the Ministry to recalculate these so that we can be presented with an amended appropriation proposals. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: I am sure the Minister would like to quickly respond to that. Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I am surprised that the former Permanent Secretary of Finance is asking this question.

The discrepancy is that the N\$61 billion are *Appropriated Funds*. The remainder or the difference between N\$61 billion and N\$66 billion are what we call *Statutory Expenses*. It is deemed to be appropriated and, therefore, it is not part of the Schedule.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I am assuming that the Honourable Member is fully satisfied with the answer. Thank you very much. Next on my list is Honourable Muharukua.

HON MUHARUKUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, may I seek the indulgence of the House to adjourn the Debate on the *Appropriation Bill* to Thursday, the 3rd of March 2016?

25 February 2016

RESPONSE TO QUESTION

HON SPEAKER: Any objection to that wise suggestion to allow time to digest the information? Any objection? Agreed to.

With that said and done, we will now revert to the other part of the Business before the House, that being what we call **Question Time**.

The first question on my list is that of Honourable Van Wyk directed to the Minister of Urban and Rural Development and the Deputy Minister is here. You have the Floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. We once again thank Honourable Van Wyk for the question and because of the nature of this question, we do not want to answer while we are still busy with consulting on this one – we will give him a proper answer in due time. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The question is deferred. We move on to the second question. That question is from Honourable Nauyoma directed to the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. The Minister is not here. The Deputy Minister is available and ready to respond. Yes, Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I am very sorry to interrupt, but I am rising on a Point of Order.

Traditionally after the Budget Tabling, we adjourn the House because we have to prepare for other things and I wanted the Speaker to consider continuing with that tradition. Thank you.

25 February 2016

ADJOURNMENT
RT HON DR KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, you are absolutely right. I had that in mind. For the last couple of weeks, we have been continuing uninterruptedly, but I think we really need to go for tea, and a well-deserved cup of tea.

We do away with questions and the questions will be taken up next week. Let me ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I propose that the House adjourns until next week Tuesday, at the usual time.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The House stands adjourned until next week Tuesday, at the usual time.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:20 UNTIL 2016.03.01 AT 14:30
